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# TRIBAL OBSERVER

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

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## Ribbon cutting reveals new Soaring Eagle high-limit gaming area and VIP lounge

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

Just before 3 p.m. on Friday, April 6, a large crowd gathered on the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort gaming floor. Excited Tribal and community members waited expectantly outside the new high-limit gaming area and VIP lounge for the grand opening ceremony.

Raul Venegas, director of marketing and entertainment, was first to address the crowd. "This is a great turn-out," Venegas said to those in attendance.

Venegas then expressed gratitude to many who came to

celebrate the completion of the first phase casino renovations.

As Venegas spoke, Ben Hinmon, Seventh Generation cultural representative, smudged the area. Afterward, Mino Ode' drum group provided an honor song and a welcome song to the enthusiastic response of the crowd.

Tribal elder Sue Durfee was then asked to the podium to provide the invocation. She offered gratitude to the Creator and asked for blessings.

Venegas closed his welcome by saying, "I'd like to take the time to say chi-mi-gwetch to previous and current Council," and he explained both were dedicated to bringing the renovations to reality.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl (second from left) cuts the ribbon, with support from Tribal Council members and casino CEO Ray Brenny, to open the new high-limit gaming area and VIP lounge to the public on April 6.**

"It definitely raises the bar once again, as the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort has done since its beginning," he said before introducing casino CEO Ray Brenny.

"This has been a great success as we move forward to improve our amenities and the gaming floor," Brenny said at the stand.

Ribbon cutting | 3

## Former Mt. Pleasant boarding school added to the National Register of Historic Places

**PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe has been notified the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior has listed the former Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School in the National Register of Historic Places.

The property encompasses extant former school buildings, the grounds associated with them and the Mission Creek Cemetery, including agricultural and woodland areas that historically formed parts of the school campus.

The Keeper of the National Register listed the property on Feb. 28, 2018.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation.

Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archaeological resources.

The former boarding school is the sixth property in Isabella County to be given this distinction since 1974.

The MIIBS consisted of 37 buildings on 320 acres of land, with an average enrollment of 300 American Indian students per year in grades Kindergarten through eighth grade.

The school operated from 1893 to 1934.

Like other American Indian boarding schools, students there were forbidden to speak their language, honor their culture and practice their spirituality.

The students performed work such as laundry, farm work, cleaning and other manual labor for the majority of the school day. They also received basic academic instruction for the remainder of the day.

MIIBS represented the U.S. Federal Government's policy of cultural assimilation and genocide of Native American people. It was the only federal boarding school in Michigan and the principle boarding school for many tribes throughout the Great Lakes.

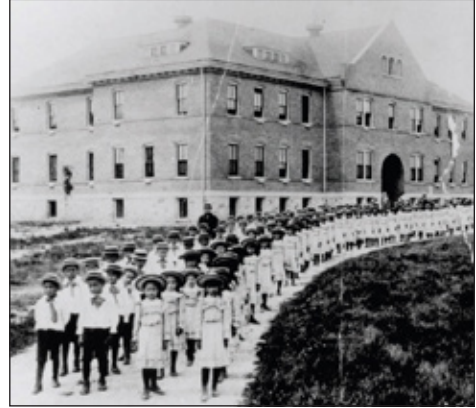
The Tribal Historic Preservation Office and MIIBS Committee, with the assistance of faculty and students from Central Michigan

University and special consultants, have been working on the nomination application package since 2015.

The State Historic Preservation Review Board approved the nomination of the former MIIBS to the National Register of Historic Places at its meeting in Lansing on Jan. 13, 2017.

William Johnson, interim tribal historic preservation officer, received the official National Register of Historic Places notification letter and certificate on March 15, 2018.

"Since 1991, the Ziibiwing Cultural Society has been working diligently to document the history of the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School and its students," Johnson said. "Recently, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, Central Michigan University and the City of Mount Pleasant were honored with a 2016 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation. Gov. Rick Snyder recognized our archaeological research



Courtesy of Ziibiwing Center

**The former Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.**

and educational initiatives to understand the lives of the boarding school students and to promote healing."

MIIBS is now forever recognized on the National Register of Historic Places as a significant district worthy of preservation, Johnson said.

"We're very proud of our cultural and historical preservation efforts because we have worked together collaboratively to acknowledge the resilience of our ancestors and to always remember those that never came home," Johnson said.



## A thank you from the family of Robert Neil (Bob) Williams

To our community,

We would like to take this time to say chi-miigwetch to the community for all your love and support during the time of losing our dear family member Robert Neil (Bob) Williams.

We cannot express enough all the heartfelt love we had during our time of sorrow.

The pastor, Fred Cantu, you are such a blessing to our community, along with Todd Williamson. Thank you for the song, Kevin Chamberlain, for just being yourself and sharing Bob's lifelong stories, for all your love and kindness during our time of sorrow.

The ladies in the kitchen, once again, continue to support those who lose someone dear to our hearts. Thank you again, ladies!

The Tribal Gymnasium employees were so willing to assist and the Enrollment Department was so caring and wanted to assist with compassion.

Behavioral Health for letting us utilize the grounds for the Sacred Fire.

The VFW Hall Veterans for sending Bob off with a gun salute; that was so touching. There are no words to express our appreciation.

The Sacred Fire keepers and pallbearers always there asking to assist with anything we needed.

Foremost, family – coming and going with food and drinks, our co-workers and the whole community in general; you all were there for us, and you all were so kind and caring. We are so thankful beyond measure.

We are very proud of our community for doing everything you did during our time of grief. May God bless you all, and, again, we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts and hope that Bob's family will continue to be kept in your prayers.

If we missed someone, please know all your deeds and love during this time are most appreciated as well. God bless you all and thank you!



## Public Notice

### Unclaimed per capita disbursements for deceased Tribal Members

The following is a list of unclaimed per capita disbursements for deceased Tribal Members. Any person who has been court appointed as the member's Personal Representative of the Estate can contact the Per Capita Office to claim the funds.

All monies must be claimed within two years from their date of death, or such monies will be forfeited and returned to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Per Capita Trust.

Tribal Member Name	Date of Death
Castle, William	01/29/2018
Dennis, Joel	10/13/2016
Jackson, Garth	10/05/2017
Pelcher, Lavern	03/09/2018
Smith, Lorretta	01/05/2018
Sprague, Gary	04/07/2017
Stanton, Goldie	01/03/2018

## June 2018 Tribal Child Welfare Program Affidavits Deadline

**May 4, 2018, by 5 p.m.**

(No postdates, faxes or emails accepted.)

## 2018 Annual Report deadline

**May 4, 2018, by 5 p.m.**

(No postdates, faxes or emails accepted.)

**The clerk's office will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 4.**

## Saginaw Chippewa/Isabella County



### Monthly Forum

Every third Thursday of the month

**Upcoming dates: May 17, June 21**

7 - 8:30 p.m. | Ziibiwing Cultural Center

Monthly Forums are an educational awareness opportunity for our local community that will be hosted by our F.A.N. chapter.

### Support Groups

Every first Thursday of the month

**Upcoming dates: May 3, June 7**

7 - 8:30 p.m. | Tribal Operations Senior's Room

Support Groups are open to anyone in recovery, grieving with a loss or have a loved one battling an addiction.

## Anishinabe Ogitchedaw Veteran and Warrior Society

**NOW RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS**



**MEETINGS:** First Tuesday of the Month 6 p.m. | Contact: 989.775.4175



The Environmental Team is looking to order T-shirts for giveaways, and we need your help to create a design!

### Contest rules:

The design must promote environmental consciousness and incorporate the Anishinaabemowin language.

**Deadline: May 31, 2018**

### To submit your design:

- Drop off at the Planning Department  
2451 Nish Na Be Anong, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
- OR
- Mail your design to:  
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
Planning Department  
7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

### For more information please contact:

**Taylor Brook**, Watershed Outreach Coordinator  
Phone: 989.775.4162 | E-mail: TBrook@sagchip.org  
**Isabelle Osawamick**, Anishinaabe Outreach Specialist  
Phone: 989.775.4110 | E-mail: IOSawamick@sagchip.org

Artists are encouraged to talk with the Environmental Team and Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department if they need any assistance.



## Housing Services Offered



- Free and confidential financial assessment
- Setting up a budget
- Assistance in working out payment agreements with creditors
- Discuss financial/budgeting options
- Work with you to develop a plan
- Assess your current situation and work solely on your behalf
- Support with obtaining a mortgage



### Sherrill Kennedy

Credit Homebuyer Counselor/Loan Specialist

- Phone: 989.775.4552
- Fax: 989.775.4030
- Email: SKennedy@sagchip.org
- Website: www.Sagchip.org/housing



## Crew Leaders and Summer Youth Workers Needed.

Applications available online May 1, 2018, at [www.sagchip.org](http://www.sagchip.org).

### Requirements:

1. Must be SCIT Member
2. Youth workers must be 14-18 years old
3. Crew leaders must be age 18-24

For more information, please contact:

**Chip Neyome**  
Anishinabe Workforce Developer  
Phone: 989.775.0053  
Email: ChNeyome@sagchip.org

## Tribal Observer

# Graduate Photos

Please submit information to [Observer@Sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@Sagchip.org)

### College

- Graduate's name
- School
- Field of Study

### High School

- Graduate's name
- School

**Deadline: May 16, 2018, at 5 p.m.**



Check out the Tribal Observer **ONLINE**

[www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver](http://www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver)



## Ribbon cutting

*continued from front page*

Expressing great excitement, Brenny then described the next five stages of renovations that include a new poker room, sports bar and night club as well as upgrades to the Entertainment Hall and a redesign of Kids Quest and Cyber Quest.

“I’d like to recognize I-5 Design for the design concept and getting us to where we are today,” Brenny said.

Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl was the final speaker before the ribbon cutting and the area was opened to the public.

Ekdahl greeted the crowd and commented on the updates that so many worked on together to ensure the success of the casino.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

During the grand opening, Tribal and community members are offered a small glimpse of what the VIP lounge has to offer.

“This will be a successful project, and this will be something we can be very proud of as a community and as a business going forward,” Ekdahl said.

“I’m excited for the community members to see this beautiful facility, the quality of craftsmanship,” he said. “We continue to be a leader in Indian gaming, and that is something we should all be very proud of.”



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Prior to the ribbon cutting, Ben Hinmon, Seventh Generation cultural representative, smudges the area.

## MIIBS

*continued from front page*

The 1855-56 Treaty with the Chippewa of Saginaw set aside six adjoining townships of land within Isabella County that would be used towards “the benefit of said Indians,” and that such benefits

would include the “purchase and sale of land for school-houses, churches and educational purposes.”

A subsequent 1864 Treaty with the Saginaw, Swan Creek and Black River Bands provided for the establishment and support for 10 years of a “manual-labor school” for the Indians to be run by the Methodist Missionary Society.

In 1891, an Act of Congress appropriated funds for the purchase of land and construction of buildings for the boarding school.

Public Act 208 was signed into law by Gov. Jennifer Granholm and became effective on Oct. 25, 2010. The act authorized conveyance of a tract of land (the former MIIBS campus) to the City of Mount Pleasant and Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.

For \$1 each, the City was offered 311.14 acres and the Tribe was offered 8.86 acres, which included six historic boarding school buildings and the Mission Creek Cemetery.

The City and the Tribe were given 180 days to render a decision about whether to accept or reject the conveyances. On April 20, 2011, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council voted to accept their land conveyance.

While listing in the National Register does not place any legal restrictions on a property, it does allow for consideration in the planning for federal, federally-assisted or federally-licensed projects; provides eligibility for certain federal tax benefits; qualifies properties for federal assistance for historic preservation grants when funds are available; serves as a catalyst for economic development; fosters community pride; and promotes heritage tourism. Additionally, some granting organizations require or look favorably upon National Register-listed properties.

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

## HONORING SAGANING TRADITIONAL POWWOW

June 16 & 17, 2018

**Powwow Grounds** - 2750 Worth Rd. Standish, MI  
*Next to the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino & Saganing Tribal Center*

**Admission:**

- \$3 Daily/\$5 Weekend
- \$1 for Children  
*\*Under 12 must be accompanied by an adult*

**Saturday, June 16**

- **Dancer/Drum Registration** | 12-12:45 p.m.
- **Grand Entry** | 1 p.m.
- **Retiring of Flags**

**Sunday, June 17**

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

**Head Male Dancer:** Chase Stevens  
**Head Female Dancer:** Cecilia Stevens  
**Head Veteran:** Raymond Cadotte  
**Head Drum:** Painted Rock  
**Emcee:** Jody Gaskin  
**Arena Director:** Tim Loonsfoot

**Specials:** Potato Dance, Rock Your Mocs Showdown and more TBA

Drug & Alcohol Free Event  
No Pets Allowed — Service Pets Welcome

*\*Rustic camping available (FC/FS limited electric & water hookup)*

**Please direct all questions to:** Saginaw Chippewa Powwow Committee at 989.775.4000

## TRIBAL MEMBERS

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

Happy Blessed Birthday

Olivia

Love, Mom

Fifth Annual Community

# Rx Drug Drop-off

May 10, 2018 • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Drop off your unused and expired prescription drugs and/or over-the-counter medications (*cough syrup, cold medicine, etc.*) and diabetic needles.

At the Farmers Market Pavilion

*Corner of Broadway and Leaton roads*

Drawings for prizes

Free Beverages & Hot Dogs

*Will be held for those who drop off prescription drugs.*

Receive \$10 in SECR Premium Play!

When you drop off • Limit one voucher per person

For more information, please contact:

Kevin Ricketts at 989.944.0495 or [kricketts@sagchip.org](mailto:kricketts@sagchip.org)

34<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Saginaw Chippewa POWWOW

JULY 27-29, 2018

Grand Entry

Friday: 7 p.m. | Saturday: 12 & 7 p.m. | Sunday: 12 p.m.

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Campground

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

Hotel Information:

- Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort: 1.888.732.4537
- Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel: 1.877.232.4532

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

**Emcees:** Jason Whitehouse & Hal Eagletail  
**Arena Directors:** Walker Stonefish & Sheldon Shebala  
**Head Veteran:** George Martin  
**Head Dance Judges:** Debbie Kline & TBA  
**Head Drum Judge:** Harvey Dreaver  
**Head Dancers:** Abbie Nahdee & Nodin Jackson  
**Host Drum:** The Boyz  
**Dance Specials:** Men’s Fancy & Old Style Jingle Dress (*Sponsored by Head Dancers*)  
**Committee Specials:** 18+ Hand Drum Contest, Youth Hand Drum Contest, Roc your Mocs Showdown, Team Dance (Youth & Adult), Head to Head Single Elimination Chicken Dance Special, and more TBA



## Tribal Council

### Chief

**Ronald F. Ekdahl** | District One

### Sub-Chief

**Julius S. Peters** | District One

### Treasurer

**Craig Graveratte** | District One

### Secretary

**Frank J. Cloutier** | District Three

### Sergeant-at-Arms

**Kenny Sprague** | District One

### Chaplain

**Diana Quigno-Grundahl** | District One

### Council Member

**Louanna Bruner** | District One

### Council Member

**Bill Federico** | District One

### Council Member

**Lindy Hunt** | District One

### Council Member

**Theresa Jackson** | District One

### Council Member

**Jennifer L. Wassegijig** | District One

### Council Member

**Ron Nelson** | District Two

## Tribal Council Regular Session Meetings

The Regular Council Sessions occur at 9 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the Seniors Room of Tribal Operations, in accordance to the Tribal Constitution.

Meetings are open to Tribal Members.

Administration will announce ahead of time if meeting date or time changes for possible weather or emergencies. However, it is rare the times change.

Administration's administrative assistant III compiles and prepares the agenda.

Approximately two weeks prior to the meeting, an email is sent to Tribal Operations employees to remind them of the meeting and request any submissions for the agenda.

Any SCIT Tribal Member or other individual/department must submit a written request if they wish to be placed on the Regular Council Session agenda. Anyone wanting to be added can call (989) 775-4003.

### Regular Council Session Dates

- May 1
- June 5
- July 3
- Aug. 7

## Editorial: Booklet sponsors needed for Saganing Powwow

### DENISE PELCHER

Saganing Powwow Committee Member

Attention Tribal Members: As you know, the Saganing Powwow is a self-funded event that requires support from Tribal Membership.

This year is a very special year; it is the 10th anniversary of the Saganing Powwow.

This year, the powwow will be held on June 16 and 17 in Standish.

Have you ever thought about a family memorial to a loved one who has passed or to honor someone who is celebrating a milestone birthday or perhaps

to honor a graduate? You can purchase booklet space to do this.

Booklet spaces are \$25 for a quarter page, \$50 for a half page or \$60 for a half page with a picture; or you can become a booster and donate any amount that you choose. If you choose this option, please write in the amount that you are donating, and your name will be listed as a Powwow Booster in the booklet though the amount of your donation will not be included.

Below you will find an application form to fill out and return with a check/money order.

Please remember your support is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding the booklet, please call 989-775-4944.

## The Seven Grandfather TEACHINGS

### Nbookaawin – Wisdom

To live with wisdom is to acquire and use experiences as guides for making equitable and mature decisions.

### Zaagidowin – Love

To live our lives with love is to understand our capacity to realize, empathize, and nurture the needs of others.

### Minaadendamooing – Respect

To live with respect is to give mutual consideration for shared and differing ideas as well as for the world around us.

### Zoongide'ewin – Bravery

To be brave and have courage is to recognize our moral and mental strength and to do what is appropriate.

### Gwekwadiziwin – Honesty

To be honest is to recognize that we have the ability to live our lives with honor and integrity.

### Dibaadendiziwin – Humility

To live with humility is to recognize that we are all equal, we all make mistakes, we all like to have our success rewarded and to put others before ourselves.

### Debwewin – Truth

To live in truth is to recognize the difference between right and wrong and to be faithful to ourselves as well as the world around us even when the right way is not the easiest way.

## 2018 Saganing Powwow Booklet Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to SCIT  
(Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe)

Mail to: Saganing Powwow  
7070 E. Broadway,  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Each sponsor will receive one copy of the program booklet, but only if the application is filled out completely and legibly. Please make sure to include your phone number in case we have any questions regarding your ad.

**Deadline is May 18, 2018**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Wording: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Size: Check the desired size

- \$25 = 1/4 page
- \$50 = 1/2 page (no picture)
- \$60 = 1/2 page (with picture)
- \$? Booster only \_\_\_\_\_ (enter amount)

**2018 Saganing  
Traditional Powwow**  
June 16 & 17, 2018

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



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

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
c/o Tribal Observer  
7070 E. Broadway Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

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

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

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

## Tribal Observer Advertising

If you would like to advertise your business, please contact the Tribal Observer at 989-775-4010 for more information.

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

**Political ads** - All political ads will be 1/4 page and have a red border stating as such. The cost is \$500. Political ads may include, but are not limited to, any opinion or advertisement that is political in nature and/or any Letter to the Editor that does not conform to guidelines.

## Tribal Observer Subscription Form

Please send \$30 for the annual subscription. Checks may be made out to SCIT.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please mail form to:

Tribal Observer  
Attn: Subscriptions  
7070 E. Broadway Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

### Contact Information:

Phone: 989-775-4010  
Email: [Observer@Sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@Sagchip.org)  
[www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver](http://www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver)



## Chief Ekdahl, government representatives present at legislative breakfast

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

On March 23, the Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce's biannual legislative breakfast took place in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort ballrooms.

During the event, community leaders received updates about current governmental affairs from several local, state and federal representatives.

The Friday morning event began with a breakfast buffet followed by a brief icebreaker to allow attendees to get acquainted with the government representatives present.

Congressman John Moolenaar, Rep. Roger Hauck, Rick Outman (staff member for Sen. Judy Emmons) and Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl each provided a brief presentation.

Moolenaar was the first to speak, addressing the opioid crisis, tax reform and regulation as well as recognizing the need for better access to broadband in rural areas of the state.

Hauck also spoke about the opioid crisis along with the

recent elimination of driver responsibility fees and the county's recent state of emergency. He specifically thanked the Tribe for applying to federal agencies with the county to help bring in more than \$12 million to repair roads damaged during the 2017 flooding.

Next, Outman addressed the human trafficking issue, school funding and the OK-2-SAY program, a confidential tip line to report "potential harm or criminal activities directed at school students, school employees, and schools" ([www.michigan.gov/ok2say](http://www.michigan.gov/ok2say)).

Ekdahl was the final speaker. He discussed the Senate Bill 616, which amended the Child Protection Law to allow representatives of Michigan tribes to obtain confidential Children's Protective Services records about young tribal members.

"(Senate Bill 616 is) a big win for tribes in the state. It allows tribes to gain access to those state-child protection records," Ekdahl said. "It really puts the jurisdiction and the ability for

the tribes to have a say in those young tribal members' lives."

Next, Ekdahl mentioned the Tribal Sovereignty Act.

"We were disappointed that it was not included on the appropriation's bill that was passed, but we are still working on leveraging that," Ekdahl said.

"What the Tribal Sovereignty Act does is it allows tribes not to fall under the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Board," he said, explaining this means tribes would have the same rights as states in choosing when to use organized labor.

Ekdahl also mentioned the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and thanked Moolenaar for his support.

"That's a huge priority, to protect our Great Lakes. It's a big priority for all tribes in Michigan," he said. "Water is something that all Indian tribes and all Indian people hold sacred, so it's very good to see them have that continued support."

The chief next addressed House Bill 4926, an internet gaming legislation.

"All we're asking for is equitable treatment for all tribes, not just our Tribe," he said.

Ekdahl concluded by mentioning the Tribe is in continued negotiations with the Governor's office regarding the gaming compact.

"The Tribe is committed to staying local," he said. "We want to provide those resources for our local communities... It is a great honor to be able to provide those resources to the communities, to the local government, to the local schools and to really be instrumental in the development of and having those partnerships."

Ekdahl said there is still a lot of road work needed as a result of damaged caused by the 2017 flood, and he said the Tribe was committed to working with the local government for the development projects.

The breakfast event ended with a Q-and-A session in which audience members



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl joins state and federal representatives to update community leaders at the March 23 Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce's biannual legislative breakfast that took place in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort ballrooms.**

spoke about and requested information from the state politicians about gun control, school funding, work requirements for citizens receiving Medicaid, the opioid crisis and modifying regulations for financial institutions.

## StrongHearts helpline available for Native domestic and dating violence survivors

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

AUSTIN, Texas – The StrongHearts Native Helpline (1-844-7NATIVE) – the first national helpline created specifically to support Native American survivors and concerned family members and friends affected by domestic violence and dating violence – celebrated its one year anniversary last month.

The helpline has responded to calls from 68 tribal communities across 40 states, demonstrating the need for culturally-rooted resources for Native abuse survivors.

Advocates of StrongHearts offer support and resources

in a safe, confidential and healing environment, the press release stated. Every call is answered with compassion and respect while acknowledging Native culture and tradition.

"We are humbled with how much support the StrongHearts Native Helpline is receiving from advocates, programs and tribes across Indian Country and our Alaska Native villages," said StrongHearts Assistant Director Lori Jump of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. "Every day is a step forward in the work to support Native survivors of abuse."

"Advocating for our callers is at the heart of what we do and why we chose to dedicate

this first year to them," Jump said. "To all our Native survivors out there, we hear you – we hear your stories. You are not alone."

Last spring, the helpline launched as a collaborative project of the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

StrongHearts' initial outreach focus began in Kansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska. By the end of 2017, the StrongHearts team completed its database project to identify culturally-specific and tribally-based resources for American Indians and Alaska Natives, a group that experiences high rates of violence and unique barriers to

receiving justice and support ([strongheartshelpline.org](http://strongheartshelpline.org)).

According to a recent study by the National Institute of Justice, more than four in five Native women and men have experienced violence in their lifetime, and more than one in three Native people has experienced violence within the past year.

Of those who have experienced violence, more than one in three Native women and more than one in six Native men were unable to access the support services they needed (National Institute of Justice).

"A number of our relatives have connected with us over the past year, but we also know there are many more who would benefit by knowing

about the helpline and the referral network that has been established for all Natives to promote safety and healing in our communities," said Liz Hill (Red Lake Ojibwe), communications consultant for StrongHearts.

StrongHearts is a culturally-appropriate, anonymous, confidential and no-cost service.

By dialing **1-844-7NATIVE (1-844-762-8483)**, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., callers can connect with knowledgeable advocates who can provide lifesaving tools and immediate support to enable survivors to find safety and live lives free of abuse.

More information about StrongHearts is available at [www.strongheartshelpline.org](http://www.strongheartshelpline.org)

## Velsicol Chemical Plant cleanup tour

**JENNIFER SEIBT**

Environmental Resource Technician

On Tuesday, March 6, Planning Department staff and Saginaw

Chippewa Tribal College faculty and students had the opportunity to tour the former Velsicol Chemical Plant superfund site in St. Louis, Mich.

Students and staff got a first-hand look at the inner

workings of the \$9.7 million thermal treatment system the EPA and DEQ have put into place to clean up the contaminated groundwater left behind by the former chemical plant.



Courtesy of Jennifer Seibt

**Planning Department staff and Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College faculty and students tour the former Velsicol Chemical Plant on March 6.**



Courtesy of Jennifer Seibt

**Located in St. Louis, Mich., the former chemical plant is the site of a \$9.7 million thermal treatment system.**

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## Tribe celebrates 37th gaming anniversary with ceremonies, cake cutting

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

It has been said that time flies, especially when fun (and diligent work) is being had, and that became apparent as the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe celebrated its 37th gaming anniversary on Thursday, April 26.

Tribal Council, Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort personnel, Tribal Members and the local community gathered near the main casino entrance for a welcome and celebration.

Raul Venegas, director of marketing and entertainment for Soaring Eagle, provided a welcome to all in attendance and introduced the casinos' CEO Ray Brenny.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl cuts the 37th gaming anniversary cake to celebrate the occasion on Thursday, April 26 at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.**

Brenny discussed the renovations both casinos (Saganing Eagles Landing Casino included) are currently undergoing.

"The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort renovations are set to



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Tribal Council members (left to right) Kenny Sprague, Bill Federico, Louanna Bruner, Lindy Hunt, Frank Cloutier, Jennifer L. Wassegijig, Craig Graveratte, Chief Ekdahl and Diana Quigno-Grundahl pose for the gaming anniversary photo with Raul Venegas (third from right), director of marketing and entertainment for Soaring Eagle, and casino CEO Ray Brenny (far right).**

be completed during September of this year," Brenny said, also mentioning the much-anticipated renovation to the Entertainment Hall.

Next, Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl gave warm regards to all in attendance, taking pride in the gaming success and the victorious 37 years.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**(Left to right) Bethel Merrill, administrative assistant for Casino Administration; Brooke Munro, casino administrator; and Brent Jackson, director of Table Games, pose near the anniversary cake.**

Community drummers then performed two songs, one welcome and one honor.

Tribal Chaplain Diana Quigno-Grundahl provided an invocation prior to Ekdahl cutting the cake, and, lastly, patrons were treated to complimentary cupcakes.

## CMU holds groundbreaking ceremony for \$26 million health building expansion

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Central Michigan University held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Center for Integrated Health Studies, and the occasion was not without the Tribe's full support.

The April 19 ceremony officially commemorated the soon-to-be expansion of the College of Health Professions Building.

Construction for the site began in March, and with a projected September 2019 ribbon cutting ceremony, the building will become an academic facility for students pursuing degrees in the health field.

Courses will begin in the building in January 2020.

Senior physician assistant student Fredrick Clifford said students will benefit from the classrooms and lab space.

"(Students) will have the opportunity to apply the medicine they've learned in the

classroom in a low-risk, highly real environment with simulation and standardized patients," Clifford said. "This will help prepare (students) for clinical work and will ultimately improve care for patients in the communities we serve here in central Michigan."

College of Health Professions Dean Thomas Masterson said the need for a new building began 10 years ago.

In a meeting with Steve Lawrence, associate vice president of facilities, and other deans, Masterson said an addition was needed.

"I explained all of our programs are limited to space," Masterson said. "(Lawrence) couldn't figure it out because the building was only four years old. We walked around, and I showed him classrooms and labs, and, yes, we were full."

Students had a difficult time getting into the programs due to the lack of space, Masterson said.

The addition costs \$26 million, with an aided \$19.5 million grant issued by the state.

The center will also have a 150-seat auditorium with flexible seating, a new human physiology teaching lab, additional labs for physical therapy and physician assistant programs.

CMU President George Ross also provided remarks during the ceremony.

"Dedicated educators, planners, dreamers and partners have already broken new ground in leading us to this point; people saw a need, saw an opportunity, saw a path to the future and they got to work," Ross said.

Health-related careers are mushrooming in this country, Ross said.

"By 2026, the United States will need 23 percent more athletic trainers. We will need, as a nation, 28 percent more physical therapists, an incredibly 37 percent more



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Central Michigan University representatives, along with Tribal Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez (far left), prepare to break ground for the college's upcoming Center for Integrated Health Studies. The ceremony was held April 19 near the campus' College of Health Professions Building.**

physician assistants," Ross said. "With this building, with the strength of our faculty and staff and determination of our students, CMU is gearing up to meet those needs and more around our state and across the country."

On behalf of the Tribe, Erik Rodriguez, interim public relations director, attended the ceremony and was also

called to the podium to share a few words.

"The collaboration between the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and Central Michigan University is something we take pride in and really appreciate the opportunity to attend today," Rodriguez said. "The partnership continues to grow, and the Tribe continues to support CMU's efforts."

## Tribe receives 2018 William Brehm Tourism Award for its impact on local economy

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is the recipient of the 2018 William Brehm Tourism Award for its positive impact on the Mount Pleasant economy.

The award, presented by the Mount Pleasant Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, was given to Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl on behalf of the Tribe on Tuesday, April 24 during a luncheon at the Comfort Inn Conference Center.

Prior to presenting Ekdahl with the award, Michelle Reed, president of the CVB Board, provided statistics of the Tribe's influence.

"The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is the largest employer in Isabella County,"



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl (left) accepts the 2018 William Brehm Tourism Award on behalf of the Tribe, presented by Michelle Reed (right), president of the Mount Pleasant Convention and Visitors Bureau Board, on April 24.**

Reed said. "With over 3600 employees... the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is active

in (the Mt. Pleasant area), making a difference in the lives of the members and our community. They have contributed to the local municipalities and organizations and helped grow the Michigan region, not only for locals but also for visitors."

Ekdahl provided data on tourists in the community after accepting the award.

"The number of visitors we see at our casino properties, especially here in Mt. Pleasant, is between 7,000 and 8,000 people a day – so, over 2.5 million people a year," Ekdahl said.

Ekdahl also said the Soaring Eagle summer outdoor concert venue offers 13,000 seats.

Last year, the venue saw two sold-out shows. The average attendance for the 15 concerts

was about 10,000 people at each show, Ekdahl said.

"This summer we have a minimum of 10 shows, so we can look forward to that continued business and that continued effort to bring those folks to our area," Ekdahl said.

The Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, Ekdahl said, brings in nearly 300,000 patrons per year.

"Recently, in March 2018, we had a record number of visits," he said.

Annually, the Ziibiwing Center also sees more than 25,000 visitors, he said.

"A lot of people come to our area, and they are utilizing our amenities and our businesses, and we greatly appreciate those efforts, but we also appreciate the efforts of our community

to be able to host them to help us all to capitalize on that business," Ekdahl said.

The Tribe received the 12th annual honor; Mt. Pleasant's CVB has bestowed the Brehm award annually since 2007 in honor of the late William Brehm, founder of several Mt. Pleasant area traditions including the Holiday Inn, the Chippewa Beverage Co., Holiday Greens Golf Course, Green Suites and the PohlCat Golf Course.

Each year, a college student is also awarded the William Brehm Scholarship.

Central Michigan University senior Summer Sharrard received the \$1,000 scholarship. Sharrard is studying parks and recreation, with a major in event management.



## ICCAC adorns pinwheels on Mt. Pleasant Public Safety lawn for child abuse awareness

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

To honor the National Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Awareness Month of April, blue and silver pinwheels were embellished on the Mt. Pleasant Public Safety lawn on April 9, and showcased throughout the month.

Pinwheels have become the national symbol for child abuse prevention and awareness, said Kim Seidel, executive director for the Isabella County Child Advocacy Center, which organized the event.

According to Prevent Child Abuse America, the pinwheel, by its very nature, “connotes whimsy and childlike thoughts.” It is a reminder that each child in every community should have the right to a

healthy experience growing up.

The pinwheel garden was on display to encourage all community members to play an active role in child abuse prevention and awareness.

Along with Seidel, ICCAC’s Andrea Mills, forensic interviewer; Miranda Steffke, family advocate; and Brad Vavzincak, prevention educator were at the awareness event.

Representatives from Anishnaabeg Child and Family Services, Tribal Prosecutor’s office, Mount Pleasant Police and the Michigan State Police were also present.

Seidel said she was “amazed and blown away” by all the support and professionals in attendance.

ICCAC is a nonprofit organization that aids in the



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Representatives from the Isabella County Child Advocacy Center, Anishnaabeg Child and Family Services, Tribal Prosecutor’s office, Mount Pleasant Police and the Michigan State Police stand in front of pinwheels planted at the Mt. Pleasant Public Safety building on April 9 to raise awareness for child abuse.**

investigation of childhood sexual and physical abuse.

The ICCAC’s goal is to ensure that trauma is reduced

as much as possible for the child victim. The center provides a child-friendly facility where children can come to

tell their stories to a trained professional.

“The ICCAC encourages our community to work together to shine light where there is darkness,” Seidel said. “To bring a topic that feels too taboo to discuss to the surface with open dialogue, education and empowerment for all of our local children, their parents, guardians and caregivers.”

ICCAC serves children aged 3 to 17 years old who are suspected of having been sexually abused and involves agency professionals together (law enforcement, Child Protective Services, therapists) on the front end of cases to work collaboratively to put the needs of the child victim first.

Last year, the ICCAC served 167 children.

## AIC Tobacco Program offers free nicotine, gum or lozenges through May 31

**INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN, INC.**



SAULT STE. MARIE – Thinking about quitting commercial tobacco? The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is expanding its telephone coaching and nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) program to all Michigan residents through May 31.

During this time, the American Indian Commercial Tobacco Program and the

Michigan Tobacco Quitline will offer a free, two-week supply of nicotine gum, patches or lozenges to all new enrollees who want to quit smoking or chewing tobacco.

American Indians looking to begin their commercial

tobacco-free journey may call **1-855-372-0037**. Enrollment is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The program serves all ages; however, callers seeking NRT must be over 18 and meet basic health requirements.

Enrollees will receive a coach who will assist them in setting a quit date, choosing a nicotine replacement product that is right for them and making an individualized quit plan. The coach will provide support with up to four telephone coaching sessions scheduled around the caller’s quit date.

“Callers using NRT along with coaching, such as through a telephone-based service like **1-855-372-0037**, can increase their chances of becoming smoke-free by five times the rate of someone quitting cold turkey,” said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. “Providing access to free NRT during this promotion might just be the jump start someone needs to quitting smoking tobacco for good.”

The American Indian Commercial Tobacco Program and the Michigan Tobacco Quitline is an evidence-based service providing free

telephone coaching for the uninsured, pregnant women, residents enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare, veterans, cancer patients and American Indians. More than 100,000 calls have been received since the service launched in October 2003.

More than 40 percent of Native American adults in Michigan smoke cigarettes. Quitting smoking can be difficult, but help is available.

More than 30 percent of callers have still quit smoking after six months. For more information, call **1-855-372-0037** or visit [keepitsacred.itcmi.org/quitline](http://keepitsacred.itcmi.org/quitline).

## Two Tribal employees featured as Watershed Conservancy’s banquet speakers

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Two Tribal employees were featured as keynote speakers during the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy’s 23rd annual spring banquet on April 19.

Tribal Member Waabanoqua (Judy Pamp), assistant director for the Ziibiwing Center, and Carey Pauquette, manager for the Environmental Department, separately presented a portion of “The Cultural, Natural and Environmental History of the Chippewa River Watershed” in the Bucks Run Golf Club ballroom.

After an introduction from Jon Breithaupt, executive director of CWC, Waabanoqua shared Anishinabe teachings to the 130 event attendees.

“We are taught plants, animals and insects were here before mankind,” Waabanoqua said. “Water is sacred, the same as Mother Earth... so much of creation has taken care of us that we cannot survive without them.”

Waabanoqua said each person on earth has the responsibility to care for and protect all gifts given from the Creator.

“Never take more than what you need. All life is sacred,” Waabanoqua said.

She then presented a prayer for the water; reciting in Anishinaabemowin then translating to English, line by line.

To end her portion of the presentation, she sang a water song.

“I couldn’t ask for a better setting with the beautiful body of water behind us,” she said, looking out the window at the golf course’s natural wetland.

Pauquette, CWC board member, presented information about the Tribe’s water quality program.

The program identifies and cleans contaminated sites within the Reservation and on Tribal lands, identifies and manages invasive species of Tribal lands and monitors Tribal water quality, Pauquette said.

Pauquette said the program used E. coli-tracking dogs to verify Bovinae (cattle) and human waste along the north and main branch of the Chippewa River.

“The department continues to make more efforts of outreach and education, including pumping septic tanks and getting them replaced when needed,” Pauquette said.

Pauquette also mentioned the streambank stabilization, a partnership with the City of Mt. Pleasant and Parks and Recreation.

A lot of positive work was accomplished to help rebuild along the Chippewa River, Pauquette said.

“Hundreds of dead ash trees were removed,” she said.

The 5:30 to 9 p.m. event also featured a prime rib and champagne chicken deluxe dinner buffet, a 50/50 raffle and silent and live auctions.

Soaring Eagle packages were included in the live auction. A Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel package and a Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort package containing an overnight stay, two tickets for a concert of the winner’s choice and a \$50 gift card were auctioned off.

The last item in the live auction was a six-day trip to South Africa.

Advanced registration was \$60, or the event cost \$65 at the door.

That evening, more than \$18,500 was generated to support wildlife habitat and open space conservation in the central Michigan region.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Chippewa Watershed Conservancy Board Member Carey Pauquette, manager of the Tribe’s Environmental Department, addresses her keynote speech during the CWC’s annual spring banquet on April 19 at Bucks Run Golf Club.**



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Tribal Member Waabanoqua (Judy Pamp), assistant director for the Ziibiwing Center, also serves as keynote speaker and discusses the importance of praying for water.**

The CWC emphasizes the following habitats: riparian lands, especially along the Chippewa, Coldwater and Pine rivers; representative samples of other habitats – e.g. hardwood forests, bogs and marshes; and large scale farmland and open-space protection.

The CWC focuses its efforts in parcels adjacent to already protected lands (CWC and government agency), lands in high development categories and building farmland and open-space capacity.





## Students assist Ziibiwing Center, are immersed in SCIT culture

NIKI HENRY

Photographer Journalist

On Friday, April 6, students and professors from Indiana University- Purdue University Indianapolis presented a gift bundle to Tribal Council as a thank you for welcoming them into the community for an extended week of activities.

The visitors, participants in the off-campus component of the university's Community Collaboration and Curation course, were first and second-year museum studies students, anthropology students and students from a variety of other disciplines. They were accompanied by Holly Cusack-McVeigh, Ph.D., assistant professor of Anthropology and Museum Studies and public scholar of Collections and Community Curation.

The gift bundle contained a variety of personal and



Courtesy of Rouba Aseer

During their four-day visit, students and staff from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis pose for a group photo with representatives of the Ziibiwing Center during the off-campus component of the university's Community Collaboration and Curation course.

meaningful items that were hand selected by the students.

One student added the novel "The Skin I'm In" by Sharon G. Flake to the bundle with the following note: "To the Anishinabe people, a people like mine who refuse to be silenced, forgotten or destroyed. I hope this book reminds you of your beauty through adversity as it did for me. With love and hope, Taigen."

During their four-day visit, the 24 guests were immersed in Tribal culture and history, learning about the Anishinaabemowin language and assisting the Ziibiwing Center Tribal Collections and Archives personnel in ways that exposed them to the Anishinabe way of life.

"Working in the archives really showed me how strong this community is," said student

Maddie Brichacek. "It's a blessing to even be involved; I am so proud to be included in the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe."

According to E-Noodaagan, the bi-weekly Ziibiwing publication, the students helped inventory, box and wrap items in the permanent collection to help preserve and protect them.

"In addition," the publication said, "they helped with some of the preparation for the new changing exhibit entitled 'Miikawaadendaagwad (It Is Beautiful): Artistic Expressions of the Saginaw Chippewa.'"

Students responded enthusiastically to the visit and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work with Ziibiwing and learn about Native culture.

"When I heard that the Community Collaboration and Curation class was going to be held for a second year, I jumped at the opportunity to work with the Ziibiwing staff (Willie, Anita, Shannon, Robin and Ray) again," said student Melissa Miller. "I cannot express how thankful I am for the warmth of the Ziibiwing staff and the Saginaw Chippewa community. I will carry with me, in my personal life and professional career, the conversation and lessons I learned here."

Another student, Shannon Wagner, said, "It was an honor beyond measure to be in the presence of the Tribal Council of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. I was so grateful for the opportunity."

Student Cordero Hinojosa said, "What a privilege to be accepted into such a warm and loving community. Miigwetch."

## Tribal Library event helps teach children about money

NIKI HENRY

Photographer Journalist

At 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 23, children gathered in the Tribal Library for the Money Smart story time.

Melissa Voss from Isabella Community Credit Union began the event by distributing of the book "Lots and Lots of Coins" by author Margarette S. Reid and illustrator True Kelly.

Voss began reading to the

children gathered, telling the story of a young boy and his coin-collecting father.

The book presented facts about coins, such as how they are made, what materials they are made from, how they are used and what

the value is for each one used as currency in the United States.

As Voss read, she also gave out coins to the children to place in the piggy banks she had given each participant.

To close the event, Isabelle

Osawamick, Anishinaabe outreach specialist, provided materials to the children to help them learn and practice Anishinaabemowin. The children were also rewarded with coins for their piggy banks.



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- 1:00 pm Welcome & Eagle Dance
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\* (Note: The Ziibiwing Center will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28, 2018 & Labor Day, Monday, September 3, 2018)

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**COLLECTION SHOWING: PEOPLE OF THE TURTLE**

**EVELYN J. RITTER PORTRAITS**  
from the Dr. Mike and Linda Shinkle Collection

Saturday, May 12, 2018 • 10am - 3pm

Artwork will remain on display through Saturday, May 19, 2018

The Dr. Mike and Linda Shinkle Collection: "People of the Turtle," began as an effort to pay tribute to the Eastern Woodland Indian tribes. The Shinkles, along with several Eastern Woodland Indian tribal elders and leaders, assembled in an effort to communicate the culture and history of the first people of the land and their story of survival and growth. Their story was entrusted to artist, Evelyn J. Ritter, who created forty oil-on-canvas portraits. The series of portraits was the inspiration for the book, *Always a People* comprised by Rita Kohn and W. Lynwood Montell. This book can be viewed at the Ziibiwing Research Center, which is open to the public Monday thru Friday from 10am - 6pm. This collection showcases a great appreciation and support for the history, people, and stories of the Eastern Woodland Indians. The tone of their story is one of beauty, survival, and vitality. This exciting collection preserves and promotes this culture and language while providing diversity to the general public.

On Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 10am to 3pm, join William Johnson, Ziibiwing Center's Curator, as he hosts the opening of this Collection Showing.



## Editorial: Sacred Seeds Symposium educates to protect ancestral seeds

**ESTHER HELMS**

Contributing Writer

The Sacred Seeds Symposium: protecting ancestral seeds event was held at the Ziiibwing Center on Saturday, April 21. It was a full day from breakfast and ceremonies to a seed exchange and the maple sugar song to conclude the event.

In between was food, laughter and learning... and maybe even a tear or two at the beauty and significance of it all.

After the welcome and ceremonies, Ben Cohen was the morning keynote speaker. He gave a spirited and riveting presentation.

In his presentation, Cohen talked about his youth that included packaged foods cooked in the microwave.

Cohen said many kids, and some adults, do not know where food comes from and he feels that “we have to change how we think about things.” For him, his children are his motivation for change.

Cohen is very passionate about this subject, describing seeds as “our livelihood – without them, we don’t exist.”

He showed images and talked about the beauty and “extreme diversity” and adaptability of seeds, and he explained that “local” food is only as “local” as the seed.

He talked about places like Appalachia where seeds can be traced “hand-to-hand” back 200 years or more. In Michigan, this type of tracing is more difficult, and he has only been able to trace back to about 65 years.

He said it is all about community and about sharing — seeds and energy. “When you do that,” he said, “magic things happen.”

Of the 500 seed libraries in the United States, 45 of those are in Michigan. Of those, Cohen is responsible for 37. California has the most, being such a large state. If not for its great size, Cohen says Michigan would be number one on the list.

Cohen has been referred to as “the Johnny Appleseed of Midland County.” He does not just plant, he teaches, creates and offers products from natural sources that can enhance our lives.



Courtesy of Esther Helms

**Ben Cohen (left), a keynote speaker for the Ziiibwing Center’s April 21 Sacred Seed Symposium, poses for a photo with Anita Heard, research center coordinator.**

In closing, before rushing off to share and inspire others about this all-important topic, he asked thoughtfully, “Are we saving the seed? Or is the seed saving us?”

Next came a viewing of the movie “SEED: The Untold Story.” Viewers who were not already emotionally involved with the subject after Cohen’s presentation definitely were after watching the movie.

When someone in the documentary said of the seed, “These are my children,” there is the feeling that if you have not been looking at seeds this way, maybe you have been out of touch.”

There was talk of a seed being a time capsule, preserving the past and bringing it to the future. It was evident, as referenced in the movie, that these seeds of thought and feeling were taking root and growing into awareness and maybe — who knows — action.

Surely thoughts of starting or going back to gardening and preserving were being shared and spread across the room and maybe the community.

The film discussed “OMG GMO” and the effort to keep GMO’s (genetically modified organisms) from contaminating sacred wild rice. It was almost as if the movie was laid out in seed-like snippets rather than one continuous story line.

Next was Winona LaDuke’s naming of a squash seed that was carbon dated to be 8,000 years old. She gave it a name in “the language” that translates to “really cool, old squash.”



Courtesy of Esther Helms

**Presenter Jim Robertson (left) is presented with a Saginaw Chippewa Pendleton blanket by William Johnson (right), curator, for his dedicated work with the Michigan tribes.**

It is a wonderful and entertaining movie. The Tribal Library has a copy to lend. They can be reached at **989-775-4508**. The Ziiibwing Center has a copy that can be viewed in the Research Center. Call **989-775-4748** for more information about that movie and others that are available for viewing.

And, all this was even before lunch, which included delicious traditional foods catered by Andahwod.

The afternoon keynote speaker was Punkin Shananaquet from the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, Gun Lake Tribe. She is from a family of artists and culture keepers, is the daughter of George and Sydney Martin and the cultural coordinator for Gun Lake’s Language and Culture Department.

Beautifully garbed, both literally and figuratively, in tradition, Shananaquet spoke of many things including “our beautiful regalia that mimics Mother Earth.”

“Every pattern of beadwork and applique connect in design to creation,” Shananaquet said.

Shananaquet spoke of the importance about understanding our earth and water and how “we should honor them and our ways even if it is just greeting the morning with semaa (tobacco).”

Shananaquet gave a mini-language lesson, explaining some of the meanings behind some of the words such as mino-bimaadziwin having to do with living well, living kind, and mino-ode as having a good and gentle heart.

She continued with the assertion that feelings while preparing food can transfer through to consumption.

“Happy people come from happy food,” she said.

She talked of food being prepared with love, which can make you feel good, compared to how food that has been tortured or desecrated can transfer those feelings also and induce poor feelings to those who consume that poor food.

We should bring forth and encourage the life of all our relatives, our sky relatives, the stars and moon, our plant relatives and the trees, as examples, Shananaquet said. And let us refrain from debating the weather. When we do, Shananaquet said, “We disrupt Mother Earth’s sacred work. She can hear and feel us. Let’s celebrate the life that is coming. Sometimes her labor is long and hard, sometimes not.”

Let us not follow the negative weather ideas that are often spoken by meteorologists, she said.

“Let’s just give thanks for each day.”

After lunch there were three breakout sessions. Lisa Young gave a presentation about the University of Michigan Hopi Seed Project.

Young drew on lessons she learned while working with members of the Hopi Tribe in Arizona.

With her friend and museum professional Susan Sekaquaptewa, a Hopi woman, Young helped reconnect Hopi farmers with the University of Michigan’s Hopi seed and plant collections.

Through a course, the college students helped create an online catalog of Hopi plants and seeds and then discussed the seeds with Hopi farmers by videoconferencing, Young said.

James Robertson gave the presentation “Ancestors Archaeology & the Anishinabek: Bridging the Past Into the Future.”

Robertson is the Michigan Department of Transportation’s (MDOT) senior staff archaeologist. He is MDOT’s representative for project consultation with Michigan Indian tribes and their compliance officer with the Native American Graves



Courtesy of Esther Helms

**Judy Pamp (left), assistant director of the Ziiibwing Center, and Punkin Shananaquet (right), a keynote speaker from the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians – Gun Lake Tribe, pose for a photograph at the Saturday event.**

Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Prior to Robertson’s presentation, he was presented with a Saginaw Chippewa Pendleton blanket in honor of all the work he has done with the tribes by William Johnson, curator and NAGPRA designee, and Sydney Martin, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians’ NAGPRA designee.

Kevin Finney gave a presentation at Ziiibwing’s fire pit outside of the west end of the building.

The robin’s egg blue sky and the smell of a wood fire could only be enhanced by the sights and sounds of Anishinabekwe and Anishinabenini recreating scenes and objects from a time to be remembered and preserved. Finney’s presentation was “Bootaagan Making and Demo.”

Finney talked about the kind of wood and size to choose and about how the bootaagan was sized differently when used by canoe people who had to consider weight and portability.

He gave tips and demonstration on removing corn from the husk and tips on winnowing. He taught about parching the corn over the fire and stirring until most of it is popped.

Some of the parched corn was sampled with coconut oil and salt; the rest was ground with the newly-made bootaagan and the bootaaganaatig.

Finney brought an assistant, Rachel, who shared birch bark jewelry she crafted.

Miigwetch to the following who co-sponsored this event with the Ziiibwing Center: the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, Seventh Generation and Planning Department.

Miigwetch to everyone who had a booth, and to the approximately 100 participants who taught, learned and shared the day with us at the Ziiibwing Center.



Courtesy of Esther Helms

**Kevin Finney gives his “Bootaagan Making and Demo” presentation at the Ziiibwing Center’s fire pit on a perfect, sunny, spring day.**



Courtesy of Esther Helms

**Event participants follow Finney’s directions to prepare for corn making.**



amazing	maamakaaj
town	oodena
business	babaamizi
resort	niibinishiiwigamig
bicycle	ditibiwebishkigan
baseball	bakitejii'ige
rain	gimiwan
warm	abaagamide
bud	zaagibagaa
bird	bineshiinh
tree tops	wanakorg
meadow	jiigashkosiw
white fish	adikameg
outdoors	agwajiang
canoe	jiimaan
plant	gitige
beets	misko-jiis
corn	mandaamin
moccasin game	makizinataage
inherit	ondizi

## Anishinaabemowin WORD SEARCH



## WHERE on the REZ?



Do you know where this is? Answer the puzzle correctly by May 16.

Your name will go into a drawing, and one winner will receive two free announcements in the Tribal Observer.

To submit your guess

Email [Observer@sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@sagchip.org) or call 989.775.4010.



### LAST MONTH:

Climbing Wall in the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym

April winner:  
No winner

## Anishinaabe Environment and Culture Camp to be held July 30 to Aug. 5

### TAYLOR BROOK

Watershed Outreach Coordinator

A combined effort across the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and within the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College is bringing an exciting opportunity to community young people. The second annual Anishinaabe Environment and Culture Camp will be offered to Tribal youth ages 12 – 17.

The camp will be seven days and six nights at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake.

Youth can participate in archery, canoeing, hiking, swimming, forestry, water science, Anishinaabe arts and



Courtesy of Kathy Hart

Youth campers pose for a group photo during the Aug. 14-18, 2017, Anishinaabe Environment and Culture Camp at Higgins Lake.

conservation and environmental activities focused on the protection of Mother Earth from an Anishinaabe perspective. It offers hands-on, engaging opportunities to help youth become acquainted with concepts based on environmental stewardship combined with Anishinaabe culture and arts.

The provided activities and games will give participants the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue STEAM careers and become

protectors of Mother Earth. traditions and bonfires while socializing with other youth.

This exciting camp will focus on natural resources,

This camp will be held July 30 to Aug. 5, with drop-off on July 30 at the Tribal

Operations/Tribal Gym parking lot and pickup on Aug. 5 at Seventh Generation.

Scholarships will be available through the application process.

Applications will be available May 1, but space is

limited, so apply soon. The deadline is May 30.

For additional information or to request an application, please contact Kathy Hart at [KHart@sagchip.org](mailto:KHart@sagchip.org) or 989-775-4123 or Taylor Brook at [TBrook@sagchip.org](mailto:TBrook@sagchip.org) or 989-775-4162.

## Camp Fish Tales receives Saganing casino's Casual for a Cause donations

### CHRISTY WEAVER

Contributing Writer

Camp Fish Tales was March's recipient for Saganing Eagles Landing Casino's Casual for a Cause fundraiser.

Associates raised \$225 during the month by donating \$5 to wear jeans on the first and last Tuesdays and Fridays of of March.

Camp Fish Tales is located in Pinconning and is a barrier-free, wheelchair-accessible camp that services individuals of all ages with a wide range of disabilities.

"On behalf of Camp Fish Tales, I want to thank you for your generous donation," said Tonya Asbury, Camp Fish Tales representative. "It is because of you that help keep camp alive – and going



Courtesy of Christy Weaver

Saganing Eagles Landing Casino associates raised \$225 for Camp Fish Tales during the March Casual for a Cause fundraiser. (Left to right: Autumn Lewicki, finance cashier; Tonya Asbury, Camp Fish Tales representative; Christy Weaver, administrative assistant.)

– through your generosity. We can't thank you enough."

Asbury said the donations will assist with arts and crafts.

"Many campers love the hands-on crafts and activities

we provide," Asbury said. "A lot of the campers are unable to do these activities at home. The activities we provide are an educational benefit to the campers."

# Anishinaabe Environment & Culture SUMMER CAMP

**July 30 - Aug. 5, 2018**

**Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center** (Higgins Lake)

- 7 days, 6 nights
- Pick-up at 7th Generation, drop-off at Tribal Operations

**Open to ages 12 to 17** (during time of camp)

Camp will provide hands-on experiences and fun that will encourage campers to look at environmental stewardship with a cultural aspect.

- Archery
- Canoeing
- Anishinaabe arts and traditions
- Forestry
- Hiking
- Bonfires
- Swimming

**Applications available May 1-30**

- \$40 registration fee
- Scholarship awards available via application essays
- Limited space available

**To obtain an application, please contact**  
**Kathy Hart | SCTC STEM Recruiter**

- Phone: 989.317.4760 ext. 228
- Fax: 989.775.4528
- E-mail: [KHart@sagchip.org](mailto:KHart@sagchip.org)
- Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College  
C/O: Kathy Hart  
2270 Enterprise Dr.,  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

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 Earth, Fire, Water and Air

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## Students present projects at SCA Science Fair

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

The 2018 Saginaw Chippewa Academy Science Fair took place Thursday, March 22. SCA teachers Mike Ireland, Nathan Isaac and Karyn Spickerman oversaw the event with fourth through sixth grade students creating and submitting projects and all other grades completing projects as a class.

Judging took place the morning of the event, and an awards ceremony occurred at 3 p.m. in the academy cafeteria.

“Each project was scored using a rubric based on the scientific

method and included consideration of cultural connections and use of Anishinaabemowin,” Ireland said. “Judges included representatives from the Isabella Conservation District, SCIT Tribal departments and high school-aged alumni of Saginaw Chippewa Academy.”

Alexis Trepanier earned the highest score with 106 points followed by Alayna Disel with 100 points. Meadow David placed third with 94 points and a tiebreaker, placing her ahead of Gracie David who also scored 94 points. Raynah Perez achieved fifth place with 89 points.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Charisse Yarch (back left) and her second grade students examine the projects created by school-mates for the science fair that took place at SCA on March 22.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Melissa Montoya (front), director of Tribal education, and Christina Sharp, assistant director of education, walk through SCA hallways admiring the hard work students put into their projects.**

## Editorial: Mt. Pleasant High School, WAY Program gearing up for graduation

**TAMMY BAKER**

Student Support Advisor

We, in the K-12 Education Department, are so proud of our graduating seniors! They have worked hard and given us a few grey hairs in the process, but they are almost there.

At the Mt. Pleasant High School, the last day for seniors is May 25, and the

graduation ceremony is at the school on June 3 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

The graduation ceremony for WAY (Oasis) and Community Education is May 31 at 7 p.m.

This year’s graduation banquet will be held on June 11 to honor the soon-to-be alumni. This includes students from MPHS, Shepherd High School, Odyssey, WAY, Community Education and any students who have earned a GED this year.

### Important upcoming dates at Mt. Pleasant High School

- **May 14:** Invitations distributed to seniors for the banquet (*10 per student*)
- **May 19:** Prom
- **May 25:** Last day for seniors
- **June 3:** Graduation

Parent/guardians of all MPHS seniors should have received a grade and credit update in the mail. If you

did not, or would like more info, contact Tammy (student support tutor at MPHS) at [Tbaker@sagchip.org](mailto:Tbaker@sagchip.org)

## Editorial: Tribal Library participants spent 65,924 minutes reading

**KIMBERLY CONDON**

Library Assistant

Throughout March, the Tribal Library participated in the fun competition, March Minutes, a program that focuses on how much time people spend reading, either to their children or alone.

The Tribal Library staff asked participants to keep track of the time spent reading and/or listening to audiobooks

throughout the month. We tally up the minutes and give a grand total at the end of the program.

Many participants are amazed at how much time they actually spend reading once they write it down and look at it. I saw a lot of excitement when people brought in their totals and we are very proud of what they contributed.

This year we had a final total of 65,924 minutes.

We squeaked by our total from last year which was 65,129 minutes.

We will set this year’s total as our goal to beat next year.

Our adult winners were Lynette Smith and Shara LeValley. The kids’ winners were Mezziniis Wassegijig and Ellianna Skenandore.

We would like to thank the Public Relations department for donating movie tickets as prizes.

### Vowles

**The following students earned perfect attendance for March:** Giovanni Pelcher, Caleb Howard, Kaden Kjolhede, Mingan Merrill, Cannon Thomason, Koda Rueckert and Aanilaya Pelcher.

### Mt. Pleasant Middle School

**The following students earned perfect attendance for March:** Arianna Altman, Gloria Altman, Kyrh Bennett, Arianna Bird, Mackenzie Burger, Tayden Davis, Cameron Fleming, Mia Floyd, Alexis Fox, Aaron graveratte, Josiah Green, Damion Haggard, Isaish Harris, Binayshee Hendrickson, Nathaniel Houghton, Joaquin Jackson, Anastasia Lada, Allison Lindstrom, Anthony Mark, Gavin McCreery, Asalia Quigno-Grundahl, Kimewon Richards, Aleigha Schwanke, Destiny Shawano, Atreyu Sineway, Joseph Swink, Alberta Trepanier, Kayden Weekley-Dean, Bruno Wemigwans, Kenneth Wemigwans and Hudson Yager.

### Mary McGuire

**The following students earned perfect attendance for March:** Oginiinhs Zerbe, Nikodin Davis, Kashmir Hatlak, Trevor Isham, Miika Prout, Isaiah Rodriguez, Cruz Vaquera, Andrew Kequom, Freddie Highley, Bailey Burger, Whisper Mandoka and Johnny Martinez.

### Renaissance

**The following students earned perfect attendance for March:** Micheal Ekdahl, Richard McClain, Gracie Flores, Bryson Roth, Allana VanOrden, Jacob Wilson, Jacob Delacruz, Novaly Hinmon, Jasmine Jackson, David McClain, Emma Henry, Erica Hinmon, Tyler Linville, Syriana Smith, Nixie Snyder, Tyler Snyder, Richard Delacruz, Oscar Smith, Tierra Ash, Anissa Quiroga, Logan Vanorden and Elijah Otto-Powers.

### Beal City

**The following students earned perfect attendance for March:** Joshua Pelcher, Bryant Prout, Raymond Lamach, Braden Chippewa, Calaya Leonard, Dakarii Graveratte, Skylur Graveratte, Mattie Seger, Samantha Seger, Chloe Danielski and Cierra Seger.

### Fancher

**The following students earned perfect attendance for March:** Logan Bird, Inara Curry, Justin Perez, Aviana Gomez, Konner Hilleger, Tehya Morales, Miah Perez, Azrae Wemigwans, Darrion Rueckert, Darien Haggard, Mateo Harris, Foster Hoorman, Anthony King, Mia McCreery, Ringo Stevens, Elijah Teller, Jardina White-Eye, LahRae Wilson and Paul Rueckert.

### Pullen

**The following students earned perfect attendance for March:** Zoey Goffnett, Kira Laughter, Charlee Lewis, Alexis Rodriguez, Zach Flaughter, Mayson Jackson-Isham, Davonte Rogers, Helena Sargent, Ajah Dodd, Natalia Martin, Owen Seybert, Braeden Bennett, AhLannah Dodd, Erius Mena, Remy Weldon and Miguel Chippeway.

### Ganiard

**The following students earned perfect attendance for March:** Angela Peck, David Bennett, Aiyana Sheahan, Caleb Sprague, Gary Chippeway, Brihanna Dunham, Jayden Pope, Duane Sheahan, Ava Vogel, Brian Wemigwans, Leia Black, Isabella Jackson, Dehmin Kagehgab and Kollin Martin.

## Michigan Indian Elders Association 2018 scholarship notice

**KATHLEEN J. HART**

SCTC STEM Recruiter

The Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) is pleased to announce it will make available four \$1,000 scholarships and six \$500 scholarships.

The scholarships will be awarded to at least nine qualified students, with the \$1,000 scholarships being awarded to top three qualified students, as determined by committee review and lottery if necessary.

Each student must be currently enrolled in a course of study at, or have a letter of acceptance from a public college or university or a technical school, and must meet the following qualifications:

- Student must be an enrolled member (copy of tribal card required) or be a direct descendant of an enrolled member of one of the MIEA constituent tribes/bands. (*This must be verified in writing by a tribal enrollment department.*)

- Student must have successfully completed and passed all five General Education Development (GED) equivalency tests with a minimum score of 40 and an average score of 45 and must possess a GED certificate; or they must have graduated from an accredited high school with a 3.00 GPA; or, if currently enrolled at a college, university or trade school, they must have an accumulated 3.00 GPA.

- Student must, except for special and extenuating circumstances, attend college, university or trade school on a full-time basis.

- Student must complete the provided application form and submit it with the required supporting documentation, and the mailing must be received by the coordinator post-marked no later than June 15, 2018. (*Please note: incomplete or late applications will not be considered.*)

**An application form can also be downloaded from the Michigan Indian Elders Association website.**



## Community gathers together during Good Friday service

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

To celebrate the Easter season, the Tribal community united in the Eagles Nest Tribal Gymnasium on March 30 for a Good Friday service.

At 9 a.m., the holiday event began with participants meeting at the Housing pavilion to walk with the head walker carrying a large cross in commemoration of the crucifixion and the death of Jesus Christ.

The journey of the cross ended at the Tribal Operations building where gym doors opened at 9:30 a.m. and coffee and refreshments were offered.

At 9:45 a.m., Rev. Robert Pego addressed those gathered, sharing the story of the cross, and thanking those who walked with the cross for “showing the community the cross is alive and well.”

Then, at 10 a.m., Pego officially opened the service with a prayer. Afterward, Sub-Chief Julius Peters offered a brief welcome.

The service was led by Rev. Kenny Sault from the Six Nations reservation in Hagersville, Ontario, Canada.

Sault and his family provided a program of songs of worship and gratitude as well as testimonies before the service ended with the Community



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Rev. Kenny Sault (left) from the Six Nations Reservation in Hagersville, Ontario, Canada, led the community Easter service that took place in the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym on March 30.**

Choir performing “He Lives” and Devin Chisholm, pastor for the Standish Community United Methodist Church,

closing with a prayer.

Rev. Owen Whitepigeon blessed the potluck meal, then lunch was served.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**After leading the journey of the cross Rev. Robert Pego shared the story of the cross with those gathered for the Good Friday service.**

This Easter celebration was organized by Pego, Bernard and Bonnie Sprague, Sue Durfee, Rev. Doyle Perry and Jennifer Wassegijig.

## Tribal delegation attends treatment court professionals conference in Grand Rapids

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Healing to Wellness Coordinator

A Saginaw Chippewa delegation representing four different departments attended the 19th annual Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals (MATCP) on March 12-14.

The theme the conference at the Amway in Grand Rapids was “Keys to Recovery.”

Tribal Court facilitated a panel presentation entitled “Keys to Community Engagement: Healing through Tribal Interaction.”

Aubree Gross, case manager for Healing to Wellness, attended.

Gross said the workshop featured presenters sharing their experience and expertise as they “utilize keys to community engagement by focusing on the following: communication and using the media

to tell a story, effective community engagement through using an integrative health care model of case management, how to empower probationers to make good decisions and utilize community resources of recovery, using compassion and healing by sharing one's story and bringing traditional teachings and culture into the courtroom.”

“The MATCP conference is a great opportunity to connect with other treatment courts throughout the state and see what new and innovative things they are doing to address the opioid pandemic,” Gross said. “It is encouraging to see so many dedicated individuals coming together to fight the opioid pandemic. The conference offers a one of a kind, comprehensive learning experience.”

Magistrate Carol Jackson said she enjoyed the opportunity to learn all the insightful approaches of assisting people with substance misuse.

“To meet and have important discussions with your peers is vital as we’re trying to save lives,” Jackson said. “We are in a ‘pandemic’ as quoted by Dr. Morrone, who is a forward thinking physician and MATCP conference presenter. This is worldwide and not just in our community as so many may think.”

Jackson said she also listened in on Judge Doug Marlowe, Ph.D., of the National Association of Treatment Court Professionals (NATCP).

“(Marlowe) mentioned the recidivism rate for people who suffer from addiction that go through abstinence-based therapy is high,” Jackson said. “The treatment should require some form of medically assisted treatment therapy (MAT) to overcome these powerful substances.”

Jackson said Marlowe also stated all treatment programs should accept forms of MAT-based therapy.

“The national data presented proves this, and it is also imperative to assist those after an overdose,” Jackson said. “When a person receives treatment for an overdose, their body has been flushed clean of substances, which lowers their tolerances. If the addiction disease grabs ahold again, this is when overdose and death can occur because of the amount that was ingested, snorted or (injected) through IV usage.”

Many presenters said most addictions have started from prescription drugs.

“Addiction wasn’t a choice; it grabbed them. Please don’t place blame or shame on the individual, as this will only stigmatize (them and keep them) from receiving proper treatment to overcome this deadly disease,” Jackson said. “We all have to work together, break down the silos between departments and coordinate the care to assist and save our loved ones.”

Chief of Tribal Police Donielle Bannon said many of the other law enforcement agencies were present.

“There were very well-educated speakers on the subject-matter presented,” Bannon said. “I believe it is a positive for our community when many of our departments receive the same training. We are able to take the information back to the Tribe, and it enables us to work together and better serve the members of our community.”

Judy Crockett, supervisor for Anishinaabeg Child and Family Services, said one of her breakout sessions defined addiction as “a chronic and often relapsing brain disease.”

“As this pertains to considerations for Child Protective Services, many infants and children of parents with a substance use disorder will not experience abuse or neglect or suffer negative outcomes,” Crockett said. “With positive toxicology, however, they are at increased risk for maltreatment and entering the child welfare system. Once a family enters the child welfare system, it is critical to have effective treatment available and have parenting time.”

Crockett asserts permanency and reunification effort plans “should allow for possible extended recovery times” for these families. “The entire treatment team should have the same understanding and goals for better outcomes for parents in recovery,” Crockett said.

The mission of MATCP is to provide leadership to treatment courts in the State of Michigan, and its goal is to advance the cost-saving and life-saving philosophies of treatment courts.

Other employees who attended included: Juli Travis, caseworker for ACFS; Margaret Steslicki, medical director for the Nimkee Clinic; Cathy Matthews, probation officer and Joseph Sowmick, coordinator for Healing to Wellness.

# Adopt a Pet



**Shrek**  
Shrek is a male mutt, possibly a Bulldog and Saint Bernard mix. Shrek is about 3 years old, and it is a mystery as to why he has not yet been adopted! He has been with HATS since October 2017. This boy loves to go for long walks and play chase and fetch. The HATS staff believes he would do best with older children and he does get along with other dogs.



**Domino**  
Domino is a 1-year-old female Domestic Shorthair mix. Domino grew up without much human interaction, so she can be a little timid when meeting new people. However, once she comes out of her shell, she is a goofy, playful girl. She loves napping and snuggling. She dislikes outside activities, small children and nail trims.

**Available at: The Humane Animal Treatment Society**  
1105 S. Isabella Rd. Mt. Pleasant ➔ Hatsweb.org ➔ 989.775.0830 ➔ Email: isabellahats@gmail.com  
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## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April 2018 • Empowering through knowledge



### Tribal departments unite to host Sexual Assault Awareness Month events

#### NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

One out of every six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime (RAINN).

The statistics for Native American women are even higher. One in three Native women has been a victim of rape. Native women are 2.5 percent more likely to experience sexual assault than any other ethnic group in the United States.

Many men and children are also victims of sexual assault. RAINN reported that every eight minutes, Child Protective Services substantiates or finds evidence for a claim of child sexual abuse.

More than 80 percent of child sexual abuse cases occur in isolated, one-on-one situations (RAINN).

Statistics report that before children turn 18, one in four girls experience some form of sexual abuse, and one in six boys experience some form of sexual abuse.

Throughout April, various Tribal departments united with Nami Migizi Nangwiihgan and Anishnaabeg Child and Family Services to raise awareness for these unsettling statistics and to honor Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

With the several collaborating departments, six events were held to discuss the prominent topic.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Prior to the “Highway of Tears” documentary showing, Daisy Kostus discusses a story of missing and murdered Indigenous women held on April 11 at the Ziibiwing Center.**



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Michael McCreery shows an April 16 self-defense class participant techniques for protection at Seventh Generation.**

#### Self-defense class

A self-defense class was scheduled at Seventh Generation on Friday, April 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. Tribal Members and employees informally showcased self-defense tactics and led a discussion.

Tribal Police officers also offered advice on how to stay safe.

#### “Highway of Tears” showing

Focusing on the dozens of Canadian women and girls – several of whom are indigenous – who have disappeared or been murdered along the 720-kilometer section of Highway 16 in Canada from 1969 until 2011, the film “Highway of Tears” was shown at the Ziibiwing Center on Wednesday, April 11.

The film disclosed the stretch of Highway 16 between Prince George and Prince Rupert, British Columbia, goes past thick forests, logging towns and Indian reservations. The rural region is plagued with poverty and lacks public transportation, so many residents turn to hitchhiking as a form of transit.

Police listed the number of Highway 16 victims at 19, yet aboriginal organizations estimate the number of missing women (likely murdered) is nearly 50.

This film facilitated a movement that addresses the vanishing of indigenous women in Canada. It provided a platform to discuss the cases of indigenous women who are reported murdered or disappeared.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Former Youth Police Academy cadet Makayla Stevens (right) displays self-defense techniques with Aiyannah Borton (left) during the April 16 event.**

Tribal employee Daisy Kostus shared a story of two teenage girls in Canada who had vanished.

Kostus had advice for young women and children when leaving their homes. “Keep in contact with relatives. ‘This is where I am; this is what I’m doing,’” she said. “The girls never contacted their parents.”

Shannon Martin, director of the Ziibiwing Center, thanked the crowd for attending and mentioned “Walking with Our Sisters,” a former exhibition featured at the museum.

The exhibit showcased moccasin vamps which were decorated and beaded to represent the Indigenous women who have been murdered. The exhibit was based on data from the film, Martin said.

A smudge and discussion followed the film.

Lisa Kennedy, project coordinator for Native Connections of Behavioral Health, also served as a host.

“One thing apparent tonight (after this screening) is the power we have in our community,” Kennedy said. “We don’t need the media to tell us these stories. We are so intimately connected to our community, we know about these issues... we need to work on building trust with one another and also forgiving.”

#### Lunch and learn: “Promise Not to Tell”

Retired police officer Al White presented information on the “grooming” process – with which offenders draw a victim into a sexual relationship.

Event attendees were treated to a taco buffet during the Thursday, April 12 lunch and learn presentation held at Seventh Generation at noon.

Along with White’s law enforcement experience, he is also the vice president and one of the founding members of the bakery Cops and Doughnuts.

White has authored several books about the topics of child sexual abuse including “Promise Not to Tell” and “In Sheep’s Clothing.” He has also authored “Alaska behind Blue Eyes” and “Under the Influence of Water and Standing Ground.”

White worked as an officer for 31 years, and he spent 20 of those years handling every child sexual abuse case in the area. He specifically specialized in cold cases; cases in which 10 or more years had passed since the abuse.

“Twenty percent of girls will be sexually abused in their lifetime,” White said. “At one point, I had worked with 10 percent of the girls in a high school.”

White discussed child grooming, “the befriending and establishing of an emotional connection with a child, and sometimes the family, to lower the child’s inhibitions with the objective of sexual abuse.”

White read text messages aloud written by a 9-year-old girl about her predator from a former case.

“Now, picture what you think this predator looks like,” White said.

This predator was 62 years old, had a master’s degree, was the girl’s school principal and wore a suit and a tie to work every day, White said.

“Oftentimes, it will be the last person you would expect,” White said.

White said boys who have been sexually abused almost never report it. Instead, boys act out. Girls who have been sexually abused will “act in” with self-harm, depression, eating disorders and other ways.

A participant asked White what to do if a child reports to them they have been or are being sexually abused.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Retired police officer Al White discusses the “grooming” process – in which offenders draw a youth victim into a sexual relationship – during his April 12 “Promise Not to Tell” lunch and learn presentation.**

“The child will react the same way you react,” White said. “The child always blames themselves. Act as normal as possible, and say, ‘Tell me what happened.’ Then report the incident... Support them by believing in them.”

“As a parent, one should say, ‘So glad you told me. Thank you for telling me. We will take care of this together,’” White said. “If they see you panic, they are going to panic.”

A Behavioral Health representative mentioned walk-in appointments are available during normal business hours for any victim needing support.

“When I started in this field, one of the things that shocked me was how many mothers of these children had also been abused,” White said. “There was one mother specifically who did everything she could to protect her child, and it was devastating to her (when her child became abused).”

White said he would also interview predators and ask, “Who did this to you?” and “they would break down. They were also abused.”

“I’ve had multiple cases where one child is being abused and the threat (from the abuser) is ‘if you don’t do this with me, I’ll do this to your siblings.’ That’s a big threat to put on a 9 year old,” White said.

Victims often use “masking,” White said. They try to cover up or hide their faces. They feel like every student in their school knows what



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Tribal Police lead more than 150 anti-violence demonstrators down Broadway on April 20.**



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Anti-violence marchers of all ages hold up banners, balloons and signs during the demonstration from the Saginaw Chippewa Academy to Tribal Operations.**



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Community hand drummers and Saginaw Chippewa Academy faculty and students march to their own song.**



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Following the April 20 anti-violence march, Youth Council members (left to right) Jasmyne Jackson, Quincey Jackson, Mgizi Wemigwans and Aaliyah Montoya-Pego head to the Tribal Gym to paint their handprints on ACFS' banner, "These Hands Don't Hurt."**

happened to them. They wear heavy make-up, have hair covering their faces and/or wear big sweaters when it is 70 degrees out.

White suggests all children's programs have at least two adults working and children should never be alone.

"Tell your children, 'If anything makes you uncomfortable, tell an adult. If anyone ever tells you to not tell your parents, I will reward you for telling me that,'" White said.

Cleopatra Kleppert, victim advocate, was in attendance and stated that if individuals do not feel comfortable initially reporting the incident to the police, they can call Tribal Dispatch who will transfer the caller to the 24/7 on-call SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) advocate.

Tribal Dispatch may be reached at **989-775-4700**.

This event was sponsored by Seventh Generation, ACFS,

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College and Nimkee's Healthy Start Program.

#### Anti-violence march

On Friday, April 20, community members gathered to protest in unity during the anti-violence march. Carrying banners, signs or balloons, more than 150 participants marched down Broadway.

Demonstrators lined up at the Saginaw Chippewa Academy, and, at about 3:30 p.m., they began to march down the street – just over a half mile – to the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym.

"The goal was to secure a culture of understanding and in creating awareness," said Lovel Lewis, prevention specialist for Anishnaabeg Child

and Family Services. "The anti-violence march was to promote non-violence and to oppose injustice."

Participants were encouraged to dress in colors that correlate with the prevention or awareness they wanted to march for. For example, silver represented elder abuse awareness, blue symbolized child abuse awareness and red was worn to honor missing Indigenous women and girls.

"Let's bring light through an array of colors to brighten the shadowed corners from the dark cloud of violence," Lewis said prior to the event.

After the march, participants were encouraged to visit the Tribal Gym to browse through various activity stations and informational booths.

The Tribal Police Department, Sexual Aggression Peer Advocates (SAPA) and many Tribal and local departments provided booths.

Children and youth were encouraged to place their handprints with paint on ACFS's banner, "These Hands Don't Hurt."

#### Consent presentation at Mid Michigan Community College

The Victim Advocate Office and the Wayne County SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner's) Program, in collaboration with the Tribal Victims of Crime Program, hosted an April 25 consent presentation.

The 12:30 p.m. event at Mid Michigan Community College in rooms 186 and 187 brought in keynote speakers Sharron Fincher and Nicole Densen.

Topics included the importance of consent and healthy boundaries, the #MeToo movement, respecting privacy and the value of "no."

Fincher, access coordinator for WC SAFE, has worked with marginalized populations including LGBTQ, children with special needs and people of color in her professional life as well as through community service work and activism.

"(WC SAFE) creates a space for survivors to receive support, if and when needed," Fincher said.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Sharron Fincher, access coordinator for WC SAFE, discusses the secure place the program offers for sexual assault victims during her April 25 keynote speech on consent.**



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Nicole Densen, associate director of advocacy services for the Wayne County SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner's) Program, discusses the #MeToo movement during the consent presentation at Mid Michigan Community College.**



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Participating in the night of pampering, Dawn Morrow (left) gets her eyebrows waxed by a JCPenney salon employee during the April 25 Women's Empowerment Night.**



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Michelle George (left) bravely gets her finger punctured for a screening by Tamera House (right), diabetic coordinator for the Nimkee Clinic, during Women's Empowerment Night.**



## Lunch and learn topic incorporates self-harm prevention

### NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Discussions during a March 22 lunch and learn event involved self-harm prevention education.

The noon to 1 p.m. event, sponsored by Behavioral Health Programs and Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, included dialogue about warning signs, coping mechanisms and ways to deal with stress other than self-harm.

Event attendees were treated to a lunch of sloppy Joes, fruit and vegetables while Rita Lutes-Pulley, clinical therapist for Behavioral Health, led the discussion in SCTC's East Building.

"If I would have known it was this many (to show up), I would have said no," Lutes-Pulley said, laughing about presenting to an unexpectedly full room.

Lutes-Pulley has been employed with Behavioral Health for 11 years. She began her presentation by providing a definition of the discussion topic.

"Self-harm is a deliberate, non-life threatening, self-effected bodily harm or disfigurement of a socially-unacceptable nature," Lutes-Pulley said. "Often, the physical pain of self-harm might feel easier to deal with than the emotional pain that's behind it."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Rita Lutes-Pulley, clinical therapist for Behavioral Health, leads the self-harm prevention discussion during the lunch and learn event at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College on March 22.**

Depression and self-harm are tied to each other, Lutes-Pulley said.

"When a person self-harms, chemicals are released into the brain which can become addictive very quickly," she said. "It's a cycle because the person may feel an instant relief of pressure and 'bad feelings' but it is short lived and often replaced by feelings of guilt and pressure which keeps the cycle going."

Symptoms to look for, she said, include "spending long periods of time alone, particularly in the bathroom or bedroom; wearing clothing inappropriate for weather, such as long sleeves or pants in hot weather; marks on body; becoming

withdrawn and isolated; unusual eating habits and changes such as sudden weight loss or gain."

However, self-harm is treatable, she said.

"The reason someone is self-harming is there is a lot more behind it," she said. "It is important to help that person figure out what is going on and why they are hurting themselves."

She suggested addressing the issue as soon as it is noticed.

"Ask open-ended questions," she said. "Stay calm, and let them know you care."

She provided suggestions about how to address the loved one's behaviors, including not ignoring the issue, not panicking, trying to show concern in a constructive way by helping the individual realize the impact on his/her self-injury on themselves and others and checking in regularly to see how they are doing.

"Ask the open-ended questions to build healthy communication habits," she said. "Ask what they need for support in order to stop the self-injury; don't respond in hurtful ways of yelling, giving harsh punishments, threats or insults; be a respectful listener before offering an opinion; and be sure to speak in a calm and comforting tone."

She said instead of telling them to stop self-harming, it is "often

more constructive to suggest alternative coping techniques."

She suggested they try painting or drawing in red ink, holding an ice cube in their hand until it melts, writing down negative feelings before ripping the paper up, listening

to music, talking to friends or family, taking a shower or bath, exercising and/or watching a favorite funny movie.

Behavioral Health is available for help. For a directory, its reception desk may be contacted at **989-775-4850**.

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## Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College offers GED prep and testing

**AMANDA FLAUGHER**

Admissions/Registrar

In August 2016, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College identified a need to initiate a GED prep program on campus which has since seen a significant response from the Tribal community.

The GED (General Educational Development) tests are recognized nationally and give adult education students a credential that is uniform in measure across the United States.

The most recent updates to the test were completed in 2002; this edition reflects the current high school curriculum standards and also includes content

that is related to the workplace and community.

For many students, this is the first step needed to enter the workforce or pursue a path toward higher education. Students who achieve a passing score can reap big benefits, for not only themselves as individuals but also for the community.

SCTC would like to congratulate 15 students who completed the requirements of the prep program and earned their GED credential: Amber Sheahan, Ashley Bennett, Dawna Miller, Eric Trofatter, Joseph Wemigwans, Kira Fox, LuAnne Peters, Nathaniel Mandoka, Orville Jackson,

Paris Davis, Tai Sprague, Tyler Shenosky, Jackie Troffatter, Gary Rueckert and Basil Naganashe.

These students committed to the program and studied diligently in order to pass four core subjects with a minimum score of 145.

Currently, the GED prep program is assisting approximately 50 additional students who are motivated and working toward GED completion. Each student is provided individual support including the utilization of online prep software, one-on-one tutoring and student monitoring.

The SCTC GED prep



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Six of the 15 students who completed the requirements of the prep program — and earned their GED credential — pose for a photograph after attending the luncheon in their honor at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College on March 21.**

program is currently open to all students who have the motivation to work hard toward completing their credential.

To register or for more information, contact the Registrar's Office at **989-317-4760 ext. 232.**

## Coordinated effort delivers information about Earth Day, water quality and invasive species

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

To help celebrate April as Earth Month, the Planning Department's Taylor Brook, watershed outreach coordinator; and Chase Stevens, invasive species coordinator, presented information at a lunchtime event hosted by the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College STEAM organization on April 18.

At noon, a classroom in the East building filled with students, Tribal Members and employees interested in finding out more about local environmental concerns and Earth day, which is celebrated on April 22.

Brook began by sharing two videos that explained the origin of Earth day while attendees enjoyed a lunch of Pisanello's pizza and salad.

According to the information in the videos, the first official Earth Day was celebrated in 1970 in Philadelphia as a public reaction to the air and water pollution of the city some were calling "Filthy-delphia."

Earth Day began as a grassroots movement that inspired changes in governmental policies and grew into the most celebrated secular holiday worldwide.

After challenging event participants to take the Earth Day challenge of standing outside for 15 minutes to observe nature, Brook presented information about water quality of the Saginaw Bay watershed, which has been marked an Area of Concern (AOC) in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

According to Brook, the Saginaw Bay was initially labeled with 13 Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs), but the following three have been removed: loss of fish and wildlife habitat, tainting of fish or wildlife flavor and restrictions on drinking water due to taste or odor problems. The following 10 still remain:

1. Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption
2. Bird or animal deformities or reproductive problems
3. Degradation of benthos
4. Restrictions on dredging activities
5. Eutrophication or undesirable algae
6. Beach closings
7. Degradation of aesthetics
8. Degradation of phyto/zoo-plankton populations
9. Degradation of fish and wildlife populations
10. Loss of fish and wildlife habitat

3. Degradation of benthos
4. Restrictions on dredging activities
5. Eutrophication or undesirable algae
6. Beach closings
7. Degradation of aesthetics
8. Degradation of phyto/zoo-plankton populations
9. Degradation of fish and wildlife populations
10. Loss of fish and wildlife habitat

Brook said many governmental organizations are working together with a long list of non-governmental agencies to address the Saginaw Bay Watershed as an area of concern.

"It's a fairly large watershed," she said, noting most of the other AOCs cover a much smaller area. "So, the Saginaw Bay is unique."

Next, Brook presented the following list of ways individuals and families can reduce negative impact on water quality:

- Pump and inspect septic systems
- Do not litter
- Ensure cars are maintained to avoid leaks
- Make your voice heard in public policies
- Seek educational opportunities
- Conserve water at home

According to Brook, additional ways to preserve and protect the environment include buying local food products and eating environmentally-friendly foods, which are plant-based as opposed to animal-based.

"Twelve thousand gallons of water is enough water for a family of four for an entire year," she said when presenting information about the high carbon footprint of the typical American diet. "Twelve thousand gallons of water makes 10 pounds of beef. One person can save over 162,000 gallons of water a year just by giving up burgers, bacon and chicken nuggets."

Brook encouraged participants to reduce the amount of meat and animal products they consume to help reduce greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere.

After Brook concluded by encouraging participants to become publically involved in protecting the environment, Stevens began his presentation on invasive species in the Bay Area.

Stevens said Tribal properties are split into two different areas in the Saginaw Bay Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (SB-CISMA).

"The goal of CISMA is to prevent the introduction and control the spread of invasive plants," Stevens said. "An invasive species is a species that's non-native to the ecosystem and whose introduction causes, or is likely to cause, environmental harm."

According to Stevens, there are currently approximately 50 priority invasive species in Michigan, with the Long Horn Asian beetle being one of the most recently recognized.

Stevens said this species of insect targets a couple dozen species of trees, but it is a particular threat to maple trees.

"Its primary food source is maple trees," he said, explaining the beetle is already moving through Pennsylvania and Ohio. Stevens also noted the insect, which came to the continent through pallet wood from China, could affect the state of Michigan if it impacts maple syrup production. This would also impact the cultural traditions of the Tribe.

Stevens noted he was developing a "Tribal specific management plan for the species that affect Tribal properties."

He explained the species are much easier eliminated soon after they are introduced and begin to become a problem.

"If they are allowed to establish, it gets incredibly expensive and labor intensive (to eradicate them)," he said. "However, by the time the public normally finds out (about an invasive species), it's almost to the point where there's nothing you can do but manage it."

Stevens presented information about several invasive species moving into Michigan. Pale and Black Swallow-wort is one that he has not seen yet on Tribal properties, but he has seen Japanese knotweed in local parks, though he said he has not yet run into it on Tribal properties.

"If you do see (an invasive species), it's important that you kill it right away," Steven said.

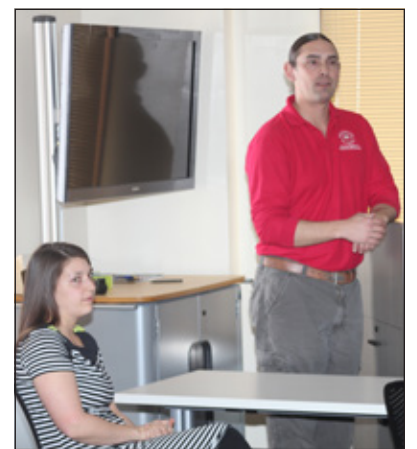
Flowering Rush is an aquatic species of plant.

"These are incredible hard to control," he said, "But, so far they are not too dispersed."

European Frog-bit is another invasive aquatic plant and one that Stevens is actively trying to eradicate at the marina at Saganing.

"The only real effective treatment is hand removal," he said. "Last year alone, we pulled one ton of frog-bit out of an area about the size of, maybe, the Tribal College's parking lot."

According to Stevens,



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Invasive Species Coordinator Chase Stevens (standing) and Watershed Outreach Coordinator Taylor Brook (seated) address environmental concerns at a lunchtime STEAM event at SCTC on Wednesday, April 18.**

Phragmites are starting to be more established in the local area. "They are all over the Bay, and they're making their way north," he said.

Stevens encouraged event attendees to get involved in the fight against invasive species and to report where species are seen by using the Michigan Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) phone app or the website at [www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu). He also encouraged everyone to volunteer as well as to become educated about the species of concern and to spread the word about them.

The session ended with a Q-and-A session, during which Stevens and Brook provided additional information and clarification for participants.

## Ramirez sworn in to SCTC Board of Regents

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

On Monday, April 9, after 10 a.m., Benjamin Ramirez was sworn in by Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl to serve on the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College Board of Regents

Ramirez repeated the following oath: I, Benjamin

Rameriz-shkwegnaabi, having been appointed to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College Board of Regents, solemnly swear to uphold the charter of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, to commit myself to the goals set forth by the Board of Regents and to conduct all my duties with respect to the Tribal College.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Benjamin Ramirez is sworn in on April 9.**



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## Dane Cook delivers his signature comedy-style, delights audience

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

The charisma that Dane Cook brought to the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort was palpable the evening of Saturday, March 31.

The excited and energetic fans who were lined up backstage to meet Cook before his 8 p.m. sold-out show were met by Cook's equally enthusiastic presence.

Cook was in good spirits, joking with his fans, greeting them warmly and laughing when one asked if he would provide live updates of the NCAA 2018 Final Four game Michigan was playing against the Loyola Ramblers that night.

Cook surprised the audience shortly afterward by broadcasting the game on the big screens in the Entertainment Hall before the start of the show's opening act Vinny Fasline, who said "I'm begging God for Michigan to win."

When Cook entered the stage dressed in a black T-shirt and black jeans after Fasline exited, the crowd stood to its feet and broke into explosive applause.



Courtesy of Niki Henry

**Dane Cook takes a minute to pose backstage during his meet and greet with fans before his show at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on March 31.**

"I won't leave you hanging," Cook said, referencing the semi-final game. "You lose," he joked.

Cook then launched into his set, telling stories about a variety of human behaviors with a dark wit and some amusing vulgarity.

He began with a joke about wishing there were a program or organization for over-privileged, spoiled children, saying he would call it "Take a Wish."

He also said he was in the "best shape of his week" that night before sharing several observations about relationships.

Cook shared that he likes it when someone introduces their partner by saying he or she is their better half. He said that is like saying, "This one gives me some shine" and that he found this endearing.

Cook said he liked that phrase much more than saying someone is one's "other" half. He laughed and explained each half could both be equally awful.

"You want to know how you know you're in love?" Cook asked. "When you get into an elevator by yourself, and the doors close... you do spins. That's how you know."

He continued, saying people who are sad and alone get into an elevator and stare at the crack in the door, watching the light go by at each level.

"That's the only light in your life," he said with a laugh.

He said another way to test how one feels about a romantic partner is to wake up and

immediately force your eyes open to look right at the person lying next to you.

"Feel what you are feeling in that moment," he said. "You have three seconds of absolute truth because you are too tired to do anything else."

He said it is good if you do not have an urge to spit on the person.

People are probably in love if they wake up, find their partner still asleep and begin missing them and wanting them to wake up, he said.

"You're not in love if you wake up, and they're asleep, and you do everything in your power to move quietly away from them and out of bed so you can have a normal life for 10 minutes," Cook said.

During the show, Cook addressed long-term relationships, equating being together 15 years to a prison sentence.

He also refused to apologize for a raunchy racial joke and avoided politics.

He described in detail what it is like to fight with a partner and avoid him or her while living together.

Additionally, Cook explained how he came to be named "Dane." He said his parents

agreed when his mom was pregnant that, if he were a girl, his mother would get to name him. If he were a boy, he said, his father would name him. He then explained that his dad intended to name him "Angus McGuisick" after a friend he fought with in Korea and a mentor he had when he was younger.

"I wouldn't be a comedian with that name," Cook said. "I'd be a steak sauce or a bar outside Austin, Texas."

He continued, explaining that as soon as he was born, his mom was asked what his name was, and she quickly said, "Dane," because that was what she could come up with at the moment.

Cook said his mom bred Great Danes.

"I'm named after my mom's favorite breed of dog," he said.

Cook continued, serving up jokes for several more minutes to the delight of his audience before exiting the stage to the roar of the crowd.

To close the night, several fans who DM'd him on his Instagram page during the evening were randomly selected to meet him backstage after the show or to receive promotional merchandise.

## Charley Pride, 84, captivated country, gospel music fans on April 13

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

In the late '60s, Charley Pride quickly became country music's first African American superstar. At 84 years old, Pride is still touring and performing for fans of all ages.

After an instrumental "The Snakes Crawl at Night" from his band, Pride then revealed his golden baritone voice to the April 13 Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort audience in the Entertainment Hall with "The Happiness of Having You."

Pride then launched into "Whole Lotta Things To Sing About," "Is Anybody Goin' to San Antone" and "Just Between You and Me."

Born as one of 11 children in Sledge, Miss., Pride

eventually, and unofficially, started his music career in the late 1950s as a ballplayer with the Negro American League's Memphis Red Sox, singing and playing guitar on the team bus between ballparks (charleypride.com).

According to his website, he became a self-taught guitar player at age 14, and he would join various bands onstage as he and the team traveled the country.

His 8 p.m. show also included performances of "Crystal Chandeliers," "Does My Ring Hurt Your Finger," "Me and Bobby McGee" and "Wonder Could I Live There Anymore."

According to charleypride.com, between 1967 and 1987, he accumulated roughly 52

Top 10 country hits and went on to sell tens of millions of records worldwide.

In 1971, Pride won two Grammy Awards for his gospel album "Do You Think To Pray" for Best Sacred Performance Musical (Non-Classical) and Best Gospel Performance Other Than Soul for his single "Let Me Live."

Pride's set also included "Mississippi Cotton Pickin' Delta Town," Ferlin Husky's "Wings of a Dove," "Someone Loves You Honey," "You're My Jamaica" and the Harold Dorman cover "Mountain of Love."

Pride continued on to perform "He'll Have to Go," "The Race is On" and "God's Coloring Book" before a medley of "I'll Fly Away"/"Church in the Wildwood"/"I Saw the

Light"/"Will the Circle Be Unbroken."

He also performed his ever-popular "Kiss An Angel Good Morning," which sold more than one million singles and helped him win the Country Music Association's Entertainer of the Year Award and the Top Male Vocalist awards in 1971 and 1972.

In 1993, Pride was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry, 26 years after he had first played there as a musical guest.

Pride's website states he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2000, and wept when his name was announced by country artist Brenda Lee.

One of Pride's last performances, "Kaw-Liga" (a Hank Williams cover), captivated the audience and applause erupted.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Country music artist Charley Pride, 84, captivates the Soaring Eagle audience with a performance of "The Happiness of Having You" on April 13.**

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## Tribal Fire Department receives new type 4 engine for wild land fires

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

The Tribal Fire Department recently received an 850-gallon wild land fire engine delivered from the Huron Manistee National Forest (Huron Shore).

The 2002 type 4 and (momentarily) green engine was transported to the department on Thursday, April 19 at 3 p.m.

“The unit has been donated to the Tribe for the usage of the Tribal Fire Department’s Wild Land Fire Program,” said Tribal Fire Chief Fred Cantu Jr.

Leslie Auriemmo, forest supervisor of the Huron Manistee National Forests, handed over the keys to Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl.

The Tribal Fire Dept. received the Forest Service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Tribal Fire Chief Fred Cantu Jr. (far left) and Tribal Council members pose with representatives from several agencies that aided in the April 19 delivery of the wild land fire engine. Agencies included the Huron Manistee National Forest (Huron Shore), the Michigan Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.**

engine under the Federal Excess Personal Property program, promoting such resource transfers for mutual benefit, stated a spokesperson for the Huron Manistee National Forests.

Shortly after 3 p.m., Tribal Council members walked from Chambers to the Fire Department to take a look at the Tribe’s new unit and welcome representatives from



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**The 2002 type 4, 850-gallon engine was donated for the usage of the Tribal Fire Department’s Wild Land Fire Program.**

various agencies, including Jason Oberle, superintendent of the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) Michigan Agency; Will Wiggins, fire management officer of the BIA; Lee Osterland, fire management specialist of the

MDNR (Michigan Department of Natural Resources); Chris Peterson, fire staff officer of the Huron Manistee National Forest; and Jack Schultz of the MDNR.

The unit was approved by Tribal Council in October 2017, according to Cantu.

## Rodriguez receives Charles E. Anthony Outstanding Service Award

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Each year, the Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce honors exceptional citizens in the local community. Erik Rodriguez, interim public relations director, is no exception when it comes to excelling.

Rodriguez is the recipient of the 2017 Charles E. Anthony Award, bestowed by the Chamber.

Rodriguez received the outstanding service award Saturday, March 3 during the Chamber’s 61st annual awards banquet, held at the Comfort Inn Conference Center.

Rodriguez also serves on the

Chamber Executive Board as treasurer/secretary.

Since 1957, the Chamber has also bestowed the Outstanding Citizen of the Year award to a Mt. Pleasant resident who has given selflessly to the community.

Former chief, the late Arnold Sowmick received the Citizen of the Year award in 1987.

The late chief’s son, Joseph Sowmick, praised Rodriguez for his honor.

“The Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce had recognized numerous contributions made by both Tribal businesses and Tribal Members over the years,” Joseph Sowmick said. “Erik is an excellent choice to honor the memory of what Mt.

Pleasant business entrepreneur Charles Anthony stood for. Both of them share a deep love for the community they serve, and they each have promoted the positive growth partnerships bring.”

This year’s Citizen of the Year recipient was David Keilitz, a board member with the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation Board of Trustees.

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## Delta College welcomes dignitaries at Saginaw Center groundbreaking ceremonies

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Healing to Wellness  
Coordinator

On March 26, Delta College representatives joined with government dignitaries, business and community leaders for groundbreaking ceremonies on the new Delta College Saginaw Center.

The \$12.2 million project is funded by the state and the college's reserves and Delta College President Jean Goodnow informed the three-story building is expected to be ready for students in June 2019.

"Delta College is excited about joining an area of urban renewal in downtown Saginaw through the construction of this new facility," Goodnow said. "By investing in a new Saginaw Center, we are planning for the next two or three decades of education and service to this community."

The project has been 10 years in the making, Goodnow said.

Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez attended on behalf of the Tribe.

"Delta College has been a partner in many ways to our



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**Delta College President Jean Goodnow is joined by Board of Trustees and other dignitaries as they break ground for the Saginaw Center on March 26.**

tribe and we're proud of the continued academic outreach they do with the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College and their support of encouraging Tribal students to embrace their academic or vocational career," Rodriguez said. "We have seen the growth potential in the region and similar to the expansion our Tribe is doing for our gaming properties, the Saginaw Center project will allow Delta College to bring economic development to downtown Saginaw."

Rep. John Moolenaar from Michigan's 4th District also attended and said he sees the project as a great opportunity for development and out-

reach to the citizens of the state.

"Delta College has been a long-time supporter of our Great Lakes Bay region and this is an important endeavor to prepare people to join the workforce in different career fields. Erik informed me of the articulation agreement the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College has with Delta and that kind of partnership with allow Tribal students to learn here at the Saginaw Center and take those skills to further their career," Moolenaar said. "I think this project shows a real commitment to urban renewal and we can foster that growth through valuable partnerships like the outreach

we see between the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and Delta College."

Goodnow thanked the many supporters for bringing Delta College's satellite campus to downtown Saginaw on 319 East Genesee Ave. and is excited they will soon get to see the fruits of their labor.

"Delta College is pleased to be addressing the citizens of Saginaw, where the largest portion of our students live. The new Saginaw Center will be within easy access for everyone in Saginaw County and beyond," Goodnow said.

"I want to take a moment and thank all of our local government officials and business leaders who provided information during the search and review process for this new site," Goodnow said. "We appreciate your support, as well as that of our students and community members."

Rev. Dr. Robert Emrich, chair of the Delta College Board of Trustees, was on hand with fellow Board members Earl Selby, Karen Lawrence-Webster, Michael Rowley, Diane Middleton, Mary Lou Benecke, Andre

Buckley, Mary Morrissey and Michael Nash.

Other government dignitaries included Rep. Vanessa Guerra from the 95th District, Saginaw Mayor Dennis Browning, Sen. Ken Horn from the 32nd District and Rep. Dan Kildee from Michigan's 5th District.

"It makes a difference when there is an institution that has leaders of that institution with vision that can see beyond today and can imagine something incredible," Kildee said at the event. "Today is the day we put the shovel in the ground to make the imagination of Delta College and the community of Saginaw come true."

"One thing for sure, if we are going to build communities that are sustainable, productive and offer opportunity, we have to invest in our people and we have to invest in our land," Kildee said.

When completed, the center will include state-of-the-art technology, special-use training rooms and science labs to strengthen Delta's ability to deliver the highest caliber of college instruction and workforce training.

## SCIT delegation attends regional opioid symposium hosted by Little River Band

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Healing to Wellness  
Coordinator

A Tribal delegation that included staff members from the Nimkee Clinic, Behavioral Health, Anishnaabeg Child and Family Services and Tribal Court traveled to Manistee for an April 5 regional symposium held at the Little River Casino Resort Conference Center.

"The Opioid Epidemic: Turning Awareness into Action" was a collaborative effort from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Be Da Bin Behavioral Health Program that featured Manistee County Human Services Collaborative Body, MSU Extension, United Way of Manistee County and Substance

Education and Awareness Manistee as sponsors.

Dottie Batchelder, chemical dependency counselor for Little River's Behavioral Health, welcomed attendees.

"Here at Little River, we do not have first responders or firefighters, and we have a geographic challenge where our tribal community is spread over many counties that we serve, so outreaching to other services/agencies, hospitals and law enforcement agencies is needed," Batchelder said.

Other individuals and agencies work with tribal members, descendants, families and form a connection with the community, Batchelder said.

Batchelder said Little River's Behavioral Health staff has been involved in community

meetings for a number of years to develop collaborations, and, in this past year and half, these relationships have expanded throughout the community with the planning of the regional opioid symposium.

"(Little River's) Behavioral Health departments were given an opportunity to put in for the Tribal Opioid Prevention Grant through Inter-Tribal Council last summer, and I put in the work plan for Little River to have an opioid summit meeting," Batchelder said. "... Our suicide and overdose numbers in Manistee County were high in 2017 and well-documented, and so this helped to get the many partners on board that we had. Combining our resources and connections made this event grow fast to a

regional and state discussion on the epidemic."

The symposium began with an April 4 preview night that featured the award-winning 2017 HBO documentary "Warning: This Drug May Kill You." The production showed the devastating effects of addiction through the stories of four families whose lives have been decimated by addictions that all began with legitimate prescriptions to dangerous painkillers.

Lynda Zeller, deputy director for Developmental Disabilities and of MDHHS Behavioral Health, and Bruce Baker, addiction specialist and clinical director of Westbrook Rehabilitation Center in Grand Rapids, served as keynote speakers.

Batchelder said, at Little River, the opioid epidemic has

helped individuals develop understanding of what their Behavioral Health staff have been trying to do for outreach and prevention.

"In working with people who have addiction, and, depending on the client situation, I try to understand where they are and work from there. Sometimes the denial is great, and then you have to break that down by having them look at what they want to change," Batchelder said. "I try to be a person of hope for each client, and sometimes that is difficult. Sometimes the counselor is the only person that they can talk to and try to help them develop a support network for recovery, and hosting a symposium like this helps us to coordinate ways to further address the needs to those who need help."

## Recovering from opioid overdose

*(Editor's note: The following is from SAMHSA [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration] at store.samhsa.gov. The article was submitted by Tribal Court personnel with the hope of providing more outreach and education about the opioid epidemic.)*

**Resources for overdose survivors and family members:** Survivors of opioid overdose have experienced a life-changing and traumatic event. They have had to deal with the emotional consequences of overdosing, which can involve embarrassment, guilt, anger and

gratitude, all accompanied by the discomfort of opioid withdrawal. Most need the support of family and friends to take the next steps toward recovery.

While many factors can contribute to opioid overdose, it is almost always an accident. Moreover, the underlying problem that led to opioid use—most often pain or substance-use disorder—still exists and continues to require attention.

The individual who has experienced an overdose is not the only one who has endured a traumatic event.

Family members often feel judged or inadequate because

they could not prevent the overdose. It is important for family members to work together to help the overdose survivor obtain the help that he or she needs.

**Finding a network of support:** As with any disease, it is not a sign of weakness to admit that a person or a family cannot deal with the trauma of overdose without help. It takes real courage to reach out to others for support and to connect with members of the community to get help.

Health care providers, including those who specialize in treating substance use disorders, can

provide structured, therapeutic support and feedback.

If the survivor's underlying problem is pain, referral to a pain specialist may be in order. If it is addiction, the patient should be referred to an addiction specialist for assessment and treatment, either by a physician specializing in the treatment of opioid addiction, in a residential treatment program or in a federally certified Opioid Treatment Program (OTP).

In each case, counseling can help the individual manage his or her problems in a healthier way.

Choosing the path to recovery can be a dynamic and

challenging process, but there are ways to help.

**In addition to receiving support from family and friends, overdose survivors can access a variety of community-based organizations and institutions, such as:**

- health care and behavioral health providers
- peer-to-peer recovery support groups such as Narcotics Anonymous
- faith-based organizations
- educational institutions
- neighborhood groups
- government agencies
- family and community support programs



## Health consultants represent the tooth fairy, explain importance of good oral health

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

Though the tooth fairy herself did not visit the Nimkee Public Health kitchen at lunchtime on April 5, two representatives from the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services were onsite to provide information about oral health to an audience comprised of expectant mothers, child caregivers and dental health professionals.

From noon to 1:30 p.m., prenatal oral health consultants Emily Norrix, MPH, and Susan Deming, RDH, RDA, MPH, presented “Tooth Fairy in Training: An Oral Health Boot Camp.”

During a luncheon of barbecue sandwiches, baked beans, roasted asparagus, kale salad, fruit and angel food cake, Norrix and Deming provided information for expecting mothers and young children.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Toward the end of the event, Judy Davis, women's health clerk, practices brushing fluoride varnish on child-size teeth.**

Norrix was the first to share information, beginning by busting old wives' tales. She first explained that, though some dental health care professionals may still hesitate to treat pregnant women, it is safe for expectant mothers to be treated by a dentist at any time.

Norrix said periodontal disease from issues such as tooth abscesses cause a woman's system to respond in crisis, leading to pre-term labor. She also noted

that bacteria from cavities (or caries) in a mother's mouth can be passed on to babies in the womb.

“The more germs in mom, the more are transferred,” Norrix said.

Norrix explained another myth is that a mother will lose one tooth for each child she has. Norrix said, in general, that is not true in today's society, though it may have held some truth in the past.

She said some expectant women experience tooth mobility during pregnancy due to changes in the tissues of the mouth, but this usually resolves postpartum.

Next, Norrix advised mothers-to-be suffering from morning sickness not to brush their teeth immediately after vomiting. To help preserve tooth enamel and avoid erosion, she said to rinse with water, a baking soda and water mix or mouthwash and to wait at least 10 to 15 minutes before brushing.

Before handing the floor over to Deming, Norrix announced two changes that have happened in the state related to oral health care.

First, she said the state will be expanding dental benefits for pregnant moms, possibly as early as July 2018. She also mentioned there is a new dental health module option for mothers receiving WIC benefits to

choose when meeting the requirements set to gain program benefits.

Deming then addressed oral care for children with those gathered for the event and encouraged mothers and caregivers to take children to the dentist as soon as teeth break through the gums in infancy.

Deming said putting a fluoride varnish on babies teeth several times a year is an effective measure to prevent tooth decay and greatly reduce the cost of future dental care.

She said preserving baby teeth is important from many reasons including the following: baby teeth hold a spot for adult teeth, decay can transfer from baby teeth to permanent teeth, having teeth and being able to chew aid digestion and talking and also helps with self-esteem.

Deming said tooth decay progresses quicker in children than adults because the enamel on their teeth is thinner.

She explained what the first sign of tooth decay looks like, which is little white spots or lesions near the gum line.

After restating the importance of applying a fluoride varnish to baby teeth two to four times annually to



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Susan Deming (left), RDH, RDA, MPH, and Emily Norrix (right), MPH, demonstrate the knee-to-knee technique for inspecting babies and young children's mouths during the “Tooth Fairy in Training: An Oral Health Boot Camp” that took place in the Nimkee Public Health kitchen during lunchtime on Thursday, April 5.**

prevent cavities, Deming also reviewed the different types and parts of teeth as well as the typical age babies' teeth come in and when they naturally fall out and are replaced by adult teeth.

“Fluoride works best in small amounts over a long period of time,” Deming said.

To close the session, Deming and Norrix discussed the impact sugar has on teeth, mentioning it is not necessarily “how much” sugar a child is exposed to; it is “how often.”

Together, they explained that, when the body breaks down sugar and carbohydrates, it produces an acid that demineralizes enamel. They called this process an “acid attack.”

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# Celebrate World IBD Day

## Crohn's and Colitis Awareness

---

### What it is:

Chronic inflammatory condition of the GI tract that affects the end of the small bowel and the beginning of the colon.

### Risk factors:

(IBD affects as many as 700,000 Americans.)

- Diet
- Environmental factors
- Genetics
- Hereditary
- Stress

### Signs and symptoms:

(Note: Symptoms vary from patient to patient.)

- Persistent diarrhea
- Rectal bleeding
- Constipation
- Loss of appetite
- Urgent need to move bowels
- Abdominal pain and cramps
- Sensation of incomplete evacuation
- Fever
- Weight loss
- Fatigue

---

### Ulcerative Colitis

### What it is:

Chronic disease of the large intestine in which the lining of the colon becomes inflamed and develops tiny open sores and ulcers that produce pus and mucus.

### Risk factors:

(IBD affects as many as 700,000 Americans.)

- Researchers unsure of cause
- Researchers believe causes could be hereditary, immune system or environmental.

### Signs and symptoms:

(Note: Symptoms vary from patient to patient.)

- Bowel movements become looser and more urgent
- Persistent diarrhea accompanied by abdominal pain and blood in stool
- Stool is generally bloody
- Crampy abdominal pain
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Low energy / fatigue

For more information, log onto [www.cdfa.org](http://www.cdfa.org)

Remember to have a yearly physical with your medical provider.

**Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center: 989.775.4600**

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# Nine Team Nimkee competitors take part in Crossfit Festivus Games

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**

Staff Writer

A team consisting of nine Tribal Members and employees represented the Nimkee Fitness Center at the April 21 Crossfit Festivus Games.

The Festivus Games are a national functional fitness competition that is hosted worldwide in more than 100 locations.

Nimkee Fitness tested their skill locally at Crossfit Worthy in Mount Pleasant.

Jaden Harman, fitness coordinator for Nimkee, organized the team representing the center and trained team members prior to the event.

“We have been training for this for the past three to four months through the LIFE (Lifting, Intense Intervals, Functionality,

Endurance) based fitness class that I teach at Nimkee Fitness,” Harman said.

Harman said the competition involved four different workouts, each with different movements and time domains. The top five finishers in each division would then compete in another workout at the end of the day.

Team Nimkee had several team members place in their divisions.

“Everyone had some great performances, and we all accomplished our goals that we had going into it,” Harman said.

Lucas Sprague took first place in the men’s novice division, with Markus Chamberlain earning second.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**In the men’s master division, Scott Sober (left) took first place, with Brian Buccilli (right) placing second.**

Rachel Bailey reached the podium, taking third place in the women’s novice division.

In the men’s master division, Scott Sober took first place, with Brian Buccilli placing second.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Team Nimkee poses for a team photo before the April 21 Crossfit Festivus Games. (Left to right) Juli Travis, social services; Taylor Brook, watershed outreach coordinator; Rachel Bailey, Tribal Member/employment coordinator; Lucas Sprague, Tribal Member/recreation manager; Jaden Harman, fitness coordinator; Markus Chamberlain, Tribal Member; Brian Buccilli, telecom administrator; Scott Sober, compliance officer; Marc Buccilli, applications specialist.**



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Tribal Members Markus Chamberlain (front) and Lucas Sprague (back) both place in the men’s novice division.**



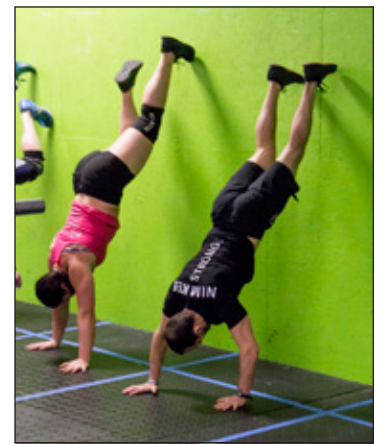
Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Three Team Nimkee members compete in the women’s novice division. (Front, left to right: Taylor Brook and Rachel Bailey. Back left: Juli Travis.)**



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Marc Buccilli completes an overhead press.**



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Nimkee Fitness Coordinator Jaden Harman (right) performs a wall walk.**

# Nutritionist presents health information for those with chronic kidney disease

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

Kelly Dukarski, RDN, CSR, certified renal nutritionist from St. Mary’s Hospital, Acute Care in Saginaw provided information about kidney disease prevention and treatment during a lunchtime presentation on Tuesday, April 24 in the Nimkee Public Health kitchen.

During a meal of cold cut sandwiches, veggies and dip and strawberry shortcake, Dukarski addressed what chronic kidney disease (CKD) is and its different stages as well as how to prevent it and slow or stop its progress.

“One of the side effects of diabetes is kidney disease,” Dukarski said, repeatedly noting it is easiest and best to make lifestyle and diet changes at the early stages rather than after one has progressed to needing dialysis.

To help slow the process of CKD, Dukarski said people should reduce their protein intake.

“Because that (eating a protein-rich diet) puts a lot of pressure on the kidneys,” she said, noting that lean proteins like chicken, salmon and whitefish are easier on the kidneys than many other animal-based proteins. She also mentioned specific vegetarian sources of

protein such as legumes, tofu, dairy products, nuts and other meat alternatives.

Dukarski presented additional steps to take to slow or stop CKD such as stopping smoking, being at a healthy weight and limiting sugar and sodium intake.

Before ending the event by offering to help interpret lab results, Dukarski demonstrated how to read a nutrition label, provided cooking and shopping tips and distributed recipes for meals that can help reduce how hard the kidneys work.

“It’s a change of lifestyle,” she said. “But, there’s always hope, always things we can work on.”



**5K Run & 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk**

Registration begins: 5:30 p.m. | Race begins: 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 13, 2018**

**Seventh Generation Elijah Elk Cultural Center**

7957 E. Remus Road, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

(Northwest side of the Shepherd and Remus roads intersection.)

**Registration forms are available online at:**

[www.sagchip.org/sevengen/events.htm](http://www.sagchip.org/sevengen/events.htm)

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 a.m.	Aqua Fit Sharon		Aqua Fit Sharon		Aqua Fit Sharon
11 a.m.	L.I.F.E. Based Fitness - Jaden		L.I.F.E. Based Fitness - Jaden	L.I.F.E. Based Fitness - Jaden	
12:10 p.m.		L.I.F.E. Based Fitness - Jaden		Suspension Training - Jayme	L.I.F.E. Based Fitness - Jaden
1:10 p.m.	M.E.L.T. Jayme		Turbo Kick Beth		
5:10 p.m.	M.E.L.T. Jayme	Beginner's Running - Jayme		Beginner's Running - Jayme	
5:30 p.m.		Yoga Tammy		Yoga Tammy	



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(Three or more immediate family members)

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For more information, contact: Jaden Harman, at 989.775.4694 or JHarman@sagchip.org

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DAY BINGO

## PAPER DAY BINGO SATURDAY, MAY 19 | 3PM SESSION

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## Resident care manager honored as Andahwod's Employee of the Month

### ANDAHWOD STAFF

Andahwod's March Employee of the Month is Nancy Boahbedason. The following is a questionnaire filled out by Boahbedason.

#### How long have you worked for Andahwod, and what is your job?

I began working at Andahwod on March 19, 2018 as a resident care manager.

#### Tribe prior to Andahwod? If so, in what capacity and how long?

This is my first time working for the Tribe.

#### What do you enjoy most about working at Andahwod?

What I enjoy the most is the daily interactions with those who live at Andahwod as well as the staff that work here.

#### Tell us about your family and what you like to do in your free time.

My husband's name is Joe, and he is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe. Our last name means "floating white cloud."

I have two of my own children: Zachary, 25, and Kaleigh, 21. I also have two stepsons Joey, 27, and Nate, 24.

I have three grandchildren – two boys and one girl – ranging from 2.5 years to 9 months old. We are expecting our fourth grandchild in September.

We, as a family, participate in barbequing, family gatherings, sports and just being together

whenever we can be. My husband and I enjoy boating in the summertime and snowmobiling in the wintertime.

#### Would you like to share a favorite memory of your grandparents or other elders in your life?

One of my favorite memories of my grandparents is when they told stories of their lives. My maternal grandfather was a farmer, and I remember the timeframes for planting. One thing I do to relieve stress

in my life is to bake some of my favorite foods that my maternal grandmother made.

#### Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

What else I would like Andahwod residents to know is that I am here for you to ensure that you get the best nursing service. My door is always open, and, if you have any comments, concerns or questions related to nursing service, please feel free to contact me.

## Editorial: Getting to know me – Andahwod's new activity assistant

### ELISSA SCHLEGEL

Activities Assistant

My name is Elissa Schlegel, daughter of Don and Brenda Schlegel. I am an 18-year-old

Tribal Member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

I have attended Faith Indian Church of the Nazarene ever since I was a little girl.

I am a new addition to the team at Andahwod as an activity assistant.

I also work at Smart Style, located in the Mount Pleasant Walmart.

I love Pinterest and doing lots of DIY projects.

I have a 5-month-old puppy named Rocky. He is a Labrador Retriever mix.



Courtesy of Andahwod

Elissa Schlegel

## Rez Pets



Owners: Cynthia Floyd  
Name: Scruffie

## Attention all cooks!

- ★ Are you always asked to bring your salad to the family cookout?
- ★ Are your cookies gone immediately at functions?
- ★ Does your chili sell out at fundraisers?
- ★ What is your favorite recipe to make?



**Here is your chance to showcase the recipe that everyone is always asking you to make or you just enjoy cooking and eating!**

Elder Services is asking community members/employees to lend us recipes for a cookbook we are creating. This cookbook will also be sold as a fundraiser for elder activities and events. Sorry, no royalties for your recipes, just bragging rights!

**Please help us create the SCIT Community Cookbook!** Elder Services will have a drawing only for those who submit a recipe. Also a drawing will be held to name the cookbook.

**To submit recipes, photos and cookbook name suggestions, please contact:**

**Sheligh Jackson** • Phone: 989.775.4307  
Assistant Elders Advocate • Email: shjackson@sagchip.org

## Elders Advisory Board Vacancies

**Four vacancies need to be filled.**

**Interested elders must meet the following eligibility requirements:**

- ▶ 50 years or older
- ▶ District One SCIT elder
- ▶ Advocate for SCIT elders
- ▶ Ability to attend meetings regularly

If you meet these requirements and would like to be a part of the EAB, please mail a letter of interest with your name, address and phone number to the address below, or submit a letter to the Andahwod front office:

**Mail letters of interest to:** Andahwod CCC & ES  
2910 S. Leaton Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**Deadline:** May 25, 2018, at 5 p.m.

**For more information, please call: 989.775.4300 or ask at the Andahwod front office.**

## May Andahwod events

**Language Bingo**  
May 3 | 1 p.m.

**Name That Tune**  
May 8 | 3 - 4 p.m.

**Ziibiwing Performance Circle Graduation**  
May 8 | 6 - 9 p.m.

**Elders Breakfast**  
May 9 & 23 | 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

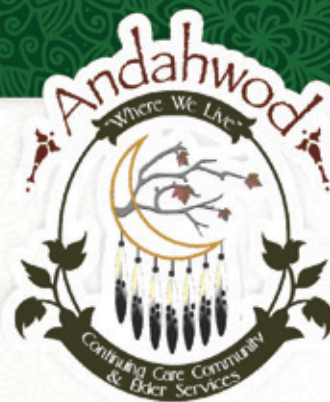
**Andahwod Yard Sale**  
May 11 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Spring Fling Bingo**  
May 12 | 1 - 3 p.m.

**Bingo with Friends**  
May 14 | 1 p.m.

**Saganing Daytrip**  
May 14 | 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**For more information, please call: 989.775.4300**



## MAY 2018 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1</b> Steve Pego, Phillip Peters Sr., Leo Bennett Sr.</p> <p><b>2</b> Robin Francis, Marci Magnell, Gerald Ice, Marlene Sovo</p> <p><b>3</b> Jacqueline Wemigwans, Melvin Ehas Jr., Mary Fender, Phillip Shenoskey</p> <p><b>4</b> Brian Chippeway, William Federico, Frederick Leksche, William Cloutier</p> <p><b>6</b> Tony Starkey, Steve Collins, David Cyr, Debbie Gose, Kathryn Shanks</p> <p><b>7</b> Carol Shanks, Frances Gonzales, Maria Wicks</p> <p><b>8</b> Susan Brooks, Marjorie Wehner</p> <p><b>9</b> Steve Godbey</p> <p><b>10</b> Julie Alfred, Bonnie Klatt, Harvey Wright, Susan Yamry</p> <p><b>11</b> Samuel DeFoy, Diane Pego, Kimberly Gerard, Troy Hart</p> <p><b>12</b> Bonnie Glover</p> <p><b>13</b> Duane Pelcher Sr., Frank Romer, Fredrick Bailey Sr., Gary Henry, Mary Reis</p> <p><b>14</b> Leroy Hall II</p> <p><b>15</b> Deborah Grills</p> <p><b>16</b> Orville Jackson, Linda Cook, Carolyn Estill, David Jackson, Allan Slater Jr., Lena Stemppek, Sheila Villarreal</p> <p><b>17</b> John Quigno</p> | <p><b>17</b> Vincent Cleveland, Paulette Pashenee, Gary Schneider</p> <p><b>18</b> Virginia LaMere, Rose Sawyer</p> <p><b>19</b> Judith Banister, Kay Wert, Hans Hansen, Helen Peters, Terrence Frank, Ella Powers, George Russell,</p> <p><b>20</b> Robert Bennett, Bonnie Cantu</p> <p><b>21</b> April Borton, Damian Fisher, Angel Jackson, Rita Romer, Rose Wassegijig, Bobbie Brown, Julie Whitepigeon</p> <p><b>22</b> Volinda Morsey, James Walker, Yvonne Dyer</p> <p><b>23</b> Larry Pelcher, Richard Smith Sr., Claudia Spalding, Linda Staples, Steven Waynee</p> <p><b>24</b> Marlene Garlick, Davis Rhodes</p> <p><b>25</b> Steven Martin, Shirley Houle, Gary Davis, Murdock Raslich, James Sprague, Carolyn Stolz, Johnny Walker</p> <p><b>26</b> Toni Leaux</p> <p><b>27</b> Frank Davis, Joseph Garlick, Norma Jackson</p> <p><b>28</b> Gail George</p> <p><b>29</b> Anne Peters, Patricia Peters, Rosalie Berry, Robert Fallis, Warren Gionet</p> <p><b>30</b> Richard Moggo, Paul Schramm Jr.</p> <p><b>31</b> Karen Siminski</p> |
|---|--|



## MAY 2018 | Tribal Community Event Planner

### Honoring Our Water

May 2: T-Shirt design | 12 - 2 p.m.

- Location: Seventh Generation
- Contact: 989.775.4780
- Design a T-shirt for the Honoring Our Water event
- Materials and lunch provided

May 9: Science and Tradition | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

- Location: Island and Nelson parks
- Honoring our water, science and stories.
- Water walk and teachings.

### Families Against Narcotics Fundraiser

May 2 | 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym kitchen
- Registration required, please call: 989.775.4818
- Cost: \$8
- Meal includes: Ribs, potato salad, cole slaw, mac and cheese and a roll

### Saganing Free Tree Giveaway

May 2 | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- Location: 2750 Worth Rd. Standish, MI
- Contact: 989.775.4014

### Free Auricular (Ear) Acupuncture

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | 4 - 6 p.m.

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Contact: 989.775.4895

May 2, 16 | 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Location: Saganing Tribal Center
- Contact: 989.775.4895 or 989.775.5810

### Inter-Tribal Forest Understory Adaptation: Community workshop and discussion

May 3 | Time: TBA

- Location: Seventh Generation
- Registration: 989.775.4081

### Community Sewing Night

May 3, 10, 17, 24 | 5 - 8 p.m.

- Location: Seventh Generation
- Contact: 989.775.4780

### Drums Out: Singing for Fun

May 3, 10, 17, 24 | 6 - 8 p.m.

- Location: Seventh Generation Blue House
- Contact: 989.775.4780

### Donnie Dowd: Traditional Healer

May 3 | 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Call for an appointment: 989.775.4850

### Traditional Sweat Lodge

May 4 | Teachings and fire lighting at 5 p.m.

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Contact: 989.775.4879

### Annual Community Rx Drug Drop-off

May 10 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Location: Farmers Market Pavilion
- Registration: 989.775.0495
- Drawings for prizes
- \$10 in SECR Premium Play (for those who drop-off)

### Anishinaabemowin and Sacred Fire lunches

May 10, 24 | 12 - 1 p.m.

- Location: Seventh Generation
- Contact: 989.775.4110

### Menopause and Beyond

May 11 | 12 - 3 p.m.

- Location: Nimkee Public Health Kitchen
- Registration: 989.775.4654

### Spring Fling Bingo

May 12 | 2 p.m., doors open at 1 p.m.

- Location: Andahwod
- Registration: 989.775.4307
- \$15 for first packet, additional packages \$5 each
- Must be 13 years or older to play

### Fundraiser: Mother's Day singing grams

May 14 Delivery Date | 12:30 - 3 p.m.

- Contact: 989.775.4906
- \$10 each (available now until May 14)
- For mothers, sisters, aunts and grandmas
- All proceeds will benefit ACFS Foster Care Program

### Gardening Presentation

May 16 | 12 p.m.

- Location: Seventh Generation
- Contact: 989.775.4780
- A focus on the community garden and the importance of growing our own foods.

### Preserving the Harvest: Canning 101

May 30 | 4 - 6 p.m.

- Location: Nimkee Public Health kitchen
- Registration required, please call: 989.775.4600
- Class limited to first 10 who register
- Learn how to preserve shelf-stable jam and how to make freezer jam
- Upcoming classes: July 18, Aug. 16 and Sept. 19

### Statewide Tribal Opioid Summit

June 14, 15

- Location: Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort
- Contact: 989.775.4805
- Participants serving tribal communities are encouraged to attend.
- Registration deadline: Friday, June 8

## MAY 2018 | Tribal Community Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat./Sun.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SECR Payroll</li> <li>● SCIT Per Capita</li> <li>● SCIT Payroll</li> <li>● Curbside Recycling</li> <li>● Waste Collection*</li> </ul> <p>*Bins must be curbside by 6:30 a.m.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Ogitchedaw Meeting Seniors Room   6 p.m.</p> <p>Narcotics Anonymous B. Health   7 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Traditional Teachings Saganing   11 a.m.</p> <p>Saganing Talking Circle Tribal Gym   5 - 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym   6 - 9 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Language Bingo Andahwod   1 - 3 p.m.</p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation   3 - 5 p.m.</p> <p>12-Step Meditation Group B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.</p> <p>FAN Support Group Senior's Room   7 - 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Spirit Bear AA Meeting Andahwod   7 p.m.</p> <p>ACFS Fundraiser Tribal Kitchen   11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Mother's Day luncheon Apple Mountain   11:30 a.m.</p> <p>6</p> <p>New Spirit AA Meeting B. Health   4 - 6 p.m.</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Traditions Society B. Health   5 - 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Euchre and Potluck Andahwod   6 - 8 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Name that Tune Andahwod   3 p.m.</p> <p>Narcotics Anonymous B. Health   7 p.m.</p> <p>Performance Circle Graduation Andahwod   6 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Elders Breakfast Andahwod   9 a.m.</p> <p>Anishinabe Workforce Developer at Saganing   12 p.m.</p> <p>Youth Council Meeting Tribal Ops   5 p.m.</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym   6 - 9 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation   3 - 5 p.m.</p> <p>12-Step Meditation Group B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Yard Sale Andahwod   10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Spirit Bear AA Meeting Andahwod   7 p.m.</p> <p>Mother's Day Brunch Saganing   10 a.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Spring Fling Bingo Andahwod   1 p.m.</p> <p>Bird Day Celebration Ziibiwing   1 p.m.</p> <p>13</p> <p>New Spirit AA Meeting B. Health   4 - 6 p.m.</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Traditions Society B. Health   5 - 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Euchre and Potluck Andahwod   6 - 8 p.m.</p> <p>Bingo with Friends Andahwod   1 p.m.</p> <p>Prevention Cookout B. Health   4 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Bingo with Friends Saganing   10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Narcotics Anonymous B. Health   7 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Tribal Observer Deadline   5 p.m.</p> <p>Tribal Education Advisory Meeting   9 a.m.</p> <p>Saganing Talking Circle Tribal Gym   5 - 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym   6 - 9 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation   3 - 5 p.m.</p> <p>12-Step Meditation Group B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.</p> <p>FAN Monthly Forum Ziibiwing   7 - 9 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Auburn Treasure Hunt Trip Saganing   9 a.m.</p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Spirit Bear AA Meeting Andahwod   7 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Clean Sweep Collection Household Hazardous Waste 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.</p> <p>20</p> <p>New Spirit AA Meeting B. Health   4 - 6 p.m.</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Traditions Society B. Health   5 - 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Euchre and Potluck Andahwod   6 - 8 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Narcotics Anonymous B. Health   7 p.m.</p> <p>Hand Drum Workshop 7th Generation   6 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Elders Breakfast Andahwod   9 a.m.</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym   6 - 9 p.m.</p> <p>Blossoming Tea Tribal Gym   5:30 - 8 p.m.</p> <p>Youth Council Meeting Tribal Ops   5 p.m.</p> <p>Hand Drum Workshop 7th Generation   6 p.m.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Cemetery Cleanup Saganing   11 a.m.</p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation   3 - 5 p.m.</p> <p>12-Step Meditation Group B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.</p> <p>Hand Drum Workshop 7th Generation   6 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Spirit Bear AA Meeting Andahwod   7 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Birthday Bingo Andahwod   12 p.m.</p> <p>27</p> <p>New Spirit AA Meeting B. Health   4 - 6 p.m.</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Traditions Society B. Health   5 - 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Euchre and Potluck Andahwod   6 - 8 p.m.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Narcotics Anonymous B. Health   7 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym   6 - 9 p.m.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>CPR Recertification Saganing   9 a.m.</p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation   3 - 5 p.m.</p> <p>12-Step Meditation Group B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Riverbank Traditional Powwow</b> June 1-3, 2018</p> <p>Louis Aldado Riverfront Park, Lansing, Mich. <a href="http://www.nativeamericanacc.org">www.nativeamericanacc.org</a></p>	



## Tribal Observer Classifieds

To place your ad, call the Tribal Observer at 989-775-4010, Email [observer@sagchip.org](mailto: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](http://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

##### Clerical Pool

Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or GED.

##### General Labor Pool

Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or GED.

##### Primary Language Immersion Specialist

Open to the public. High School Diploma or GED. Bachelor's degree in education or related field preferred. Must be fluent in Anishinaabe. Five years teaching Anishinaabemowin, with one year in an early childhood setting.

##### Secondary Language Immersion Specialist

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Associate degree preferred. Must be fluent in Anishinaabe. Two years teaching Anishinaabemowin. Early childhood teaching experience preferred.

##### Paraprofessional

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must pass a state or local exam or complete at least two years of study at an institution of higher education (60 semester hours) or associate degree.

##### Journeyman Lineman

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED and Michigan Journeyman Lineman license. Two years lineman experience preferred. Michigan Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

##### Elementary Teacher

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Bachelor's degree in educa-

tion or related field. Master's degree preferred. Two years teaching experience preferred.

##### Certified Nursing Assistant

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. One year nursing experience. Experience with older adults preferred. Must be able to obtain HIPAA certification within five business days from date of hire.

##### Deputy Court Clerk

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 21 years of age. Law-related experience or education in social sciences, business or criminal justice. Experience with maintaining financial records and other bookkeeping records. Excellent computer skills. Must not have been convicted of a felony or have been convicted of a misdemeanor within the past five years.

##### Mentoring Program Specialist

Open to the public. Associate degree. Two years experience in a human services related field. Bachelor's degree in education, sociology, social work, human services or related field preferred. Must have experience in program development and/or project management, planning and coordination, preparing and providing presentations, public speaking and group facilitation.

##### Accounts Specialist

Open to the public. Associate's degree in business administration or related field. One year experience with court procedures, data collection, statistical analysis and operations. An equivalent combination of education and directly-related experience may be considered.

##### Administrative Assistant II

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED.

Four years administrative support experience or associate's degree and two years administrative support experience.

##### Summer Youth Crew Leader

Must have a high school diploma or GED. Member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. Must be between 18 years and 24 years of age at the time of application. College student preferred.

##### Leadership Apprentice

SCIT Tribal Members only. Must have satisfactorily completed 12 credit hours. Must provide documentation of acceptance at an accredited college/university in Michigan.

##### Student Support Tutor

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. College level math. Must be able to pass math test with a score of 70 percent or better. Two years experience working with youth preferred.

##### Maintenance Worker

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. One year maintenance or grounds keeping experience.

##### Patient Registration Specialist

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Two years of experience working with various types of insurance including basic coverage, limitations, pharmacy, dental and medical insurance preferred. Proficient with various computer software applications.

##### Retail Clerk

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Retail experience preferred. Must have good communication skills, good computer skill, and the ability to handle tasks in a busy environment.

##### Journeyman Electrician

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must be a journeyman electrician. Six years experience working as an electrician or completion of a formal electrical apprentice program. Must be able to interpret electrical schematics, one-line diagrams and blueprints, and be able to operate basic electrical diagnostic tools.

##### Dispatcher/Corrections Officer

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Advanced course work in correctional administration preferred. Law enforcement or corrections experience preferred.

##### Fitness Attendant

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Fitness or customer service experience preferred.

##### Police Officer

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be a U.S. Citizen and at least 21 years of age. Associate Degree preferred. MCOLES

certified or MCOLES certified. Must be able to pass departmental fitness evaluation. Current Special Law Enforcement Commission through the Bureau of Indian Affairs or ability to obtain and maintain. Must not have criminal history that would prevent applicant from acquiring any certification or qualification required.

### SECR

##### Inventory Control Warehouse PT

Tribal Members only. High school diploma or equivalent. One year receiving or warehouse experience working with warehouse equipment.

##### Floor/Upholstery Cleaner

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Two years of carpet and upholstery cleaning experience.

##### Line Server PT

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

##### Server Assistant PT

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

##### Massage Therapist

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Michigan massage certification with 600 total hours.

##### Guest Room Attendant PT

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

##### Inventory Control Warehouse PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. One year receiving or warehouse experience working with warehouse equipment.

##### Kitchen Equipment Worker

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

##### Waitstaff PT

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

##### Laundry Supervisor

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

##### Housekeeper PT

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

##### Bartender

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

##### Function Service PT

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

##### Guest Relations Rep PT

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

##### F&B Cashier PT

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

##### Line Cook

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. One year of restaurant cooking experience with increasing levels of responsibility or six months of SECR internal culinary training.

##### Finance Supervisor

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Three years cage or finance experience in a gaming enterprise or banking institution. One year in a supervisory capacity. Associate's degree preferred.

##### Culinary Supervisor

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Three years of restaurant or banquet cooking experience with increasing levels of responsibility. Culinary degree from an American Culinary Federation accredited school preferred. Six months of lead or supervisory experience.

##### Building Maintenance Worker PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Two years of experience with repair and maintenance of buildings. Must possess good diagnostic skills.

##### Host/Hostess FT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Six months food or hosting experience and/or the ability to successfully pass in-house training.

##### Host/Hostess PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Six months food or hosting experience and/or the ability to successfully pass in-house training.

##### Call Center Agent PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. One year experience in front office operations. Three years customer service experience and cash-handling experience.

##### Concierge PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. One year experience in front office operations. Three years customer service experience and cash-handling experience.

##### Sous Chef

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Culinary degree from an ACF (American Culinary Federation) accredited school preferred. Three years kitchen experience in a quality operation

specializing in food production. One year in a supervisory capacity.

##### Seasonal Transit Driver PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 21 years of age. Current and valid commercial driver's license or chauffeur's license.

##### Steward PT

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

### SELC & Saganing

##### Beverage Server PT

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

##### Line Cook PT

Open to the public. Must be 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. One year of restaurant cooking experience.

##### F&B Attendant PT

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

##### Waste Water Operator

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. One year experience in water/wastewater field or directly related experience in plumbing or mechanical plant operations. Must be willing to take classes in microbiology, advanced math and beginning algebra courses.

##### Finance Cashier PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be 18 years of age. Six months cash handling or cashiering experience.

##### Count Team Associate PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Six months cash handling experience.

##### Guest Service Representative PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Customer service experience preferred.

##### Maintenance Worker PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. One year custodial and maintenance experience. Experience with plumbing and carpentry.

### 115 For Sale



Move in ready 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage on Chippewa River \$145,000 Call Tia 989-400-3551. Listed by Weichert Realtors Broadway Realty 614 E. Broadway St.

### Now Seeking

## Tribal Preference Candidates

SCIT Human Resources Department  
Office of Anishinabe Workforce Developer

Seeking Tribal preference candidates interested in short-term temporary employment opportunities.

Immediate placements available for Tribal preference candidates who complete and pass fingerprint and background checks.

- **Cost:** The personal cost to applicants is \$65 for the fingerprint portion.
- **Documentation:** Driver's license, certifications and Tribal identification are needed at time of application.
- **Location of placement may include:** Andahwod, Behavioral Health, Nimkee, Education or Recreation.

\* Other non-background check temporary positions do arise on occasion, and applicants for this type of work may apply at any time.

Please direct questions to:

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## Annual Easter egg hunt takes the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym by storm

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Contributing Writer

An unseasonably cold and snowy nor'easter storm was no match for kids who were ready to find candy and other goodies at the April 7 annual Easter egg hunt sponsored by Andahwod Continuing Care and Elders Services, moved indoors.

Easter egg scramble participants were divided into six divisions – 3 years old and younger, 4 to 6 years old, 7 to 11 years old, 12 to 14 years old, 15 to 17 years old and elders 50 or older.

Sheligh Jackson, elders advocate for Andahwod, said the event is one of the department's most anticipated events during that holiday.

"Easter came earlier on the calendar this year, so we waited a week later so families could spend that special time together," Jackson said. "Our program appreciates how all the departments came together

in a short period of time so the event could go on."

Jackson said seeing "all the smiles and laughter in the packed gym was heartwarming."

Jamie Feliciano, public relations administrative assistant II, attended with her children.

"Chi-miigwetch to all the Tribal departments that pulled together and made this event happen. You never know what is going to happen in Michigan with the weather, and the kids were happy to hear the event was still going to happen at the gym," Feliciano said. "My kids really liked the cookie decorating station... to make their own homemade cookies."

Kevin "Coach" Ricketts, prevention specialist for Behavioral Health, served as the emcee. He provided a countdown to begin each age group's scramble.

"(The move to indoors due to the snow) shows how important cooperation with



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**Tribal youth aged 4 to 6 years old participate in the April 7 annual Easter egg hunt, hosted in the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym.**



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**The community's little ones under 3 years old show their excitement.**

other Tribal departments is, and we appreciate being able to work with SCIT Recreation Manager Lucas Sprague and his staff to open the Eagles Nest for the Saturday morning event," Ricketts said.

Ricketts also wished to thank the Tribal Education staff and Deb Smith for helping coordinate.

"It was great to see (all the photos and videos being taken) as the kids and elders scrambled to find the prizes hidden..." Ricketts said.

Catherine "K.T." Bouchard, prevention specialist for Behavioral Health, served as one of the many volunteers from numerous Tribal departments.

"It is important to continue to provide these types of events and safe places to gather," Bouchard said. "While most events that I have the honor of participating in are generally geared toward a target audience, this one included the entire community, and that, I think, was well received."



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**Emcee extraordinaire Kevin Ricketts coaches everyone to the starting line of the egg scramble.**



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**Tribal elders take turns at the egg scramble as Soaring Eagle Waterpark's mascot Gizi cheers them on.**



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**Several youth at the event participated in decorating homemade cookies.**



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**Participants are eager to try their decorating skills at the frosting station.**



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**Several Easter eggs are hidden on the Tribal logo in the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym.**



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**Mascots Gizi, Mukwa and Waabooz join the elders as they get ready to search for eggs.**



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**Jamie Feliciano is having an egg-cellent time with her daughter Eyhana and her friend Paige.**



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**Hugs are shared at the annual event.**



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**Eli Harris finds himself at a prime location for gathering eggs.**



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**Elder Rose Wassegijig shares a family moment with a smiling Mez Wassegijig.**



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**This youth finds out that Easter eggs aren't always easy to open.**