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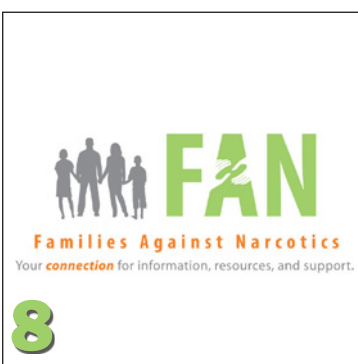


TRIBAL OBSERVER

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

CHECK THESE OUT

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Families Against Narcotics
Inaugural Jan. 12 meeting forms new SCIT/mid-Michigan FAN Chapter.



Lonestar and Diamond Rio
Country music bands deliver hits at Dec. 30 Soaring Eagle show.



Elvis Party
Elders celebrate the King of Rock and Roll on Jan. 9 at Andahwod.



Employee Banquet
Tribal Council recognizes employees for their services at appreciation event.

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Chief Cloutier delivers Jan. 21 State of the Tribe Address

(Editor's note: The following speech was presented by Chief Frank Cloutier during the Jan. 21, 2017 State of the Tribe Address meeting in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort entertainment hall.)

"Boozhu and good morning to everyone, on behalf of the Tribal Council and myself, I would like to welcome everyone to this year's State of the Tribe Address.

We have many items to cover with you and it is my hope that this information will be informative and helpful.

The "State of the Tribe" address for 2016 was lengthy and covered many things in detail. I promise this address will be more succinct and provide clear updates on the issues at hand.

Before we get started with the business of the Tribe, I would like to talk about the very real and critical problem we are having in our community and surrounding communities with drugs.

To the point, the heroin and opiate epidemic has befallen our community and our mid-Michigan areas youth. We have come to a critical place with this problem.

Tribal Council has begun work to form a task force that will work to bring about a proactive approach to the needs of our community. This task force will be made up of professionals from our Behavioral Health, Administration, Nimkee Clinic, community health, Tribal Court, Tribal Police, Child and Family Services and community members.

We are going to look at policies and procedures and make changes that will meet these drug-addiction challenges head on when something goes wrong. Those who are at risk for using drugs, actively using and those in recovery should be provided with support, care and understanding.

Tribal Council member Candace Benzinger has been working with others to build a group of community members and professionals who will work to support the efforts toward recovery and support within the community. This group is called FAN for Families Against Narcotics.

We need the community to do their part and identify the dealers and those harboring these individuals.

You have Tribal Council's word that once identified; these dealers and their support will be dealt with swiftly and harshly.

Hopefully our intervention can create sustainable assistance before, during and after identified drug usage.

Judge (Patrick) Shannon is here today to share some statistics with you that will paint the real facts of what we have to combat.

The Legal Department and Prosecutor's office drafted and introduced what is known as the 'Good Samaritan' ordinance for Council consideration. I am very glad to be able to inform you that on Wednesday, Jan. 18, we approved of this ordinance.

This ordinance would make it possible for someone present

during an overdose to have the ability to stay and assist with information and timelines, which is critical for successful overdose treatment. Whether these individuals are using or not, they must stay and lend assistance in order to avoid the threat of arrest and or prosecution.

We are hoping this critical opportunity can save some lives as we work toward a healthier community.

As for the state of the tribe, we are doing well and remain as strong as ever. Our gaming operations remain profitable and we are currently fully staffed in all key management positions.

I am very proud to say that our CEO, chief financial officer and human resource director are all Native American.

The Tribal Council approved a reorganization of the Legal Department to provide greater focus on large issues and projects and to increase efficiencies. As a part of this reorganization, Sean Reed will focus on large projects, legislative issues, federal litigation and gaming-related expansion as general counsel for gaming operations and intergovernmental affairs.

In addition for the first time ever, we have one of our very own Tribal Members, Sharon Avery as our general counsel for Tribal Operations.

Sharon will supervise the Legal Department's attorneys, and her staff will be responsible for the legal representation



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden

Chief Frank Cloutier delivered the Jan. 21 State of the Tribe Address.

of all of the Tribe's departments and programs.

Sharon has a long and distinguished record of working for the Tribe and her new position is a first for the organization and is a testament to our ability as Native Americans to rise to the challenge and become leaders in our industry.

I would also like to introduce you to our newest addition to the staff for Tribal Operations and our gaming divisions, Chief Financial Officer Dominic Ortiz.

Migizi LLC. is under the capable and professional direction of CEO Robert Juckniess and has seen some significant incremental growth in his time with us to this point.

Economic Development opportunities are being reviewed and considered on a daily basis with many viable opportunities for us to consider.

State of the Tribe | 5

SCIT files motion to join ongoing litigation efforts

ERIK RODRIGUEZ
Public Relations Director

On Jan. 12, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe filed a motion in the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan asking the court to allow it to join the litigation between the State of Michigan and the Bay Mills Indian Community.

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe's action became necessary because it obtained information indicating that a settlement was likely between the State and Bay Mills in the litigation.

A letter dated Dec. 5, 2016 from the National Indian Gaming Commission confirms that the State of Michigan and the Bay Mills Tribe were negotiating a settlement of their case.

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe is concerned that settlement of the litigation by the State and Bay Mills Tribe would allow the Tribe to establish a casino in Vanderbilt or elsewhere in the state, contrary to the federal regulatory framework under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA).

Such a settlement would create a category of lands for

which the Bay Mills Tribe could operate a casino, potentially anywhere in the state, without either state or federal regulatory oversight.

"We have stayed within the limitations of IGRA adhering to the guidelines all of these years. We expect the same of our neighboring tribal communities," said Chief Frank Cloutier.

As the letter from the NIGC to the Bay Mills Tribe makes clear, neither the Vanderbilt parcel nor any other lands purchased by the Bay Mills Tribe from funds received pursuant to the Michigan Land Claims

Settlement Act meet the "Indian lands" requirement of IGRA, and none of these parcels can be used for Indian gaming purposes outside the requirements of the IGRA.

Any gaming at those sites—whether the Governor agrees to settle the case or not—is illegal.

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe's intervention is needed to ensure that the federal and state law implications of any settlement are fully vetted and that the interests of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe are protected.



Mary Lynne Chippeway

April 12, 1945 – Dec. 21, 2016

Mary Lynne Chippeway, age 71, of Mount Pleasant passed away Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2016, at the McLaren Central Michigan Hospital.

Mary was born on April 12, 1945, in Mt. Pleasant, the daughter of Benedict and Mary (Jackson) Quigno.

She was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

Mary married Lester Donald Chippeway Sr., on Dec. 29, 1962, in Mt. Pleasant.

Mary worked for the Mt. Pleasant Regional Center, was a director of Housing, juvenile case worker, served three terms as a Tribal Council member from 1990 to 1999, and retired as the director of Security from the Soaring Eagle Casino after more than 17 years of service to the Tribe.

Mary loved to go to church, shopping, Vera Bradley, going to Jenny's Diner, reading, doing crosswords, spoiling her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and was the best party planner.

Mary is survived by her husband, Lester; children, Brian (Julie) Chippeway, Lester Donald "Goober" Chippeway Jr., and Melissa "Zulu" Chippeway; grandchildren, Karmen (Tony) Fox, Samantha (Brandon) Koons, Felicia (Edward) Bross Jr., David (Kara) Bennett Jr., Gary "Cho" Chippeway, Brian Wesley (Cassandra) Chippeway, and Preston (Shane) Chippeway; great-grandchildren, Jacquelyn Vasquez, Jayden Bross, Aiyana Bross, Brooklyn Bennett, Kaden Fair, Kadenn Rose, Jersie Bennett, Rayleigh Bennett, Dayton Bross, Mya Chippeway, Kaya Rose, Trey Bross, CJ Chippeway, Kyven Rose, Ella B. Fox, David Bennett III, Miguel Chippeway, Emerson Fox, Sondra Bennett, Haiden Chippeway, Cristiano Chippeway, Kyliegh Koons, and Kooper Koons on his way; siblings, Janice (Jim) Hill, John Quigno, Brian Quigno, and Richard (Betty) Quigno; and sister-in-law, Cindy Quigno.

Mary was preceded in death by her children, Anthony "Quick" Chippeway, Allen "Sparky" Chippeway, Sean "Buddah" Chippeway; grandson, Lyle Bennett; parents; and siblings, Joe Mike Quigno, Karen Chippewa, Gary Quigno and Linda Jackson.

Funeral services were held at Clark Family Funeral Chapel on Dec. 24, with Rev. Owen White-Pigeon officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the family.



Jennifer Kay House-Gardner

June 19, 1983 – Dec. 24, 2016

Jennifer (Jenna) Kay House-Gardner, age 33, of Mount Pleasant passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Dec. 24, 2016, at McLaren Central Michigan.

Jenna had a beautiful spirit and a captivating smile. She was able to brighten a room just by entering and all who met her loved her.

Jenna gifted us with her beautiful son, Jordan, who carries her loving heart. He was the center of her world and she would do anything for him.

Jenna had a heart that was pure and true which showed through the never-ending compassion that she had for both people and animals.

Jenna had a vast amount of skills and talents including auto maintenance, auto repair, jewelry design, cosmetology, fashion, fixing things that broke, and so much more.

She also had many hobbies. She enjoyed fishing, beadwork, repairing things, reading, hair design, boating, traveling, and shopping.

She is survived by her son, Jordan Price; her husband, Samuel Gardner of Weidman; her parents, Carol Jackson of Mt. Pleasant, Michael (Bobbi) House of Mt. Pleasant; her sisters, Natasha House of Mt. Pleasant and Breanna House of Ithaca; her brothers, Andrew (Cassie) House of Ithaca, Zachary (Nicole) House of Okinawa, Japan; her niece Abigail Render of Mt. Pleasant; her nephews Brenden Render of Mt. Pleasant, Benjamin, Aidan, and Collin Locker of Gaylord, Bronx and Jamison House of Ithaca; her aunts/uncles, Barbara (Ron) Johnson of Weidman, Paul Jackson of Weidman, Janis (Doug) Ash of Mt. Pleasant, Steve (Heather) House of Gladwin, Kathy (Bryan) Morgan of Kokomo, Ind.; and many cousins and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Elmer (Shirley) Jackson, Janet Eden, Denny (Betty) House; her uncle Jeffrey House; and her cousin Derrick Conlay.

Jenna was beautiful both on the outside and the inside. She had such a caring nature and beautiful spirit. She was truly a gift to this world.

There are many hearts hurting with her passing. Although she will always be missed, the great memories she left behind will keep her alive inside of us. It's hard to forget someone who gave you so much to remember.

Funeral services were held at Clark Family Funeral Chapel on Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 with Pastor John Kaster officiating. Memorial donations may be made to a trust fund for Jenna's son, Jordan.



Karen Ann Bonnau

Nov. 9, 1955 – Jan. 13, 2017

Karen Ann Bonnau, age 61, loving wife, mother, grandmother and sister passed away Friday, Jan. 13, 2017 at McLaren-Central Michigan Hospital following a courageous battle with cancer.

She was born on Nov. 9, 1955 in Bay City to the late John and Marvalene "Ronnie" (Silas) Bonnau.

She lived in Mt. Pleasant, formerly of Pinconning.

She married Kenneth Filcek on July 3, 2004 at St. Charles Parish. He survives her.

Karen was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. She enjoyed going camping, fishing, traveling and playing pool but most of all spending time with her family, grandchildren and her two beloved dogs Hershey and Jett.

Surviving, besides her husband of 12 years, are her children; Rhonda (Ryan Mitchell) Bonnau, Jessica (Jon) Benson, Keith (Danae Caszatt) Hatlak and Jaclyn (Austin Haworth) Hatlak, five grandchildren; Alexis, Dominick, Michael, Jonny and Jaxson, four brothers Rick (Jan) Bonnau, John (Shelly) Bonnau, David (Joanne) Bonnau and Thomas (Debby) Bonnau and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by an infant brother Kenneth Bonnau.

Funeral services were held at the Lee-Ramsay Funeral Home in Pinconning on Thursday, Jan. 19 with Yvette Chisholm presiding.



Ridge Allen Jackson

Feb. 17, 1989 – Jan. 7, 2017

Ridge Allen Jackson, age 27, of Mount Pleasant passed away Saturday, Jan. 7, 2017 at his home.

Ridge was born on Feb. 17, 1989 in Mt. Pleasant to Kenneth Vasquez and Eliza Jackson.

He was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. Ridge was self-taught and had natural talent playing the guitar.

He enjoyed drawing, and loved his family, and most of all, he loved his children dearly.

Ridge is survived by his parents Kenneth Vasquez and Eliza Jackson-Peters, both of Mt. Pleasant; daughter Aiyana K. Jackson of Mt. Pleasant; son Cole Alexander Hartley of Bay City; brothers Tyler Jackson, Kris Peters II, Wyatt Peters, Michael Vasquez (Morgan Steinley) all of Mt. Pleasant; sisters Kaylee Jackson, Lou-Anne Peters, and Karmen (Tony) Fox all of Mt. Pleasant; grandparents Beverly Vasquez of Mt. Pleasant and Francisco Vasquez of Mt. Pleasant; nieces Ella and Maliyah; nephews Henry and Emerson; special aunt Marlene Jackson; and many other relatives and friends.

Ridge is preceded in death by his grandmother Delores Jackson, and reunited with his cousin Taylor "Kook" Vasquez.

Funeral services were held at Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Gym on Friday, Jan. 13, 2017 at 1 p.m. with Robert Pego officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the family.



Phyllis Jean Kequom

July 20, 1929 – Jan. 14, 2017

Phyllis Jean Kequom, age 87, of Mount Pleasant, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017 at Stone Lodge in Shepherd.

Phyllis was born on July 20, 1929 in Grand Rapids, Mich., the daughter of James and Lenora Pelcher Pego Sr.

Phyllis married Frank Kequom on June 24, 1950 in Rosebush.

She was an LPN in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Detroit, and for 26 years at Mercy Hospital in Grayling.

Phyllis was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe. She was a member of the Hobby Club in Frederic, the PTA, enjoyed ceramics and was a trader at powwows.

She and Frank enjoyed traveling to Texas, Arizona, and Mexico during the winter months. They also visited Alaska, Hawaii and Central America, and cruised the Panama Canal.

Phyllis was a board member for the Ziibiwing Center for more than 20 years.

Phyllis is survived by her children, Audrey and Ronald Falcon of Mt. Pleasant, Bonnie and Ronald Ekdahl of Midland, Patricia Kequom of Mt. Pleasant, Joseph and Marjorie Kequom of Shepherd, Susan Mongene of Mt. Pleasant, and Thomas Kequom of Mt. Pleasant; 14 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Frank; a grandson, Mark Benjamin Heron; a great-grandson, Jayce Heron-Hinmon; two sisters, Rosalie Romer and Geneva Machety; and a brother, James Buddy Pego.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Jan. 17 at the Faith Indian Church of the Nazarene with Pastor Doyle Perry officiating. Interment followed in the Woodland Cemetery in Rosebush, next to her husband. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Ziibiwing Center.



The family of Jenna K. House-Gardner

The family of Jenna K. House-Gardner would like to express our sincere appreciation and personally thank everyone who offered us support, brought food, sent flowers, and cards. Your prayers, friendships, and compassion helped us get through one of the most difficult times in our lives. A special thank you to all our families and friends, The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribal Community, Janis Ash, Barbara Johnson, Kathy Morgan, Kent Jackson, Kim, Erica and Nicole Aasved, Cathy Matthews, Jennifer Wassegijig, Candace, Jay, and Bella Benzinger, Lilly Olson, Jeff Jackson, Mike Miller, Shelly Bailey, Tonia Jewel, Peggy and Harlen Day, Kathy Long, Shelly Carrier and family, Jennifer Gilbert, Alicia Dent, Glenna Kwe Halliwill, Linda Kerkau, Alissa Larken, Doug and Julie Sawade, Kris and Jay Render, Angie and Cole Swan, Chase Hildebrandt, Ithaca 7th grade football team, Judge Patrick Shannon, Pastor John Kastor, Clark Family Funeral Chapel, Mt. Pleasant Eagles #4463, Eagle Riders, and Womans Auxillary, Flowers by Suzanne Janes, and Staples.

"It takes a village to get through a storm and the village has gathered all around us"

Miigwetch and thank you all,

Jordan Price, Carol Jackson, Michael and Bobbi House, Natasha House.

Tommy Lee Kahgegab

Oct. 9, 1995 – Dec. 24, 2016

Tommy Lee Kahgegab, age 21, of Mount Pleasant passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Dec. 24, 2016 at his home.

Tommy was born on Oct. 9, 1995, in Midland, Mich., the son of Travis Lee Kahgegab and Carlyn Sue Yannett.

Tommy was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and had worked for the Tribe's summer youth program.

He loved music, art, drawing and making and mixing rap music. He loved being an uncle to his nieces and nephews.

Tommy is survived by his mother Carlyn (Pedro) Morales of Charlevoix; father Travis Lee Kahgegab of Mt. Pleasant; brothers Nelson Kahgegab of Mt. Pleasant, Jonas Kahgegab of Mt. Pleasant and Anthony Thor (Ta'shena) Sams, of Suttons Bay; sisters Alicia Kahgegab of Mt. Pleasant and Macy Kahgegab of Mt. Pleasant; grandmothers Anne Peters of Mt. Pleasant and Sandra Yannett of Suttons Bay; grandfather Maynard Kahgegab Sr., aunts, Courtney (Kesh) Wemigwans, Camille (John) Grice, Jessica Kahgegab, Katlin Kahgegab, and Emily Kahgegab; uncles, Maynard (Lisa) Kahgegab Jr. and Ryan Kahgegab; nephews, Ma'iingan Darius and Daniel; nieces, Faith and Hope; and many other special cousins.

Tommy was preceded in death by his grandfather Russell Boahbedason, great-grandparents Nelson and Emily Kahgegab, and great-grandparents Wilfred and Julia Peters, and many aunts and uncles.

Funeral services were held at Clark Family Funeral Chapel on Friday, Dec. 30, 2016, with Rev. Robert Pego officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the family.



Donald Ray Cabay

June 17, 1936 – Dec. 29, 2016

Donald Ray Cabay, age 80, passed away Thursday, Dec. 29, 2016 at McLaren Bay Region.

Don was born June 17, 1936 in Bay City to the late Chester Ray and Geradine Maranda (Jones) Cabay.

He married Margaret A. Hinman on Dec. 1, 1979 and she survives him.

Don served his country during the Korean Conflict with the U.S. Army as a paratrooper. He retired from the Bay County Maintenance Department and spent most of his time in the county building.

He was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and enjoyed going for rides, driving, trying his luck at casinos and attending powwows in different states with his wife Margaret.

Surviving, besides his Margaret, is one sister Irene Stockel, one brother-in-law Gary (Renee) Hinman, one sister-in-law Mary Sue (Gary) Anderson, nieces, Lauren Lopez and Minnie Jo, many other nieces and nephews.

Don was predeceased by two brothers, Chet and Peter Cabay.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to the McLaren Bay Region Foundation in Don's name.

Receive important Tribal announcements via text messaging. Text the letters **SCIT** to the number **32363** to subscribe to SCIT



2017 Powwow Logo Contest: "Honoring our Protectors"

Attention all artists: The Saginaw Chippewa Powwow Committee is having a logo design contest for this year's powwow. If you would like to enter, please send your entries to the Powwow Committee.

Your logo design should be designed around the theme "Honoring our Protectors." Entries can be in color (with a four color max.)

Your designs can be hand drawn or created electronically.

Please mail your design entries to:

Attn: Powwow Committee
7070 E Broadway Rd., Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

If you have any questions, please contact us at 989.775.4942.

Entries can also be dropped off at the At-Large office C/O Craig Graveratte.

If you create an electronic version, it may be emailed to cgraveratte@sagchip.org

All entries must be received no later than Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. Please include your contact information along with your entry.

And for the best part, the winning design will be displayed on the T-shirts for this upcoming year. The winner will also receive \$200 and a free T-shirt or hoodie with your design.

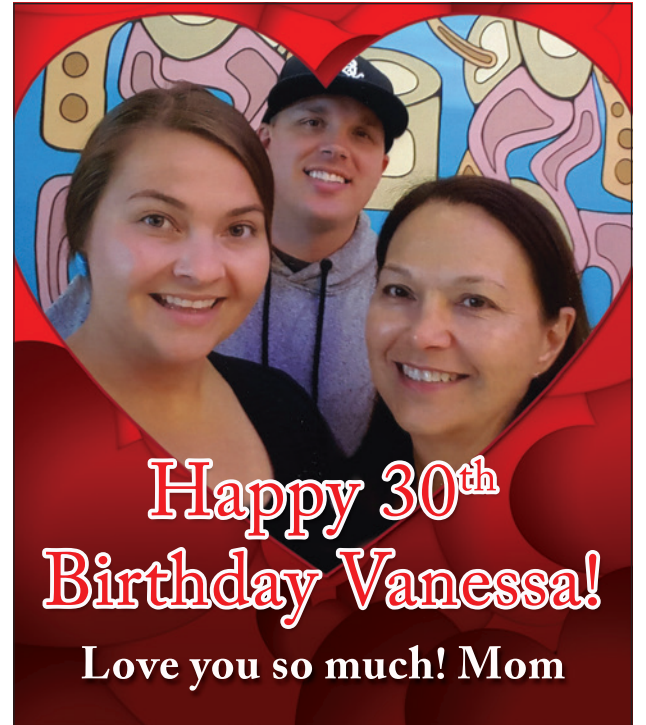
Prizes will also be awarded for second and third place as well (yet to be determined.)



Happy 14th Birthday!

Alexandria Sawmick

Love, Dad and Grandma Kim



Happy 30th Birthday Vanessa!

Love you so much! Mom

Powwow Committee One Vacancy

The Saginaw Chippewa Powwow Committee currently has one vacancy. Open until filled.

Send letters of interest to:

Attention: Powwow Committee
7070 E Broadway Rd., Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

Coffee

..... with the

Community

Tribal community, please join the Water Quality Program staff for a free cup of Starbucks coffee, and take advantage of this opportunity to share your stories, perspectives, concerns and priorities about water resources.

Let us know what we are doing right, how we can improve and what you would like to see from the Environmental Team in the future.

To schedule your session: Simply give us a call, e-mail or stop into the Planning Department.

Taylor Hollis	Planning Department
• Phone: 989.775.4162	2451 Nish Na Be Anong
• E-mail: thollis@sagchip.org	Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Mr & Mrs. Jackson
♥11-30-2016♥

I'm grateful & blessed after 7 years★ I married my bestfriend-my soulmate ♥Michael R. Jackson♥ Gazaagiin your wife Lena R. Jackson ♥11-30-16

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1-800-784-8669
www.michigan.gov/tobacco

Funded by the Michigan Department of Community Health

ATTENTION
Anishinabe Ogitchedaw
Veteran & Warrior Society Members

Now Recruiting New Members

Meetings Will be Held
The 1st Tuesday of the Month in Seniors Room
Time: 6 p.m. | For More Information: 775-4175

Candy Grams

To raise funds for Elders activities and events

Sale begins: Jan. 30 at 4 p.m.
Delivery: Feb. 14

\$5 candy gram
Send a nicely packaged candy gram with assorted candies and your personal message to your child, sweetheart, friends and family or even that secret crush.

Delivery available to SCIT departments and local schools.

For more information, please contact:
• Shleigh Jackson at 989.775.4300 or shjackson@sagchip.org
• Amy Shawboose at 989.775.4307 or ashawboose@sagchip.org

Order Establishing Fishing Season 2017

Per Tribal Ordinance 11, Section 107 subdivision 2(B) the 2017 Fishing Season began Jan. 17, 2017 and will close on Dec. 31, 2017 unless ordered otherwise.

Licenses and permits are available now at the Tribal Planning Department office.

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

Well and Septic Checks

Free to Tribal Members who reside in the IHS service areas: Isabella, Clare, Midland, Arenac and Missaukee counties.

- Wells and septic will be inspected.
- Septics will be pumped free of charge.

Call 989.775.4014 or stop in at the **Planning Department office located at 2451 Nish-na-be-anong.**

Leave your name, address and phone number to be put on the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) list. **You must own your home.**

Happy Valentine's Day!

Brian Deaton,
I love you handsome!

Please wish Phoenix

A Happy 3rd Birthday!

Check out the **Tribal Observer ONLINE**

www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver



Tribal Council

Chief

Frank J. Cloutier, District 3

Sub-Chief

Brent D. Jackson, District 1

Treasurer

Gayle Ruhl, District 1

Secretary

Michelle R. Colwell, District 1

Sergeant At-Arms

Ronald F. Ekdahl, District 1

Tribal Chaplain

Diana Quigno-Grundahl, District 1

Council Member

Candace B. Benzinger, District 1

Council Member

Tim J. Davis, District 1

Council Member

Lindy Hunt, District 1

Council Member

Amanda Oldman, District 1

Council Member

Kenneth Sprague, District 1

Council Member

Ron Nelson, District 2

Tribal Consultant William Cross offers community a MIIBS property project update

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The Michigan Indian Industrial Boarding School property community survey has been completed and the breakdown of the results is scheduled to be submitted to Tribal Council by Feb. 2.

“Once we have the final tabulation from the survey of the desire of the Tribal community as to the most important utilization for the Indian boarding school buildings and property, the data obtained from the tabulation will be combined with the recent findings of the Building Renovation Assessment Study, completed by Hobbs & Black Architects on Dec. 1, 2016, to see if the buildings can be structurally renovated up to code to be used for purposes defined in the survey,” said William Cross, tribal consultant.

Cross said a potential concern is the buildings range from 119 to 79 years old and are in poor condition.

“Once the findings of the community survey of the buildings are coordinated with the condition of the buildings, a report will be submitted to the Tribal Council including recommendations on the future utilization of the buildings and property,” Cross said.

The final report will also suggest future project financing as whatever purpose the building is intended they should generate funding to cover renovation and future operations.

Cross said the possibility does exist that the cost of renovation may be too high or the condition of the buildings may not be able to meet expectations, or the community survey may indicate a preference for a memorial wall or “green space.”

“Regardless whether the buildings are renovated or not, it is anticipated this phase one of the MIIBS property project will be presented to Tribal Council in April 2017,” Cross said.

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Library offers a ‘novel’ idea with Blind Date with a Book

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

As the season begins where love is in the air, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Library staff is bringing back a ‘novel’ idea with Blind Date with a Book.

Tribal Librarian Anne Heidemann said the program, designed to generate a love for books, started on Jan. 23 and goes through Valentine’s Day weekend.

“Blind Date with a Book is a program to help patrons read something that they normally wouldn’t read. It’s common to walk into a library, pull a book off the shelf, and quickly judge the book by its cover,” Heidemann said. “If the cover isn’t appealing, the book is placed back on the shelf and the patron moves on to the next one.”

Participants check out a book that is wrapped in brown paper so the cover isn’t visible.

Each wrapper has one line written on it to give a quick description of what they will find inside. The participant will then take it home, open it, read it, and fill out a small card they will find in the book to rate it as “hot or not.”

Lee-Anne Disel, library assistant, said there is a plan if the reader finds the book isn’t “attractive.”

“That’s ok! They will simply bring it back and try their luck again,” Disel said. “Some people will strictly read fiction or nonfiction and never look at anything outside of the reading habit they have gotten themselves in.”

Participants will not know if they will be taking home a fiction, non-fiction, an Ojibwe or Native American book.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal Library Assistant Lee-Anne Disel (left) and Kimberly Condon (middle) share a laugh with Public Relations Administrative Assistant II Tracey Klich.

Kimberly Condon, library assistant, said the program was very successful last year with more than 20 people who signed up.

“We hope to have even more participation this year. Everyone is welcome, even if they’ve never visited the Tribal Library before,” Condon said. “Last year we had patrons who read a non-fiction book for the first time and found they really enjoyed it. Others found new authors that they had never even heard of before.”

Heidemann said the best part of the program is some read a book that was the beginning of a whole series.

“It inspires them to read through the whole series and that they couldn’t wait to finish. That’s exciting and one of the reasons our staff really enjoys doing this program,” Heidemann said “It’s a program designed to get you out of your comfort zone so you can’t judge a book by its cover!”

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.

Minaadendamoowin ~ 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 989-775-4010, or email: observer@sagchip.org. To change your mailing address, please contact the Tribal Clerk’s office at 989-775-4055. Community advertisements will not be accepted over the phone.



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

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

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State of the Tribe

continued from front page

Juckniess' leadership has mandated to all operations that they build efficiencies and streamline processes that ensure lean and inventive practices. No more of the "that's the way it has always been done" attitude.

I'm sure you have noticed the work being done to complete the roofing project for the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. This project has taken longer than anticipated but showcases what we can accomplish when we pull our resources together.

In the last State of the Tribe Address, we talked with you about the much-needed repairs and updates throughout the property.

Tribal Council is working with At-Large Member Services to schedule two work sessions with you, the Membership. One will be in March and the other in October. We will notify you of the dates and times very soon.

These will be agenda-driven meetings with focus on you, the Membership. We will discuss the scope of work, the cost of needed repairs, updates, design and concepts along with identifying opportunities along the way to enhance our offerings throughout the resort property.

For so many years, the focus has been on incremental increases to the bottom line without regard to the condition of the facilities or the outdated technology that is needed to keep us fresh and relevant. This is not an inexpensive endeavor and we need your keen input to make this remodel successful and sustainable.

The expansion for Saganing is scheduled to begin the first week of July 2017. This will be a multi-phased expansion with many components.

The work will begin with the construction of the electrical sub-station, which is planned to be on line and operational by September 2017, which is just in time to provide our own electricity to the operation and the construction projects.

The construction of the utility corridor will ensure we have the necessary pathway for all of our infrastructure needs.

Off-site employee parking will be constructed to aid and support staging for the construction, and finally, plans will be complete for the relocation of Worth Road and its approach into the Saganing community.

The end product will provide 148 affordable hotel rooms, additional games on the floor, a family-style restaurant with lounge area and themed entertainment.

All of this is being done with offerings reflective of the region featuring fresh fish and local fair.

This expansion will help create more jobs and provide additional revenue for our Saganing property.

Many of you have had questions about the change in our health care provider. Up to this point, there was very little we could share with you about our relationship with Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) due to developing litigation against that health care provider.

The Tribe initiated federal litigation against BCBS when we discovered that BCBS was overcharging the Tribe for services.

BCBS failed to ensure that the Tribe received Medicare like rates for services provided to Tribal Members under the insurance. Unfortunately, after the Tribe filed its lawsuit, Blue Cross/Blue Shield decided not to renew our plan causing its termination effective Jan. 1, 2017.

Not wanting to interrupt coverage to you, the Membership, Tribal Council, after careful consideration, and comparative shopping entered into a contract with Meritain Health, an Aetna company for health care coverage.

Meritain is as equal in their offerings as BCBS with less expense for the time being.

We are fully aware that there have been some challenges with the transition and have done everything we can to ensure that those challenges are being addressed.

As far as the litigation, we are confident in our case and optimistic that we will be successful in recovering all or a great portion of the fees wrongly charged to the Tribe. We will keep you informed as that case develops further.

We have continued to make decreases in the per capita distribution in an attempt to stabilize that plan.

The future's trust that has been used to make up for shortfalls in our distribution plan will continue to be monitored as we move forward.

The per capita distribution plan was set at a percentage of the income from Class III Gaming.

When the profits decreased, the percentage of per capita should have as well. Those adjustments were never made and we started working with a deficit. That is when the future trust was applied to off-set the deficit.

If we are to make per capita sustainable and dependent on the profits of the operation, we will need to adjust our distribution plan. Tribal Council will be evaluating the per capita distribution plan in the near future. Adjustments can be made as the profits increase and it will continue to be reviewed for the foreseeable future.

I know this is harsh news, but it is the reality we have today. We are to the point of having no other choice but to pay per capita based on profits and not an arbitrary percentage rates.

This is our opportunity to make solid decisions that will ensure our operations remain profitable and growing.

Legislatively, the Tribal Council has been committed to making sure your voice is heard on a national and local level.

The election of Donald Trump may present some challenges for Indian Country. We, however, are confident that he will oppose 'off reservation' attempts such as the ones currently being attempted by Bay Mills Indian Community and the Sault Ste Marie Tribe.

We recently filed papers with the federal court requesting that the Tribe be allowed to intervene in the ongoing litigation between the State and Bay Mills Tribe. Our request for intervention was made to oppose the Bay Mill's attempts to open gaming in Vanderbilt or elsewhere in violation of federal law and policy.

Your Tribal Council is part of larger efforts involving several tribal communities from across the United States that oppose off-reservation efforts. We have worked collectively on what is known as an administrative fix for Section 292 of the rule making procedures for land into trust recognition within the Interior Department's guidelines.

The changes proposed will make it virtually impossible to attempt off-reservation gaming through trust acquisition.

The Labor Sovereignty Act will be a top priority for us in the first 120 days of this administration.

It is strongly felt that the Trump Administration is not going to look favorably on organized labor. There are handouts on your tables identifying this and others governmental initiatives.

We have an agenda that has been designed to provide you with the most up-to-date information from our executives in all of our operations.

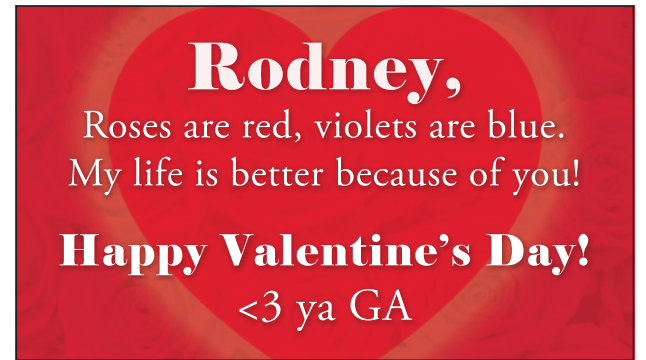
Tribal Council Treasurer Gayle Ruhl will provide you with detailed information in regards to all of the Tribe's financial holdings.

Executives from the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort and Migizi LLC. are here to update you on their work thus far, and plans for the future.

Craig Graveratte from At-Large Member Services and Connie Sprague from Benefits are here to provide information on Tribal Member benefits and services.

In closing, I would like to remind you that we use the tagline 'Working Together for Our Future.' My fellow members, we need to work together to take better care of one another and our community.

God bless and chi-miigwetch for your time and attention."



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72 mos/\$327/\$20,595



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2014 Ford Fusion S
2.5L, FWD, 18k Miles, Auto, MP3.
72 mos/\$281/\$17,725



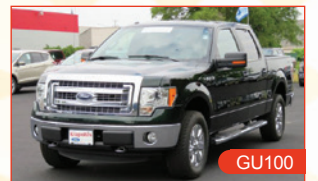
2010 Ford Ranger Sport
4L V6, 42k Miles, 4WD, 1-Owner.
60 mos/\$344/\$18,495



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72 mos/\$456/\$27,995



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72 mos/\$291/\$24,600



2013 Ford Explorer XLT
3.5L V6, 45k Miles, FWD, Auto.
72 mos/\$396/\$24,895



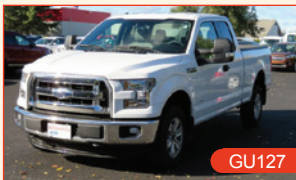
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3.5L V6, 28k Miles, FWD, Auto.
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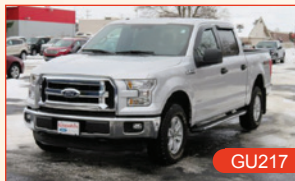
2013 Ford F-150 Lariat
Supercab, 4x4, 6.2L V8, 74k Miles.
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2014 Lincoln MKX
3.7L V6, 18k Miles, AWD, Auto.
72 mos/\$478/\$29,950



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2015 Ford F-150 XLT
Crew 4x4, 8k Miles, 2.7L V8, Auto.
72 mos/\$558/\$34,960



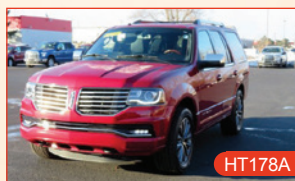
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Locks & Windows, Chrome Wheels, Trailer Tow, 36k Miles.

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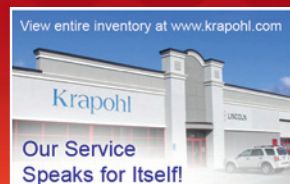
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“Culture is prevention” theme for Behavioral Health’s Jan. 23 family dinner

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

In an effort to teach how cultural identity can help prevent unhealthy behaviors, Behavioral Health hosted a “culture is prevention” themed family dinner night on Jan. 23.

The event was hosted in the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym from 6 to 8 p.m., and provided Pisanello’s pizza for attendees.

Guadalupe Gonzalez, prevention specialist, served as emcee and introduced each guest speaker.

Tribal elder Charmaine Shawana, former Council member, spoke first.

Shawana discussed her past struggles with alcoholism and said she used to attribute her addiction to being Native American. She said she also grew up with alcoholic parents.

She thanked her husband, Zozep (Joseph), for being a



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Linzee Ritter speaks on her past struggles with alcoholism during Behavioral Health’s “culture is prevention” family dinner night in the Tribal Gym on Jan. 23.

great influence and also living a drug and alcohol-free life.

“I hope some (of the community members who attended) will recognize that we all have issues, but we can survive them, and we can make a difference in our lives,” Shawana said. “There are people who have quit (their drug or alcohol addiction) successfully and help others who



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Tribal elder Charmaine Shawana shares her personal story and how she overcame her struggles.

are struggling. Family is very important and we don’t want our young ones to follow in our footsteps (of addiction.)”

Bear Clan woman Linzee Ritter also spoke of her past problems with alcohol, drugs and anger.

Ritter said she began drinking at the age of 16, and her drinking increased to cope with the loss of her child.

Ritter said her mother has been in and out of recovery for years,

and her father passed away when he had 26 years in recovery.

Ritter said she received her first DUI when she was 32 years old, and eventually went into Behavioral Health’s outpatient therapy for three months.

“I continued to use between treatments,” Ritter said. “I was fortunate I didn’t lose my life at that time.”

With her sons, Ritter went to a traditional lodge.

“We went to the lodges trying to understand how we became Native people, and our traditions,” Ritter said. “We are a family in recovery... what helped me was understanding I had a place to go.”

Ritter said she never felt the need to use during time in the lodge.

“It’s hard to talk about this and not give recognition to the traditional medicines we use,” Ritter said. “I think that’s so important; using our sovereignty over pharmaceutical medications.”

Jennifer Crawford, MSA, CPC-M, prevention coordinator, discussed the event’s intentions.

“We wanted those in attendance to learn that according to research, introducing someone to his or her culture, increasing their cultural identity, in itself, is a means of preventing unhealthy behaviors, specifically substance abuse,” Crawford said. “Engaging in cultural activities can be a strategy to stay away from alcohol and/or drug abuse. There are many community members who rely upon teachings and their participation in cultural activities to maintain their sobriety.”

The Behavioral Health Prevention Team’s goal was to establish that connection and promote the many different types of cultural activities available throughout the Saginaw Chippewa community, Crawford said.

Nami Migizi Nangwiihgan provides donations for Habitat for Humanity

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

In December just before Christmas, Habitat for Humanity of Isabella County held its “Stuff the Truck” event to receive donations from the community to fill the company “ReStore” truck.

Items collected are given to organizations within that community that help individuals in need.

The largest donation came from Nami Migizi Nangwiihgan and Behavioral Health.

Shelby McCliggott, counselor; Sheila Mullen, office manager; Sarah Winchell-Gurski, school-based clinician; Carrie Carabell, prevention intern; and a few community



Courtesy of Stacy Todd

Isabella County Habitat for Humanity held its “Stuff the Truck” event to fill its “ReStore” truck, and Nami Migizi Nangwiihgan and Behavioral Health were the largest contributors.

members went shopping for and delivered the supplies.

“All of the donations... were of basic need items such as underwear, socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hair brushes, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, new sheets/pillows and the list could go on,” McCliggott said.

Organizations benefitting the cause included: Isabella County Restoration House, Life Choices, Foster Closet and the Community Cares Store.

“The ReStore truck was definitely filled and the organizations were certainly blessed,” said Stacy Todd, executive director for Habitat for Humanity. “In fact, faces were cramped from smiling so big when they received their donations.”

Volunteers that gathered and delivered the donations came from United Way, the Habitat for

Humanity Board, the Discovery Museum, the 7th Day Adventists, and Weickert Realty, Todd said.

“I would like to thank supporting businesses such as My104.3 and 95.3 WCFX for inviting an on-air conversation, Tim Horton’s for the coffee and coffee cups, and definitely a thank you to all of the community members that participated,” Todd said.

“The excitement, energy, and smiling faces make us wish to do this event again; possibly even twice each year.”



Courtesy of Stacy Todd

Volunteers and Behavioral Health representatives are photographed after dropping off their donations in December 2016.

Habitat for Humanity is a part of the vision of “creating a world where everyone has a safe, decent and affordable place to live.”

SECR Grounds Manager Lewis Sprague receives department lifetime achievement award

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

On Dec. 15, the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort’s Facilities Department awarded Grounds Manager Lewis “Lew” Sprague a departmental lifetime achievement award for his years of service during their annual holiday potluck.

Zora Walsh, administrative assistant II for Facilities,

said Director Steven Jablonski wanted to honor Lew for his years of service and to create a new recognition award.

“The honor is for associates who have worked for over 15 years within the department and who has had a major impact on its staff and operations,” Walsh said. “With Lew nearing retirement, Steven and our fellow employees wanted to honor him in front of his departmental team members.

Lew has worked in the department for over 18 years in various positions within the Grounds division.”

Jablonski said one of Lew’s greatest achievements was his efforts after the department was contracted out for almost a year.

“Once the decision was made to bring Grounds duties back in-house, Lew was instrumental in developing this facilities division. It was important to the organization and department that we demonstrated that we could perform these services using in-house staff at a higher quality and lower cost than a contracted service,” Jablonski said. “There were many more leadership examples that Lew has been a part of making the Grounds division an integral part of the Facilities department.”

Connie Sprague, manager for Benefits/Compensation,

has been married to Lew for more than 35 years.

“I know he has enjoyed the time that he has spent in the Grounds Department,” Connie Sprague said. “He is very proud of his accomplishments and I know he is going to have a hard time not being here. He has learned a lot in his time with the department and Steve has been a wonderful mentor for Lew and Zora.”

Jablonski said the unique award was created in house.

“Two of our woodshop employees created the award and wanted to honor Lew’s love of fishing by designing the award,” Jablonski said.

“The canoe was made to symbolize not only his love of fishing but as an award of honor to wherever life may lead him in his future life journey.”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Lewis “Lew” Sprague, Grounds Manager for Soaring Eagle, receives the first ever Facilities Department Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award marks one more first that can be added to Lew’s accomplishments as the first facilities associate to receive the distinguished honor.

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Families Against Narcotics inaugural meeting begins a new SCIT/mid-Michigan chapter

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

More than 100 people packed the Tribal Operations Seniors Room on Jan. 12 to discuss addiction in the community.

The Families Against Narcotics meeting was a part of a Jan. 9 roundtable discussion about losing loved ones to drug overdoses and other forms of addiction among the Healing to Wellness team members.

Tribal Court Judge Patrick Shannon started the meeting and thanked Tribal Council Chaplain Diana Quigno-Grundahl for giving a heartfelt opening prayer.

David Perez, okima I of the Anishinaabe Ogitchedaw Veterans Warrior Society; Okima II Glen "Pete" Coffin; and Ogitchedaw Treasurer William Leksche offered sage smudge medicine at the door and brought in the Saginaw Chippewa eagle staff and the Tribal flag to the gathering.

Shannon said FAN is a grassroots organization originating in Fraser, Mich.

Eight years ago, about 100 angry and frustrated people gathered at a town hall meeting in the basement of Christ United Church in Fraser to discuss the recent deaths of several young people from heroin overdoses, Shannon said.

"Phil Pavona started an Okemos FAN chapter when his 25-year-old son, Eric, died from a heroin overdose in 2011," Shannon said.

Pavona spoke to the Healing to Wellness team and said he would be willing to help show FAN leaders its family forums and focus groups in their community, Shannon said.

Guadalupe Gonzalez, diversion manager for Youth LEAD at the time, was the first person within the Tribe to have exposure to the possibilities of bringing the FAN program to Mount Pleasant.

Council members Candace Benzinger, Amanda Oldman, Kenneth Sprague and Tim J. Davis shared their personal testimonies about dealing with addiction in their families.

Magistrate Carol Jackson lost her daughter (Jennifer House-Gardner) recently and Benzinger lost her son (Taylor "Kook" Vasquez) last year.

Benzinger shared her hope on how families can heal.

"We need to get over the pain and hurt and move toward the compassion of not judging the people who die from addiction," Benzinger said. "When I set in this meeting, we knew we had to do something and having this many people come out on short notice is a sign that a lot of people care about our families and we can support each other."

The tears, frustration and emotion from the passionate testimonials led to action as a Board of Directors for the SCIT/mid-Michigan Chapter of FAN was selected.

Gonzalez was chosen to serve as president.

"I think the number of people that came to the meeting last night showed loud and clear that our community is ready to begin healing and to take a stand against the opiate abuse that has been plaguing our community," Gonzalez said. "There was a very positive and humbling feeling throughout the entire presentation. I am honored to be a part of this movement and will do my part to help continue this momentum."

Serving on the Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Commission, Shannon said FAN's mission is to educate, change the face of addiction and erase the stigma.

"This problem is at epidemic levels across the U.S. because people stay silent and keep addiction hidden. We can see that is happening right here on the Reservation and in mid-Michigan," Shannon

said. "Members who are a part of FAN chapters are brave individuals that refuse to stay silent in hopes that we raise awareness and support families who are tortured by addiction."

The Board of Directors selected to serve in the SCIT/mid-Michigan FAN chapter are: Gonzalez (president), Marcella Hadden (vice president), Shawn Sawmick (treasurer) and Rosanna Martin (secretary).

Other board members include Joyce Luther, Janis Ash, Natasha House and Cecilia Stevens.

To assure the momentum continues, five FAN Board of Directors alternates: Candace Benzinger, Michael McCreery, Marion Mena, Gary Bennett and Mary Bentley were also selected to serve.

Residential Treatment Coordinator Diane Littel and Clinical Therapist Robert Storrer joined traditional medicine Helping Healer Steve Pego and his wife, Mae, along with Donnie Dowd to support FAN.

Medical Director and HTW team member Margaret Steslicki also attended the meeting with Nimkee Public Health Nurse Susan Sowmick.

Dr. Deborah Eisenmann and Dr. Barry Kissoondial are both on board with the FAN effort. Eisenmann said she is interested in assisting when and wherever possible.

"A community-led effort to address addiction is critical, with emphasis especially needed on working with the children and youth of the community to prevent addiction from occurring," Eisenmann said. "Once established in an area, addiction to narcotics is very difficult to treat. The key is prevention



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

The SCIT/mid-Michigan chapter of Families Against Narcotics chose a Board of Directors at the inaugural Jan. 12 meeting.

which requires the whole community to come together with that purpose in mind."

Two FAN public service announcements, "The Age of Addiction" and "Heroin Prescription," were shown along with FAN documentary testimonials and a video entitled "The Face of Addiction: the Phil Pavona story."

Sawmick, board member and tribal clerk, said she has witnessed many changes throughout the years on how the Reservation has dealt with addictions.

"As a mother, I have seen what it has done to our community, and currently it's threatening to wipe out a decade of our generation of Native people," Sawmick said. "Even though we now have this committee, this battle is not just our battle; it's a member and community battle."

Sawmick said she realizes this fight cannot be won by only a handful of people, but if everyone at the meeting gets involved, it will make a difference.

"(Addiction) can and will be won if we all join together and take the necessary steps to let the ones know who are selling and bringing drugs onto our Reservation that we are in charge and taking our Reservation back," she said. "We will no longer keep silent and watch our people die for their profit, we will be narcs and be proud of it. Because in the end, me, you, we or us may save a life by sharing information on these perpetrators, and that right there is a good enough reason for me."

To be on the contact list to take part in upcoming family forums, focus groups or talking circles, please contact one of the board members for more information.

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Seventh Generation takes traditional teachings to heart in making its first lacrosse stick

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Sometimes things work exactly the way they're supposed to. Seventh Generation once more stood at the center of contemporary Tribal history as they took our traditional teachings to heart in making its first lacrosse stick.

Cultural Representative Ben Hinmon said Daniel Jackson, leadership intern, and his kids find a lot of meaning within the game of lacrosse.

"To see Dan's kids here to watch their father as we work through this (lacrosse stick making) process together is an example of what Seventh Generation is all about," Hinmon said. "We had Council Member Ronnie Ekdahl here along with Recreation Manager Luke Sprague and members of his staff, and they're all excited on how we are developing this old technology that's been around for centuries and we're doing that right here at Seventh Generation."

Ekdahl, who also serves as a coach with the Red Swamp Lacrosse team, said the plans to make the traditional wood sticks have been in the works for years.

"It is a long and difficult process to make a traditional lacrosse stick," Ekdahl said. "It's a time-consuming project but I am very excited that Seventh Generation is working on making them. I know both the kids and the adults are waiting to see the first finished stick and I wanted to come over personally to see how the process is coming along."

Ekdahl said the sticks are made from shag bark hickory that is hand carved and bent.

"Stringing the pocket is a difficult process also but there is nothing like playing with a traditional piece of equipment like this," Ekdahl said.

Lacrosse is considered a traditional game that was present in the Great Lakes, among the Iroquois and Onondaga, and all across the eastern half of the U.S., Hinmon said.

"Lacrosse has developed into an incredible collegiate game now and they are using sticks that are manufactured with aluminum handles and a plastic basket at the top. There are a lot of Tribal nations that are learning this old technology that we are re-learning for the first time at Seventh Generation today," Hinmon said. "We're going to try to bring back and re-create that



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Cultural Representative Ben Hinmon shows how wire is used to keep the lacrosse stick bent in place.

original wooden stick which was a big part of the game."

Lee Ann Ruffino, director for Seventh Generation, said the staff discussed respecting the spiritual teachings that are being given by the living tree.

"It is a learning process for all involved but it is amazing to watch it unfold where others want to be a part of this Tribal history," Ruffino said. "I like how Ben referred to this as a re-learning process because our people have done this back in the day, but it's new for us here at Seventh Generation. I would like to

think this is how our blood memory comes back to us."

Hinmon said a part of the challenge was to locate the shag bark hickory and to harvest a tree just behind the Ziibiwing Center.

"There are certain things you are looking for during the harvesting: You are looking for a straight trunk without any branches at the lower end of it which would present knots in the stick where the bend is going to happen," Hinmon said. "We were lucky to harvest a good tree in September and it needs to dry for about three months before going into the steaming process."

The staff built a steamer from scratch for the project and had to split the tree using old traditional methods.

Jackson provided much of the sweat equity in the steaming and bending the shag bark.

"It's important to do this harvesting in a good way and that's why we laid down our tobacco like we were taught, and we use the medicine throughout the project," Jackson said. "I'm pretty excited that we were able to get the wood to bend and anything past six feet from the bottom of the tree wouldn't have been able to bend before splitting."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Leadership Intern Daniel Jackson puts some muscle into bending a piece of shag bark.

Jackson said as they tried the first bend of one of the lower sticks, it creaked before it actually took shape and held while they tied off the bend with wire.

"We tried to bend one with a knot in it just to see how the stick would respond to the bend. One of my boys recorded a video on his cell-phone where we got the first stick to bend and he was pretty excited to see it happen," Jackson said. "It's real cool to be a part of this."

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Gov. Snyder prepared to sign legislation increasing Michigan speed limits

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

On Jan. 5, Ari Adler, director of communication at the office of Gov. Rick Snyder, issued a press release that informed speed limits on certain Michigan roadways may increase after studies are conducted to ensure safety under legislation signed by the governor.

“Ensuring that all Michiganders are safe while

operating vehicles on our state’s roadways is critically important, and these bills allow for appropriately increased speed limits on certain roadways after safety studies are conducted,” Snyder said.

Adler said Michigan House Bills 4423–4427, sponsored by state representatives Bradford Jacobsen, Rick Outman, John Kivela and Charles Smiley, require the Michigan Department of Transportation to allow the

speed limit to be raised up to 75 mph on at least 600 miles of freeways, and up to 65 mph on at least 900 miles of non-freeway roads.

One of the freeways affected is the U.S. 127 corridor between Lansing and Mount Pleasant that would allow traffic to move quicker from the state capitol to the Isabella Indian Reservation and Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

The M-13 corridor from Bay City to Standish would also

raise the speed limit from 55 to 65 mph, and would impact traffic heading down Worth Road in Standish to the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino.

“I commend Gov. Snyder for doing the safety studies and keeping those concerns of our fellow Michigan citizens at the forefront,” said Chief Frank Cloutier. “As far as the economic development interests, and what it means for tourism and our gaming operations in Mount Pleasant and

Standish, it is worthwhile legislation to consider.”

The increases are allowed only if safety and engineering studies show the 85th percentile of speeds currently driven on those roads allow for it.

The bills also raise the maximum speed limit for trucks from 60 to 65 mph and adjust measures used by insurers to determine eligibility for auto insurance. The measures are now Public Acts 445-449 of 2016.

SELC held its end-of-the-year banquet for employees of the month

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

The Saganing Eagles Landing Casino held its end-of-the-year Employee of the Month Banquet for employees that received the honors each month in 2016.

The Thursday, Jan. 19 “Midnight Masquerade” event was a murder mystery dinner at the Saganing Tribal Center in Standish, Mich.

Guest enjoyed appetizers and music by the Rick-Tones from 5 to 7 p.m.

“At 7 p.m., dinner was served via our own kitchen and Food & Beverage Executive Kris Neuhalfen,” said Christy Fedak, administrative assistant II for gaming



Courtesy of SELC

SELC Employee of the Month winners were treated to a murder mystery dinner on Jan. 19 in the Tribal Center in Standish, Mich.

administration. “The entertainment was provided by The Murder Mystery Company.”

Chief Frank Cloutier attended along with Council members Ron Nelson and Michelle Colwell.



Courtesy of SELC

(Left to right) Cortni Burkhart, Jeanette Mosher, Sherri LaBenne and Tammy Manyen enjoy the photobooth at the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino Employee of the Month masquerade dinner.

Current SELC and Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort CEO Ray Brenny and Bob VanWert, interim casino general manager, also attended.

JANUARY

- Brandon Koth, *Finance*
- David James, *Slots*

FEBRUARY

- Lacy Grzelak, *Finance*
- James Daly, *Facilities*

MARCH

- Tammy Manyen, *Finance*
- Jeanette Mosher, *Finance*

APRIL

- JoAnn Bowen, *Marketing*
- Kurt Hummerickhouse, *Facilities*

MAY

- Shawna Thayer, *Marketing*
- Patricia Harrington, *F&B*

JUNE

- Jody Valley, *Finance*
- Dylan Pamame, *Security*

JULY

- Pamela James, *Security*
- Sherri LaBenne, *Finance*

AUGUST

- Jodi Smith, *Slots*
- Christy Fedak, *Admin*

SEPTEMBER

- Robin Warner, *F&B*
- Larry Keubler, *IC*

OCTOBER

- Karen Schafar, *Finance*
- Cortni Burkhart, *Finance*

NOVEMBER

- Tim Branda, *Security*
- Paul Schmidt, *Guest Service*

DECEMBER

- Randy Ervin, *F&B*
- Jonah Hinkley, *F&B*

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journey	maadaadizi
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fruits	emiin waang
vegetables	netaawgeng
take care	ganawenim
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sweet	wiishkoban
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**(WW is intended entertainment purposes only. Please make sure to seek professional counseling when necessary.)*

Dear WW: I started a long distance relationship with a man about two months ago. We met while at a work conference. I am devastated because I just found out that he's been leading a double life and is married! I should have listened to that little voice when red flags started popping up. I am about to confront him and let him know that we are done. However, should I also let his wife know? **I'm Not The Only One**

Dear Not The Only One: Yes, the wife should know the truth of who she is married to. She might know already and/or may suspect something. Women can sometimes fool themselves into thinking that everything is OK. For some, it's better than the truth and the truth is not always easy to swallow. You can let her know that you did not know but feel obligated to tell her.

Dear WW: I have four adorable kids with my husband. However, I find myself screaming at them most of the time. I don't want to be this way, but they just don't listen to me. They listen to my husband but he is not home most of the time to help with them. I am a stay-at-home mom but feel I need to go out and get a job so I can get a break. It's little things like they are taking too long to put their shoes on or they are messing around and not cleaning up. How do I get them to listen to me? **Scream**

Dear Scream: You may have lost your connection with them. They need to see you as a person of respect and that can be hard to do if all you do is yell at them. You may also need to see if your expectations of them are realistic. If you have the means to stay at home, please do so as they will be grown before you know it and you will never get their childhood back. Find a way to reconnect with them and have some fun. Play board games, go to the movies or rollerskating. Your irritability may also be a sign of depression so make sure you make an appointment with your health care provider to get yourself checked out too.

Dear WW: I have been married for about two years. However, my husband constantly lies to me. Some of the lies are harmless but some of the others are just flat out bold lies! Last week, I asked him to deposit some cash for me and come to find out, he never did. When I asked him about it, he said he forgot and used the money at the store. Upon pressuring him and not letting up, he finally admitted that he didn't forget; he just wanted extra spending money. I can't take it anymore. How do you deal with constant lies? I'm ready to end my marriage over this. **Liar Liar Pants on Fire**

Dear Liar Liar: People lie for various reasons: To avoid arguments, to do what they want to do regardless of how others feel (selfish) and to get what they want. Most liars learn to lie as children and were never held accountable. Lying is a cowardly thing to do. Encourage your husband to get counseling so he can explore his life a little more in detail to get to the root of his lies. Let him know that his lies may cost him his marriage and if he doesn't go, then you go. You can't have a good marriage without trust and you can't have trust if there are lies!

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Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel gains international acclaim and earns "wave" reviews

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel distinguished itself by earning international acclaim and receiving "wave" reviews for its successful business operation.

Aleatha Ezra, director of Park Member Development at World Waterpark Association, sent a personal congratulatory letter to the entire SEWPH marketing team.

The SEWPH was selected for the 2016 Wave Review Awards of Best Direct Mail, Best Poster and Best TV Commercial in its attendance classification.

"This is well-deserved recognition for everyone involved and I hope you will share this good news with others on your team," Ezra wrote in her letter. "One of the World Waterpark Association's goals is to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of industry professionals who are working hard to provide safe, fun water leisure environments for the consumer. These awards recognize excellence in leadership, safety, innovation, training, etc., and honor people working at various levels within the water leisure industry."

The award ceremony was held Oct. 13.

Bonnie Sprague, general manager of SEWPH, gave credit to her staff and the support received from Tribal Council and the Migizi Economic Development Company Board of Directors.

"We are truly blessed to have so many dedicated employees who care about customer service and giving our guests a world-class experience," Sprague said. "I attribute whenever we receive these types of recognition for our properties as a moment where our Tribal Members know we have a family that is on the right track."

Migizi CEO Robert Juckniess said "these awards are the direct result of the financial support of the Migizi Board of Directors, the leadership of Chief Cloutier and the unique marketing vision of Fritz Kuhlman, marketing manager for Migizi."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel staff take a moment with their international 2016 Wave Review Awards. (Left to right: Marketing Specialist Melissa Mullard, Graphic Designer Angie Davidson, Marketing Manager Frederick Kuhlman, Migizi CEO Robert Juckniess and General Manager Bonnie Sprague.)

"The work on these marketing materials has paid off handsomely for the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel by artfully communicating the type of high level customer experience our guests can expect when they visit," Juckniess said.

Kuhlman gave credit to having a creative marketing team.

"This is a great accomplishment for the Migizi marketing department and demonstrates the level of performance we strive for every day," Kuhlman said. "Our Graphic Artist Angie Davidson was responsible for the poster and direct mail designs and deserves recognition and congratulations for outstanding work. Angie is amazingly talented and receiving international acclaim for her creativity was special for everyone in our office."

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Chief Financial Officer Dominic Ortiz began his position with the Tribe on Nov. 29

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

On Nov. 29, Chief Financial Officer Dominic Ortiz began his position within the Accounting department, and will work directly with Tribal Council providing insight on business and investment opportunities.

Ortiz will also provide leadership to the finance department and will work closely with financial interests of Migizi EDC. and the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

With 15 years of tribal gaming and hospitality experience, Ortiz is a licensed CPA with a permit to practice.

He also is a chartered global management accountant.

"I achieved my CPA requirements by practicing public accounting for one of the top accounting and consulting firms, Ernst & Young, LLP," Ortiz said.

"I am currently an appointed member of the AICPA National Commission on Diversity and Inclusion. I achieved Harvard Business School alumni status by completing an extensive program called 'The General Manager Program' through executive education."

Ortiz came from Eagle Pass, Texas where he was working as an assistant general manager for one of the largest Class II gaming operations in the United States.

"I have worked with Caesar's Entertainment, and as a CFO for a tribally-owned and operated Class III gaming and resort," he said.

He is also an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation from Mayetta, Kan.

"I am very grateful to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe for the opportunity to be a part of the business and community,"

he said. "I will use all of my experience and education to help guide strategy, leadership, and management. I will also provide a transparent and independent opinion in regards to all operations."

Chief Frank Cloutier said Ortiz is a good example of tribal leadership.

"This is the first time since beginning our gaming operations where we have had our CFO, Soaring Eagle CEO and Human Resource director all coming from Native communities," Cloutier said. "We wanted to hire someone who has a proven track record, and with a strong background of how to move forward with our business and financial interests. Dominic is the right man for the job and is up to the challenge."

Marie Summers, director of Human Resources, is from the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin and

started her position on Aug. 1, and SECR CEO Ray Brenny is from the Minnesota Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians.

"The organization has been in autopilot for so long, we didn't know what we were really missing," said Jacqueline Reger, controller for Tribal Operations. "(Ortiz) brings to all of us a realist and different view of the Tribe's businesses and finances. I just told him... he has already assisted me in looking at (situations) from a different point of view, and this is a great thing!"

Reger has worked in Accounting since 1994, and said Ortiz's leadership will "help the department by creating efficiencies and great customer experiences."

"He is knowledgeable in all accounting and financial



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

New Chief Financial Officer Dominic Ortiz from the Prairie Band of Potawatomi began his position on Nov. 29.

aspects that we need to push the Tribal entities into the winning lane once again," Reger said. "The trait he holds that we all needed the most is open and transparent communication, and holding people accountable for their responsibilities to SCIT."

Ortiz may be reached at 989-775-4038.

Fire Chief Fred Cantu offers important winter fire safety tips

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

More fires happen in the winter months than any other time of the year. During the cold Michigan winter months, more time is spent indoors and different methods are used to heat homes.

Fred Cantu, chief of the Saginaw Chippewa Fire Department, said it is important to keep fire safety in mind when heating homes.

"For homes using portable heater: Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off so if it tips over, it shuts off, keep anything that can burn such as bedding, clothing and curtains at least three feet from the heater and plug portable heaters directly into wall outlets," Cantu said. "Never use an extension cord or power strip and turn heater off when you go to bed or leave the room."

For homes using a fireplace: 1) Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks from

jumping out and starting a fire, 2) Do not burn paper in the fireplace, 3) Before going to sleep or leaving home, put the fire out completely, and 4) Put ashes in a metal container with a lid. Store the container outside at least three feet from the home.

"If you are using a wood stove, have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional, keep anything that can burn at least three feet from the stove, do not burn paper in your wood stove and before you go to sleep or leave your home, put the fire out completely," Cantu said.

Cantu said be aware of carbon monoxide.

"Carbon monoxide... is called the 'invisible killer' because it's a colorless, odorless, and poisonous gas," Cantu said. "Statistics show more than 150 people in the U.S. die each year due to accidental carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide can come from generators or fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters

and fire places. This is very dangerous because breathing in carbon monoxide at high levels can kill you."

The Tribal Fire Department encourages the community to put carbon monoxide alarms inside homes to provide an early warning of increasing levels.

"These alarms should be placed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home," Cantu said. "As always, make sure you have a smoke alarm on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas and test your

alarm every month." Cantu said families should also have a home fire escape plan and practice that plan at least twice a year.

Having a plan makes sure everyone in the household knows how to escape the home if there is a fire, Cantu said.

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Grieving: Healthy ways to cope with a sudden death of a loved one

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

With so much unfortunate, sudden death occurring in the Tribal community lately, the Tribal Observer wants Saginaw Chippewa community members to know grieving is a normal, yet difficult process and help is available.

The Clark Funeral Family Chapel in Mount Pleasant, Mich. reports the survivor's feelings or actions after the sudden unexpected death of a loved one may include:

- Tiring easily or being physically inactive.
- Becoming manic and too busy.
- Tenaciously hanging on to clothing or other belongings.
- Have poor concentration, inability to think clearly, or having trouble making decisions.
- Having no appetite, eating too much, or a combination of the two.
- Sleeping too much or not getting enough sleep.

Debbie Robb, clinical services coordinator for Behavioral Health, provides supervision to the staff and oversees the provision of services.

Robb said counselors are available to see those who need support to cope with grief during a state of bereavement for a loved one.

"The grief and bereavement that follow a death-related loss – whether that death was sudden or

after a long struggle with an illness or disease – can be equally painful and challenging," Robb said.

Grieving is a part of life. What are some healthy ways to cope with a loss?

Robb said "most of all, it's important to feel those feelings."

"Most counselors learn early in their training 'you can't heal what you can't feel.' We know that it's important to help people to recognize and feel their feelings," Robb said. "It's not healthy to avoid or ignore grief or to try to escape or bury what they're feeling."

Robb said an acronym to remember is "FEEL," which stands for "Freely Experience Emotion with Love."

Another that may be helpful is "HOPE" – "Hang On, Pain Ends."

"It's healthy and necessary to give yourself time to grieve in order to heal," Robb said. "Remember, there's no set time limit on grief. Grief is a process; it takes as long as it takes."

Robb said she believes it is healthy for people to grieve together to work through the loss within a family or a healthy support system.

"Talking, listening, sharing, and crying with supportive others is very healing," Robb said. "This could be in a grief support group, seeing a counselor, seeing a traditional healer, going to

traditional ceremonies, or seeing your minister or pastor."

Many people grieving experience waves of sorrow, numbness and even guilt and anger, Robb said.

Stages of grief include: Denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

"The order and timing (of grief) may vary from person to person, but during this time, they will need support to be able to accept the reality of their loss, and help to allow themselves to experience, rather than avoid, the pain of their loss," Robb said. "They will be adjusting to a new reality sometimes called 'a new normal' in which the deceased is no longer present and they will discover or rediscover other relationships."

The Clark Funeral Family Chapel shares the following may help individuals cope with the sudden, unexpected death of a loved one:

- Rest is important. Do not try to do everything at once. Do only what is needed and let other things wait until later. Ask your family, friends, or caregivers for help.
- Share your feelings. Express how you feel or share stories of the one who just passed away. Often, just talking things out with someone you trust is a big help.
- Take good care of yourself. Do not forget to look after yourself

and other family members or friends. You should eat healthy food and exercise.

• When the time is right, try to get out of the house a little each day. Go for a walk or meet with a friend. Be sure to spend time with your family or friends. But remember, it is also important that you have time to yourself each day.

For some people, the feeling of loss is debilitating and doesn't improve; they seem incapacitated by grief and may focus on the loss to the exclusion of other interests and concerns, Robb said.

"Even after a considerable amount of time, the person continues to have trouble accepting the loss and can't seem to get back to moving on with their life," she said. "This could be an indication that they may be experiencing complicated grief, also known as 'persistent complex bereavement disorder.' It's also possible that people who may have been depressed prior to a loss, or who have a history with depression, may be experiencing a major depressive disorder following a loss. If you or someone you know is experiencing this type of reaction or seems depressed, it's time to seek help." And help is available.

Behavioral Health intake specialists provide assessments and counseling.

Helping healer services are also available where an on-staff helping healer is available during business hours, and a traditional healer who is available once a month.

"Both (healers) are able to work with individuals and families wanting cultural teachings, traditional healing and traditional ceremonies for grieving or other issues or concerns," Robb said. "Individuals can choose to use both traditional and western approaches to assist them during the grieving process."

Behavioral Health also has Holistic Specialty Treatments such as auricular acupuncture and energy healing, which can be used alone or in conjunction with other services.

Behavioral Health is located at 2800 S. Shepherd in Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858, and the staff may be reached at 989-775-4850.

Calls are screened by front office staff who will ask a few questions to get the caller scheduled for an intake/assessment appointment.

Callers do not need to share in any detail why they want or need to be seen. Callers will be asked to arrive about 15 minutes before the appointment to complete paperwork.

Remember to keep HOPE: Hang On, Pain Ends.

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FEBRUARY 25, 2017
2pm - 6pm

Featured Author
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Invited Authors
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Clyde Bellecourt, Neegonwayweedun (The Thunder Before the Storm), is a cofounder of the American Indian Movement (AIM), established in 1968 to strengthen and serve Indian communities.

His autobiography begins with the story of his childhood on the White Earth Reservation in Minneapolis, Minnesota and follows him through the worlds of prison, drug addiction and "confrontation politics," intertwining the story of his life and the story of AIM.

"The Thunder Before the Storm offers an invaluable inside look at the birth of a national movement—the big personalities, the creativity, and the perseverance that were necessary to alter the course of Native and American history." Minnesota Historical Society

At the age of 80, Bellecourt continues his life's work and passion by joining in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Water Protectors against the Dakota Access pipeline.

You're invited to come and hear American Indian history firsthand from an American Indian legend and other well-accomplished authors. Don't miss this exciting opportunity for a personal and memorable experience! Call 989.775.4750 with questions.

Happy Valentine's Day

March Events

- March 20-24 - Baby Swing and Moss Bag Workshop
- March 22 - Vendor Workshop

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William Johnson, Ziibiwing Center Curator

On February 4, 2017, join William Johnson, Curator at the Ziibiwing Center, for a special exhibit that will showcase newly acquired objects to the Ziibiwing Center's Permanent Collection.

Objects will remain on display through Saturday, February 11, 2017.



Editorial: SCTC experience and my role as Student Council president

TRISHA TRASKY

Contributing Writer

I remember walking in the last day of 2014 open registration to sign up for classes. When I first came to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, I was going to do just pre-requisition courses and transfer to Central Michigan University.

Through my struggles and achievements, I am now going to graduate with my liberal arts degree in May 2017.

The previous semesters SCTC did not have a Student Council. So when nominations had opened, I had asked other students who to vote for any suggestions. Then, I thought I'll vote for my daughter and some people I had classes with.

Through my semesters at SCTC, I had made some friends and they said they were going to vote for me.

Low and behold, I had made the nominations for all positions. At that point, I left it up to my fellow students to vote me in where they thought I would do the best job.

I was at home when I received a message, "Congratulations, president." Not sure what they were talking about, I was told to check my e-mail. There it was, Trisha Trasky, Student Council president. I was in complete shock. Even more nervous the first day back at classes. Then I thought where to start?

As Student Council president for SCTC, I knew there were going to be responsibilities.

The first priority is I wanted to be a positive leader for my fellow students and demonstrate good character.

Student Council was slow going as we all got into the flow of holding meetings. Learning to compromise and being



flexible is very important. The group began to brainstorm immediately.

The members all brought some good ideas to the table for our students. We like to involve the student body as much as possible.

Our first endeavor was entering a float in the Christmas Parade in downtown Mount Pleasant, having a bake sale, and soup sale.

We then had our advisor Trish Alonzo popping popcorn all day for students to enjoy in between classes for National Popcorn Day.

We also celebrated National Pie Day with the students, by letting them have a slice a pie, complimentary of us, and a cream pie eating contest. The winner received a SCTC hoodie.

We are hoping to bring in some speakers for students, host a family movie night, pancake breakfast and spring family carnival.

One of the most important things I learned as the president is you need to be extremely organized, keep a calendar, and attend all your meetings, as other Student Council members may depend on you to know what is going on.

Being a full-time student and a single parent, I realize I cannot do

everything myself. I trust my other members to do their fair share and contribute just as much as I do. Learning to delegate responsibilities, makes things run more smoothly.

After events, I talk with the Student Council to see what worked so we can make changes for the better. For me, just thanking my fellow members or volunteers for their help is important.

You need to be dependable. If you say you are going to do something or be somewhere, make sure you do.

I like to encourage and compliment the other members of the council because they are just as important to the council as the president.

Being the president, I am more aware that you are visible to more



Courtesy of SCTC

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College Student Council consists of (left to right) President Trisha Trasky, Sergeant-at-Arms Liz Trasky, Secretary Maggie Jackson, and Treasurer Bobby Wells (front).

students. I never forget I represent SCTC and Student Council.

If you see somebody doing something good, let them know. Encourage and push those students to reach for those goals. I hope to pass that on, what I was taught here at SCTC to be a good role model and act like a leader.

SCTC Board of Regents

One Vacancy

If you are interested in serving, please submit a resume and a letter of interest explaining how you meet the criteria to:

Ms. Colleen Green
SCTC Board Chair
2274 Enterprise Drive
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858

Deadline: Open Until Filled

Qualifications of Regents:

1. An enrolled member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan (SCIT) or another federally-recognized tribe, band or group. If a member of SCIT of Michigan must adhere to the tribal policy regarding committee membership.
2. Attainment of at least 25 years old.
3. Significant education or work experience related to the process of higher education or vocational training or the administration of education or vocational training institutions and programs.
4. Any specific requirements of organizations providing financial or other benefits to SCTC or providing accreditation of SCTC programs.

SCTC-Extension: Anishinaabe Arts & Crafts and Emerging Entrepreneur Grant

Snowshoe Lacing Workshop

Feb. 18, 2017
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. • SCTC East Building, Classroom 6

Registration Deadline: Feb. 6, 2017 Cost: Free

Whether you're a beginner or have some experience, lacing your own pair of traditional snowshoes is a rewarding project that can result in years of enjoyment. The workshop will feature Ojibwa style snowshoe kits from Country Ways of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Frames are made of White Ash, and lacing material is tubular nylon. Each kit also includes "Super-A" style bindings which offer excellent snowshoe tracking and performance.

During the class, participants will receive instruction from Kyle Bagnall, Chippewa Nature Center's Manager of Historical Programs. Kyle has been teaching snowshoe lacing for 19 years and has designed effective teaching techniques to help you get the most out of your experience. Participants will also receive a list of great places to snowshoe in Michigan.

- Lunch will be provided.
- Nimkee will provide healthy snacks.

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National Institute of Food and Agriculture

To register or for more information, please contact: Shuna Stevens at 989.775.4123 or sstevens@sagchip.org

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United States Department of Agriculture
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Higher Learning Commission
A Commissioner of the North Central Association



SCA teacher Alicia Boursaw receives Educator of the Month

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Education Administration would like to take this opportunity to showcase the shining stars in the department! We are proud of each and every team member within our department and think the community should know about you!

Congratulations to Alicia Boursaw, first grade teacher for the Saginaw Chippewa Academy, for being selected as Educator of the Month! The following is a questionnaire completed by Boursaw:

How long have you worked for the Education Department? Two years.

What is your favorite part of working in this department? Getting to work with students every day.

Do you have any pets? One fish. Her name is Kim "The Bad Banana" Kelly.

What is your favorite vacation spot and why? The Bahamas because it is very beautiful and peaceful.

What is your favorite Disney movie? "Alice in Wonderland"

What is your favorite candy/snack? Dove milk chocolate.

What is the one thing that you love to do? Why? I love to read because it is exciting and it takes you into a world of adventure.

What is one of your favorite quotes? "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." – Dr. Seuss

Thank you so much for being such an integral part of our education team. We appreciate you!



Courtesy of SCA

Saginaw Chippewa Academy Teacher Alicia Boursaw receives Educator of the Month. (Left to right: Curriculum Instructional Coordinator John Shelton, Boursaw and Administrative Assistant II Christina Sharp.)

Barryton Elementary School receives presentations on Native culture, traditions

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Approximately 33 miles from Tribal Operations is Barryton Elementary School in the Chippewa Hills School District.

Tribal K-12 Education's Tonya Jackson brought her children Zack, Jasmyne, Tristin and Quincey Jackson to provide a cultural presentation to the school students and staff on Wednesday, Jan. 25.

Barryton's preschool Head Start Program got its own presentation at about 1 p.m. in the gymnasium.

Tonya explained to the children why eagles are so significant in Native culture.

"Eagles are the highest flying bird in the sky," Tonya said. "We believe they talk to the Creator for us."

The children were mesmerized by the roach made from porcupine hair;



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Tonya Jackson of the Tribal K-12 Education department provides a Native cultural teaching to the Barryton Elementary School Head Start Program on Jan. 25.

they couldn't comprehend why it was so soft and not prickly.

The Jackson's brought out samples of healing dresses, fancy dance regalia and traditional regalia.

Tonya surprised the students and staff when she said "the healing dress cones



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Jasmyne Jackson holds up a healing dress for the preschool students to see and touch.

were made from tobacco lids because they make a loud, distinctive sound."

The presentation for the preschoolers ended with a round dance, which the children seemed to love, and then they watched Zack, Jasmyne and Quincey



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Jasmyne Jackson dances in the Barryton Elementary School gymnasium for the students and staff.

dance. (Tristin was still getting ready for the next presentation.) The students and staff were impressed.

The other grades were up next where the Jackson's gave a briefing of Native history, regalia samples and of course, more dancing.

Michigan Indian Elders Association: Student Incentive Program 2016/17

A Student Incentive Program is being offered by the Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) to recognize students who achieve all A's for a marking period as well as students who achieve perfect attendance for a marking period.

There will be a minimum of \$3,000 available to fund this program this year.

An award of \$25 will be made for each qualified entry up to the minimum available funds in the program. In the event that the number of qualified entries exceeds the funds available, the winners will be determined by lottery.

To qualify:

- The student must be an enrolled member or be a direct descendant of an enrolled member of one of the MIEA constituent tribes/bands.

- The student must be in Grades 1-12 at a public or private school. Home schooling is not eligible.

- A student must be in Grades 4-12 to qualify for the straight A award (A-, A, A+). For a school system that uses a grading

system based on numbers, the equivalent to straight A's will be acceptable.

- A student must be in Grades 1-12 to qualify for the perfect attendance award. Perfect attendance means exactly that. A student must be in school or at a school-sponsored function each day of the marking period. Excused absences for anything other than a school sponsored/approved function do not constitute perfect attendance.

- The first two marking periods ONLY of the 2016/2017 school year will be used to determine the winners for this lottery.

- A student can qualify for both the perfect attendance and straight A's for both marking periods. For example, straight A's and perfect attendance for both marking periods would mean four chances to win.

Please submit the following items:

- A parent of the student must complete and sign the Student Incentive Program Application Form in order for the student to qualify for an award.

- A copy of the child's report card signed by the parent or a letter from an

administrator of the student's school must be submitted with the completed application form to verify the achievement of straight A's and perfect attendance.

- A copy of student's (or parents') tribal identification card.

The drawing to determine the winners will be held at the April 2017 Conference of the Michigan Indian Elders Association.

Very important: You must follow these directions for your child to be considered for an award. The completed application form (included with these instructions), a signed report card or verification letter of

achievement from a school administrator and copy of the student's or parent's tribal identification card must be received or postmarked no later than March 15, 2017.

**The link for the form is: <http://michiganindianelders.org/students.php>

Applications received/postmarked after March 15, 2017 will not be accepted, no exceptions.

Please send the form mentioned documents to:

LeAnn Stindt
103 Big Bear Road
Iron River, MI 49935

McGuire

The following students earned perfect attendance for December: Bailey Burger, Ryan Flaughter, Christian Loyd, Arianna Altman, Aleigha Schwanke, Emily Stevens, Alexis Taylor, La'Anna Trudeau, Arianna Bird, Mackenzie Burger, Zheesheeb Compo, Tayden Davis, Adrianna Garcia, Julianna Garcia, Vanessa Lerma, Maggi Martell, Floyd Sehl and Kayden Weekley-Dean.

Vowles

The following students earned perfect attendance for December: Aviana Gomez, Mateo Harris, Kaden Kjolhede, Isabell Lerma, Mia McCreery, Ava Mena, Maisie Mena, Migan Merrill, Ringo Stevens and Cannon Thomason.

Ganiard

The following students earned perfect attendance for December: Gary Chippeway Jr., Mya Chippeway, RoseMarie, Green, Annabelle Hart, Aubree Hilleger, Konner Hilleger, Isabella Jackson, Dehmin Kahgegab, Nadia Mills, Natasia Noe, Miah Perez, Caleb Sprague, Jordan Teller, Ethan Treichel and Savannah Treichel.

Fancher

The following students earned perfect attendance for December: Dylan Bennett, Gabriela Escobedo, Darien Haggard, Mariana Mays, Elijah Teller, Hannah Fleming-Foster, Joaquin Jackson, Allison Lindstrom, Areyu Sineway, Cailey Treichel, Caedynce Bailey, Kaitlyn Bartreau, Trent McConnell, Kimewon-Raynee Richards, Kaylie Sprague and Hudson Yager.

Pullen

The following students earned perfect attendance for December: Tahlia Alonzo, Logan Bird, Caleb Burger, Sereniti Cole, Ahlanah Dodd, Zachary Flaughter, Leah Garber, Martin Garcia, Abraham Graveratte, Leticia Hawkins, Alex Hinmon, Emma Hinmon, Madison Isham, Trevor Isham, Heath Jackson-Hofer, Olivia Lerma, Caitlyn Loyd, Zhaawan Martell, Natalia Martin, Alonso Mendez, Javanni Perry, Arilynn Peters, Miikawadizi Prout, Tru Quigno-Vaughn, Armando Quiroz, Isaiah Rodriguez, Hope Stevens, Alex Taylor, Isaiah Taylor, Jaden Taylor, Johnny Vertz, Lakhia Vertz, Mica Wagner, Azrae Wemigwans and Oginiihns Zerbe.

Higher Education Deadlines

Due on Feb. 15, 2017

- SCIT Higher Education Scholarship Deadline for Fall 2016 Grade Reports**
Required to receive Remaining Balance Scholarships
- SCIT Higher Education Scholarship Deadline for Spring/Winter 2017 Semester**
SP17/W117 Course schedules due (Include Application and necessary documents for new Higher Education students.)



The prevalent issue of bullying: How are teachers, local schools, parents handling it?

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

The act of bullying is nothing new, but the issue remains prevalent in school systems, on social media and in the country to this day.

How are schools and teachers handling the issue of bullying?

What should parents do if their child is a victim of bullying? How do parents handle the situation if their child is the one bullying others?

Sarah Winchell-Gurski, school-based clinician for Behavioral Health, said what she sees in local schools regarding bullying depends on the school itself.

"Some schools are better than others at setting an atmosphere that doesn't accept bullying of any kind," Winchell-Gurski said. "I think the hardest part of what is now considered bullying is it sometimes is a fine line between bullying and what starts out as teasing. Schools that stop kids at the first sign of teasing seem to be the most successful at addressing bullying."

Bullying is not just calling someone names, pushing them, knocking books out of their arms, or scaring them, Winchell-Gurski said.

"Excluding kids or ignoring them may not seem like bullying, yet it is," she said. "Making fun of someone's clothes, religion, ethnicity, etc. may just seem like teasing, but it's no longer tolerated as such."

Winchell-Gurski said cyberbullying issues are rising.

"The hurtful things that kids say about each other online is amazing," she said. "For some reason, because it's in a virtual environment, they seem to think they are safer to say things about others. And the idea that they can say something on Snapchat and it 'disappears' also makes them feel safer, although a quick screen shot makes those 'temporary' messages last forever. Gossiping

via online apps also makes rumors spread like wildfire."

What are some signs a child is being bullied if they haven't reported it?

"There are a plethora of signs when kids are being bullied," Winchell-Gurski said. "Unfortunately, we don't often pay enough attention until it has become quite serious. Parents may see kids become withdrawn, quiet, and begin to avoid going to school by being ill or feigning illness. A real issue that can surface is that the child may indeed have a stomachache or headache from feeling stressed."

According to stompoutbullying.org, there are many warning signs a child is a victim of bullying including:

- The child comes home with torn/damaged, or missing pieces of clothing, books, or belongings.

- Has unexplained cuts, bruises, and scratches.

- Has few, if any friends, with whom he or she spends time.

- Seems afraid of going to school, walking to and from school, riding the school bus, or taking part in organized activities with peers.

- Finds or makes up excuses as to why they can't go to school.

- Takes a long out-of-the-way route when walking to/from school.

- Has lost interest in school work or suddenly begins to do poorly in school.

- Appears sad, moody, teary, or depressed when (s)he comes home.

- Complains frequently of headaches, stomachaches or other physical ailments.

- Has trouble sleeping or has frequent bad dreams.

- Experiences a loss of appetite.

- Appears anxious and suffers from low self-esteem.

Tribal Education Director Melissa Montoya said Tribal schools' staff receives professional development to identify bullying behaviors.

"We utilize the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) philosophy to set the tone for school and classroom culture," Montoya said. "There are policies and procedures outlined in the Student Code of Conduct that specifically outline bullying and the consequences. (The Saginaw Chippewa Academy) is also an Ok2Say school. Students, staff, and the community were presented this information during school presentations and assemblies."

In SCA's Student Code of Conduct, the anti-bullying policy begins on page 31.

The code states: "To protect the rights of all students and groups for a safe and secure learning environment, Education Administration prohibits acts of bullying, harassment, and other forms of aggression and violence. Bullying or harassment, like other forms of aggressive and violent behaviors, interferes with both a school's ability to educate its students and a student's ability to learn. All administrators, faculty, staff, parents, volunteers, and students are expected to refuse to tolerate bullying and harassment and to demonstrate behavior that is respectful and civil."

The code goes on to explain bullying and harassment criterion.

The code also states: "Saginaw Chippewa Academy believes that the best discipline for aggressive behavior is designed to (1) support students in taking responsibility for their actions, (2) develop empathy, and (3) teach alternative ways to achieve the goals and solve problems that motivated the aggressive behavior. Staff members who interact with students shall apply best practices designed to prevent discipline problems and encourage students' abilities to develop self-discipline and make better choices in the future."

Listed in the code, consequences for any student or

staff member who bullies may include: Admonishment, participation in a guided reflection process designed to teach alternate behavior, temporary removal from the classroom, loss of privileges, classroom or administrative detention, referral to disciplinarian, in-school suspension during the school week or weekend for students, out-of-school suspension, legal action and/or expulsion/termination.

John Shelton, curriculum instructional coordinator for Tribal K-12 Education, previously worked at West Intermediate, a Mount Pleasant middle school, for years as a youth achievement advisor.

Shelton said at the school, most teachers are conscientious about bullying and do their best to watch for it.

"Mr. (Kevin) Wiltshire, the assistant principal for West Intermediate, has a zero-tolerance bullying policy. The whole school district does, but he actually follows through where I see it," Shelton said. "If someone informs him that someone is bullying them, he gets the details... and asks them if they are aware of anyone else that this person is bullying."

Wiltshire assures the student reporting the bullying that their name will never come up in his conversations with the alleged bully. He also highly encourages them to come back if anything is said or the bully continues after his conversation, Shelton said.

"The key to (Wiltshire's) no-tolerance approach is the bully's name goes in a 'bullying' file and if (Wiltshire) is told of any other bullying issue involving them, they will go home, no questions asked," Shelton said. "(If a second incident does occur), the (bullies) will have to return with their parents and have a conference prior to being allowed back in school."

Wiltshire also contacts the student's parent(s) that is being bullied.

Teachers are informed of the incident and asked to keep an eye out for anything between the individuals.

Unfortunately, bullying does not only occur in adolescents, but many adults are victims of bullying behaviors performed by other adults.

The Tribal Observer recently interviewed Tribal Member Maggie Jackson who is wearing a hijab for 100 days to stand in solidarity with Muslim women who have been bullied due to their cultural traditions.

Stompoutbully.org reports on the signs a child may be the bully:

- Positive views towards violence.

- Often aggressive towards parents, teachers and other adults.

- A need to control and dominate others and situations.

- Boy bullies tend to be physically stronger than their peers.

- Girl bullies want to win at all costs, tend to be more dramatic than their friends and have a "mean girls" streak.

- Hot-tempered, impulsive and easily frustrated.

- Often tests limits, boundaries and breaks rules.

- Good at talking their way out of difficult and tense situations.

- Show little sympathy towards others who are bullied

Some signs a parent might want to watch out for if they are not aware their child is bullying others is any changes in behavior or appearance, Winchell-Gurski said.

"The best thing that parents/guardians can do is to keep a good line of communication open with (their) kids," Winchell-Gurski said. "Ask them every day what happened during the day. Who did they sit with at lunch? Who did they play with at recess? Who are their friends and who are not? And during those conversations, pay attention to the little details they say about their day and other kids. I like asking kids what was the best part of their day and what was the worst part because it gives you an idea for what was important."

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Attention Tribal Members



The Zibiwing Cultural Society Board of Directors needs to fill a 2-year term vacancy. Please submit a letter of interest and resume to:

Shannon Martin
6650 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858
or email smartin@sagchip.org

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Lonestar and Diamond Rio deliver abundance of country music hits

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Lonestar's energy was on full force during the Friday, Dec. 30 Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort show.

Lonestar began their show with "Boomerang," "Front Porch Looking In," "Mr. Mom" and a medley of past ballad hits.

The country music group consists of: Richie McDonald (lead vocals, acoustic guitar), Dean Sams (keyboard, backing vocals), Michael Britt (lead guitar, vocals) and Keech Rainwater (drums).

"We have a new album out, and if you all get this record, you will be super lucky at the

tables today," Sams said laughing and pointing at their merchandise for sale.

That album "Never Enders" was released in April 2016.

McDonald said Rainwater doesn't typically write their songs, but he had an idea for a country song and that tune, "I Want A Love" is featured on the new album. McDonald said that song is his new favorite.

After "You're Like Comin' Home," "Mountains" and "Everything's Changed," McDonald caught the band members off guard and changed up the set list.

"I got a new guitar for Christmas and I want to play it longer," McDonald said.

Sams had the audience laughing because he said he didn't know which song McDonald was suddenly going to do or if he even knew how to play it.

"Lyn' Eyes" is a cover song they used to play in pubs and bars before they made it big, McDonald said.

Before "I'm Already There," McDonald paid tribute to the U.S. military.

"(We met a) young gentleman in our meet and greet before the show who was in the army," McDonald said. "They serve and sacrifice for our great nation. Thank you for everything you do."

The song earned a standing ovation, and the audience stayed on their feet for the upbeat anthem "Walking in Memphis."

During "What About Now," McDonald energetically frolicked around stage and grabbed fans' cell phones in the front row and took selfies.

Lonestar delivered an inspiring performance of The Beatles' "Let It Be" before the encore.

Audience members could be seen slow dancing in front of their seats and in the aisles to "Amazed."

Lonestar closed the show with a rocking medley with a



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Country music band Diamond Rio performs their hit "Unbelievable" as the opening act during the Dec. 30 Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort show.

rap from Sams, and covers of Styx's "Come Sail Away" and the Eagles' "Life in the Fast Lane."

Diamond Rio, country and Christian country music band, opened the show.

Diamond Rio was founded in 1982, originally known as the Grizzly River Boys, then the Tennessee River Boys.

The six band members (Marty Roe, Jimmy Olander, Brian Prout, Dan Truman, Dana Williams and Gene Johnson) produced an incredible sound highlighting flawless harmonies.

The band began with "Unbelievable," "Norma Jean Riley," and a medley of older hits.

Coming from Nashville, Tenn., the band was not impressed with Michigan's severe winter weather at the time.

"This is the first snow we've seen this year and I hope it's the last," Roe said laughing. "I hope we get a chance to get to your favorite Diamond Rio song before the night is up and who knows, this might be one."

"One More Day" and "Beautiful Mess" were performed.

Diamond Rio celebrated their 25th anniversary in 2016.

"We've had a lot of hits over the years; we've been blessed," Roe said. "If you don't remember these, fake it."

The band performed a medley of seven long-standing hits that the audience surely remembered.

When Roe said Olander, guitarist, is from Birmingham, Mich., the audience went wild.

The band ended with "Meet in the Middle" and "How Your Love Makes Me Feel."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

(Left to right) Michael Britt, Dean Sams and Richie McDonald of Lonestar perform the energetic song "Boomerang" during the Friday night performance.

Night Ranger proves they can still "Rock in America" during Soaring Eagle show

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The frenzy started Dec. 29 as fans at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort were anticipating an onslaught of '80s power as Night Ranger stormed the stage and proved they can still "Rock in America."

After years of being one of the top grossing touring bands of the decade, current original members featuring guitarist Brad Gillis, bassist Jack Blades and drummer Kelly Keagy, and new members Keri Kelli and Eric Levy gyrated across the stage as they opened with a "Touch of Madness" from their 1983 "Midnight Madness" album.

Gillis was in the band Rubicon during the '70s before Night Ranger, and has

also played for Ozzy Osbourne and Fiona.

Gillis brought his trademark Fender Stratocaster, Telecaster, Gibson Les Paul and a flying V guitar.

Energetic front man Blades whirled across the stage as he jumped into the classic "Four in the Morning" and provided his lead vocals for "Coming of Age" and "High Enough" from when he shared the stage with Ted Nugent and Tommy Shaw of Damn Yankees fame.

The songs "(You Can Still) Rock in America," "Sister Christian" and "Don't Tell Me You Love Me" featured remain culturally relevant and featured in the hit video games "Guitar Hero" and "Rock Band."

Keagy took lead vocals on several power ballads that included "Sentimental Street," "When You Close

Your Eyes" and, by crowd reaction, the seminal favorite "Sister Christian."

After the encore, they finished the evening with the blistering "(You Can Still) Rock in America" that had the sold-out venue on their feet and pressing the stage to meet the band.

Dave Buckenberger, vice president of business development for the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau, attended with his wife and raved about the show.

"Marianne and I really had a great time watching Night Ranger rock out 2016 at the Soaring Eagle Casino. I've seen Night Ranger close to 30 times over the past 35 years this was one of the best," Buckenberger said. "Soaring Eagle is definitely a great place to see a show. I was on the sales team

that helped open the hotel, between 1998 and 2001, and have great memories of (the) fine resort and hotel."

Leigh Makowski attended her first Night Ranger concert and wished the show would have been longer.

"I saw the show with my brother-in-law, who is a friend of guitarist Brad Gillis, and my two best friends," Makowski said. "The energy in the place was amazing and they sounded excellent."

Celebrating the band's 35th anniversary, "35 Years and a Night in Chicago" was recorded May 7, 2016 at the iconic House of Blues in Chicago. Included in the upcoming release are two new songs, "Day and Night" and "Running out of Time" that were not performed at the Soaring Eagle show.

The songs will be part of an album of new material that Night Ranger plans to release in the spring of 2017.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Night Ranger lead vocalist Jack Blades performs a track from his days performing with Ted Nugent and the Damn Yankees.

Stand-up comedian Jim Gaffigan leaves sold-out SECR audience in stitches

MATTHEW WRIGHT

Staff Writer

Stand-up comedian Jim Gaffigan brought his Fully Dressed Tour to the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort entertainment hall stage on Dec. 28.

Gaffigan has released 10 comedy albums. His fifth stand-up special "Cinco," premiered on Netflix last month.

He has also had roles in more than 27 films including

"Super Troopers," "The Love Guru," "30 Years to Life" and "Hot Pursuit."

Gaffigan starred alongside his wife Jeannie for two seasons of "The Jim Gaffigan Show" on TV Land.

Gaffigan embraces his "every man persona," while making observations on a broad spectrum of topics. This ranges from his love affair with food, remarks on every day and family life, and his marriage.

"I do like being married to a strong, decisive woman, but you know what? I'm in charge of the remote, that's where I draw the line," Gaffigan said. "I'm in charge of the remote, because I'm the man. I mean, she picks all the shows we watch, but I get to hold the remote."

One hilarious aspect of his style is the self-deprecating "inner voice," a high-pitched voice which often interjects to provide cheeky commentary about his act.

"I worked out today. I know, I don't need to...but I'm lucky, I can work out a lot and still look completely out of shape," he said. "It's a gift; it's a special ability to always look out of shape."

Gaffigan's forte remains his observations about food and drinks. From donuts, steak, Mexican food, and most famously, his trademark Hot Pockets routine.

"Have you ever eaten a Hot Pocket and afterwards been

like, 'I'm glad I ate that,'" he said. "I'm always like, 'I'm going to die.'"

New York City-based comedian and writer Ted Alexandro opened the night for Gaffigan.

For more information on upcoming shows at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, visit its website at www.soaringeaglecasino.com, "Like" its Facebook page or add its Twitter handle Soaringeagle777.



Vanilla Ice sprinkled with a little Salt-N-Pepa shows fans still love the '90s

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The "I Love the '90s" tour featured five crowd-pleasing iconic headliners from days gone by.

The sold-out Dec. 27 show brought '90s rapper-turned actor and television host Vanilla Ice as the headliner with duo Salt-N-Pepa featuring DJ Spinderella in tow.

The tour began in April 2016 with Coolio, Rob Base and Young MC also making the journey to the Soaring Eagle stage.

Vanilla Ice took the stage by storm with a "whoop, whoop" and over-the-top bravado that culminated into his seminal hit "Ice, Ice, Baby."

Vanilla Ice hosts the Do It Yourself (DIY) network show "The Vanilla Ice Project." He has also performed on the ABC network's "Dancing with



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Vanilla Ice performs during the sold-out "I Love the '90s Tour" Dec. 27 show.

The Stars" with professional dancer Witney Carson.

The rapper showed some of those moves as he got the crowd chanting with him on "Go Ninja, Go Ninja, Go."

He had the crowd enthralled as he made an invitation for the audience to join him onstage for his manic version of Wild Cherry's "Play That Funky Music."

Other songs that got the ice treatment included the Ginuwine



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

DJ Spinderella (Deidra Roper, left) and Salt (Cheryl James) keep the beats and rhymes coming as they "Push It" on stage.

cover "Pony," M.I.A.'s "Paper Planes" and the Bob Marley's "No Woman, No Cry."

A proven headliner of their own, Salt-N-Pepa unleashed an onslaught of '90s chart toppers that encouraged the crowd to "Shake Your Thang."

DJ Spinderella smiled and grooved with Salt (Cheryl James) -N- Pepa (Sandra Denton) as they danced through "Let's Talk About Sex" with a music video montage and a

medley of "Sugar" and "Whatta Man."

The crowd went into a frenzy as the rhythm moved to another level as they gyrated through the Grammy Award winning single "Push It" from their "Hot, Cool & Vicious" release.

Even playful, Salt-N-Pepa had some fun as they sampled some music from Beyoncé and Cyndi Lauper's "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun."

The hip hoppers even got some exposure from the Marvel universe by being featured in the blockbuster soundtrack with their song "Shoop."

Young MC (Marvin Young) did his trademark "Bust A Move" to get the party started followed by Harlem's own Rob Base.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Where there's Salt in the house, there's bound to be a little Pepa (Sandra Denton).

Base gave tribute to his bro DJ E-Z Rock as he launched into a rousing version of the hip-hop anthem "It Takes Two."

The crowd stood on their feet as Coolio belted out his 1995 Grammy winning hit "Gangsta's Paradise."

Coolio also performed "Fantastic Voyage," "Stomp" and "1, 2, 3, 4 (Sumpin' New)."

Soaring Eagle welcomes 2017 with one successful New Year's Eve party

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Traditionally, New Year's Eve has drawn in large crowds of people to Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort looking for gaming action. Although the gaming floor is usually near capacity on NYE, the Marketing & Entertainment staff is usually brainstorming for new and exciting events to provide in the entertainment hall.

Advertising/PR Manager Kristina Griffus said on one particular brainstorming session, the NYE dance party idea surfaced.

"The basic idea was to bring people together in a club-type atmosphere for individuals who like to dance on NYE," Griffus said. "The idea for the NYE celebrations in the entertainment hall came to realization on Dec. 31, 2011. The event has been either sold out or very near to sold out each year."

Tim McCullough, guest service performance development

specialist, said a new component this year was "professional flair."

"Where the bartenders mesmerize guests by tossing around the bottles of booze before a spectacular pouring into the glass," McCullough said. "People didn't mind waiting for their drinks as the flair was entertaining."

Shad Snowden, talent buyer, worked diligently to spearhead the acquisition of DJ Xcape, along with DJ Hypnotiq and go-go dancers.

"DJ Xcape has over 15 years of experience and has proven to be one of the elite DJs in the Midwest," Snowden said. "From playing nightclubs, music festivals to concerts across the country, DJ Xcape always turns a party up to another level."

Noelle Andrews, manager for Food & Beverage Operations, said the department provides a variety of food and drinks.

"We had large bars that were custom made by the (Soaring Eagle) Woodshop (department



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

DJ Xcape (right) shows he is all about peace for the New Year while DJ Hypnotiq lays down some scratchin'.

that provided entertainment with flare bartenders and dancers," Andrews said.

The Food & Beverage department also offered a bottle service for the VIP section.

"The VIP area is the area located near the stage and dance floor where guests can have their own party area with couches and tables," Andrews said. "The wait staff provided bottle service to the guests, which also includes a bottle of champagne for their midnight toast. Each guest (21 and over)... receives a glass of champagne to bring in the New Year was well."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

People flocked to the dance floor as a flurry of revelers readies to usher in 2017 with some Soaring Eagle style.

Tanya Bardy, marketing manager of sponsorships and promotions, said casino hosts invited 200 elite and loyal players to their VIP dinner.

"The Players Club held drawings inside the entertainment hall for prizes like premium play, cash, overnight stays, tickets to future entertainment, dining and spa certificates," Bardy said.

The ice carvings and ice bar were created by Randy from Ice Brigade of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Raul Venegas, director of marketing/entertainment, said "success hinges on having the entire

property come together and function as a single power house."

"The NYE events are just one of the examples that we, as a team, are fortunate enough to be able to take a step back in amazement as the hard work unlocks thousands of smiles on the face of our guests," Venegas said. "The environment is welcoming, entertaining, exciting and simply unforgettable. Thank you to all the Soaring Eagle staff members who has made this night a success. I'm looking forward to seeing what we can all bring to Soaring Eagle's guests during 2017."

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Playscape 2.0 receives 2 percent Tribal funding to revitalize Island Park's Timber Town

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

On behalf of the City of Mount Pleasant, Mayor Kathy Ling and City Manager Nancy Ridley accepted \$75,000 as Chief Frank Cloutier and fellow Council members distributed more than 2.1 million in the semi-annual fall two percent distribution on Nov. 17.

The City has torn down the previous Island Park Timber Town areas to build a new playground called Playscape 2.0.

"We looked at 293 different requests for this round of funding and we found that the revitalization of the Timber Town playground at Island Park has benefited the community in the past, and it was time to make an investment for its future," Cloutier said. "The Tribe sponsored part of the first Timber Town in 1994, and we will have that presence of having a gathering place within the structure once again sponsored by the Tribe."

Chris Bundy, director of Parks & Public Spaces, was present for the distribution.

Bundy was also a participant during the May 5 Design Day presentation where Saginaw Chippewa Academy students shared what they believe should be included in Playscape 2.0.

"The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and Anishinaabe culture is such a large part of the local community that tribal participation in the reconstruction of Timber Town continues to be a key ingredient," Bundy said. "Input was gathered this past spring from youth at the Tribal academy along with other area elementary schools to create a dream playground for all to enjoy."

Bundy said in 1994 the community came together to build a dream playground for kids of all ages to enjoy.

"Everyone pitched in to create a special place at Island Park where families and friends could gather, make a new friend, or meet a visitor to the community while having

fun and enjoying the sunshine and fresh air in a safe unique environment," Bundy said.

Timber Town Playscape recently turned 22 years old.

"The play structure is still as popular today as it was years ago, but because so many have visited and played on the structure, much like a child's favorite stuffed toy, it's showing its age," Bundy said.

Much like the 1994 project, Playscape 2.0 organizers are hoping to encourage maximum participation in the project to foster community pride including: 1) multi-generational involvement through contributions of creativity, time, energy, and funds to the construction of a unique, safe play environment for children, 2) re-development of a much-used area of the community and 3) a celebration of community collaboration during the playground build and dedication planned for May 2017.

Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez serves on the Playscape 2.0 Committee along with other City officials

and many other community business leaders.

"The park will be utilized by generations of youth and for our community to be able to have input and look at adding some culture aspects to the new design, and we would like to extend an extra special chimiigwetch for that opportunity," Rodriguez said.

"There will be plenty of opportunity for the Tribe and other departments to be involved in the actual construction in the spring and the effort put forth will be all worth it."

Mount Pleasant resident Amanda Boyle has been working with business leader Rick Ervin as community effort coordinators on Playscape 2.0 where Ervin was a part of the previous construction.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Playscape 2.0 Committee member Rick Ervin (left) thanks Tribal Council for the 2 percent check as City of Mt. Pleasant Mayor Kathy Ling looks on.

"Living in Mount Pleasant, we are privileged to have so many unique cultures and populations that give such depth to our community," Boyle said. "The project will be an excellent opportunity for the community to come together to combine efforts and imagination to create a unique, fun, and safe play structure for children of all abilities."

Commission on Aging director offers history on \$7.9 million of 2 percent funding

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Whenever an opportunity comes to the door to help senior citizens in the community, Andahwod Continuing Care and Elder Services program and the Isabella County Commission on Aging are ready to answer.

On Jan 11, Brenda Upton, director for Commission on Aging of Isabella County, gave the Elders Advisory Board a brief history of how the Tribe has impacted the program through the 2 percent semi-annual distributions of \$7,914,931.60.

Upton said the first \$13,575 given in 2 percent funding was received by Commission on Aging in fall 1995.

"From that distribution forward, we have consistently utilized the Tribal funding for the direct provision of services to the older adults of Isabella County," Upton said. "The Tribal funding has been used in nearly every one of our programs and services and has affected the lives of tens of thousands of older adults throughout the county."

Upton offered examples on how the 2 percent funding has impacted four important aspects of Commission on Aging: Home delivered and congregate meals, in-home services program, gold key volunteer program, foster grandparent and senior companion program.

"Many organizations like ours across the state have had to put into place waiting lists for their meals on wheels programs. We have utilized Tribal funding to eliminate a waiting list and increase the number of individuals and meals served," Upton said. "A special meals program that is completely unique to (Commission on Aging) and the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe has been in place since 1990."

Upton said the Tribal elders' home delivered meals program was created to serve homebound Tribal Members aged 50 years and older who needed nutritional assistance.

It was 27 years ago Tribal Administrator Deane Kent contacted Commission on Aging to see if it could serve those elders, Upton said.

"Our federal and state regulations require us to use

the age of 60 and above as a service guideline," Upton said. "Despite that regulation, we sat down with Tribal representatives and figured out a way to fill this need and serve the Saginaw Chippewa elders. We are proud to say this program is still in place today and will be for as long as it is needed."

EAB Chairperson Terry Bonnau said it is significant the organization was helping the Tribal community before semi-annual distributions began.

"We like to see how Tribal dollars are used to help other seniors in the area but we know with this program, our own elders receive direct

benefits from their program being there," Bonnau said.

The program has provided light housekeeping, laundry, bathing assistance, range of motion activities, support groups and time away for the caregivers of older adult family members, Upton said.

"We offer case management for complicated multi-needs individuals and families, and financial assistance to help a low income older adult purchase medications, like paying for a heating bill or assist in the purchase of a wheel chair ramp," she said.

Upton said the funding also helps reimburse volunteers who use their own vehicles to transport elders to

medical appointments and for grocery shopping.

"Annually, these volunteers will travel over 160,000 miles to transport clients and deliver meals," she said.

Rosalie Maloney, administrator for Andahwod, said the EAB, along with Tribal Council, will visit and tour the Commission on Aging facility on Lincoln Road in Mount Pleasant this month.

"No matter where we go across the State, and to whom we speak to, we make it a point to inform our audience of the support we receive from the Tribe," Upton said. "We are grateful and humbled by your spirit of community support and kindness."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Brenda Upton, director of Isabella County Commission on Aging, accepts the program's 2 percent funding during the May 2016 distribution in the Tribal Operation's Seniors Room.

Adopt a Pet

Odom



Hi! My name is Odom and I am a young adult Bloodhound mix. I am told over and over again that I'm a big guy and need to be careful, but I can't help the body I was born in; I am a lap dog all the way! Because I am big and clumsy, humans say no young kids for me. I also shouldn't share my home with any felines because I'm a natural-born hunter and I love chasing anything small and furry. I'm a smart guy and like to keep busy.

Palmer



I'm Palmer, a Domestic Shorthair mix. I'm almost 3 years old, and I came to the shelter in October 2015 as a feral kitten. After several intense weeks of TLC, I decided that people weren't so bad, and I enjoy living inside. I'm still young, but I'm learning how to be the best version of myself. I'm looking for a gentle home with people who can help me grow up to be a great adult cat. I don't mind other cats, and gentle dogs are fine too.

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Nimkee Public Health delivers donations to Humane Animal Treatment Society

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Throughout December 2016, Nimkee Public Health administration brought in donated items for the Humane Animal Treatment Society in Isabella County.

The loads of needed items were donated on Dec. 22, 2016. Donations included dog and cat food, toys, laundry detergent and much more.

“Over the last couple years, we have been collecting donations for charities in Isabella County and it seems that everyone has a soft spot in their heart for the animals,” said Jenna Wilcox, women’s health coordinator for Nimkee Public Health.

Wilcox said Nimkee has donated to HATS in the past, along with the Isabella County Soup Kitchen and Stocking for Soldiers this year.

“(It) makes me proud to be part of team Nimkee when we get to donate and help out local charities. It also gets a good perception of Nimkee Clinic to the public, I think,” Wilcox said.

Administrative Assistant II Michelle George helped drop off the items.

I was able to visit with all the animals that were there. They were happy to see people who come in and play with them,” George said. “It takes a lot of effort to run the animal shelter... They need so much. I applaud all who were

involved in this endeavor.”

Sandra Chesebrough, public health nurse, agreed.

“We are lucky to have administrative support to be a part of the greater good for our community,” Chesebrough said. “It is a way for the staff to come together as a team and really make a difference, and all the charities are so thankful for what we do! It is a great feeling, and we seem to have a group that really are animal lovers.”

HATS wish list items include: Kurunda beds, air purifiers, wood chips, white boards, bleach wipes, laundry detergent, pet food, collars and leashes, carriers, soft dog treats, throw and tie blankets and nail trimmers.



Courtesy of Nimkee Public Health

Nimkee Public Health staff members (left to right) Sandra Chesebrough, Michelle George and Jenna Wilcox pose with Summer DuBois, executive director of the Humane Animal Treatment Society, and an adoptable dog after dropping off donations to the shelter on Dec. 22, 2016.

Anyone interested in contributing a monetary donation online may do so at hatsweb.org/donate under “General Donation.”

Michigan experiencing an increase in influenza activity, flu vaccine recommended

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

On Jan. 12, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reported an increase in influenza activity across the state and is recommending that residents receive their annual flu vaccine.

In a prepared statement, Angela Minicuci, communications director for MDHHS, said MDHHS increased the flu activity for Michigan to “regional” as a result of increased

activity in the Southeast and Southwest regions.

“Currently, the MDHHS State Laboratory has confirmed 94 flu cases statewide, including 65 in the Southeast region, 14 in the Southwest region, 13 in the Central region, and two in the Northern region,” Minicuci said in a press release on Jan. 12. “Of the 94 lab-confirmed cases of flu statewide, 82 are influenza A, and 12 are influenza B.”

Nimkee Public Health nurses Sue Sowmick and Twila Schrot conducted a walk-in

immunization clinic in November that included offering flu vaccines to the Tribal community.

“We encourage everyone to get their flu shot; by doing so, they protect not only their own health but those of their family, especially elders and children whose immune system may not be as robust,” Sowmick said. “It is not too late to get the vaccine, but the sooner the better as it takes a couple weeks to be fully effective. It is still available at Nimkee, many other medical providers

and also the Central Michigan Health Department.”

Michigan ranks 42 in the nation for flu vaccination coverage, and falls below the national average for flu vaccination coverage for every age group.

Multiple flu shot options are available this season, including a high-dose vaccine for adults aged 65 years and older, an egg-free flu vaccine for people with egg allergies, and vaccines that protect against three strains or four strains of the flu.

Residents should speak with a healthcare provider about which vaccine is best for them.

“Seeing an increase in flu cases in January is not uncommon in Michigan and is a good reminder about the importance of getting vaccinated,” said Eden Wells, chief medical executive for the MDHHS. “Because it takes about two weeks for the body to build up immunity to the flu virus after getting the flu vaccine, people should not wait to get their flu shot to stay healthy.”

Michigan Blood honors Saganing Eagles Landing Casino with Ruby Award

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

The Saganing Eagles Landing Casino was honored with Michigan Blood’s Ruby Award for its community blood drive efforts.

The award was handed to SELC at its Employee of the Month banquet on Thursday, Jan. 19.

“Your continued commitment to saving lives with

Michigan Blood realized 75 more donations made this year over last year, meaning an additional 225 patient lives were touched in 2016 over 2015 thanks to your partnership,” said Rachelle Treymann, manager of donor recruitment for Michigan Blood, in an email to Administrative Assistant II Christy Fedak. “Over 900 donors gave a lifesaving gift through your blood program over the past 12 months. What a tremendous accomplishment!”

Michigan Blood’s Ruby Award recognizes people or organizations that have gone above and beyond to help Michigan Blood save lives through community blood donation.

Candidates for the Ruby Award may include blood drive donor chairs, blood drive hosts, donors, Michigan Blood employees, vendors, volunteers, recipients, sponsor organizations, and student leaders.

“The need for blood is constant, and to maintain an adequate

supply for patients in more than 60 Michigan hospitals, Michigan Blood needs to collect blood every day,” Treymann said. “We can’t do this work alone. We need the support of the community – businesses, churches, schools - to make this critical blood supply constantly available.”

On Jan. 20, Tribal Administration supported the

Michigan Blood drive at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort by approving one-hour leave, with supervisor approval, for Tribal Operations employees wishing to donate blood.

Casino CEO Ray Brenny also granted one-hour leave with prior supervisor approval for any SECR associate wishing to donate.

Current Nimkee Fitness Center staff



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Back, left to right: Vanessa Sprague, fitness attendant; Jaden Harman, fitness coordinator; Walt Kennedy, director; Andrew Raphael, fitness temp. Front: Jayme Green, fitness coordinator; Arionna Mejia, fitness attendant; Sharon Peters, administrative assistant.

Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center Optical Policy

Optical Policy

- Patients 18 and under are eligible for an eye exam once a year.
- Patients 50 and older are eligible for an eye exam once a year.
- Patients 19 – 49 are eligible for an eye exam every two years.
- Diabetic Patients must have their blood sugar under control as evidenced by an Hgb A1C of 7.9 or less to be eligible for an annual eye exam. If a diabetic patient has an Hgb A1C greater than 7.9 the Medical Provider may recommend an eye exam for glasses and/or contacts based upon the patient’s medical history (Contacts are NOT covered). *Note: Diabetic patients will need an annual dilated eye exam regardless of their Hgb A1C.*
- PRC will pay for a pair of eye glasses costing no more than \$106 and for a pair of bifocals costing no more than \$139; anything over and above these amounts will be the patient’s responsibility for the payment.

Procedure

- 1) The patient will call PRC for referral eligibility for an eye exam.
- 2) The patient will call the eye Doctor to schedule the appointment.
- 3) The patient will call PRC within three days of the scheduled appointment with the date and time of the appointment.
- 4) The patient must pick up the referral before the appointment.
- 5) If the patient receives a bill after their eye appointment; it is the patient’s responsibility to bring the bill to PRC.

Patients Responsibility

- 1) Contact lenses, tints, scratch coating, anti-reflection coating, extra thin lenses, progressive lenses and digital retinal imaging will be the patients responsibility.
- 2) Anything other than a routine exam, must be pre-approved through PRC, or will be the patient’s responsibility.

Eligible Optical Places

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ABP Eye Site
1535 E Broomfield
Mt Pleasant, MI | Pleasant Optics
500 S Mission 4164
Mt Pleasant, MI | Traverse Vision
E. Bluegrass Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI |
|---|---|--|



Environmental Nutrition presents: The lowdown on glycemic Index

MARSHA MCCULLOCH

MS, RD

(Editor's note: The following article is reprinted, with permission, from the December 2016 Environmental Nutrition. This article has been submitted to the Tribal Observer by Sally Van Cise, MPH, RD, nutritionist for Nimkee Public Health.)

The Nutrition Facts label lists the grams of carbohydrate in foods. However, that doesn't really tell you how these carbs might affect your blood sugar (glucose) levels.

A better gauge of this is the glycemic index (GI). It was introduced about 35 years ago, and scientific support for GI continues to grow.

What is GI? "It's a scale of 0 to 100 that ranks how the carbohydrate in foods affects blood sugar levels," said Jennie Brand-Miller, PhD, a nutrition professor at the University of Sydney and co-author of many scientific studies and books on GI.

Glycemic load, a similar measure, also considers how much you're eating: Portion size still counts.

The higher the GI of a food, the more quickly it's digested and absorbed, so your blood

sugar may spike after eating high GI foods and then drop markedly, which may cause your energy levels to dip, too. In contrast, low GI foods are digested and absorbed slowly, causing a gentler rise in blood sugar (see "Impact of GI on Blood Glucose"). Low GI foods also tend to keep you full longer.

GI is used for carbohydrate, which is found in foods such as baked goods, cereal, rice, pasta, fruits, vegetables (more so if starchy), milk, yogurt, legumes, desserts, caloric beverages, and most nuts.

Meat, cheese, eggs, and oils contain virtually no carbohydrate and don't have a GI.

A GI of 55 or less is low; 56-69 is medium; 70 or more is high. Look up GI values at glycemicindex.com or buy a book with GI listings.

The precise glycemic (blood sugar) response to a food varies substantially from person to person and even within the same person from day to day, as pointed out by a new study in the September 2016 issue of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

Regardless, the GI—which represents the average glycemic response to a food based on standardized testing in at least 10 people—is still

helpful in identifying foods that are likely to affect blood sugar more than others, said Tom Wolever, MD, PhD, a leading GI researcher at the University of Toronto.

Why It's Important: "GI is relevant to everyone because the average GI of your diet predicts your risk of developing Type 2 diabetes and heart disease over time," Brand-Miller said.

Diets low in GI and GL can help in the prevention and management of diabetes and heart disease, and probably obesity, too, concluded the International Carbohydrate Quality Consortium, a 20-member group of experts, including Brand-Miller and Wolever (Nutrition, Metabolism & Cardiovascular Diseases, September 2015).

Emerging research suggests eating a lower GI diet may also help with acne, mental performance, mood, pregnancy outcomes, polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), and risk of certain cancers.

How could GI affect such a wide range of health concerns?

One big reason is that following a low GI eating plan can help reduce inflammation, which is an underlying factor in many health conditions.

Practical GI tips

- Enjoy whole fruits and vegetables. Most fresh fruits are low GI. Many non-starchy vegetables, such as asparagus and broccoli, do not even have a GI because they're so low in carbs.
- Get soluble fiber. It's viscous (gummy) and contributes to the low GI of foods. Some good sources are barley, oats, chia seeds, and legumes.
- Opt for minimally processed whole grains. For example, plain instant oatmeal (made with water) has a GI of 83; oatmeal from whole rolled oats has a GI of 58.
- Enjoy potatoes cold. For example: In a salad. For instance, red potatoes boiled for 12 minutes have a GI of 89; after refrigerating overnight, the GI is 56.
- Cook pasta al dente (firm to the bite). Firm pasta has a lower GI than pasta cooked until soft.
- Add acidic ingredients, such as yogurt, vinegar, or lemon juice. For example, mix low-fat plain yogurt (GI 35) with shredded wheat cereal (GI 83).
- Enjoy balanced meals. Eating carbohydrate-rich foods along with protein and a bit of fat helps moderate the body's overall blood sugar response.

"The spike in blood sugar after eating stimulates an inflammatory response in cells," Wolever said. "If you can smooth out and reduce blood sugar fluctuations, you reduce oxidative stress (tissue damage) and inflammation."

The Bottom Line: "GI is not the only factor you should consider when making carbohydrate

choices," Wolever said.

You also should look at fiber and whole grain content, as well as how highly processed the food is.

A high GI doesn't automatically make a food bad for you, nor does a low GI automatically make a food good for you; it's still important to follow a healthy eating plan overall.

Purchased Referred Care Referral Policy & Guidelines

The Purchased Referred Care (PRC) Program is for medical/dental care provided away from an IHS or tribal health care facility. PRC is not an entitlement program, an IHS referral does not imply the care will be paid. If IHS is requested to pay, then a patient must meet the residency requirements, notification requirements, medical priority, and use of alternate resources (www.ihs.gov).

Referrals

1. If you are referred by Nimkee Medical or Dental to an outside provider you must take a referral every time.
2. If the outside provider cannot treat you and refers you to another provider, you must take a different referral to your appointment. Call PRC three days in advance to allow the paperwork to be prepared.
3. PRC will not pay for your doctor bills without a referral.
4. Durable Medical Equipment: nebulizer, crutches, etc. must have PRC approval.

Surgery

1. If you need surgery, you must give PRC at least two week notice prior to any surgery.
2. Must notify PRC within 72 hours (three days) if you have had emergency surgery.

After Hours

1. Please call the on-call provider at 989-772-8227 before going to any outside provider, unless it is an absolute emergency.
2. An Emergency Room visit must be reported to PRC within 72 hours (three days) after your visit. **Elders 50 years and older have 30 days to call in to PRC from the date of visit.**

Labs, X-ray & Ultrasounds

1. A referral is not required but you must call and notify the PRC department within 72 hours.
2. If your scheduled appointment changes you must notify the PRC department within 72 hours of any changes made.
3. Without proper notification, PRC will not pay for your bills.

Bills with a referral

1. When you receive any bill(s) after your appointment, they must be brought into the clinic to be dropped off at the front desk window.
2. Bills cannot be older than 18 months from service date for PRC to pay.
3. Credit bureau statements will not be accepted for a bill, the patient must have an itemized bill.

Purchased Referred Care: 989.775.4633, Shelly Bailey: 989.775.4635, Marge Elliott: 989.775.4634, Jean Robinson: 989.775.4636

Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center Emergency Room Policy

All bills from the Emergency Room (ER) must be deemed a true emergency. If insurance does not deem it an emergency based on diagnosis code, Purchased Referred Care (PRC) will not process the bill for payment. PRC is the payor of last resort, it's not guaranteed. The patient will be responsible for the amount of the ER visit.

Listed below are the IHS guidelines:

Priority 1A: All Medical Emergencies, Eye (Acute, painful or visually threat conditions), Dental (control bleeding, airway compromise, severe pain, fractures), Mental Health (immediate danger to self or others, regardless of "voluntary or involuntary status"; includes physical neglect/abuse, sexual assault).

Priority 1B: Acute Illness, Pre-natal/Obstetrics, Diagnostic Testing (Contract Lab, Bone Marrow Biopsy, EEG, Endoscopy, Colonoscopy/Sigmoidoscopy (diagnostic & screening), Radiologic Testing (MRI, CT, Ultrasound), Health Promotion/Disease Prevention, Immunizations, Mammography (diagnostic), Pap Smears, Gyn Coloposcopy, Area of program specific objectives, Non-Emergency surgery for "high risk categories", Tubal Ligation (post-partum & high risk), Vasectomy (high risk).

Procedure

1. The claim will be reviewed by PRC Clerk.
2. The PRC Clerk will verify the patient is eligible and followed policy.
3. If Insurance paid based on the Diagnosis code the bill will be submitted for payment.
4. If the Insurance didn't pay due to the diagnosis code
 - The bill will be denied
 - The PRC Clerk will send a denial in the mail
 - The patient will be able to appeal the decision to: Managed Care team, Health Board and Tribal Council

Nimkee Fitness Center Group Exercise Schedule February 2017

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 a.m.	Aqua Fit Sharon		Aqua Fit Sharon		Aqua Fit Sharon
12:10 p.m.	Muscle Makin' Monday - Jaden	Suspension Training - Jayme	Warrior Wednesday - Jaden	Fat Blast Jayme	
1:10 p.m.			Turbo Kick Beth		
5:30 p.m.		Yoga Tammy	Belly Dance Deanna	Yoga Tammy	

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23



Andahwod elders celebrate what would have been Elvis' 82nd birthday

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

In the days where AM radio blasted through the airwaves of North America, the arguably revered cultural icon named Elvis Aaron Presley made his presence known as one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

On Jan. 9, Andahwod CCC & ES turned into a slice of Graceland as the elders celebrated what would have been the King of Rock and Roll's 82nd birthday (one day prior on Jan. 8) with the assistance of the Human Resources department.

John Gerhard, training instructor, made his triumphant return as emcee and hosted a program that was loosely based on the 1960's game show "Name That Tune."

The elders divided themselves into two teams, "The Blue Suede Shoes" and "Suspicious Minds."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Andahwod resident Carolyn Foltz shows off an Elvis Presley memorabilia guitar during the "Name that Tune" contest.

"The theme was based all around Elvis Presley and his contribution to music history as Jan. 8 was his birthday," Gerhard said. "There were two teams whose task was to identify the song title, and to dance and sing if they chose."

Along with Elvis tunes, a few other songs from the '50s and '60s vintage era mixed in a couple surprises.

Gerhard stumped the crowd with a version of Loudon Wainwright III folk classic "Dead Skunk in the Middle of the Road" and the duet "Don't Let the Sun Go Down On Me" from Elton John and the late George Michael.

"It was surprising to see the amount of Elvis memorabilia that appeared on the tables of the contestants," Gerhard said. "Elvis certainly left his mark on a lot of people, especially those who grew up in (that) era. I noted, however, that some of the younger staff members are well-versed in the King's songs."

Brittany Benson, dietary cook aide, got up to do a little dancing with the elders along with Assistant Elders Advocate Estella Halliwill.

"I love all the residents and am blessed to make wonderful memories with these amazing elders," Benson said. "I really enjoy seeing the residents having a great time. My favorite thing is definitely all the joy, laughter and dancing with the residents."

Marilyn Bailey won the grand prize (a large Elvis bobble head) for identifying the most songs.

"I would like to thank Tribal Observer Managing Editor Natalie Shattuck who played 'Vanna White' as she kept score during the competition," Gerhard said. "Tribal Observer photojournalist Joseph Sowmick and (Training Instructor) Steve Urbani were also present with their cameras in hand to take some wonderful photos."

Urbani said he was amazed at the musical knowledge the residents have.

"Knowing the tune and melody is one thing, and it's much more than just being able to identify the name of a song. The



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

The winning "Suspicious Minds" team takes a moment with the runner up "Blue Suede Shoes" team and event hosts at Andahwod's 82nd Elvis Birthday party.

music puts them in touch with a part of their life that has meaning," Urbani said. "It reminds them of what their life was like back then, where they heard the song, and often who they were with. So the residents are proud that they know the songs and even more proud that they were part of that era when these songs were popular."

Sam Anglin, assisted living support services manager, had his staff make up the signature dessert for any Elvis party – the ever-popular Elvis peanut butter and banana sandwiches.

Free tax preparation available to District One elders

ISABELLA COMMISSION ON AGING

The Isabella County Commission on Aging is working again with the AARP Tax-Aide program to assist area citizens by providing free income tax preparation with free e-filing available. This service is provided for low-to-middle income taxpayers.

Appointments for all sites are offered, except Winchester Towers and Riverview should call their building office.

The volunteers at these tax clinics will be handling federal and Michigan tax returns that are within the scope of their training, as well as homestead property tax and home heating credits.

Volunteers are required to pass an IRS test before they can

District 1 Elders Tax Preparation Schedule

The following are dates, places and times for the free tax preparation by appointment only. To make an appointment, please call 989.772.0748.

Commission on Aging- Activity Center

Feb. 9- April 6 | 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Blanchard Library/Rolland Township Hall

Feb. 14 & 28, March 21 | 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Weidman Food with Friends Site/ Weidman Library

Feb. 7 & 21, March 14 & 28 | 10:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Coe Township Library, Shepherd

Feb. 2 & March 21 | 10:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Faith Memorial Library, Rosebush

Feb. 21 | 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

prepare returns.

Individuals who are self-employed, have rental property, large numbers of stock transactions or have sold property (other than their main

home) should consult a paid, professional tax preparer.

Taxpayers must bring Social Security cards (not Medicare cards) and blank checks if direct deposit is desired.

What items are needed to complete taxes?

JULIE PEGO

Case Manager

What are some of the items needed to complete tax season?

Here is a list of some of the items needed, this is not a complete list, and it is suggested to consult a professional tax preparer, especially if there are any documents the taxpayer is unsure about.

Items needed include:

- All W-2's
- All 1099's
- Social Security 1099 (A percentage of Social Security may be taxed)
- Vehicle registrations

- Proof of out-of-pocket expenses for college tuition or purchase of books for yourself or family member that you are financially supporting
- Savings accounts contributions
- Savings account interest statement
- Mortgage tax statement
- Social Security cards for each person you are claiming
- Refinance information, if you have refinanced your house
- Proof of any home improvements
- Proof of charity contributions (Goodwill, Salvation Army, United Way, Church tithes and offerings)

- BIA quarterly statements
- Any single payouts at the casino (A statement of payouts can be ordered at the Players Club desk.)
- Assisted Living Care Statement
- Any debt (credit cards, etc.) that has been discharged
- District One elders bring Tax Credit Form 4013 and blue Tribal Tax Card.

Be sure to go to a tax provider that has experience with per-capita earnings.

District One elders, please see your newsletter for dates and times for assistance.

FEBRUARY 2017 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 John Kampf Jr., Eliza Owl, Bonnie Sprague, Cathy Floyd, Gail Smith | 15 Mark Steele |
| 2 Deborah Meskill, Garth Jackson Sr., Carl Sanford Pelcher, Robert Shawboose | 16 Kathy Dintaman, Darryl Jackson, Florence Sprague |
| 3 Mark Martin, Kelly Hartwell, Robin Martin, Martha Pudvay, Donna Trapp, Tom Waynee | 17 De Anna Baker, Lori Mazur |
| 4 Wayne Ritter, Juanita Slater, Roland Jackson, David Weaver | 18 Richard Byce |
| 5 Mary Graveratte, Marcia Kelsall | 19 Joan Cline, Milton Pelcher, James McDonald, Walter Slavik |
| 6 Barbara Brodie, Timothy Davis, Mark Grischke, Esther Bailey | 20 Nancy Miller, Ronald Bonnau, Ross Chapoton, Peggy Goebel |
| 7 Patrick Nahgahgwon, Timothy Froncek, Scott Pego | 21 Tina Bordeau, Gregory Dutton, Savannah Rice |
| 8 Linda Craig, Larry Collins, Debra Marler, Linda Martin | 22 Tracy Mays, Chester Cabay II, Rebecca Rittmaier |
| 9 Raymond Davis, James Burnham, Linda Powell-Champagne | 23 Susan Bettistea, Betty Brief, Dorothy Brown, Kevin Fallis, Kelly Kendall, Kathie Kozuch, Ralph Mays, Bunny Roth |
| 10 Carolyn Folts, Paul Rueckert Sr., LeRoy Scharaswak, Robert Weaver | 24 Dianna Chamberlain, Mark Starkey, David McConnell, Judith McLellan, Bernard Wright |
| 11 Mark Schafer, Michael Pashenee | 25 Cynthia Quigno, Shirley Robertson |
| 12 Bonnie Ekdahl | 26 Willie Bailey Jr., Leon Reed, Lorna McDonald, Edward Phelps |
| 13 Evelyn Castaneda, Sheri Lairson | 27 Frederick Bennett Sr., Dawn Perez, Jeremy Sawmick, Alvin Jackson |
| 15 Norman Cyr Sr., Terry Vasquez, Jeffrey Sprague | 28 Adelaide Davis, Evelyn Sharon |
| | (29) Julie Chamberlain |

February 2017 | Andahwod CCC & ES Events

Euchre & Potluck
Mondays | 6 p.m.

Open Crafts with Elisa
Tuesdays | 5 p.m.

Language Bingo
Feb. 2 | 1 p.m.

Jewelry with Kay
Feb. 7 | 1 p.m.

Elders Breakfast
Feb. 8 & 22 | 9 a.m.

Valentine's Box Social
Feb. 11 | 3 - 5 p.m.

Candy Gram Delivery
Feb. 14 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Bingo with Friends
Feb. 15 | 1 p.m.

Valentine's Day Elders Event
Feb. 18 | 1 p.m.



FEBRUARY 2017 EVENT PLANNER

Free Auricular (Ear) Acupuncture

Feb. 1 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 • Location: Saganing Tribal Center
 Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23 | 4 - 6 p.m.
 • Location: Behavioral Health
 • Contact: 989-775-4895

Drums Out: Singing for Fun

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 | 5 - 7 p.m.
 • Contact: 989.775.4780
 • Location: 7th Generation Blue House
 • Share knowledge around the drum.

Beading & Craft Class

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
 • Location: Behavioral Health
 • Contact: 989.775.4818
 • All materials will be provided.

Nimkee "Crash the Fitness Center"

Feb. 2 | 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 • Location: Nimkee Fitness Center
 • Contact: 989.775.4690
 • Get more than 150 people to exercise in the Nimkee Fitness Center in one day. (New record.)
 • Must workout at least 30 minutes in the Fitness Center.
 • Free wristband for every participant.
 • Healthy recipes, samples and cooking demonstrations.

Donnie Dowd: Traditional Healer

Feb. 2 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 • Location: Behavioral Health
 • Call for an appointment: 989-775-4850

Men's and Women's Healing Lodge

Feb. 3 | Teachings: 7 p.m., Lodge Ceremony: 9:30 p.m.
 • Location: Behavioral Health
 • Contact: 989-775-4879

Drop-in Lacrosse

Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 | 5:30 - 7 p.m.
 • Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
 • Open to boys, ages 13 and older.

Housing "Asset Building" Management

Feb. 9 | 12 - 1 p.m.
 • Location: Saganing Tribal Center
 Feb. 16 | 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
 • Location: Housing
 • Contact: 989.775.4552
 • Housing services offered: Free and confidential financial assessment, setting up a budget, assistance in working out payment agreements with creditors, work with you to developing a plan, assess your current situation and work solely on your behalf, discuss financial/budgeting options, and receive support with getting a mortgage.

Second annual Dodgeball Tournament

Feb. 13 | Time: TBD
 • Location: SECR Entertainment Hall
 • Contact: 989.775.5309
 • Open to all SECR, SELC, Migizi and Tribal Operations employees.
 • Rosters are due by 2 p.m. on Feb. 10.
 • Co-ed tournament, each roster should have three male and three female players.

Public Law 93-638 Training

Feb. 22-24 | 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 • Location: Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort
 • Contact: 989.775.4003
 • Visit www.sagchip.org to register.
 • This course covers the intent and scope of the law, federal support and ongoing inherent federal responsibility and the standards, oversight, and administration of the model agreement.

Cedar Feather Box Making Class

Feb. 22, 23 | 5 - 8 p.m.
 • Contact: 989.775.4780
 • Location: 7th Generation
 • Cost: \$40

Saganing Town Hall Meet and Greet

March 18 | 12 - 2 p.m.
 • Contact: 989.775.5820
 • Location: Saganing Tribal Center
 • Open to Tribal Members only.


ALRD Language Classes

M/W/TH | 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. | Drop-in sessions
 T/TH | 6 - 7 p.m.
 W | 12 - 1 p.m.
 • Location: ALRD Office, 7170 Ogemaw Dr.
 • Contact: 989.775.4110

Community Education Business Workshops

• Time: 12 - 1:20 p.m.
 • Location: SCTC East Building, Classroom 6
 • Registration: 989.775.4123 or register in person at the SCTC East Building
 • Registration is required.
 Session 1 | Jan. 18 | Offered in January, May and September.
 • Topics covered: General company description, and products and services.
 Session 2 | Feb. 15 | Offered in February, June and October.
 • Topics covered: Marketing plan, and operational plan.
 Session 3 | March 15 | Offered in March, July and November.
 • Topics covered: Management and organization, and personal financial statement.
 Session 4 | April 19 | Offered in April, August and December.
 • Topics covered: Start up expenses and capitalization financial history and analysis, financial plan, and the executive summary.

TRIBAL COMMUNITY CALENDAR | FEBRUARY 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT./SUN.
Struggling or need support? Behavioral Health is now offering drop-in relapse prevention groups twice a week. Mondays: 5:30 to 7 p.m. & Fridays: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.		1 Talking Circle Andahwod 7 p.m. Traditional Teachings Saganing 11 a.m. Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Youth Council Meeting Old Conference Room 5 p.m. Feast Plate Workshop 7th Generation 5 - 8 p.m.	2 Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. 12-Step Meditation Group B. Health 7 - 9 p.m. Feast Plate Workshop 7th Generation 5 - 8 p.m.	3 New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m. AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m. Drop-in Group B. Health 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	4 Talking Circle Andahwod 10 a.m. 5 New Spirit Support Group B. Health 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
	6 Drop-in Group B. Health 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	7 Ogitchedaw Meeting Seniors Room 6 p.m. Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge 7 p.m. Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym 5:30 - 7 p.m.	8 Talking Circle Andahwod 7 p.m. Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	9 Anishinaabemowin Sacred Fire Lunch 7th Generation 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. 12-Step Meditation Group B. Health 7 - 9 p.m.	10 New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m. AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m. Drop-in Group B. Health 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
13 Drop-in Group B. Health 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	14 Tribal Observer Deadline 5 p.m. Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge 7 p.m. Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym 5:30 - 7 p.m.	15 Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Talking Circle Andahwod 7 p.m. Tribal Education Advisory Meeting 9 a.m. Youth Council Meeting Old Conference Room 5 p.m.	16 Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Financial Workshop Housing 12 p.m. 12-Step Meditation Group B. Health 7 - 9 p.m.	17 New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m. AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m. Drop-in Group B. Health 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	18 Talking Circle Andahwod 10 a.m. 19 New Spirit Support Group B. Health 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
20 Tribal Ops Closed President's Day Drop-in Group B. Health 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Parent Teacher Conferences SCA 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	21 Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge 7 p.m. Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym 5:30 - 7 p.m.	22 Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Talking Circle Andahwod 7 p.m.	23 Anishinaabemowin Sacred Fire Lunch 7th Generation 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. 12-Step Meditation Group B. Health 7 - 9 p.m.	24 New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m. AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m. Drop-in Group B. Health 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	25 Talking Circle Andahwod 10 a.m. 26 New Spirit Support Group B. Health 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
27 Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Drop-in Group B. Health 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	28 Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge 7 p.m. Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym 5:30 - 7 p.m.	 Attention: Tribal Clerk/Enrollment Hours Tribal Clerk's/Enrollment office is closed on Fridays for walk-in/desk services for Administrative Office days, until further notice. The Clerk's office will still be open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. for regular business.			● SECR Payroll ● SCIT Per Capita ● SCIT Payroll ● Waste Collection* *Bins must be curbside by 6:30 a.m.



Tribal Observer Classifieds

To place your ad, call the Tribal Observer at 989-775-4010, Email: observer@sagchip.org, visit our office in Tribal Operations or mail to Tribal Observer, Attn.: Classified, 7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Please have all submissions and payment in by deadline. Classified rates are \$10 for 15 words or less, and 75 cents per additional word. Any thumbnail image costs an additional \$15. **Apply to job postings online at www.sagchip.org. * Job postings are subject to change daily.**

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

100 Employment

Tribal Operations

Family Practice Physician

Open to the public. Must be a MD or a DO licensed by the State of Michigan/or be eligible to become licensed. Must maintain Michigan Board of Pharmacy Controlled Substance License and Federal Controlled Substance Registration through the U.S. Dept. of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Must maintain up to date Board Certification, or be grandfathered to allow SCIT to bill third party payers. Must complete a fingerprint/background check. Applicants not licensed by the State of Michigan prior to interview will be required to obtain licensure by the State of Michigan before date of hire.

Police Officer FT

Open to the public. Must be a U.S. citizen. Must be at least 21 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Associates degree preferred. Must be able to pass departmental fitness evaluation. Must be MCOLES certified/certifiable or capable of meeting certifiable standards. Must be able to obtain and maintain a Special Law Enforcement Commission through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Must have a valid Michigan Driver's License, insurable under the Tribe's policy. Must not have criminal history that would prevent applicant from acquiring any certification or qualification required.

Senior Associate General Counsel

Open to the public. Licensed as active member in good standing by the State Bar of Michigan or must become licensed following the next available bar exam; four or more years experience as a practicing attorney (minimum three or more years experience working for an Indian tribe or Indian organization); knowledgeable about federal Indian law and the

history of Indian tribes; sensitivity to Indian rights; ability to adjust priorities on short notice and to apply effective management techniques and leadership skills in directing the activities of attorneys and support personnel; and demonstrated experience in managing complex legal issues and litigation. The successful candidate should have excellent research, writing and oral skills, high academic achievement and strong references.

Compensation Analyst

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in business, human resources or related field with four years of compensation experience specifically in job evaluation, market salary analysis and salary survey participation and interpretation.

Dietary Cook Aide PT

Open to the public. Must have high school diploma. This position also requires previous experience in a kitchen atmosphere with quantity and quality food preparation and service in a group residential atmosphere preferred. Physical examination and recent negative TB test required.

Energy Broker Buyer

Open to the public. Candidate must have a bachelor's degree in electrical technology, statistics, mathematics, or business. Master's degree preferred. A minimum of five years' experience in the analysis, forecast, strategies, and/or purchasing of wholesale power through the de-regulated BES, as well as the tariffs and transportation as related. This position is responsible for the purchasing, bidding, trading, monitoring, and billing for energy. This may include but is not limited to de-regulated electricity, natural gas, and potential self-generation. This position will manage overall purchases for energy. Monitor key indices and market fundamentals for all energy bidding and purchasing strategies.

Certified Aide

Open to the public. Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent and be at least 18 years of age.

Must possess and maintain a current, valid nurse aide certification required by the State of Michigan.

Water Operator Intern

Open to SCIT Tribal Members only. Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent and be at least 18 years of age. Education and experience in advance mathematics, basic chemistry, laboratory and computer skills.

Fiscal Compliance Auditor

Open to the public. Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. Must have completed and passed a governmental accounting class as part of college curriculum. Four years experience in general accounting, with governmental accounting experience preferred. All candidates must possess strong interpersonal communication skills, strong writing skills, and be proficient with Microsoft Office and accounting finance software. Knowledge of a Tribal Governmental organization preferred.

Water Quality Specialist

Open to the public. Must have a bachelor of science degree in environmental health and safety, geology, biological, chemical and/or natural science; equivalency is not allowed. Prefer experience in environmental policy, knowledge of GPS equipment, water quality sampling methods, and data analysis.

Certified Coder

Open to the public. Must have high school diploma with strong working knowledge and expertise in coding services, procedures and diagnosis for medical services in an ambulatory clinic setting. Must have passed the certification exam sponsored by the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) or the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

Special Education Teacher

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

Michigan Elementary Teaching Certificate with special education endorsement. Must be willing to attend training. Prefer minimum of two years teaching experience and working experience with Native Americans. Hiring in accordance with Indian Preference Laws.

General Labor Pool

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

Clerical Pool

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

Anishinabe Language Revitalization Director

Open to the public. Minimum five years specific demonstrated experience developing and working with Anishinabemowin programs/projects. Knowledge and certification in Native language instruction or bachelor's degree or equivalent combination of education and Anishinabemowin related experience. Applicant must demonstrate leadership ability, commitment to this community and to the Anishinabe language and culture. Applicant must demonstrate fluency and a strong working knowledge about Anishinabemowin.

Administrative Assistant II

Open to the public. Must have an associates degree or a professional secretarial certificate with two years clerical experience or a high school diploma (or equivalent) with four years clerical experience. Must have previous experience and knowledge in a Behavioral Health setting preferred.

Dental Assistant

Open to the public. High school diploma or equivalent. Graduate of an accredited Dental Assisting Program, or two years of dental assisting experience. Must complete a fingerprint/background check. Performs dental assistance including chairside assisting, dental charting, dental laboratory procedures, equipment sterilization and maintenance, and exposing radiographs.

SECR

Carpet/Upholstery Cleaner FT

Open to the public. Some carpet and upholstery cleaning experience required. Knowledge of truck mount system a plus. Must

pass training test on truck mount operation within 90-day probation period.

Line Server PT

Open to the public. Must be 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Desire to work hard. Must be able to work weekends, holidays, and graveyard shifts.

Guest Room Attendant PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Requires three months housekeeping experience. Must be able to lift up to pounds.

Waitstaff PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Needs to be able to deal with the public under stressful situations, be a team player, work flexible hours including weekends, holidays, and graveyard shifts.

Transit Driver PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 21 years of age. Must have a valid Michigan Driver's License and must be able to obtain and maintain a Tribal Drivers License and qualify for coverage by our insurance carrier.

Housekeeper PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. No previous experience required.

Massage Therapist PT

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

Grounds Maintenance Worker PT

Open to the public. High school diploma or equivalent is required. Must have at least one year experience in landscaping, grounds maintenance or similar grounds maintenance job environment.

Alterations Clerk PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Needs to know the

operations of equipment used in construction, alteration and repair of fabric articles.

Housekeeping Manager

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a minimum of two years housekeeping supervisory experience in either hospitality or casino field. Must have a valid Michigan driver's license and be able to obtain and maintain a gaming license and Tribal Driver's License. Available to work all three shifts as required.

Bartender PT Casino Beverage

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must be able to deal with the public in a courteous and professional manner. Must be available to work flexible hours, including weekends, holidays and all shifts.

Journeyman Electrician

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must have and maintain a State of Michigan Journeyman Electrician license. Must have at least six years experience in the electrical trade including completion of an apprenticeship. Must possess and maintain a valid Michigan Driver's License with no more than six points.

Steward PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Desire to work hard. Must have an organized and thorough in work ethic and a strong desire to provide service.

SELC

Waitstaff (level 1) PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Aerie Line Cook PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. One years of restaurant cooking experience.

Sweet Round Dance Grams

\$10.00 for one song
Proceeds Support the 10th Annual Round Dance

\$20 for 1 song + a CD

Send a Round Dance Gram:
-Friend
-Wife
-Husband
-Sweet Heart

Deliveries Monday 02/13/17 8:30-5:00

Round Dance singers will sweetly serenade your unsuspecting Round Dance Gram recipient and gift them a sweet song!

Please Purchase by Friday (02/10/17):
-SCA Front Desk 8am-5pm
or
Contact: AB Team (989)775-4453
achivis@sagchip.org, jday@sagchip.org

Servicing Tribal Ops departments

Report Suspicious or Criminal Activity!

Do Your Part In Stopping Crime!

Assist Your Local Law Enforcement and Narcotics Enforcement Teams in Protecting the Future of Your Community!

Protecting your children, family, community and future should be a priority!

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police

Dispatch: 989-775-4700
Tip Line: 989-775-4775

Bayanet (Narcotics Enforcement)

Tip Line: 989-779-9697
Anonymous and Confidential



Tribal Operations Employee Appreciation Banquet honors years of service recipients

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

The Tribal Operations 18th annual Employee Appreciation Banquet was a time to share an evening of memories and laughter with family, friends and co-workers.

The Jan. 6 banquet provided a dinner, games and prizes for personnel, and many employees were also honored for their dedicated years of service to the Tribe.

Louanna Bruner, Anishinabe workforce developer for Human Resources, introduced each award recipient and read quotes provided by their loved ones.

Joseph Kequom, security officer for Andahwod CCC and ES, was honored for his 35 years of service.

Kequom began his career with the Tribe in 1978. He ultimately worked for the Tribal Police department and became the captain in 2000.

His career in law enforcement expanded nearly 30 years, with the department growing from three employees to 33.

Isabella County Sheriff Michael Main, former Tribal Police officer, began working for the Tribe in 1998 when Kequom was lieutenant.

"I always had a sense that Joe was very proud of the Tribal Police agency and how it had grown," Main said, in a statement read by Bruner. "He should be very proud of the men and women that he mentored during his time. Many have become detectives, command



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Sub-Chief Brent Jackson was honored for his 25 years of service to the Tribe during the Jan. 6 Employee Appreciation Banquet.

officers, chiefs, under sheriffs and, of course, sheriffs. I personally would not be where I'm at right now without the guidance and experiences given by Captain Kequom."

In addition to being a police officer, Kequom was a firearms instructor for several tribes throughout Michigan. He also served the fire department part time.

"For as long as I can remember, he's always worn a uniform to work," said his daughter Brooke Kequom, in a statement read by Bruner. "He can switch gears flawlessly. He goes from being a captain in charge to a dad with a caring heart."

Rosalie Maloney, administrator for Andahwod, said Kequom is more than a security guard.

"He has been voted 'Employee of the Month' six times, and believe me... it's not



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Craig Graveratte, supervisor for the At-Large Program, received recognition for 20 years of service.

easy to get a bunch of elders to agree on anything," Maloney said, in a statement read by Bruner, causing laughter.

Michael Floyd, gaming commissioner; and Connie Sprague, manager for Benefits/Compensation, both received recognition for 30 years of service.

In May 1980, Floyd was first hired as a bingo worker, and after changing job titles, he eventually became a hard count supervisor, and a gaming commissioner in 1997.

In 2003, Floyd was elected to Tribal Council for one term.

Chief Frank Cloutier previously served as gaming commission chairperson, and said he remembers Floyd as one of the most proud Tribal Members ever hired in the mid-to-late '90s.

"Mike was very happy to be a part of this regulatory board and stated many times how much it mattered to be given the opportunity to make a difference in (the Tribe's) gaming operations," Cloutier said. "I remember being uplifted and encouraged by his attitude and enthusiastic demeanor."

Sprague's career with the Tribe began in 1976 with various positions.

Sprague has served as a teacher, school coordinator, counselor and a bingo worker.

She has been in her current position since 1999.

"I came to learn early on, when you wanted to know about something in the past or who to talk to in order to get something done, you called either Josephine



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Joe Kequom (fourth from left), security officer for Andahwod CCC and ES, was honored by Tribal Council for 35 years of service, largely served with the Tribal Police department.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Tribal Education Director Melissa Montoya (second from left) received honors for 15 years of service with her family's support.

Jackson or Connie Sprague," Cloutier said. "I have relied on Connie's knowledge and connection with others to make my job easier. I can count on her institutional knowledge and her willingness to help."

Sub-Chief Brent Jackson was honored for his 25 years of service.

Before serving his current term on Tribal Council, Jackson worked as the director of table games at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

Jackson is also the founder and organizer of the annual Middle of the Mitt rock festival that occurs at Soaring Eagle.

Recipients receiving 20 years of service include: Catherine Curtiss, Dee Dee Gasco, Amy Gates, Jose Gonzalez, Craig Graveratte, Tammy Harrington, Heather Haynes, Lynne Johnson, Marion Joseph, Stephanie Klakulak, David Maki, Terry Mullin, Clinton Pelcher, Cathy Saylor, Christopher Sineway, Sandra Smith, Mary Spindler, Theresa Teeter, Patricia Thum and Derek Williams.

"On behalf of Human Resources, I want to thank you all for your hard work, dedication and service to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe," said Mary Quigno, assistant HR manager, in an email to employees. "Working with each and every one of you makes it feel like we're family, and every one of you are vital to the success of the Tribe!"

Bruner wished to thank Quigno, the event coordinator, for her hard work and dedication of making the event a success.

"Every year Mary takes the lead in organizing this event to make it enjoyable by all," Bruner said. "There is a ton of coordination that needs to be done and Mary steps up to the plate. She books the venue, selects the menu, ensures that all employees receive invitations, double checks longevity lists to make sure no one is forgotten, requests prizes, picks up prizes, picks up plaques, books DJ, creates agenda, and so much more."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Chief Frank Cloutier (right) shakes Connie Sprague's hand for her 30 years of service as Jackson and Council Member Lindy Hunt look on.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Tribal Council Treasurer Gayle Ruhl (right) shakes Clinton Pelcher's hand for his 20 years of service as Cloutier laughs.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

The banquet was held in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort ballrooms with an abundant of employees in attendance with their families and friends.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Michael Floyd, gaming commissioner, received recognition for 30 years of service.