

GTB NEWS



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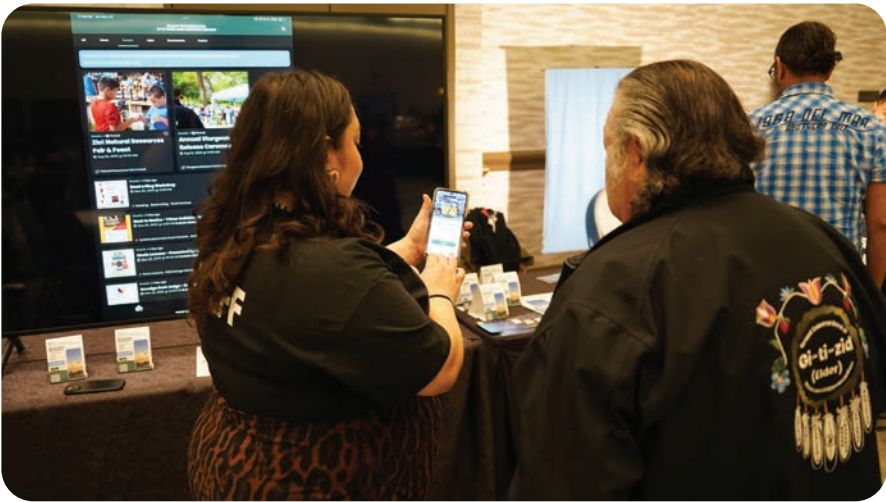
https://bit.ly/GTB_NEWS

December 2025
Mnidoo Giisoonhs (Little Spirit Moon)



Motions & Meetings	Elders	Youth & Education	Public Safety
Page 3	Page 6 - 7	Page 12 - 13	Page 16 - 17

**SNAPSHOTS OF THE COMMUNITY: CLICK, SCAN, & CONNECT
WITH THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING THROUGH THE LENS**
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Victoria Alfonseca Editor, GTB News

EDITOR'S LETTER

Aanii Tribal Membership & Community,

My name is Victoria Alfonseca, and I am honored to serve as the Editor of GTB News and to oversee the communications of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. As a lifelong Peshawbestown resident and proud Tribal Member, this work is more than a job, it is a calling rooted in community, memory, and a deep responsibility to our people.

My journey with the Communications Department began when I was only 15 years old, juggling high school and the TBA Career Tech Center, where I studied graphic design. Those were the early days when I was still learning who I wanted to be. The turning point came when Editor Dave Spinniken welcomed me into the GTB Communications Department. Dave didn't just give me work, he gave me confidence. He taught me how to communicate with clarity and compassion, how to serve with integrity, and how to always remember that the heart of our work is the people.

Dave's mentorship stayed with me through my continued studies in business, marketing, and data analytics at NMC and Ferris State University. His recent passing has weighed heavily on many of us, and his obituary is included in this issue so we may honor his remarkable contributions. It is because of him that I entered this field, and it is because of him that I strive every day to give GTB my very best.

LISTENING TO OUR COMMUNITY, AND MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

In recent years, I've spent a great deal of time listening to the voices of our membership: elders wanting more accessible information, families hoping for more timely updates, young adults asking for mobile access, and off-reservation members seeking better ways to stay connected. Every comment, request, and concern has shaped the direction of GTB Communications.

One of my biggest steps forward has been the launch of the new GTB Mobile App, created to make Tribal information available wherever you are. I want to reassure our elders and those who may feel unsure with technology: this app was designed to be simple, clear, and easy to use. And if you need help, we will support you, our goal is not to leave anyone behind, but to bring everyone closer.

You can download the app easily using these links:

iPhone / iOS: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/grand-traverse-band/id6754037816>

Android / APK: [https://get.ckit.app/app/grand traverse band](https://get.ckit.app/app/grand%20traverse%20band)

Once downloaded, you can view news, events, programs, Tribal services, and the digital newspaper with just a few taps.

A DIGITAL NEWSPAPER FOR 2026

Beginning in March 2026, GTB News will transition to a digital-first format. I know this change may feel new or even overwhelming for some, especially for our elders who cherish receiving a physical newspaper. This transition is not meant to replace tradition; it is meant to ensure that our Tribal news reaches members quickly, reliably, and sustainably.

Here is why digital matters:

- It reduces paper waste and aligns with our values of protecting Mother Earth.
- It allows us to update information quickly without waiting a month for printing.
- It helps reach Tribal Members living outside Michigan or those moving frequently.
- It ensures that no matter where you are, your community is only a click away.

With that said, printed copies will still be available for those who wish to continue receiving them. To stay on the physical mailing list, **you must opt in by contacting the Membership Office at (231) 534-7101**. We want to ensure that every elder, every household, and every member has a choice that fits their needs.

Digital newspapers can always be found in these locations:

- GTB Website: https://www.gtbindians.org/gtb_news.asp
- GTB Mobile App:
 - iPhone / iOS: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/grand-traverse-band/id6754037816>
 - Android / APK: [https://get.ckit.app/app/grand traverse band](https://get.ckit.app/app/grand%20traverse%20band)
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GrandTraverseBand>

If you or someone in your family needs help accessing the digital version, please reach out. We are committed to making this transition smooth and supportive for every member, especially our elders.

HELP US GROW, YOUR VOICE MATTERS

As we continue improving and modernizing our communication channels, I want you to know that this is a partnership. We can only grow if we grow together. I have been listening closely and I want to keep listening.

What do you want to see in our newspaper?

How can we communicate better?

What would make things easier for you or your family?

Your insight matters, and I encourage you to share your ideas, questions, or concerns directly with me at:

Victoria.Alfonseca@gtb-nsn.gov

(231) 534-7366

I have several exciting communication projects already in development for 2026, and I look forward to revealing them soon. My commitment is and will always be to keep our Tribal Members informed, supported, and connected through clear, accessible, culturally grounded communication.

Thank you for trusting me with this role, and thank you for being part of the heartbeat of our Nation. Together, we honor our past, adapt in the present, and prepare our stories for the generations to come.

Miigwech for allowing me to serve you.

— Victoria Alfonseca Editor, GTB News

Victoria Alfonseca

MEMBERS OF GRAND TRAVERSE BAND

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GTB NEWS 2

Tribal Council Regular Session
November 19, 2025
http://bit.ly/GTB_Member

III. New Business. A- **Appoint Dr. Daniel J. Spitz, Chief Medical Examiner, MI Forensic PLLC** Motion made by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl and Supported by Tribal Council Member Frankenberger to approve Resolution #25-43.3815 approving appointment of Dr. Daniel J. Spitz, Chief Medical Examiner, Michigan Forensic PLLC for GTB Tribal Police Department. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. B- **Title VI, Parts A & C, Elders Nutrition and Caregiver Programs** Motion made by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl and Supported by Tribal Council Member Frankenberger to approve Resolution #25-43.3811 to seek approval and funding in the amount of \$78,890 to \$194,556 for Part A and \$18,580 to \$75,951 for Part C for formula-based funding for a three year period beginning April 1, 2026 and ending March 31,2028, from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services through the Older Americans Act (OAA), Title VI, Part A, Grants for Native Americans/Alaska Natives Programs and Part C, Grants for the Native American Caregiver Support Program. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. C- **Rescind Resolution #11-29.2238, Signatory Authority for Doris Winslow, former Executive Assistant to the Tribal Manager** Motion made by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl and Supported by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows to Rescind Resolution #11-29.2238 for Signatory Authority for Doris Winslow, former Executive Assistant to Tribal Manager, and the Motion from the Tribal Council Regular Session held on January 19, 2011, approving that Resolution. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. D- **General Welfare Distribution- December 2025** Motion made by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl and Supported by Tribal Council Member Frankenberger to approve Resolution #25-43.3820 December 2025 General Welfare Distribution in the amount of \$2,473.18 per Tribal Member. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. E- **Public Health Special Project (PHEP)** Motion made by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl and Supported by Tribal Council Secretary Miller to approve Resolution #25-43.3813 to seek approval and funding in the amount of \$10,000 from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. F- **Designating Portion of GTB Parcel 36 for New Tribal Cemetery and Rescinding Previous Motion for Location on GTB Parcel 26A, new Sweat Lodge** Motion made by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl and Supported by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows to Rescind the Tribal Council motion from the Regular Session held on February 15, 2012, that stated “Designate 7.5 acres outlined on the attached map dated September 2011 and titled Potential Tribal Cemetery Property as use for the GTB Tribal Cemetery.” **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries
Motion made by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl and Supported by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows to approve a portion of GTB Parcel 36, off McKeese road in Peshawbestown, for the new Tribal Cemetery identified in the drawing titled: “Cemetery Concept Plan, GTB Parcel 36-McKeese Road” as the new location for the GTB cemetery. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING** **Motion Carries**

III. New Business. G- **Title 4 Ch. 4 Amendment- 30-day Posting Request** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Frankenberger and Supported by Tribal Council Treasurer

Swallows to approve Resolution #25-43.3821 Amendments as presented for a 30-day Posting. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. H- **Letter to Secretary Benson regarding Tribal Plates** Motion made by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl and Supported by Tribal Council Member Frankenberger to approve a letter to Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson for the GTB Legal Department and the Assistant Attorney General for the Secretary of State’s Office to start negotiations to present a regulatory system for Grand Traverse Band to have Tribal license plates. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. I- **Charlevoix Road Commission 2026-2026 GTB Snowplowing Agreement** Motion made by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl and Supported by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows for approval to enter into the 2025-2026 agreement with the Charlevoix County Road Commission for snowplowing the Tribal roads on GTB Parcel #23. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. J- **Emergency Reserve Fund**
This item was deleted.

III. New Business. K- **Sign on to NHBP Letter to Legislature regarding MI SB511-Social Wagering** Motion made by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl to sign on to the letter. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING** **Motion Carries**

Tribal Council Special Session
November 26, 2025
http://bit.ly/GTB_Member

I. Call to Order. D - **Review of Written Management Reports. 6- NREC Report** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Napont and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl to appoint Tim Koon to the vacant partial 4-year term on the Natural Resources & Environmental Committee, expiring on March 16, 2026. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries
Motion made by Tribal Council Member Napont and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl to reaffirm the NREC Regular Session Motion of October 9, 2025 to recommend that Tribal Council post a memorial plaque for the GTB Fishermen and Fisherwomen who have passed on to this date; and to begin the conversations to figure out how we can proceed with the memorial plaque. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

II. New Business. A- **Extend Election Board Terms** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Napont and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl to reappoint Stephen McClellan and Frank Wilson at the end of the term ending December 15, 2025 for another 4 year term, ending December 15, 2029. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

II. New Business. B- **CERCLA 128(a) and IIJA Supplemental Funding Request** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Napont and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl to approve Resolution #25-43.3816 to seek funding in the amount of \$181,251 from the US Environmental Protection Agency for the Performance Partnership Grant for Fiscal Year 2026. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

II. New Business. C- **SWIFR Grant Letter of Support for Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Napont and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl to refer to a Poll Vote the addendum. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

II. New Business. D- **Chief Tribal Judge Appointment and Contract** Motion made by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl and Supported by Tribal Council Member Raphael to appoint Marc Roy as Chief Judge for a four-year term starting November 26, 2025. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries
Motion made by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl and Supported by Tribal Council Member Raphael to approve Marc Roy’s contract as presented. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

II. New Business. E- **Company K Memorial Highway Update** Motion made by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl and Supported by Tribal Council Secretary Miller to review the bids and proceed with putting the signs on M-22 on the Reservation; bids shall be reviewed by GTB Purchasing Department to choose the proper bidder. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

II. New Business. F- **Announcement**
No Motion

II. New Business. G- **Youth Endowment** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Raphael and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl to direct the TMO and the CFO to work with EDC and potentially the LLCs, to look into developing a Youth Endowment. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

II. New Business. H-**Wage Study**
No Motion

II. New Business. I- **Survey and Evaluation of 34-hour Work Week Pilot Program**
No Motion

II. New Business. J- **Discussion, Action and Implementation** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Raphael and Supported by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows for discussion, action, and implementation: a live document; for collaboration between Dena Wilson and Amanda Golden, the Executive Assistants, to work on together, until such time as this other position might be filled. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

TRIBAL COUNCIL HYBIRD RECORDED SESSIONS						
Tribal a.m.	Council on the	Regular third	Sessions Wednesday	occur of	at every	9:30 month.
Tribal a.m.	Council on the	Special last	Sessions Wednesday	occur of	at every	9:30 month.
Sessions will be held in Council Chambers. Meetings are open to Tribal Members.						
Regular Council Sessions						
https://bit.ly/GTB-REG-TCRS25						
12/17						

713



PETER OLSON SCHOLARSHIP

The Peter Olson Scholarship is available to any Native American living in the Diocese of Gaylord - Peshawbestown, Petoskey, and Manistee - who is in college or graduate school. Applications are available by contacting Sister Susan Gardner, Director of the Native American Apostolate and Director Parish Life of St. Kateri Parish.

The applications will be presented to the board in September. They will decide the amount of money each applicant will receive. Checks take about two weeks to process.

Applications **MUST** be returned to Sister Susan by January 15, 2026

CALL 231-271-6651





WOCTEP

Now accepting applications!

Why choose WOCTEP?

WOCTEP has helped members of our community enter various Career and Technical Education fields for over a decade. We support several programs at BMCC and NCMC. Contact us today to see how WOCTEP can help you!

Financial Assistance

- Tuition and Fees
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WOCTEP is funded by the US Department of Education through the NACTEP program. Federal Funds contribute to 93% of funding (\$518,670) and tribal support of 7% (\$38,906) for project year 4 (2025) of the budget.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22ND THROUGH THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST

GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSED

Government Offices will reopen 8am Friday, January 2ND

Emergency phone numbers available at each building.

Scan QR code or follow the link!

https://bit.ly/GTB_EPN_092925

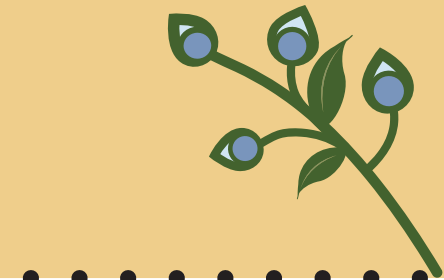



GTB NEWS 4



CULTURAL & LANGUAGE

https://bit.ly/GTB_Cultural





CULTURAL DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

In-Person Anishinaabemowin Classes

w/Isadore Toulouse & Patricia Osawamick

STARTING OCTOBER 6, 2025

5:00PM-7:00PM

Monday's - Kewadin Church

Tuesday's - Peshawbestown Cultural Building

Wednesday's - 3 Mile Office


Last Wednesday of the month

Charlevoix Building 12pm-3pm

For more information contact:
Isadore.Toulouse@GTB-nsn.gov 231.631.7940
Patricia.Osawamick@GTB-nsn.gov 231.631.8604

All classes subject to change-No class when GTB is closed





BACK TO BASICS 1-HOUR ANISHINAABEMOWIN ZOOM COURSES

HOSTED BY THE
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Anishinaabemowin Program

Every Tuesday, Starting October 14th 4:00 - 5:00pm




“Gaawii da-ni-bimaadiziimgasinoos Anishinaabemowin giishpin gishkiyaasiingidowaa gdi-binoojimnaanig ji-anishinaabemowaad”
(The language will not survive if we prevent our children from speaking it)



SCHEDULE


Anishinaabemowin Game Night
Kick Off
October 9th, 2025
Eyaawing Museum
2304 N West Bay Shore Dr, Peshawbestown

Every Tuesday
October 14th, 21st, 28th
November 4th, 18th, 25th
December 2nd, 9th, 16th
Cultural Building
2585 Waabno Makwa Rd, Peshawbestown

NEW ZOOM Link: <https://bit.ly/GTBanishinaabemowin>

 <p>Beginner Courses</p> <p>Intended for participants with little or no prior exposure to the Anishinaabemowin language</p>	 <p>Anishinaabemowin Fluent Instructors</p> <p>Classes will be taught by Isadore Toulouse & Patricia Osawamick</p>	 <p>Grow Your Vocabulary</p> <p>Begin building a vocabulary base and understand the basic grammar and syntax structures</p>
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For More Information, Contact Isadore Toulouse:
 Isadore.Toulouse@gtb-nsn.gov
 (231) 534-7252



NEW YEARS EVE

Sobriety SIDE STEP SOCIAL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 | 2025 | 9:00PM 12:30AM

Side Step 9pm | Last song 12:30am

Glow In The Dark Themed

HEAD STAFF


MASTER OF CEREMONY - BEENDIGAYGISHIG DELEARY
CO-MC - JACKSON TAHUKA
SOUND - MARK WILSON
STICKMAN - JOE SYRETTE

INVITED SINGERS

DION SYRETTE
JAKOB WILSON
JOHN SYRETTE
JEREMIAH CHURCHILL
SCOTT MATRIOUS

Strongheart Center
2700 N Strongheart Way, Peshawbestown, MI 49682
GTB is not responsible for any injury, lost or damaged items





Back to Basics Anishinaabemowin Course Content

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lesson 1Ishki-nkweshkodaadwin (Introduction of self)Ojibwe Kizheb Anamewaahns (Ojibwe Morning Prayer)Pronunciation Chart-YouTube VideoSounds, Consonants,Vowels/Consonants/Sounds/Animate/Inanimate, Plural/Singular
1.2	<p>Lesson 1.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ojibwe Kizheb Anamewaahns (Ojibwe Morning Prayer)Wiindimaagen yaawi-yin (Introduce Yourself)Pronunciation Chart-YouTube VideoPersonal Pronouns ChartEzhi-ngodweyaangizing (Family)
1.3	<p>Lesson 1.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ojibwe Kizheb Anamewaahns (Ojibwe Morning Prayer)Wiindimaagen yaawi-yin (Introduce Yourself)Pronunciation Chart-YouTube VideoGindaasowinag (Numbers)Enaandeg bemaadiziimgak/bemaadiziimgasi-nok (Colors-Animate/Inanimate)Ezhijiyagin (Shapes)
1.4	<p>Lesson 1.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ojibwe Kizheb Anamewaahns (Ojibwe Morning Prayer)Wiindimaagen yaawi-yin (Introduce Yourself)Pronunciation Chart-YouTube VideoMijim (Food)Wesiinyag (Animals) Ookaanak (Farm Animals)
1.5	<p>Lesson 1.5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ojibwe Kizheb Anamewaahns (Ojibwe Morning Prayer)Wiindimaagen yaawi-yin (Introduce Yourself)Pronunciation Chart-YouTube VideoGiisook enso-ngiboon (Months of the calendar)Ezhi-giizigak (What day is it ?)Niwiing eshsek aki (4 changes of the earth)

1.6 Lesson 1.6

- Ojibwe Kizheb Anamewaahns (Ojibwe Morning Prayer)
- Wiindimaagen yaawi-yin (Introduce Yourself)
- Pronunciation Chart-YouTube Video
- Epi-chaak (Times of the Day)
- Ensoobagney dagaishwaanig (Time on the clock)
- Dbaagaans, Aabta (Minutes, Half times)

1.7 Lesson 1.7

- Ojibwe Kizheb Anamewaahns (Ojibwe Morning Prayer)
- Wiindimaagen yaawi-yin (Introduce Yourself)
- Pronunciation Chart-YouTube Video
- Wi'oon (Body Parts)

1.8 Lesson 1.8



- Ojibwe Kizheb Anamewaahns (Ojibwe Morning Prayer)
- Wiindimaagen yaawi-yin (Introduce Yourself)
- Pronunciation Chart-YouTube Video
- Endaang Kina-gegoo etag (Everything in the home)


1.9 Lesson 1.9

- Ojibwe Kizheb Anamewaahns (Ojibwe Morning Prayer)
- Wiindimaagen yaawi-yin (Introduce Yourself)
- Pronunciation Chart-YouTube Video
- Gamigoon (Locations/Buildings)
- Enokiing (Occupations)

Content listed is our planned outline. We may move around or spend extra time in certain areas, depending on the participants knowledge and questions.

Miigwech

For More Information, Contact Isadore Toulouse:
 Isadore.Toulouse@gtb-nsn.gov
 (231) 534-7252



ELDERS		December 2025 Mnidoo Giisoonhs (Little Spirit Moon)	
Antrim/GT Elders Events & Activities Monday's Office Tasks Friday's Offices CLOSED *Notes: Lunch Provided **11:30AM - 12:45PM Tuesday; December 2nd Wreath Making 1:00PM - 3:00PM** Wednesday; December 3rd Thrifting (West Bay) 1:00PM - 3:00PM** Thursday; December 4th Open Sew 1:00PM - 3:00PM** Tuesday; December 9th Elders Advisory @ 3-Mile 10:00AM - 4:00PM* Wednesday; December 10th Craft Activity 1:00PM - 3:00PM** Thursday; December 11th Frybread Class 1:00PM - 3:00PM** Tuesday; December 16th Birthday Bingo & Cake 1:00PM - 3:00PM** Wednesday; December 17th All site Winter Party @ Grand Traverse Resort 12:30PM - 4:30PM* Thursday; December 18th Craft Activity 1:00PM - 3:00PM** Monday; December 22nd through Thursday; January 1st WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK GTB GOVT. OFFICES CLOSED 8:00AM - 5:00PM	Benzie Elders Events & Activities Monday's Office Tasks Friday's Offices CLOSED *Notes: Lunch Provided **12:00PM - 1:00PM Wednesday; December 3rd Lunch 12:00PM - 1:00PM** Tuesday; December 9th Elders Advisory @ 3-Mile 10:00AM - 4:00PM* Wednesday; December 10th Lunch 12:00PM - 1:00PM** Wednesday; December 17th ALL SITE WINTER PARTY @ Grand Traverse Resort 12:30PM - 4:30PM* Monday; December 23rd through Thursday; January 1st WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK GTB GOVT. OFFICES CLOSED 8:00AM - 5:00PM Questions, please contact Agnes Glinski (Temp.) (231) 534-7821 (231) 631-6795 agnes.glinski@gtb-nsn.gov <i>*SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CALL AHEAD. ALL ACTIVITIES ARE DRUG & ALCOHOL-FREE!</i>	Charlevoix Elders Events & Activities Monday's Office Tasks Friday's Offices CLOSED *Notes: Lunch Provided **12:00PM - 1:00PM Tuesday; December 2nd Craft Time 1:30PM** Wednesday; December 3rd Scrabble 1:30PM** Thursday; December 4th Rummy Social 1:30PM** Tuesday; December 9th Elders Advisory @ 3-Mile 10:00AM - 4:00PM* Wednesday; December 10th Coffee, Chat, & Play Trivia 1:30PM** Thursday; December 11th Movie & Popcorn @ Community Room 1:30PM** Tuesday; December 16th Craft Time 1:30PM** Wednesday; December 17th ALL SITE WINTER PARTY @ Grand Traverse Resort 12:30PM - 4:30PM* Thursday; December 18th Resale Shopping 1:30PM** Tuesday; December 23rd Craft Time 1:30PM** Monday; December 22nd through Thursday; January 1st WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK GTB GOVT. OFFICES CLOSED 8:00AM - 5:00PM	Leelanau Elders Events & Activities Monday's Office Tasks Friday's Offices CLOSED *Notes: Lunch Provided **12:00PM - 1:00PM Tuesday; December 2nd Coffee & Chat 1:00PM - 3:00PM** Wednesday; December 3rd Crafts with Francis Carew 1:00PM - 3:00PM** Thursday; December 4th T.C. Store Run 1:00PM - 3:00PM** Tuesday; December 9th Elders Advisory @ 3-Mile 10:00AM - 4:00PM* Wednesday; December 10th Baking Day 1:00PM - 3:00PM** Thursday; December 11th Thrift Store Run 1:00PM - 3:00PM** Tuesday; December 16th Local Store Run 1:00PM - 3:00PM** Wednesday; December 17th ALL SITE WINTER PARTY @ Grand Traverse Resort 12:30PM - 4:30PM* Thursday; December 18th Birthday Bingo 1:00PM - 3:00PM** Monday; December 22nd through Thursday; January 1st WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK GTB GOVT. OFFICES CLOSED 8:00AM - 5:00PM

Mino-Dibishkaan! Happy Birthday!

GTB News Staff & Membership Dept. would like to acknowledge this months Elders Birthdays!

Let us take a moment to recognize and celebrate the birthdays of our beloved elders this month. May each of these special days be filled with abundant joy, unforgettable memories, and an abundance of love, peace, and happiness!

Douglas Joseph	Sineway Wilson	1-Dec	Darcine Leroy	Oosdyke Bailey	12-Dec	Donald Matthew	Gann DeVerney	24-Dec
Mary Wallace	Watson Hall	1-Dec	1-Dec	13-Dec	13-Dec	Jonathan Mark	Fowler Cobb	24-Dec
Francis Jonathan	Carew Wayashe	2-Dec	2-Dec	13-Dec	13-Dec	Cynthia Susan	John Hall	24-Dec
Judith Jennifer	Wanegeshik Baker	2-Dec	2-Dec	14-Dec	14-Dec	Mary Catherine	Hawley Wise	25-Dec
Kenneth Sharon	Mosher McIntyre	3-Dec	3-Dec	14-Dec	14-Dec	Terry Valarie	Stickley Keway	25-Dec
Edward Ford	Brun Devault	3-Dec	3-Dec	16-Dec	16-Dec	Brian Richard	Tighe Woods	26-Dec
James Arvella	Koon Cain	4-Dec	4-Dec	16-Dec	16-Dec	Lisa Resseguie	Fluette	26-Dec
William Roland	Easterling Van Camp	4-Dec	4-Dec	18-Dec	18-Dec	Arnold Carolyn	Schocko	26-Dec
Kathryn Melissa	Worden Mason	5-Dec	5-Dec	18-Dec	18-Dec	William Francis	Beaver	27-Dec
Christopher Joyce	Harris Arnold	5-Dec	5-Dec	18-Dec	18-Dec	Richard Louis	Pedwaydon	27-Dec
Geneva James	Pino Alexander	6-Dec	6-Dec	19-Dec	19-Dec	Richard Gunderson	Case	27-Dec
Roger Kenneth	Brunk Partello	6-Dec	6-Dec	19-Dec	19-Dec	Louis Livingston	Rice	28-Dec
Kathy Bernadette	O' Brien Ertle	7-Dec	7-Dec	20-Dec	20-Dec	Phyllis Storms	McDonald	28-Dec
David David	Russell Ward	7-Dec	7-Dec	20-Dec	20-Dec	Carol Miller	Varda	28-Dec
Jesse Lisa	Cox Bussey	8-Dec	8-Dec	21-Dec	21-Dec	Edward Johns	Scott	29-Dec
Chris Chris		8-Dec	8-Dec	22-Dec	22-Dec	Irving Sherman		30-Dec
		9-Dec	9-Dec	22-Dec	22-Dec			30-Dec
		9-Dec	9-Dec	23-Dec	23-Dec			31-Dec
		9-Dec	9-Dec					31-Dec
		11-Dec	11-Dec					
		11-Dec	11-Dec					
		11-Dec	11-Dec					
		11-Dec	11-Dec					
		12-Dec	12-Dec					

WANT TO JOIN AN ACTIVITY OR EVENT, OR NEED TRANSPORTATION TO THE EVENT?
ADVANCE SIGN-UP IS REQUIRED!

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR ELDERS SITE COORDINATOR TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Antrim/Grand Traverse

Tanya Tanner
(231) 534-7710
(231) 463-7858

Delora Wilson

(231) 534-7769
(231) 492-9932

Benzie/Manistee

Agnes Glinski (Temp.)
(231) 534-7821
(231) 631-6795

Elders Department Manager

Delores Niigaanakwad
(231) 534-7748 or (231) 631-3908

Charlevoix

Barb Kenwabikise
(231) 534-7066
(231) 631-0281

Leelanau

Melissa Martinez
(231) 534-7743
(231) 631-6095

Lisa Shawandase

(231) 534-7744
(231) 590-7264

GTB Elders Department
Cordially Invites 6-County Service Area Elders

Annual Elder's
Holiday Party

Wednesday | December 17 | 12:30 – 4:30 PM

Grand Traverse Resort and Spa (Michigan Room)
100 Grand Traverse Village Blvd, Acme, MI 49610

Highlights:

- Appetizers starting at 12:30 PM
- Door prizes, \$75 gift cards, and movie tickets for eligible elders
- Special opening with Chairwoman Witherspoon
- Lunch served at 2:00 PM (Roasted Turkey, Honey Rosemary Ham, & more)
- Line Dancing with Kay at 3:00 PM
- Games & snacks at 4:00 PM

Transition: Join us in the Michigan Room lobby for snacks before the Community Party at 4:30 PM in Governors Hall.

RSVP: Contact your area Elders Site Coordinators to sign up and request transportation.

Antrim / Grand Traverse

Tanya Tanner – 534-7710
Delora Wilson – 534-7769

Charlevoix

Barbara Kenwabikise – 534-7066

Leelanau

Melissa Martinez – 534-7743
Lisa Shawandase – 534-7740

Benzie / Manistee

Agnes Glinski – 534-7821

Note: No water bottles or feast bags necessary!
BRING YOUR TRIBAL ID!

GTB NEWS 7



HOUSING DEPARTMENT



SERVICES & SUPPORT FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) Housing Department is dedicated to helping Tribal Members secure safe, affordable, and stable housing. Whether you are renting, seeking homeownership, managing accessibility needs, or improving financial wellness. GTB Housing offers many programs to support individuals, families, Elders, and those in transition. Below is a full overview of available services, with direct links to applications and forms for easy access.

RENTAL SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE

NAHASDA Rental Subsidy Program

This program helps eligible GTB Tribal Members reduce their monthly rent payment. The subsidy is paid directly to the landlord — providing essential financial relief for families, Elders, and individuals working toward long-term stability. Application (PDF): [NAHASDA Rental Subsidy Application](#)



Housing Assistance for Low-Income & Market Rental Units

GTB Housing offers two pathways for rental assistance:

- ♦ Low-Income Housing Units, with rent based on income and household size.
- ♦ Market-Rate Rental Units, for Tribal Members who may not qualify as low-income but still want housing options through GTB.

This ensures that Tribal Members have a range of safe and affordable housing choices. Application (PDF): [Housing Application & Assistance for Low-Income and Market Rental](#)



Rental Deposit Assistance

Moving into a rental home often requires a security deposit, a barrier for many. This program helps cover that upfront cost, making it easier for Tribal Members to access stable rental housing. The funds are paid directly to the landlord. Application (PDF): [Rental Security Deposit Assistance Application](#)



ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT

Handicap Accessibility Program

For Tribal Members with disabilities or mobility limitations: this program assists with home modifications that improve accessibility and safety — such as ramps, wider doorways, accessible bathrooms, and other necessary adjustments so you can live comfortably in your own home. Application (PDF): [Handicap Accessibility](#)



HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE

Emergency Home Repair Program

This program provides assistance when urgent home repairs are needed to keep a home safe and livable. Examples include critical plumbing, heating, roofing, or structural repairs — especially for Tribal homeowners who might otherwise struggle to cover these costs. Application (PDF): [Emergency Home Repair Application](#)



Down Payment Assistance Program

If you're working toward homeownership, this program provides financial help toward a required down payment — making owning a home more attainable. Eligible properties may include mobile, manufactured, modular, single- or double-wide homes, depending on program guidelines. Application (PDF): [Down Payment Application](#)



ADDITIONAL SERVICES & SUPPORTS

Beyond direct housing applications, the GTB Housing Department also offers supportive services to help you on your housing journey:

- ♦ Notary services for housing-related documents.
- ♦ Homebuyer education classes, to prepare for responsible homeownership.
- ♦ Budget counseling and financial education — helping you manage rent, mortgages, and expenses more effectively.
- ♦ Access to additional resources and applications, including:

1. Home insurance information
2. Well and septic system applications
3. Lot Assignment Request Application
4. Tax-exempt status application
5. Human Services applications when needed

For a complete list of forms and to download any application visit the GTB Housing Department's webpage: https://www.gtbindians.org/housing_dept.asp



HOW TO GET STARTED

The GTB Housing Department is here to guide Tribal Members through every step of the housing process — from completing applications to understanding program eligibility and accessing additional support services. Our knowledgeable staff can answer questions, help you gather necessary documents, and make sure you're connected to the right program for your needs.

Main Office Location:
11244 Ki-Dah-Keh Mi-Kun, Peshawbestown, MI 49682
Stop by to speak with a Housing Department staff member in person, review program materials, or pick up forms.

Main Phone Line: (231) 534-7800
Call the main number for general inquiries about any housing program or service offered by the GTB Housing Department.

Direct contact can be found below!



Pathways Home: For the Homebuyer

Obtain a homebuyer's education certificate through the National American Indian Housing Council's *Pathways Home: A Native Homeownership Guide* eLearning program! The course is designed for prospective homebuyers in tribal communities nationwide and may be required for lenders.

Target Audience

- ✔ Mortgage-ready households
- ✔ Tribal housing professionals
- ✔ Interested individuals
- ✔ Any tribal citizen

Cost:
\$20
/course

REGISTER ANYTIME!

www.naihc.net/elearning

National American Indian Housing Council
122 C Street NW, Suite 505 | Washington, DC 20001 | 202-789-1754 | naihc.net

CONTACT HOUSING

After Hours Emergency Hot Line	(231) 866-1290
Lori Dudley - Administrative Assistant & Front Desk	(231) 534-7800
Joe Kaubenaw - Lead Occupancy Specialist & GTB Rental Info/ Down Payment/Homebuyer Education	(231) 534-7803 (231) 883-1328
Kayla Ahgosa - Occupancy Specialist (LIHTC)	(231) 534-3507
Manny Menchaca - Maintenance Supervisor	(231) 534-7448 (231) 631-4594
Tarik Bouguettaya - Emergency Home Repair & Handicap Accessibility Program	(231) 534-7886
Steven Alberts - Program Director Procurement Coordinator	(231) 534-7804 (231) 360-3478
Lilyan Allard - Assistant Manager	(231) 534-7804
Jodi Lewis - Interim Department Manager	(231) 534-7218 (231) 357-2185



DENTAL & HEALTH CLINIC



Winter has arrived across Kchi Wiikwedong, and as we gather with loved ones to celebrate the season, the GTB Dental Team extends warm wishes to all our Tribal Members. With cold and flu season moving quickly through our communities, we also want to take a moment to highlight National Hand Washing Awareness Week (December 1–7)—a simple but powerful reminder of how we can protect ourselves and each other. Hand washing is one of the easiest and most effective ways to combat germs, reduce illness, and keep our families healthy during the winter months. It’s especially important to wash your hands before touching your eyes, nose, or mouth, before eating, and after using the restroom. Small habits can make a big difference in keeping our community well.

- WHY HANDWASHING MATTERS
- ◆ Handwashing can prevent 1 in 3 diarrhea-related illnesses and 1 in 5 infections such as the flu and common cold, according to the CDC.
 - ◆ Every year, 1.4 million children under age 5 worldwide die from diarrheal diseases and pneumonia—the two most dangerous illnesses for young children.
 - ◆ Studies show only 31% of men and 65% of women wash their hands after using a public restroom.
 - ◆ Reducing the need for antibiotics helps lower antibiotic resistance. Handwashing is one of the key ways to prevent sickness so fewer antibiotics are needed.
 - ◆ A sneeze can travel 200 miles per hour, releasing around 40,000 droplets into the air—droplets that can easily spread germs. Proper handwashing helps stop those germs from being passed along.

REMEMBER, PROPER HANDWASHING TECHNIQUE

Hand washing steps

Wet your hands with clean, running water.

Apply soap and rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds.

Rinse your hands until all the soap is gone.

Turn off the faucet with a paper towel or your elbow.

Dry your hands with a clean paper towel or hand towel.

HOLIDAY CLOSURE NOTICE

The GTB Dental Clinic will be closed for Winter Break, Christmas, and New Year’s from **Monday, December 22, 2025 through Thursday, January 1, 2026.**

We look forward to serving our patients again in 2026.

Wishing all GTB Tribal Members a warm, safe, and healthy holiday season!

Miigwech and happy holidays!

CALL US TODAY TO
SCHEDULE YOUR
APPOINTMENT
(231) 534-7721

The Grand Traverse Band Health Services Department (Manoomin-Rice) would like to kindly remind GTB patients to please arrive 15 minutes early before your Clinic and/or Dental Clinic appointments. If you are running late, please call 231-534-7200 for the Clinic and 231-534-7211 for the Dental Clinic to ensure that your appointment can be accommodated. Please remember to bring all your IDs and insurance to every appointment, especially if there are any updates to be made. If you are experiencing any covid or flu-like symptoms let staff know when you are checking in.

GTB TRANSPORTATION AND CHR SUB-DEPARTMENTS

Reminding all patients that if you are being transported to an appointment that requires any type of anesthesia you will need to have someone with you for the pick-up and drop-off of the transport and during the procedure. This process will protect our patients and health staff should any issue or complication arise during or after the procedure.

- PRC
- GTB PRC reminds all patients to update their applications for the new year! The GTB PRC program is for eligible GTB members as written below:
1. Must be a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.
 2. Must reside within the GTB PRC Delivery Area (PRCDA): Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Manistee counties and furnish documentation to substantiate residency eligibility for a minimum of 90 days prior to eligibility being established:
- Option 1-
- A copy of your GTB Photo Tribal ID, & valid driver’s license or State of Michigan photo ID with the physical address listed on the application and one of the following in your name:
- ◆ A current utility bill
 - ◆ A current bill received on a monthly basis
 - ◆ Most recent year form W2
 - ◆ Most recent year Federal Income tax return
 - ◆ Michigan Voter’s registration card
 - ◆ Current monthly bank statement
- Option 2-
- A copy of your GTB photo Tribal ID, and two of the following in your name:
- ◆ A current utility bill
 - ◆ A current bill received on a monthly basis
 - ◆ Most recent year form W2
 - ◆ Most recent year Federal Income tax return
 - ◆ Michigan Voter’s registration card
 - ◆ A current monthly bank statement

- Option 3-
- A copy of your GTB Photo Tribal ID or valid Driver’s License or Michigan ID, and:
- ◆ Fill out an Affidavit for Certification of Residency for Co-habitants Resident Tribal Member (affidavits can be requested by contacting the Membership department).
 - ◆ Please note if a GTB member is living in the six-county area and homeless, we will work with you to offer case management services to assist with your healthcare needs.
3. PRC needs to have a referral from a primary care provider on file to obtain a Pre-Authorization for specialized healthcare or dentalcare treatment plan.

ANNUAL MEDICARE PART B REIMBURSEMENT UPDATE

(Current Eligible Participants – 6-County Service Area Only) Tribal members already receiving Medicare Part B reimbursement must submit a copy of their Medicare Entitlement Statement each year, or when an update is received, to receive reimbursement without interruption.

- ◆ This statement arrives from Social Security at the beginning of January.
- ◆ It shows your Medicare coverage and premium amounts.
- ◆ **Deadline: Submit by January 31.**

If you need a replacement statement, call Social Security: 1-800-772-1213 or log in to your mySocial Security account.

A copy of your Medicare Entitlement Statements should be sent to the **Benefits Coordinator, David Wonegeshik**

TURNING 65? YOU MUST ENROLL IN MEDICARE

Tribal members approaching age 65 need to sign up for Medicare.

- ◆ Enroll during the 7-month window: 3 months before your birthday month, your birthday month, and 3 months after your

birthday month.

Once enrolled, Social Security will mail your Medicare card and each January, your Medicare Entitlement Statement, a copy of your Medicare Entitlement Statement should be submitted to the Benefits Coordinator.

If you are 65 or older and have not enrolled in Medicare, you need to enroll as soon as possible, we can assist with avoiding late penalties.

For enrollment assistance, please contact the **Benefits Coordinator, David Wonegeshik**

NEED MEDICAID? APPLY THROUGH MI BRIDGES

Signing up for Medicaid can be done at any time.

Apply at: www.michigan.gov/mibridges

- ◆ Create or log into your MI Bridges account
- ◆ Submit your application
- ◆ Upload requested documents (ID, tribal ID, income proof, bank statements, etc.)

You may also apply at the local MDHHS office or by mail. For assistance applying for Medicaid, please contact the **Benefits Coordinator, David Wonegeshik**.

If you were unable to attend the “Understanding How to Maximize Your Medicare Benefits” outreach during September, please contact the **Benefits Coordinator, David Wonegeshik** to find out how you can receive a consultation regarding your Medicare.

If you need assistance with any of these benefits or any other benefits, contact **David Wonegeshik, Benefits Coordinator:**
Phone: (231) 534-7354
Email: david.wonegeshik@gtb-nsn.gov
Office: Located in the waiting area of the clinic at the Medicine Lodge.
Chi-Megwetch! Sonya Zotigh, MPA
GTB Health Administrator Sonya.Zotigh2@gtb-nsn.gov 231-534-7241

MAY YOUR HOLIDAY FITNESS
ROUTINE BE BALANCED AND BRIGHT!



STRONGHEART HOLIDAY HOURS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27 TH	CLOSED
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28 TH	CLOSED
MONDAY, DECEMBER 22 ND	6:30 AM - 7:00 PM
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23 RD	6:30 AM - 7:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 TH	CLOSED
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 TH	CLOSED
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26 TH	6:30 AM - 7:00 PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27 TH	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 TH	CLOSED
MONDAY, DECEMBER 29 TH	6:30 AM - 7:00 PM
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30 TH	6:30 AM - 7:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 ST	CLOSED
THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 ST	CLOSED

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE*



WELCOME NEW STRONGHEART TEAM MEMBER STEVEN MANZANO GYM ATTENDANT

The Strongheart Center is proud to welcome the newest addition to our team, Steven Manzano, who joins us as a Gym Attendant. Steven brings with him a deep connection to our homelands, a strong commitment to community wellness, and a genuine passion for helping others feel supported, encouraged, and at home in our fitness space.

As a lifelong resident of Peshawbestown, Steven understands the importance of creating a welcoming environment where GTB members of all ages can come together, build healthy habits, and feel uplifted. His enthusiasm for community service and willingness to assist wherever needed make him a wonderful fit for our team and our mission. Below is Steven’s message to all of you, shared in his own words:

“Hello Aanii Boozhoo,

My name is Steven Manzano and I am the newest member of the Strongheart Team! I was born and raised here in Peshawbestown and I’m very excited to assist our community with anything and everything!

Miigwech for this opportunity!”

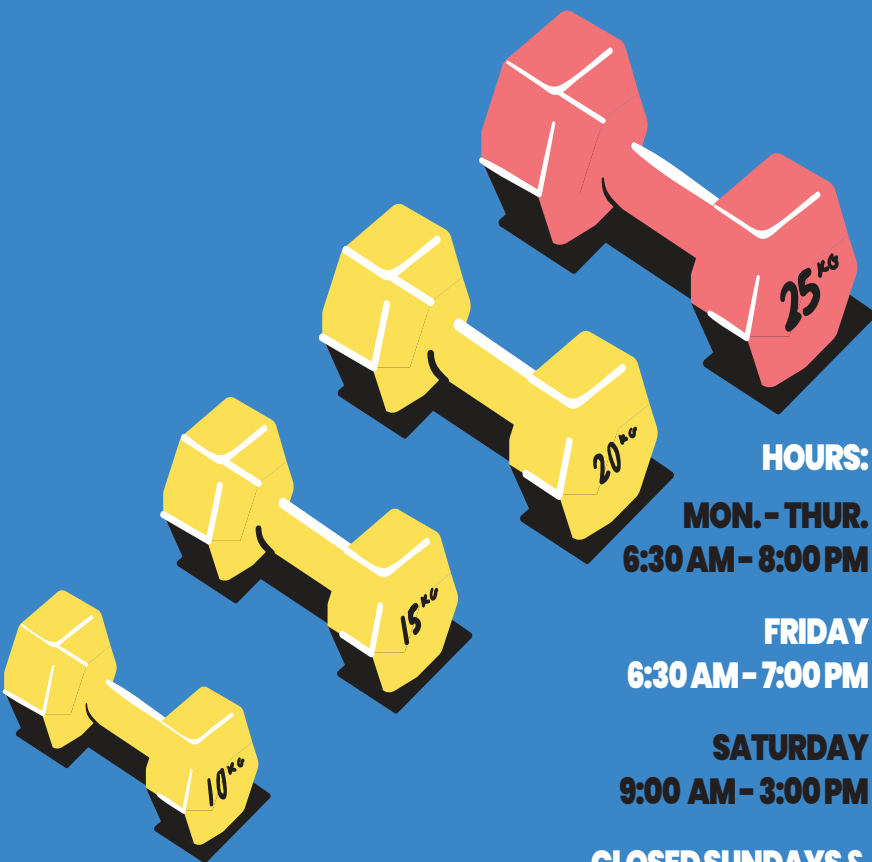
We are excited for you to meet Steven in person. Whether you’re stopping in for a workout, attending a class, or just visiting the facility, please join us in welcoming him to the Strongheart family. His presence strengthens our commitment to supporting the health and wellness of the GTB community. Miigwech,
- Strongheart Center Staff



STRONGHEART CENTER

Hours Starting

NOVEMBER 1, 2025
UNTIL APRIL 2026



HOURS:
MON. – THUR.
6:30 AM – 8:00 PM

FRIDAY
6:30 AM – 7:00 PM

SATURDAY
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**CLOSED SUNDAYS &
MAJOR HOLIDAYS**

****SUBJECT TO CHANGE****

FRONT DESK: (231) 534-7457

2700 STRONGHEART WAY, PESHAWBESTOWN

GTB STRONGHEART CENTER PRESENTS



ARE YOU A GTB
TRIBAL MEMBER &
CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE
GTB FITNESS CENTERS?
NO SWEAT!

- Fitness Center Financial Assistance to GTB Citizens, Within 6 County Service Area, That Do Not Live Near or Have Access to one of GTB Fitness Centers.
 - Antrim, Grand Traverse, & Manistee Eligible!
- Discounts Also Available for Spouses & Significant Others
- Limited Gym Membership During Winter Months

Gym Membership Assistance for GTB Citizens Within Antrim, Grand Traverse, & Manistee County That Don't Have Access to One of the GTB Fitness Centers & Are Interested in Joining a Local Gym. Discounts Are Also Available for GTB Spouses and/or Significant Others to Encourage & Support One Another on Your Wellness Goals!

Call Leanne or Dawn for the Details & Questions!
Contact: Leanne (Tana) Alber
(231) 534-7551 Leanne.Alber@gtb-nsn.gov


Dawn Shenoskey
(231) 534-7753 or text (231)313-8609

www.gtbindians.org/strongheart.asp

MEET YOUR GTB BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TEAM

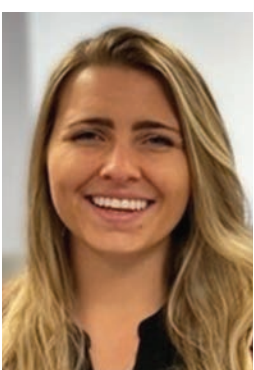
Aanii Tribal Members & Community, the Grand Traverse Band Behavioral Health Team is here to support the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual wellness of our community. Our staff brings a blend of traditional teachings, culturally grounded care, and evidence-based therapies to help Tribal citizens and their families on their healing journeys. From counseling and therapy to psychiatric support and case management, each team member is dedicated to providing compassionate, confidential services that honor our Anishinaabe values. We invite you to get to know the team and reach out whenever support is needed. **Registration is required to schedule an appointment with a Behavioral Health provider. Please call (231) 534-7090 to get registered for behavioral health services.** If you are already a patient you can reach your worker by calling our office (231) 534-7090.

BILL MARTELL,
LMSW, CAADC
BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH
COUNSELOR



Aanii! (Hi!)
My name is Bill Martell, I am a new Behavioral Health Counselor, I am a tribal member and have lived in the area most of my life. I was a BH Counselor for over 6 years and have worked in various roles for the tribe in the past. I have also worked as a mental health therapist for Addiction Treatment Services, Pine Rest and most recently at Traverse Health Clinic. I wanted to work for the tribe again because I have found that the best fit for me is to serve my people (and I was told by an elder that is what I should be doing!) As a Native American I like to use traditional ways as well as Person Centered, CBT, DBT, ACT, and Motivational Interviewing approaches to assist people with their mental health and substance abuse recovery needs. If we have not met, I look forward to meeting you and working with you and/or your family members if I can be of service. Baa maa pi (See you later!) Bill


JORDAN LANGLEY, LLMSW
BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH
THERAPIST



Aanii! (Hi!)
My name is Jordan Langley; I am a new Behavioral Health Therapist with GTB. I am a tribal member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, but have lived in the TC area much of my life. I am a recent MSW graduate from Ferris State University, during that time I interned at Addiction Treatment Services as a mental health therapist. I also work as a mental health therapist in TC outside of my work for GTB. For those of you that may not know me I have been working with GTB for 3 years as an Adult Caseworker and I look forward to working with more members on their mental health and recovery. I use an integrated approach to therapy, meaning I pull from traditional healing and different therapies such as CBT, DBT, Mindfulness, and motivational


interviewing to create a personalized treatment plan to fit your individual needs. I'm excited to begin working with more of the community and getting to know more tribal members on their journey. Baa maa pi (See you later!) Jordan Langley, LLMSW

ROSALYN STRINGER,
PMHNP-BC
PSYCHIATRIC
MENTAL
HEALTH NURSE
PRACTITIONER



At Medicine Lodge, we recognize how draining it can be to juggle employment, relationships, family, and education while silently bearing the stress of anxiety or depression. You sacrifice so much. We make it simple to get compassionate, excellent mental health care from the comfort of your home by providing both in-person and telemedicine visits. Our services include: Flexible scheduling and management of medications for mood disorders, anxiety, and depression. I am a board-certified psychiatric nurse practitioner who listens to you and works in unison with you to provide compassionate, understanding treatment. Our goal is to enhance or improve each GTB member's general standard of living and well-being. To promote optimal balance in the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual elements of the individual and their family, our team may also integrate traditional teachings and ceremonies with therapy approaches.


MARION
WABANIMKEE-
MINZEY,
CLINICAL CASE
WORKER



Hi
My name is Marion Wabanimkee-Minzey, and I am the Behavioral Health Clinical Caseworker. With six years of experience in the Behavioral Health department, I have developed a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by individuals seeking mental health support. Since


2022, I have provided case management services. Additionally, I have provided some incentives and assistance for people attending counseling and assisting clients in navigating their mental health journeys and accessing the necessary resources. My commitment to helping those in need strengthens our community. I look forward to meeting and working with you. Marion

JOANIE
BLAMER-
EISNER,
LMSW, CAADC
DEPARTMENT
MANAGER



Aanii! (Hi!)
My name is Joanie Eisner, and I am the new Human Services Department Manager. I live in Traverse City and have worked in the social services field for the past 29 years. I have experience in delivering services to people experiencing behavioral health concerns. Additionally, I have been responsible for enhancing, implementing, and evaluating programs that have assisted children, young mothers, and adults with mental health, intellectual developmental disabilities, and substance use concerns. If we haven't met already, I am looking forward to meeting you! Baa maa pi (See you later!) Joanie Blamer-Eisner, LMSW, CAADC

LEILANI
DEFOE, NIIZH
ANIMIKIIG
PROGRAM
DIRECTOR &
PREVENTION
ACTIVITIES
COORDINATOR



Aanii kina wiya/hi everyone,
Leilani DeFoe n'dizhnikaaz. Kchi Wiikwedoong n'didaa. Nimkii n'dodem miinwaa Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians n'dadibendaagwoz. Odawa, Ojibwe miinwaa Meskwaki n'daaw. My name is Leilani DeFoe. I live in Traverse City. My clan is thunder and I am a member of GTB. I am Odawa, Ojibwe and Meskwaki. I am the Niizh Animikiig Program Director and Prevention Activities Coordinator and have been in this role since 2024. I have worked for GTB since 2018 in a variety of roles – most notable was in Youth Services as a Youth Intervention Specialist for a year and four months, and my current position. Being able to serve our community is a great honor of mine. My educational background is a Business Administration associates degree from Northwestern Michigan College (2020) and another associates degree from Bay Mills Community College in Anishinaabe Language Instruction (2025). I am currently working towards finishing my bachelors degree in Native American Studies with a minor in Anishinaabe Language Instruction at Northern Michigan University. I'm excited to continue working for you all. Mino yaan/Be well, Leilani.

WOMEN SURVIVOR
GET-TOGETHER

Every Wednesday
(November 1, 2025 – March 30, 2026)
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
(*Except: 12/31/25, 12/17/25, & If the GTB Gov't Offices are closed, the group will be cancelled.*)

MEN SURVIVOR
GET-TOGETHER

Every Tuesday
(November 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026)
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
(*Except: 12/30/25, If the GTB Gov't Offices are closed, the group will be cancelled.*)

Are you or someone you know affected by sexual assault/trafficking, stalking, or intimate partner domestic/dating violence? Join us for a time to work on crafts, write, socialize, & more, with other community members.



Location: Grand Traverse Band Library in Peshawbestown, MI

WOMEN SURVIVOR
GET-TOGETHER


Every Monday
(November 1st, 2025 – March 30, 2026)
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
(*Except: 12/22/25, & 12/29/25, If the GTB Gov't Offices are closed, the group will be cancelled.*)

Are you or someone you know affected by sexual assault/trafficking, stalking, or intimate partner domestic/dating violence? Join us for a time to work on crafts, write, socialize, & more, with other community members.

Location: Grand Traverse Band 3-Mile Office
845 Business Park Dr., Traverse City, MI 49686



GTB NEWS 11



Youth Services Christmas Ornament DECORATING



Monday
DEC 1 2025
from 5-7

ages 5-10

weather permitting

Dinner Provided

M22 Youth building
2821 NW Bayshore DR.
Peshawbestown MI 49682
Torie Chippewa
phone: 231.534.7230
Cell: 231.590.2395
Email: victoria.chippewa@gtb-nsn.gov



Youth Services

Lets MAKE BEADED ORNAMENTS



Thursday, dec. 4th

ages 11-19

5-7pm

Dinner provided

*subject to change

M22 Youth Building
2821 NW Bayshore Dr.
Peshawbestown MI, 49682

Torie Chippewa
phone: 231.534.7230
cell: 231.590.2395
Email: victoria.chippewa@gtb-nsn.com



YOUTH SERVICES OPEN CENTER DAYS

Creating a safe open space for students to come hang out after school.

help with homework

crafting

PLAY BOARD GAMES *Subject to change*

with Library next door we have computer access and books!

please call or email a week in advance to let us know that your student would be attending.

Torie Chippewa
Youth Intervention Specialist
phone: 231.534.7230
cell: 231.590.2395
email: victoria.chippewa@gtb-nsn.gov



Youth Services

finish a craft night

*December 3rd & 10th
will continue in January after Holiday Break

5-7PM

*Subject to change & if no one shows within the hour I will close for the night

We do not always finish a craft from Monday or Thursday night. I would like everyone to be able to finish their crafts and be able to have access to the supplies given for the craft we have here at the center.

Torie Chippewa
Cell: 231.590.2395
Office: 231.534.7230
Email: victoria.chippewa@gtb-nsn.gov

M22 Youth building
2821 NW Bayshore Dr.
Peshawbestown MI 49682



December 2025

All events are free and open to the Native American and Non-Native public. They promote Anishinabek culture, the musical arts, and health through Yang Style Tai Chi. Events hosted by the GTB Heritage Library, GTB Lifelong Learning, and the Institute of Museums and Library Services.

Events Subject to Change

HERITAGE LIBRARY PRESENTS

WINTER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Music Lessons: Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays 10AM - 5PM @ Heritage Library

30-Minute Guitar, Piano, and Voice lessons by appointment. Zoom Lessons Available. Music lessons are open to children to adults ages 7 to Elder. The Heritage Library has 1 electric keyboard/piano, 2 children sized classical guitars, and 2 full sized classical guitars to borrow for lessons.

Children, Youth & Adults 10AM - 5PM according to teacher availability - First Come First Serve.

Tai Chi Tuesdays & Thursdays: 12PM - 1PM @ Heritage Library

Enjoy the relaxing art of Tai Chi with Francis Carew, who teaches Yang style Tai Chi, a low impact exercise that improves cardiorespiratory function, hypertension, muscular strength, balance, mobility, flexibility, and mind-body awareness.

Anishinaabek Makerspace: Goon Ginebie (Snow Snake) Workshops

Come Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with the Heritage Library. The tribal librarian will teach you all about Goon Ginebie-Snow Snakes. He will teach you how to make a wooden dowel Goon Ginebie and discuss the history of the snow snake game and how to make a snow snake track.

Supplies are limited, RSVP to secure a spot.

Heritage Library December 3rd • 5:30 - 7:30 PM 2821 N West Bay Shore Dr., Peshawbestown	3-Mile Office December 10th • 5:30 - 7:30 PM 845 Business Park Dr., Traverse City	Benzie Office December 18th • 5:30 - 7:30 PM 7282 Hoadley Road, Benzonia
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More Information:
Francis Carew (231) 534-7752 Francis.Carew@gtb-nsn.gov
Heritage Library - 2821 N West Bay Shore Dr. Peshawbestown, MI





Join Youth Services

learn how to
make ribbon
wreaths

December 11, 2025 ages 11-19

5-7pm

Dinner provided
weather
permitting

M22 Youth building
2821 NW Bayshore Dr.
Peshawbeston MI,
49682

Torie Chippewa
phone: 231.534.7230
cell: 231.590.2395
email: victoria.chippewa@gtb-nsn.gov



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GRAND TRAVERSE BAND YOUTH SERVICES

MOVIE TIME
CHRISTMAS
Chronicles

9

POPCORN-CRAFT-LIGHT DINNER

M22 Youth Building
2821 NW Bayshore DR.
Peshawbeston MI, 49682

DECEMBER 5-7 pm
subject to change

Torie Chippewa
phone: 231.534.7230
cell: 231.590.2395
Email:
victoria.chippewa@gtb-nsn.gov



GINGERBREAD

Family Dinner

Come join Lifelong Learning for family dinner!
We will cook dinner and after we will decorate gingerbread
houses!

Come have fun together as we create sweet memories.
Location: Benzie Satellite Office
7282 Hoadley Road, Benzonia, MI 49616

 10 December, 2025  5-7:30 PM

231-534-7825 231-463-5797 Kimberly.Hinmon@gtb-nsn.gov



YOU ARE INVITED TO
COMMUNITY
Christmas
PARTY

GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT
GOVERNOR'S HALL
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
4:30 PM-7PM

DINNER & ACTIVITIES
CHRISTMAS PHOTO BOOTH

OPEN TO ALL GTB MEMBERS AND THEIR
FAMILIES IN THE SIX COUNTY SERVICE AREA
AGENDA PROVIDED AT PARTY



NATURAL RESOURCES

WINTER TRADITIONS, NEW TOOLS & BIG OPPORTUNITIES:

YOUR GUIDE TO GTB LICENSING, LOTTERIES, AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING

As winter settles in across our homelands—snow covering the pines, families gathering for warm meals, and the rhythm of the season slowing our pace—the Grand Traverse Band Natural Resources Department (NRD) invites you to reconnect with what grounds us: our traditions, our land, and our shared responsibility to care for both.

This season, the NRD is rolling out new tools, rare opportunities, and reminders that help every tribal member from seasoned hunters to curious first-timers, take part in our treaty-protected rights and cultural practices. And it’s all easier, more accessible, and more exciting than ever.

A MODERN DOORWAY TO ANCIENT PRACTICES: INTRODUCING THE GTB LICENSING APP

Imagine planning your next hunting trip, checking your gathering tags, or entering a drawing—all from your phone, without ever stepping outside into the cold. That reality is here.

The new GTB Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Gathering App brings tradition and technology together: Renew your yearly licenses

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The new GTB Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Gathering App brings tradition and technology together: Renew your yearly licenses

- ♦ Apply for drawings and specialty permits
- ♦ Access digital tags and permits instantly
- ♦ Report your harvest on the go
- ♦ Receive real-time updates and announcements from NRD

The app is simple, fast, and designed to keep tribal members



connected to the land in a modern, convenient way. Whether you’re out on the ice or sitting at home by the woodstove, it’s always within reach.

Explore the app today: hunt.gtbindians.org



A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CHANCE: ENTER THE NME (LAKE STURGEON) PERMIT LOTTERY

Every year, one lucky GTB member gets the chance to harvest Nmé, the Lake Sturgeon, one of the most culturally significant beings in our waters. This is more than just a permit; it’s a role in a story carried through generations. For 2026, one permit will be issued for the harvest of a Lake Sturgeon in Black Lake (Cheboygan/Presque Isle counties). The permit is valid through December 31, 2026, giving the selected hunter a wide window to plan this meaningful experience.

And entering is easy, choose whichever method fits your lifestyle:

♦ Call: 231-534-7500 (leave a message if needed)

♦ Email: NRD@GTB-NSN.GOV

♦ Use the App: HUNT.GTBINDIANS.ORG

Deadline to enter: January 8th at 5 PM

This opportunity is rare, powerful, and deeply rooted in our responsibility to manage and honor one of the oldest species in the Great Lakes.

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LICENSE RENEWALS AVAILABLE NOW

A friendly reminder as the new year approaches: All GTB hunting, fishing, gathering, and trapping licenses expire April 1st.

Renewal stickers are available all year, and getting yours now ensures you’re prepared once the seasons shift and the woods come alive again.

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Renewal stickers are available all year, and getting yours now ensures you’re prepared once the seasons shift and the woods come alive again.

To request your renewal sticker:

- ♦ NRD@gtb-nsn.gov
- ♦ **231-534-7500**

Whether you hunt deer, pick medicines, set a trapline, or drop a line in the water, staying current keeps our treaty rights alive and strong.

YOUR SEASON TO CONNECT, PARTICIPATE, & CARE FOR THE LAND

Whether you’re entering your name in the Nmé lottery, renewing your license, or exploring the new GTB licensing app, this winter is full of opportunities to strengthen your connection to the land and carry our teachings forward.

Stewardship isn’t just a responsibility, it’s a gift we pass on to the next seven generations. And this season, you’re invited to be part of that story in new and exciting ways.

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Stewardship isn’t just a responsibility, it’s a gift we pass on to the next seven generations. And this season, you’re invited to be part of that story in new and exciting ways.

Miigwech for protecting, practicing, and honoring what makes our community strong.

Winter Pinecone Bird Feeder

Fun family activity this winter to keep you grounded with nature.

Things you will need:

• Pinecone

• Sturdy cotton string

• Scissors

• Peanut butter/suet/shortening

• 2 plates or trays

• Birdseed

◦ small seed such as millet, ground cracked corn and thistle attracts sparrows, mourning doves, juncos and goldfinches

◦ sunflower seed, suet, peanut hearts and hemp attracts chickadees, nuthatches, titmice and woodpeckers

Directions:

1. Wrap the string around the top of the pinecone, tight enough so that it can resist weathering.

2. Pat a fair amount of peanut butter over the pinecone and in-between the crevices.

3. Pour birdseed onto plate or tray.

4. Roll it in some birdseed until it is well covered.

5. Hang it from a tree or wherever you like and watch the birds enjoy your thoughtful gift.

Grand Traverse Band of Ojibwa Confederation Natural Resources

SUSTAINABLE HOLIDAY SEASON ACTIVITIES to try this year

1

Decorate your house and tree with **LED** Christmas lights.

2

Use recycled and/or recyclable Christmas wrapping paper.

3

Plan your meals to reduce food waste. Compost any unwanted leftovers or scraps.

4

Putting up real a Christmas Tree is actually more environmentally friendly than artificial.

5

Think quality, not quantity in regards to presents. This can cut down on waste.

6

Instead of plastic decor like tinsel, use natural items like pinecones, popcorn, etc.

Grand Traverse Band of Ojibwa Confederation Natural Resources

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Grand Traverse Band of Ojibwa Confederation Natural Resources

GTB NEWS 14

AGRICULTURAL & FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

HONORING THE LAND AND BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

As the year winds down, the GTB Agriculture & Food Sovereignty Department is proud to share the many ways we’ve been working to strengthen our community, our land, and our traditions. From expanding our farm facilities in Peshawbestown to distributing fresh, “GTB grown” items at the Membership Meeting, and from maintaining satellite gardens across the service area to preparing compost and liquid fertilizer for next year’s gardens, 2025 has



BARN ADDITION: EXPANDING OUR CAPACITY

Big things are hapening at the Peshawbestown Farm! Our farm is growing, literally. The addition of a new barn extension will increase our covered and protected storage area by nearly 25%, providing much-needed space for equipment and projects that support the health of our land and community.

This expansion is made possible thanks to “match” funding from the State of Michigan’s EGLE Organic Waste Management grant. With an additional \$205,000 in support, we’re able to continue growing the GTB Fish Waste Management Project. The new barn will house key equipment, including our recently purchased compost screener, disc tiller, and more, making it easier than ever to manage the commercial fish waste produced throughout Leelanau County. This facility is not just a structure; it’s a symbol of our commitment to sustainable practices, community health, and environmental stewardship.



been a year of growth and connection.

In this newsletter, you’ll learn about the exciting barn expansion at Peshawbestown Farm, which will help manage

our fish waste and support sustainable agriculture projects. You’ll also see how our harvest made its way to the Membership Meeting tables, bringing fresh corn, squash, and handmade products to

our community members and elders. We’ll provide updates on our satellite farm locations and plans for future gardens, highlight how GTB members can access compost and liquid fertilizer in 2026, and show how our fish waste compost continues to enrich our fields.

Through every project and program, our goal remains the same: to connect the GTB community with healthy food, sustainable practices, and the traditions that sustain us.

SHARING THE HARVEST: GTB MEMBERSHIP MEETING DISTRIBUTION

It was a joy to share the fruits of our labor with the GTB community at this year’s Membership Meeting! Nearly 30 pounds of dried corn, along with decorative squash and pumpkins, were used for table displays and distributed to attendees.

We also prepared special gifts for our GTB Elders Department, including bottles of our pure maple syrup, maple candied pecans, and jars of delicious pickles canned right at the Strongheart Center. Every item represents the care and dedication of our Agriculture team, and as our program continues to grow, we hope to one day provide every Membership Meeting attendee with a free “GTB grown” product. Sharing our harvest is more than giving, it’s a way to connect our community to the land, to each other, and to the traditions that sustain us.

SATELLITE FARM LOCATIONS: EXPANDING OUR REACH ACROSS THE 6-COUNTY SERVICE AREA

For years, GTB Agriculture has worked to maintain satellite farm sites across the service area, including gardens at the Antrim/Kewadin GTB site, the Charlevoix Satellite Office, and a small garden at the GTB Benzie Office. These sites represent opportunities to expand our programming, connect more members with food sovereignty, and make fresh, local produce accessible throughout the region.

In 2025, we focused our efforts on the Peshawbestown Farm and the Charlevoix Satellite Office. Water and infrastructure challenges, as well as limited community involvement, led us to pause the Kewadin garden. But we are excited about the future plans are underway to establish a small garden at the Herkner property in collaboration with GTEC and GTB Housing. With GTEC’s support, we hope to see garden beds installed at Herkner in 2026, bringing new opportunities for hands-on gardening experiences to the community.

Running multiple farm sites with a two-person team comes with challenges,

but we remain committed to creating meaningful impact wherever possible. Investing in the Charlevoix Farm has been especially rewarding: we installed a shed, ran electricity to a well dormant for 15 years, and fenced two acres to make the space productive and accessible. These investments reflect our mission to make agriculture and food sovereignty programs available and sustainable for the GTB community.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026: COMPOST AND LIQUID FERTILIZER FOR GTB GARDENERS

Attention gardeners! In 2026, GTB members with gardens will have access to high-quality compost from the Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Department. Starting in late April or early May, we will distribute compost on a first-come, first-serve basis. Members can load trailers, truck beds, or fill buckets enough to provide up to 1 yard of compost per garden. This same compost keeps our GTB Agriculture sites thriving and was even made available for sale in 2025 at \$75 per yard.

In addition, we will continue to offer our liquid fertilizer for those looking to boost their soil health. Mark your calendars, contact us in April, and let’s grow together!

FISH WASTE COMPOST: NOURISHING THE LAND, SUPPORTING SUSTAINABILITY

Our fish waste compost program is already making a difference at Peshawbestown Farm. By turning local fish waste into nutrient-rich compost, we not only reduce environmental impact but also create a sustainable, locally produced soil amendment that strengthens our crops and supports the long-term health of our land.

The work happening at GTB Agriculture & Food Sovereignty isn’t just about farming, it’s about reconnecting with the land, honoring traditions, and creating a sustainable future for the GTB community. Whether it’s expanding our barns, sharing our harvest, or helping members grow their own gardens, every effort reflects our commitment to a thriving, food-secure community.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Winter Driving Preparedness

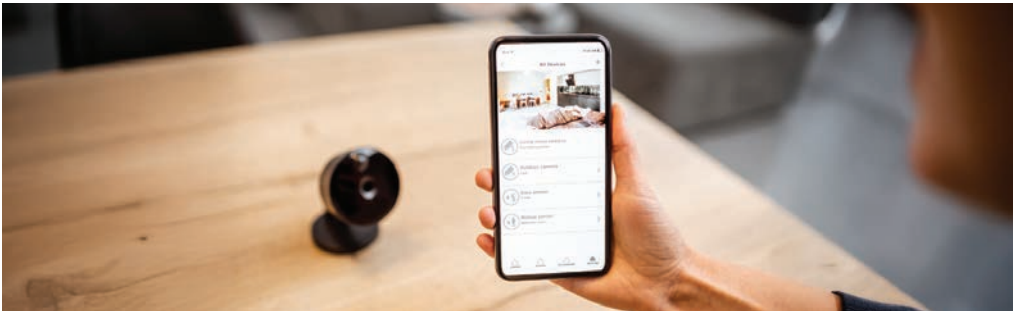


As winter settles in across Northern Michigan, the Grand Traverse Band Tribal Police and the Michigan State Police are urging community members to take time now to prepare for hazardous road conditions. Officers say that each year, the combination of early snowfall, rapidly changing temperatures, and drifting winds creates an increased risk for crashes—many of which can be prevented with proper preparation. Tribal Police emphasize the importance of equipping your vehicle before the first significant storm hits. Drivers are encouraged to check that tires have adequate tread, that vehicles are stocked with essential emergency supplies, and that wiper blades and fluid levels are prepared for freezing temperatures. Officers also remind drivers to give

themselves extra travel time, clear all snow from windows and lights before driving, and use headlights even during daylight snowstorms. In cooperation with MSP, Tribal Police note that speeding and distracted driving are leading contributors to winter crashes in rural areas. Drivers are advised to slow down on snowy or icy roads and maintain a safe distance from other vehicles, especially large trucks and snowplows. If conditions become too dangerous, law enforcement encourages motorists to delay travel when possible and report hazardous conditions. Officers say preparedness is key, the more attention we give to our vehicles and our driving habits, the safer our entire community becomes during the winter months.

Holiday Travel & Home Safety

With the holiday season approaching, the Grand Traverse Band Tribal Police and the Michigan State Police are reminding families to plan ahead for both safe travel and secure homes. Officers say this time of year typically brings an increase in road traffic, gift-related deliveries, and extended absences from homes — all factors that can contribute to preventable incidents if precautions aren’t taken. Tribal Police recommend that families preparing for holiday travel begin with a simple safety checklist: confirm route plans, ensure vehicles are winter-ready, and inform a trusted family member of travel times and destinations. During peak travel days, officers advise motorists to expect delays, reduce speed on winter roads, and remain attentive behind the wheel, especially when sharing the road with plows or emergency vehicles. For community members



Reporting Suspicious Activity

The Grand Traverse Band Tribal Police, working closely with the Michigan State Police, are reminding community members of the importance of speaking up when something doesn’t seem right. Both agencies report that timely community tips have helped prevent incidents ranging from property theft to identity fraud—issues that tend to rise during the fall and holiday seasons. Tribal Police encourage residents to trust their instincts: if a situation feels unusual or out of place, it deserves attention. Suspicious activity may include unfamiliar vehicles lingering in neighborhoods, individuals attempting to access secured buildings, packages being removed from porches, or unexpected requests for personal information. Officers note that reporting concerns promptly gives law enforcement a better chance of identifying potential threats before they escalate. The cooperative effort between Tribal Police and MSP ensures that tips are evaluated quickly and resources are directed where they’re most needed. Community members are encouraged to call the GTB Tribal Police Department for local concerns or 911 in emergencies. Anonymous tips are also accepted. Tribal Police leadership has noted our community is strongest when we look out for one another even a small piece of information can make a big difference.



Be Prepared for Winter Emergencies

As we welcome the winter weather, the Grand Traverse Band Tribal Police and GTB Emergency Management are encouraging households to take a few simple steps to stay prepared for unexpected emergencies. Power outages, heavy snowfall, and hazardous travel can happen with little warning, but officers say early preparation can make all the difference. Emergency officials recommend keeping a small home kit with water, nonperishable food, flashlights, batteries, blankets, and a phone charger. Families who rely on medications or medical equipment should include an extra supply and copies of important prescriptions. Having two to three days of essentials is ideal during winter storm season.

Tribal Police also urge families to establish a basic communication plan so everyone knows who to contact if phone lines are disrupted. Households with elders or young children may benefit from posting important medical information in an easy-to-find location. GTB Public Safety continues to coordinate closely with MSP and regional emergency partners to ensure fast responses during severe weather. Community members are encouraged to sign up for GTB emergency alerts and stay informed through Tribal Police updates. Preparedness doesn’t need to be complicated, a few simple steps can help keep our families and community safe.



FIRE & RESCUE



Cultural & Ceremonial Fire Safety in Winter

For many tribal communities, fire plays a vital role in cultural and ceremonial practices. During the winter months, when gatherings often take place indoors or around contained outdoor fires, it is essential to prioritize fire safety to protect both participants and sacred traditions.

SAFE PRACTICES FOR CEREMONIAL FIRES

- 1. Designated Fire Keeper:** Assign a responsible individual as the fire keeper, ensuring that someone is always monitoring the fire to maintain control and safety.
- 2. Proper Location:** Ensure ceremonial fires are held in open, well-ventilated spaces. If indoors, confirm that the venue allows for open flames and has proper fire safety measures in place.
- 3. Weather Precautions:** For outdoor fires, choose a location protected from strong winds. Have water, sand, or fire extinguishers on hand to quickly manage unexpected flare-ups.
- 4. Fire Pit Maintenance:** Use fireproof materials to build the fire pit. If it's a permanent site, check for cracks or wear in the structure to prevent embers from escaping.
- 5. Clothing Awareness:** Encourage participants to wear non-flammable, fitted clothing to reduce the risk of accidental ignition near the fire.
- 6. Material Selection:** Burn only natural materials, such as untreated wood, to avoid toxic fumes. Avoid accelerants,

as they can cause uncontrollable flames.

- 7. Clear Boundaries:** Set up a clear perimeter around the fire to prevent individuals, especially children, from getting too close.
- 8. Ventilation for Indoor Fires:** If the ceremonial fire is held indoors, use proper ventilation to reduce smoke buildup and the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide detectors should be in place and tested before the ceremony.

EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY

The Grand Traverse Band Fire Department encourages tribal members to balance cultural practices with modern safety precautions. Hosting community workshops or distributing educational materials on ceremonial fire safety can help spread awareness and ensure safe practices are followed.

RESPECTING TRADITIONS WHILE ENSURING SAFETY

Fire ceremonies carry deep spiritual significance, and safety measures should enhance, not hinder, these practices. By incorporating fire safety into cultural traditions, tribal communities can honor their heritage while safeguarding lives and property.

The GTB Fire Department is committed to supporting the community in maintaining safe ceremonial practices. If you have questions or need assistance, contact us for guidance.



Holiday Cooking Lead Cause of December House Fires

With many families preparing for holiday gatherings, December tends to be one of the busiest months for cooking-related incidents. The GTB Fire Department often responds to kitchen emergencies around this time, many of which begin with unattended food or grease overheating on the stove.

This seasonal pattern is common across the region and remains a concern in tribal households as kitchens become the center of celebrations. The combination of crowded homes, multiple dishes cooking at once, and frequent distractions increases the potential for small flare-ups to escalate.

The department is encouraging community members to stay mindful during holiday meal preparations, particularly in multi-generational homes where activity can be higher. Keeping stove areas clear, staying within sight of cooking food, and having a plan for safely handling grease can help ensure celebrations stay safe throughout the month.

GTB Fire Dept. Celebrates EMT Achievements & Regional Training Milestones

The Grand Traverse Band Fire Department is celebrating an important milestone this month as Firefighter/EMT Carolyn Fairchild successfully completed her Emergency Medical Technician Basic program and passed the National Registry EMT examination. Her certification marks a significant step in her continued service to the Grand Traverse Band community and the department.

Fairchild's accomplishment follows months of rigorous training that included more than two hundred hours of classroom instruction, hands-on clinical experience, and extensive independent study. She was one of thirteen individuals who completed the region's most recent EMT training cohort—an effort supported by multiple northern Michigan fire and emergency services agencies.

The program was coordinated through Green Lake Township Emergency Services and included instructors and leadership from several departments. Training partners involved in this cohort included representatives from Traverse City Fire, Leland Township Fire & Rescue, and the Northwest Regional Training Center, along with participation from GTB Fire Rescue personnel. Firefighters from across the region, including Fairchild, engaged in a collaborative learning environment that emphasized foundational medical skills, emergency response, and community-based care.

The Grand Traverse Band Fire Department expressed pride in Fairchild's progress throughout the program, from her successful completion of the coursework earlier this year to the achievement of earning her National EMS Certification. Her dedication reflects the department's continued commitment to building strong, skilled response teams for the tribal community.

As new EMTs prepare to enter the field across the region, the department recognizes the hard work and determination that brought this group through months of demanding training. Fairchild's achievement stands as a highlight for the GTB Fire Department, representing ongoing investment in both professional development and high-quality emergency care for tribal members.

100 Employment	130 Services
105 Lost and Found	135 Events
115 For Sale	140 Legal Notice
120 Announcements	145 Mino-Dibishkaan
125 Miigwech	150 Bereavement

100 Employment

Government Operations

AFS Adult Caseworker (PT)

Bachelor's Degree in Social Work field required. Current Social Work License through the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. At least one year of experience in a social services field. Must have a valid unrestricted driver license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$57,729/yr. - until 12.2.25

Assistant General Counsel I (FT)

J.D. from an accredited law school required. Michigan State Bar license or ability to obtain within 1 year. At least six to eight (6-8)years of practicing law in Michigan and in Indian Country. Must have participated as the principal attorney, or assistant to the principal attorney, in litigation that resulted in a published opinion in federal, state or tribal court. Indian law litigation preferred. Must have a valid unrestricted Driver's license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. Vehicle. -\$DOE - until filled

Bookkeeper/Assistant Program Director (FT)

Associates Degree in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration or Public Administration is required. Must have a minimum of 3 years of experience working in bookkeeping, prefer working with multiple federal grants/contracts. Must have a valid unrestricted Driver's license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$18.55/hr. - until filled

Chief Tribal Judge (FT)

Is a member of the Grand Traverse Band who has attained the age of eighteen (18) and/or is an attorney licensed to practice before the courts of a state in the United States. 5 years of experience in legal practice. Has not been convicted, within ten (10) years of such appointment, of any felony by a court of competent jurisdiction. Must have a valid unrestricted driver license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$DOE/yr. - until filled

Dental Hygienist (FT)

Associates Degree in Dental Hygiene and Licensure in State of Michigan. Twenty-four hours of biennial continuing education including four hours' HIV-AIDS and three hours' CPR training. Competence in operation of standard dental equipment: cavitron, prophjet, X-ray, radiograph processor, panelpse, dental chair and unit, sterilizers, hand scalers, and curesttes. At least one year of experience as a full time dental hygienist preferred. -\$36.62/hr. - until filled

EHS Education & Family Services Coordinator (FT)

Must have a BA in Human Services or Social Work field. Must have experience in a supervisory position, with strong team leadership skills. One to three years experience in working in an Early Head Start and/or Head Start program preferred.

Previous experience in the field, with skills in classroom management, and curriculum planning. Must obtain CPR/First Aid certification. -\$44,595.20/yr. - until filled

(3) EHS/HS Bus & Classroom Aide (PT)

Must have High School diploma or GED. Must be able to effectively communicate with children and adults in an appropriate manner. Must be willing to obtain a CPR/First Aid certification. Ability to observe and evaluate children in a non-biased manner. Must be willing to and as well as obtain a CDA within first two years of hire. -\$16.55/hr. - until filled

EHS/HS Bus Driver - Part Time (PT)

Must have High School diploma or GED. Must be able to effectively communicate with children & adults in an appropriate manner. Must have First Aide Certification or obtain a CPR/FirstAid certification (within 30 days). Ability to observe & evaluate children in a non-biased manner. Must be willing to & as well as obtain a CDA within first (2) yrs. of hire. -\$18.55/hr. - until filled

EHS/HS Health & Disabilities Coordinator (FT)

Bachelor's Degree with strong emphasis in Health, Social Services, Psychology or Early Childhood Education. 1-3 yrs. experience preferred. Advanced knowledge of applicable law, regulations, rules & procedures of the Head Start/Early Head Start program. Must maintain current CPR/First Aid Certification -\$44,595.20/yr. - until filled

(2) EHS/HS Home Visitor (FT)

An Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education required. A Bachelor's Degree & (1) yr. of direct experience preferred. (3) yrs.. of directly related experience. -\$19.98/hr. - until filled

Facilities Utility Worker 1st Shift (Temporary)

High school diploma or G.E.D. preferred. Experience in commercial building maintenance preferred. Carpentry, plumbing and electrical repair experience preferred. Knowledge of safety procedures and safety equipment recommended for use during the course of duty. -\$16.17/hr. - until filled

Head Start Teacher (FT)

Associates Degree, with a Child Development Certification, with emphasis in early childhood development, Bachelor's Degree preferred. Previous experience preferred with skills in classroom management and curriculum planning. Must maintain current CPR/First Aid certification. Must be proficient in the use of computers and programs such as word processing. Able to develop and implement short and long term educational goals. Good observational skills and ability to summarize observed learning/social behaviors in children. -\$19.98/hr. - until filled

Housing Development Manager (FT)

Must possess a college degree in Business or related field. At least Five (5) years of increasingly responsible administrative experience in the development, planning,

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Subject: “Classifieds”. Please have all submissions & payments sent by the 3rd Friday of each month. Classified rates: \$10 for 15 words or less, and 75 cents per additional word. Any thumbnail image costs an additional \$15. ***Postings are subject to change daily.**

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Request for Proposals (RFP): <https://gtbindians.applicantpool.com/internaljobs/>

funding implementation and operation of governmental funded, low-income directed, housing assistance programs and at least (3) years in a management position. Must have a valid unrestricted driver license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$DOE/hr. - until filled

Housing Maintenance II (FT)

Must have a High school diploma or GED. Be certified in an area related to maintenance or building trades such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical or HVAC or have demonstrated experience/knowledge in one or more areas. Five years' experience in residential unit maintenance. Must have a valid unrestricted driver license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$21.75/hr. - until filled

HS Education & Family Services Coordinator (FT)

Must have BA in Education or related field and be a certified teacher, preferably with Early Childhood (ZA) endorsement. Must have experience in a supervisory position, with strong team leadership skills. One to three years experience in working in an Early Head Start and/or Head Start program preferred. Previous experience in the field, with skills in classroom management, and curriculum planning. Must obtain CPR/First Aid certification. -\$44,595.20/yr. - until filled

Medical Director/Physician (FT)

Must have an active State of Michigan Physician License, State of Michigan Controlled Substance License, and Federal DEA License, with Board Certification in Family Practice. Must have Community Staff Privileges at Munson Medical Center or obtain within a reasonable time. Must have a valid Michigan Driver's License and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$DOE - until filled

On-Call Receptionist

Must have High School DiplomaorGEDequivalent. Prefer (1) yr. experience in office management. Must have basic math skills & written skills. -\$14.22/hr. - until filled

On-Call Receptionist - Charlevoix

Must have High School DiplomaorGEDequivalent. Prefer (1) yr. experience in office management. Must have basic math skills & written skills. -\$14.22/hr. - until filled

Revenue Cycle and Data Manager (FT)

Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or Finance. Thorough understanding billing, collections and payment posting, revenue cycle, & third-party payers. Thorough understanding of budget management and reporting for business planning and development, as well as program specific management and reporting. Thorough understanding of Database creation, data analysis, compiling and interpreting data from several systems. (2-3) years' progressive and successful billing cycle and data management experience preferred. Must have a valid unrestricted driver license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$69,450/yr. - until filled

Youth Intervention Specialist- Traverse City (FT)

High School diploma or GED certificate required. Associates degree is required in social work, education or related field. 1-3 years' experience working with Native American Youth. Must have a valid Michigan Driver's License and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. Must have and maintain current CPR/First Aid certification. -\$19.52/hr. - until filled

Government Operations RFP

RFP - Appellate Defense Attorney 2026

Court is soliciting contractual-service proposals for an Appellate Defense Attorney, to represent clients, in the Appellate Court, for one (1) year (FY'2026), (effective on Oct. 1, 2025 and end on Sept. 30, 2026). Up to two (2) Attorneys will be selected to enter into contracts, to provide legal services/representation, to defend the rights of Tribal Appellate Court Clients, when appointed. The Attorney must be familiar with Tribal laws and laws pertaining to appeals in both Tribal, Federal and the State of Michigan. -\$RFP - until 12.4.25

RFP - Court Process Server 2026

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) Tribal Court is soliciting contractual-service proposals for a Court Process Server, to provide Paper Process services, in the Tribal Court, for one (1) year (FY'2026), (effective on Oct. 1, 2025 and end on Sept. 30, 2026). One (1) individual will be selected to enter into a contract, to provide Court Paper Process services for GTB Tribal Court cases, on an as needed basis. -\$RFP - until 12.4.25

RFP - Dental Hygienist 2025

GTB is requesting proposals from Dental Hygienist Providers interested in providing as needed Dental Hygienist for our Community. Must be a Licensed Hygienist in Michigan to include a CPR license. Liability insurance is required. -\$RFP - until filled

RFP - Guardian Ad Litem 2026

Court is soliciting contractual-service proposals for a Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), to represent clients, in the Tribal Court, for one (1) year (FY'2026), (effective on Oct. 1, 2025 and end on Sept. 30, 2026). Up to three (3) Attorneys will be selected to enter into contracts, to represent Tribal Members or non-Tribal Member Court Clients who are minors and adults, who are incapacitated / incompetent, who require a Guardian Ad Litem, and who are parties to a Tribal Court Case, within the Tribe's jurisdiction. -\$RFP - 12.4.25

RFP - Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Parent Defense Attorney 2026

Court is soliciting contractual-service proposals for an Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Parent Defense Attorney, to represent clients, in the Tribal Court, for one (1) year (FY'2026), (effective

on Oct. 1, 2025 and end on Sept. 30, 2026). Up to three (3) Attorneys will be selected to enter into contracts, to represent Tribal Members or non-Tribal Member Court Clients who are respondent parents, who may require an attorney, within the Tribe's jurisdiction. The Attorney must be familiar with Tribal laws, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), and State of Michigan and Federal laws governing Indian Child Welfare Matters. -\$RFP - 12.4.25

RFP - Probate and Estate Planning Attorney 2026

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians (GTB) is requesting proposals from qualified individuals or catering services to provide food service for the Kchi Wiikwedong Round Dance Feast on Saturday, January 3, 2026. The event will be held at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spain Acme, MI, with feast time at 3:00 PM. -\$RFP - 12.4.25

RFP - Recusal Judge 2026

Court is soliciting contractual-service proposals for a Recusal Judge, to preside over any case within the Tribal Court, for one (1) year (FY'2026), (effective on Oct. 1, 2025 and end on Sept. 30, 2026). One (1) Recusal Judge will be selected to enter into a contract to serve as the presiding Judge, where a conflict of interest may exist or arise, in any Tribal Court case, within the Tribe's jurisdiction. -\$RFP - 12.4.25

RFP - 2026 Personal Trainer

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB, Grand Traverse Band) is requesting bid proposals from companies or adult individual/s for a Certified Personal Trainer at the Strongheart Civic Center located in Leelanau County. -\$RFP - until filled

RFP - 2026 Pilates Instructor

GTB is requesting bid proposals for a Certified Pilates Instructor to offer classes at the Strongheart Center dance room. Each class will be offered once a week for 1 (one) hour duration on day/time agreed upon. -\$RFP - until filled

RFP - 2026 Yoga Instructor

GTB is requesting bid proposals from companies or adult individual/s for yoga instructor(s) for Leelanau county. -\$RFP - until filled

150 Bereavement

Michael L. Shaw
“Brotha Mike”
GTB Tribal Member
Gawn, MI
5/9/1975– 11/14/2025
Respectfully
Acknowledging Our Loss



On Sunday, November 2nd, 2025, **Dave Spinniken** passed away in his home at the age of 76 surrounded by his loved ones. Born in 1949 to David and Alice Spinniken, he married his beloved, Barb MacLaurin, on September 8, 1973. Raised on a cherry farm in Leelanau County, he took pride in hard work and even after retirement he was tireless in his passion to serve. His favorite pastimes were getting involved in new construction projects, spending time with his family, and boating. Dave was also a gardener whose worm farm contributed to a bounty every year. He had several crow friends, and was at heart, a child of the woods who loved a good hike. Dave and his wife, Barb, shared many interests, and on their hikes, they could identify species of all sorts of plants, trees and mushrooms. They were devoted to the fine arts community in Northern Michigan, and it is this generation of the 1960's-70's artists who shaped the vibrant Arts community we see in Northern Michigan today. He loved to dance, especially to local folk bands. Dave and Barb enjoyed many festivals around Michigan and loved to camp. He never forgot his roots and always considered himself a Leland boy. In 1980, Dave graduated Cum Laude from Northern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science. He had a major in industrial education and a minor in psychology. A dedicated professional, he started his career teaching workshop skills to challenged adults. In 2016, he celebrated retirement from his twenty-year passion – as editor “Scoop” of the Grand Traverse Band News. Under his leadership, he created a dynamic department with an essential role in the band's community. His compassionate nature is most evident throughout his life, and his brilliance will be missed. He is remembered by many as a mentor whose good nature brought an element of fun to many tasks. Dave was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his three children, Faye, Arian, and Adam; his sisters, Bev and Jen; his brother, Jim; as well as several nieces, nephews, and his seven adored grandchildren. His absence will be felt most strongly by his family, for he was an invested caregiver whose wisdom was always available to anyone he encountered. Interment of ashes will take place in the family plot at Leland Cemetery in April of 2026, followed by a close family gathering. At his request, there will be a friends and family celebration of life in September of 2026. In lieu of flowers, his family requests donations made to Leelanau Conservancy, or Habitat for Humanity.





Niizh Animikiig presents

MANIDOO-MINES-ke-DAA

Let's bead



Come join this beading circle, supplies limited.
Can bring your own beading projects.
Please call to reserve a spot

04 DEC	CHARLEVOIX THURSDAY 5:30 PM	08 JAN	CHARLEVOIX THURSDAY 5:30 PM
11 DEC	EYAAWING THURSDAY 5:30 PM	15 JAN	EYAAWING THURSDAY 5:30 PM
18 DEC	3-MILE THURSDAY 5:30 PM	22 JAN	3-MILE THURSDAY 5:30 PM

Beads and pre-drawn designs for earrings limited to 20 participants per site

Snacks provided | open to GTB community and families

For More Information & To Reserve Spot:
Leilani DeFoe 231-492-9956

Made with PosterMyWall.com



VIVA LAS
EELANAU

A NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENT
LEELANAU SANDS CASINO & LODGE
12/31/2025

UP TO \$26,000 IN CASH!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025
8:00 PM - 1:00 AM

Live music from Mama's Hot Sauce 9 PM - 2 AM!

WIN UP TO
\$2,600 CASH!

Start earning entries December 29.
Visit [LeelanauSandsCasino.com](https://leelanauSandsCasino.com) or Players Club for more information!

LEELANAU SANDS CASINO
[LeelanauSandsCasino.com](https://leelanauSandsCasino.com) | 800.922.2WIN

GTB Gaming employees are not eligible.
Management reserves the right to alter or withdraw this promotion at any time.
Owned and Operated by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.



Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
Kchi Wiikwedong Anishinaabek (Grand Traverse Band)

Virtual
Anishinaabemowin Class


Monday - Thursday 11AM - 12PM
(Ntam Giizhigad) (Niwinn Giizhad)

No Zoom class the last Wednesday of each month or when GTB is closed

Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 730 5294 9904
Passcode: GTB2024
[Bit.ly/GTBanishinaabemowin](https://bit.ly/GTBanishinaabemowin)

More information contact :
GTB Cultural Department
(231) 534-7766 or Gov.Cultural@gtb-nsn.gov

Oct. 2025-
June 2026



don't worry
beach happy
recreational
cannabis




beach fire
cannabis


drive-thru
window

weekly deals
rewards
locally owned
231.534.7420

6038 W Turtle Creek Dr, Williamsburg, MI 49690



Grand Traverse Band News

Submissions due by
the 3rd Friday each month

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Find us on Facebook:
"facebook.com/GrandTraverseBand"

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"Grand Traverse Band Communications"

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR THE NEWSPAPER MUST BE DONE THROUGH THE MEMBERSHIP OFFICE.



PRESENTED BY CULTURAL & COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTS



KCHI WIKWEDONG ANISHINABEK

ROUND DANCE
JANUARY 3rd, 2026

GRAND TRAVERSE
RESORT & SPA

MAAWNJIDOWIN

DRESS TO IMPRESS!

Masters of Ceremony:

Jackson Rollingthunder Tahuka
JUANENO BAND OF MISSION
INDIANS/MICCOSUKEE SEMINOLE/TOHONO
OODHAM

Beendigaygizhig Deleary
POTAWATOMI/ONEIDA

Stickman:

Joe Syrette
BACHEWANA FIRST NATION

Sound:

Nate Isaac
REZONANCE PRODUCTIONS

Invited Singers:

Arnold Alexis
LOGAN ALEXIS SINGERS | NAKOTA

Harvey Dreaver
WHITE FIRST JRS. | BIG RIVER FIRST NATION

Matt Isaac
CRAZY SPIRIT | AAMJIWNAANG FIRST NATION

Marlon Deschamps
NORTHERN CREE | MUSKWACIS, ALBERTA

Brock Lewis
BEAR CREEK | WIKWEMKOONG UNCEDED
TERRITORY

Dom Watson
THE BOYZ | CREEK/MEXICA

Jordan Mowat
BEAR CREEK | ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION

Desmond Madera
THE DESCENDENTS |
BLACKFEET/SPOKANE/CHOCTAW

Kwake Hale
MESKWAKI NATION | PRAIRIE BAND BODEWADMI

Volunteers Wanted!

For All Inquires Please Complete Form:
https://bit.ly/GTB_RDV2026



**Volunteers
Scan Me**

Vendor Setup

11:00 am - 2:30 pm
(Must be set up by 2:30 pm)

Fire

2:00 pm

Feast

3:00 pm

Pipe Ceremony & Prayer

6:00 pm

Round Dance

6:00 pm - 2:00 am

Memorial Dance

11:30 pm

Closing Song

1:30 am

Schedule Subect to Change

Grand Traverse Resort & Spa Room Rates



Non-GTB Member Rate: \$99/night
Code: RDNTB26

https://bit.ly/GTRS_GTB_RD26

GTB Members 21+: \$65/night
(231) 534-6000



**SCAN ME
TO STAY
UPDATED ON
FACEBOOK**

bit.ly/GTB_FB_RD2026

Contests

Sweetheart Dance

1st \$400 • 2nd \$300 • 3rd \$200

Progressive Spot Dance

Spot Dances All Night!

Vendors

Space is Limited, No Fee,
Donation Craft/Item Required
Registration Form in QR Code

Deadline:

5:00 p.m., December 19, 2025



https://bit.ly/GTB_RD_Vendor2026

Everyone Welcome!

Free Admission

All Singers Acknowledged
All Youth Must be Signed In
& Accompanied by an Adult

**No Drugs, Alcohol, Firearms
Weapons, or Animals**

All Children Must be Accompanied by An
Adult. Unsupervised Children Will Be Reported
to the Proper Authorities. GTB is Not
Responsible for Any Injury, Lost, or Damaged
Items Event Subject to Change Without Notice

