

GTB NEWS



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September 2026
Waabagaa Giizis (Leaves Turning Moon)



Chairwomans Address, Motions & Meetings	Membership Meeting Open Forum Q&A	Dental & Health Services Health Fair Honors	NRD & Agriculture & Emergency Mgt.
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AUGUST: A MONTH OF COMMUNITY & CULTURE

RELIVE ALL THE MOMENTS THAT MADE AUGUST SPECIAL—FROM THE FAMILY ANISHINAABEMOWIN CAMP TO THE KCHI WIIKWEDONG ANISHINAABEK MAAWNJODOWIN TRADITIONAL POW WOW! TAKE A LOOK BACK AT THE GATHERINGS, TRADITIONS, AND CELEBRATIONS THAT BROUGHT OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER DURING THE PAST MONTH.



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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GTB TRIBAL CHAIRWOMAN SANDRA L. WITHERSPOON



Greetings,

As summer begins to wind down, there has been a great deal happening throughout our Tribal Nation. This past month has included opportunities to celebrate our culture, strengthen our language, advocate for our sovereignty and treaty rights, work alongside other Tribal Nations, and continue planning for the future of our government and services. This summer has also brought sadness with the loss of our relative Samson Raphael. Our thoughts and prayers remain with his family and loved ones. Please continue to surround his family and friends with support, prayer and sema as they move through this difficult time. We also continue to pray for all who have lost loved ones. May your memories bring you comfort and peace.

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

It was wonderful to see so many of our members, families, visitors, dancers, singers and vendors come together for our Annual Powwow. Our Powwow is an important time to gather as a community, celebrate who we are, honor our traditions and welcome relatives and visitors to our homelands. Miigwech to Staff, Volunteers, Eagle town Post 120, and everyone who worked behind the scenes and helped make this year’s gathering possible.

We also had the opportunity to celebrate and strengthen Anishinaabemowin through our Language Camp. Our language connects us to who we are, where we come from and the generations who came before us. I am grateful to our speakers, teachers, families, youth and community members who continue the important work of learning and sharing our

language. Every word spoken helps keep Anishinaabemowin strong for future generations. I’d also like to send a shout out to our NRD Agricultural Manager Will Derouin and his staff for the delicious feast! Miigwetch!!

FEDERAL ADVOCACY AND TREATY RIGHTS

On August 17, a meeting took place between the Michigan Tribes and the Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kirkland. I attended the meeting with Tribal Council Executive Secretary Miller, Treasurer Wonegeshik, and Tribal Attorney John Petoskey.



We presented a letter outlining several priorities important to GTB. These included our continued opposition to Line 5 and the proposed replacement tunnel in the Straits of Mackinac, preservation of the National Archives facility in Chicago, matters involving our Revenue Allocation Plan and General Welfare Exclusion, Gaming, Restored Lands issues, continuing work on the Boarding School report, the Consultation process, and the federal government’s responsibilities under the U.S. v. Michigan Consent Decree and the Treaty of Washington of 1836.

We will continue advocating for GTB and ensuring our voice is heard when federal decisions affect our sovereignty, treaty rights, natural resources and citizens.

Line 5 remains an important issue for GTB and all Tribal Nations in Michigan and the Great Lakes States. A historic meeting took place in Bay Mills on August 11th. The twelve Tribes of Michigan were all represented by their Presidents, Chairmen, Chairwomen, Chiefs, Council members, Legal, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer’s and Natural Resource Staff. Developments continue at the state and federal levels, and the legal and regulatory process remains ongoing. GTB remains

committed to protecting the Great Lakes, our treaty-protected resources and the waters our people have depended upon for generations.

On August 20, I joined the NREC Chair Anna Miller and NREC Vice Chair Francis Carew and fellow Tribal leaders, the State of Michigan, Fish and Wildlife Agencies and CORA staff for the Executive Council meeting at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa. Discussions included Great Lakes fisheries and whitefish recovery, hatchery efforts, environmental and law enforcement matters, invasive species, wildlife, forestry and other issues affecting our treaty-protected natural resources. Working together with the other Treaty Tribes remains an important part of protecting these resources for generations to come.

LOOKING AHEAD

We continue to move forward with planning for our facilities and the future needs of our Tribal government. The new Traverse City property (NMC Boardman Lake campus) provides an opportunity to bring shared services together while making better use of our existing properties. Current planning includes using the GTB Business Park Drive – 3 Mile location for Early Head Start (Head Start will also continue to operate in Peshawbestown) Eagles Ridge for Administration and relocating Tribal Court to the current Administration building location. We also look forward to the re-opening of the Eyaawing Cultural Center once structural repairs have been completed. The Communications Department, Education and OMB Services will have their main office at the Traverse City Boardman Lake location. A satellite Health Clinic and Pharmacy will also be available at the new location in the future. Some Departments will also have satellite offices at the new location, but rest assured that services will still be located and available in Peshawbestown. There will also be 48 new Housing units available and a Community Building and offices at our Herkner Road community toward the end of September! These are exciting times!!

These transitions will take time,

and additional information will be shared with the membership as plans develop. Our goal is to use our facilities thoughtfully while improving how our government and services operate for our citizens.

As we look back over the past year, there is much to be proud of. We celebrated the dedication of the Company K Indian Veterans/1st Michigan Sharpshooters Memorial Highway, continued investing in housing and services for our membership, and strengthened relationships with our local, state, federal and Tribal partners. I am grateful to everyone who has contributed to this work.



This fall, Tribal Council will also be visiting our communities for a series of Community Meetings. These meetings are an opportunity to connect directly with Council, ask questions, share concerns and discuss matters important to you and your community. Meetings will be held from noon to 2:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Charlevoix – September 17
- Antrim – September 18 at Kewadin Indian Mission Hall
- Leelanau – October 8 at Council Chambers
- Benzie/Manistee – October 9
- Grand Traverse – October 14

We look forward to visiting with our members and hearing from you.

As we move into the next season, there is much work ahead. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our membership and will continue working with our Tribal Council to protect our sovereignty, treaty rights, culture, natural resources and the future of the Grand Traverse Band.

Baamaa pii miinwaa,
Sandra L. Witherspoon
Tribal Chairwoman

MID-MICHIGAN HONOR FLIGHT INITIATIVE

The Grand Traverse Band is pleased to share information about a unique opportunity being offered through the Mid-Michigan Honor Flight program. The Honor Flight recognizes and honors veterans for their service by providing them with a trip to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials dedicated to their sacrifices and achievements.

Mid-Michigan Honor Flight has been working with Michigan tribes to coordinate participation in a special Honor Flight for tribal veterans. Organizers report that several Michigan tribes have already committed to participating, and planning for transportation, accommodations, and other event logistics is well underway.

At this time, the Tribe is gathering interest from eligible veterans and their guardians. Veterans who may wish to participate are encouraged to complete the application materials so that interest can be assessed and future planning can continue.

Additional information regarding eligibility, timelines, and next steps will be shared as it becomes available. Tribal veterans and potential guardians are encouraged to submit their applications and watch for future announcements. We are grateful for the service and sacrifice of our tribal veterans and look forward to sharing more details about this opportunity in the coming months. For physical applications, please call Dena Wilson (231) 534-7216, email Dena.Wilson@gtb-nsn.gov, visit the Peshawbestown Admin office or scan the QR code.



Tribal Council Regular Session

August 19, 2026

http://bit.ly/GTB_Member

II. Unfinished Business. A- **Appellate Judge Upcoming Vacancy** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Raphael to reappoint JoAnne Cook to the GTB Appellate Court for a term of November 18, 2026 to expire November 17, 2032. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

Motion made by Tribal Council Member Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Raphael to reappoint Matthew Fletcher to the GTB Appellate Court for a term of November 18, 2026 to expire November 17, 2032. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

II. Unfinished Business. B- **Enactment of Title 18 Chapter 1-3 Amendments after 30-day Membership Comment Period** Motion made by Tribal Council Secretary Miller and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Raphael to accept the late comment to the 30-day posting. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

Motion made by Tribal Council Secretary Miller and Supported by Tribal Council Member Memberto to approve Resolution #26-44.3922, with the inclusion of the Title 18 Chapters 1-3 addendum. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

II. Unfinished Business. C- **Rescind Resolution #25-43.3823** Motion made by Tribal Council Secretary Miller and Supported by Tribal Council Member Carew to rescind Resolution #25-43.3823. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. A- **Tribal Homeland Security FY26** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Secretary Miller to approve Resolution #26-44.3912 to seek approval and funding in the amount of \$1,467,087 from

the Department of Homeland Security, with the noted changes. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. B- **GTB Quick Response Grant** Motion made by Tribal Council Secretary Miller and Supported by Tribal Council Member Carew to approve Resolution #26-44.3917 to apply for the Quick Response Grant in the amount of \$2,500. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. C- **Tribal Victim Set-Aside Formula Program FY26** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Memberto and Supported by Tribal Council Member Carew to approve Resolution #26-44.3913 to seek approval and funding in the amount of \$209,961 from the Department of Justice, through the Office for Victims of Crime for the FY2027 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Program. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. D- **Leelanau Conservancy Request for GTB General Counsel to do a Presentation on GTB Land Claims** Motion made by Tribal Council Secretary Miller and Supported by Tribal Council Member Swallows to approve the GTB General Counsel to present at the Leelanau Conservancy Annual Retreat **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. E- **Tribal Opioid Settlement Funds FY2027** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Treasurer Wonegeshik to approve Resolution #26-44.3916 to seek approval and funding in the amount of \$76,923 from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for the Tribal Opioid Settlement fund grant. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. F- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** Motion made by Tribal Council Secretary

Miller and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Raphael to approve Resolution #26-44.3923 for funding in the amount of \$45,000 from the Office of Community Services for assistance services. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. G- **Appointment of Delegates to the Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA)** Motion made by Tribal Council Secretary Miller and Supported by Tribal Council Treasurer Wonegeshik to appoint Tanya Raphael and Yolanda Chippewa to the Michigan Indian Elders Association. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. H- **Change Order for PO #2023-00047** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Carew and Supported by Tribal Council Treasurer Wonegeshik to approve Resolution #26-44.3924, per section 4.2.5 of the AIA contract dated May 6, 2023. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. I- **Head Start Director (Benodjenh Manager)** Motion made by Tribal Council Secretary Miller and Supported by Tribal Council Member Carew to approve the candidate for the Head Start Director as presented. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. J- **CRA Mitchell Creek Meadows Protection and Enhancement Project Grant** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Member Memberto to approve the contract with CRA, with the correction of box checked for subrecipient/sub-contractors. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING**
Motion Carries

III. New Business. K- **Michigan Indian Legal Services request for Letter of Support for Grant** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Memberto and Supported by Tribal Council Member Swallows to the letter of support on behalf of GTB. **6-FOR;**

TRIBAL COUNCIL ATTENDANCE JULY 6, 2026 - THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026
There were (4) Tribal Council Regular/Special/Emergency Sessions; (3) EDC Regular/Special Sessions, and (32) Tribal Council Work Sessions/Round Tables/Other Meetings.
Chairwoman Witherspoon attended 4 of 4 Tribal Council Regular/Special/Emergency Sessions, 3 of 3 EDC Regular/Special Sessions, and 30 of 32 Tribal Council Work Sessions/Round Tables/Other Meetings. *Attended: Bay Mills Line 5 Michigan Three Fires Confederacy 8/11/26, Meeting with Department of Interior Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs 8/17/26, CORA Meeting 8/19/26, CORA Executive Council Meeting 8/20/26.
Vice Chair Raphael attended 4 of 4 Tribal Council Regular/Special Sessions, 3 of 3 EDC Regular/Special Sessions, and 29 of 32 Tribal Council Work Sessions/Round Tables/Other Meetings.
Treasurer Wonegeshik attended 4 of 4 Tribal Council Regular/Special Sessions, 3 of 3 EDC Regular/Special Sessions, and 26 of 32 Tribal Council Work Sessions/Round Tables/Other Meetings. *Attended: Bay Mills Line 5 Michigan Three Fires Confederacy 8/11/26, Meeting with Department of Interior Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs 8/17/26, CORA Meeting 8/19/26, CORA Executive Council Meeting 8/20/26.
Secretary Miller attended 4 of 4 Tribal Council Regular/Special Sessions, 2 of 3 EDC Regular/Special Sessions, and 26 of 32 Tribal Council Work Sessions/Round Tables/Other Meetings. *Attended: Meeting with Department of Interior Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs 8/17/26, CORA Meeting 8/19/26, CORA Executive Council Meeting 8/20/26.
Councilor Carew attended 4 of 4 Tribal Council Regular/Special Sessions, 3 of 3 EDC Regular/Special Sessions, and 24 of 32 Tribal Council Work Sessions/Round Tables/Other Meetings. *Attended: CORA Executive Council Meeting 8/20/26, Attended Great Lakes Fishery Trust meeting 08/10/26 - 08/11/26.
Councilor Swallows attended 4 of 4 Tribal Council Regular/Special Sessions, 2 of 3 EDC Regular/Special Sessions, and 28 of 32 Tribal Council Work Sessions/Round Tables/Other Meetings.
Councilor Memberto attended 4 of 4 Tribal Council Regular/Special Sessions, 3 of 3 EDC Regular/Special Sessions, and 29 of 32 Tribal Council Work Sessions/Round Tables/Other Meetings. *Attended: Bay Mills Line 5 Michigan Three Fires Confederacy meeting 8/11/26.

September 2026
Waabagaa Giizis (Leaves Turning Moon)

TRIBAL COUNCIL MOTIONS, MEETINGS, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING
Motion Carries

III. New Business. L- Employee Contracts
No Motion.

III. New Business. M- List of Current Tribal Government Positions and Titles
Motion made by Tribal Council Member Memberto and Supported by Tribal Council Treasurer Wonegeshik to request a list of the Government employees’ positions with the wages pre- wage study approval, and then a list with the same positions after the wage study approval, so that Council can compare the two lists for pre-approval and post-approval as compared to the actual wage study. 6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING
Motion Carries

Tribal Council Special Session
August 26, 2026
http://bit.ly/GTB_Member

III. New Business. A- IHS-Buybacks FY2027
Motion made by Tribal Council Member Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Secretary Miller to approve the FY2027 Buyback Agreement. 6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING
Motion Carries

III. New Business. B-Approval of Resolution #26-44.3931-Continuing Resolution to Extend Fiscal Year 2026 Tribal Budget Authority and Expenditures for 30 days
Motion made by Tribal Council Secretary Miller and Supported by Tribal Council Member Carew to approve Resolution #26-44.3931 Continuing Resolution to Extend Fiscal Year 2026 Tribal Budget Authority and Expenditures for 30 days. 6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING
Motion Carries

III. New Business. C- Benzie Gas Line
Motion made by Tribal Council Member Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Treasurer Wonegeshik to allocate \$45,000.00 from Governmental Ops with the program to be determined by the CFO. 6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING
Motion Carries

GTB AUTO DEPT. RETURNS TO REGULAR HOURS

The GTB Automotive Department is pleased to announce that the auto shop is now fully staffed and has returned to its regular Monday through Friday schedule.

Department Hours:
Monday–Friday | 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Staffing coverage will also be in place on Fridays to ensure the Automotive Department remains available to GTB Tribal Members and Gaming Members.

Miigwech for your patience and understanding as the department worked to restore its regular hours.

CALL FOR
NOMINATIONS

OGITICHIDAAK WALL

Nominate Indigenous Veterans (Ogitichidaak) for Wall of Honor

The Ogitichidaak section of the updated *Anishinaabek: The Original People of This Place* exhibit will include an interactive screen where visitors may view profiles and learn about Anishinaabe veterans. Families are encouraged to nominate Ogitichidaa relatives who have walked on. Any Anishinaabe veteran, past or present, wartime or peacetime, deployed or stateside, is eligible for the Wall of Honor.

Use the QR Code to download the Nomination Form.

Email the form and images to kfurman@grpm.org or dpigeon@grpm.org

Submitted nomination forms will help us create a base for the exhibit database.

After the exhibit opens, additional nominations can be made via a QR code.

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM

Be curious.



TRIBAL COUNCIL HYBRID RECORDED SESSIONS

Tribal Council Regular Sessions occur at 9:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of every month. Tribal Council Special Sessions occur at 9:30 a.m. on the last Wednesday of every month.

Sessions will be held in Council Chambers. Meetings are open to Tribal Members.

Regular Council Sessions
<https://bit.ly/GTB-REG-TCRS26>
09/16/26 • 10/21/26 • 11/18/26 • 12/16/26

Special Council Sessions
<https://bit.ly/GTB-REG-TCSS26>
09/30/26 • 10/28/26 • 11/25/26

PLEASE RSVP BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 for a chance to win a special raffle prize.
grpm.org/powwow

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ART & FOOD VENDORS

SPECIALS
Youth Switch Dance
Sneak Up
Potato Dance
Spot Dance

DANCER HONORARIUMS
\$20 for the first 100 registered dancers
Dancer registration will be available on the day of the event.

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM
272 PEARL ST. NW GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49504
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026 | 6 - 9 PM

Anishinaabek: The Original People of This Place
Exhibit Grand Opening PowWow
PowWow Artwork by Rebby Stewart @_rebeeps_



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Rik Yannott: Housing, Herkner is good, but we need to remember Peshawbestown too. Peshawbestown has been our home grounds.

RESPONSE: *Thank you for sharing this. We recognize that Peshawbestown holds deep historical, cultural, and spiritual significance as one of our original home grounds. Your reminder is meaningful, and it is heard. As we plan for housing across our six-county service area, our goal is not to favor one community over another, but to ensure that development is thoughtful, balanced, and respectful of the places that carry our history. Herkner Road is one location currently under development, and Peshawbestown remains an important part of our long-term housing vision. We remain committed to honoring our homelands while creating safe, affordable housing for current and future generations.*

Sammie Conway: A reminder, we come here in a good way so let’s speak in a good way.

RESPONSE: *Kchi-Miigwetch. This reminder reflects a core teaching: that our words carry power and responsibility. Tribal Council acknowledges this and is committed to speaking and listening in a good way—especially when conversations are difficult. We will continue to strive for dialogue that honors one another and the collective good of our community.*

Patricia Castenada: I would just have to share what we had to go through growing up before we had per cap that all these young kids go out and spend and waste. My parents, my dad had passed away, and my mother was sitting there, her water was going to be shut off, and who worked for the water department? My brother. And he's the one that had to go up and shut the water off. And she said, “don't do that, son, I need the water.” That's the kind of suffering we had to go through in order for these young kids to get their money. I wish that some of them would remember that. There's a lot of stories that could tell you. But that was just one of them.

RESPONSE: *Thank you for sharing this story. It reflects the sacrifices and hardships that many of our families endured so that future generations could have opportunities they did not. Tribal Council honors that history and recognizes that per capita is not a gift without meaning—it is the result of resilience, struggle, and vision. We will continue to approach our decisions with a sense of responsibility, so that our actions today respect the sacrifices of the past and protect the future of our people.*

Bonnie Inman: I came to thank the Tribal Council, the different programming, Department Managers, and everyone who had a hand in helping me in my bad times in the last three years. You cannot know what having family means and you are my family, every one of you and I love you all. Thank you.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for your words. They remind us why this work matters. Tribal Council is committed to supporting our people with care, respect, and compassion, and we are thankful to stand with you as family.*

Elizabeth Gibbs: One of my questions is more housing ability. There are a lot of parents, mother and fathers suffering, paying high rent. There are single parents barely making it. And what's going on with Herkner? Why can't they meet the deadlines to get the water turned on? Why are they having so many issues with that? And, general welfare, the change to the general welfare. Everyone kept saying to read the letter Sandy sent out, read the letter. But it says this and that and a bunch of stuff about Resolutions. Well, as you know a lot of us, I’m 66 and a lot of our parents when we were young, a lot of Indians used to drink and a lot of us have ADHD or other disabilities and we don’t understand when its written in a certain way, and so you think of street smarts but that doesn’t always mean you got to be a criminal to be street smart, its just that you got to learn

in a different way, you cant learn the direct way. And I’ve had so many different people calling me about General Welfare because they got phone calls. SSI is a supplement. Social Security is something you work for. And when they got their supplement, they thought they were not going to get their checks in May and November. They kept calling me and I said I’m not on Council, why don’t you call them. I did some investigating myself and I tried to call Council but didn’t get much out of them, everyone just kept saying read that letter, read that letter, and I read it and it was hard for me to understand it. Why can’t somebody simply send out a quick letter that states or explain it somehow so people can understand it. And I did talk to Social Security. It’s got to be reported by our tribe to legislation and into congress, and they are the last ones to know, they don’t even know what they are going to do with it yet, if they can budget us, or they don’t have to, they said they are the last ones to know. So that was my second question is like try to put things in terms so people can understand more and are not so confused. Last question is who does legal and court answer to? It seems like everyone has someone they have to answer to, you put in grievances and you never get the answer you want. It almost seems like people in legal can get away with anything they want especially if they don’t like you. And I would like to know who I report to if I have a problem with somebody in the court system and where I can get something done about it. And that was my third question and that’s it. Thank you for your time.

RESPONSE: Herkner: *Thank you for your question. The Herkner project has experienced delays primarily due to utility infrastructure requirements, permitting processes, and coordination with external agencies. While our teams at GTED and GTEC have worked diligently to move the project forward, several steps were outside of our direct control, which affected the original timelines. We understand how frustrating it is when deadlines are not met, especially when basic services such as water are involved. To improve this process moving forward, we are strengthening our project tracking, communication, and coordination so that members receive timely updates and realistic timelines. Restoring water and completing the remaining infrastructure work at Herkner is a top priority, and we will continue to push for faster resolution while keeping the community informed as progress is made. Thank you for your patience and for raising this concern.*

Communication: *Thank you for sharing this feedback. We understand that if information is difficult to read or confusing, it creates frustration and can make people feel left out of important decisions. That is not our intent. Council agrees that all member communications should be clear, simple, and easy to understand. We are working with staff to improve how information is shared, including using plain language, summaries, and multiple formats when possible. We appreciate you raising this concern and will continue to look for better ways to communicate so all members feel informed, respected, and included.*

Reporting: *The Tribal Court is an independent branch of government and does not answer to Tribal Council or Administration. The Court operates under the Tribal Constitution and Code and is overseen through its own judicial structure. The Legal Department provides legal services to the Tribe and its departments and operates within the administrative structure, while also upholding professional and ethical standards required of attorneys. Both functions serve the Tribe, but each has distinct roles and independent responsibilities to ensure fairness, accountability, and separation of powers.*

Patricia Mashka-Burfield: I would like to congratulate our Council - the Qwa are doing a phenomenal job and I just appreciate them! Also, a suggestion. I notice here and at our Casino in Peshawbestown and our buildings. We don’t have the handicap access that we

should have. Once in a while there is a door that does have it, but all the doors inside and I know because lately I’ve been having trouble because I’ve had to push this thing, and a lot of the doors and bathroom doors are so heavy. I was wondering why we don’t have handicap access everywhere. Help us elders out as some of us need it. Anyway, Miigwetch!

RESPONSE: *Miigwech. We receive this in a good way. Tribal Council is committed to serving our people with respect, responsibility, and unity.*

Handicap Access: *Miigwech for bringing this forward. Tribal Council agrees that accessibility and safety are essential for our Elders and all community members. We have asked our Risk and Safety team to begin an assessment of this concern and to identify improvements that can be made. We remain committed to making our facilities more welcoming, safe, and accessible for everyone.*

Michael Pedwaydon: My question has to do with seniority with my job. I am an employee of the resort and have been here for many seasons, good and bad. We have foreign work that helps us. And we couldn’t get it this year so we brought in Traverse City help. My issue is that they are going to become full time which they deserve, they are hard workers. But I have also been working a lot longer than them, and they have overraised me in pay scale. So from length of service from 6-7 months seems a little bit. I would like somebody to address it. My supervisor said he looked into it but it was out of his control, so I would like to know who’s control this would be and looked into, please. Thank you for your time.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for bringing this forward. Tribal Council understands the concern regarding changes in job responsibilities and how those changes may affect morale. We have been informed that new duties were added beyond previous roles. Council is committed to ensuring that workplace practices are fair, transparent, and respectful of our employees. We will continue to support appropriate review processes so that concerns about seniority, duties, and compensation are addressed through the proper channels.*

James Brunk: I don't know if anybody knew that there is a program of Native American artists, on display, at the Detroit Institute of Art that’s going on from now through April 2026. There is a lot of artists from this area, all the way out to Minnesota, Canada, the Great Lakes area. Just wanted to make people aware of that. Thank you

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for sharing this opportunity. We are grateful to see Anishinaabe artists being recognized and celebrated. Tribal Council encourages our members to support and experience this exhibition, which reflects the strength, creativity, and living culture of our people across the Great Lakes and beyond.*

Arlene Kashta: I worked in the Substance Abuse field as a counselor for over 25 years and my motto has always been that you never give up on anybody and there is always an opportunity for change. So some on my list are repeats that have been happening for three or four years but my hope is that we can make some of these changes. Number one we need assisted living for our Tribal Elders. It’s hard for them to go to non-tribal homes and we should give them the best quality care. My granddaughter, Allison Defoe, had an amazing idea for our elders. Hiring CNAs to help our elders coordinators. That way the CNAs can help with them with their medications or whatever their needs are. We have quite a few that are currently certified within the tribe as long as we give them a comfortable wage they are willing to work with our people. I would really encourage Tribal Council to talk to Allison Defoe because she has an amazing dream of how that would work. Currently, we have three elders right now that need more constant care that they are getting.

Number three we need a halfway house for our individuals that go away to treatment and then come home so that we have higher success rates for surviving after they come home. Number four, we need to increase our hotel stay here at the resort to four or five days. When I look at what we’re making, were not going to be depriving GT Resort for anything when I look at our rates but we’ll be accommodating our family members that travel long ways to come home for those that need to be buried. Number five, we need a poker room at Leelanau Sands. I’m always hearing of so many guys and women that say they could come and stay longer. We need sustainability. They’ve been promising that for the last two or three years and it’s still not happening. I had someone ask me last night that was in the casino where is your poker room when are you going to get it back so I hope you can get that in place. We need a playground at Herkner for our young people that are there. Number seven is we need a buffalo farm so we can have sustainability for food for our tribal members and our food banks. We also need to get our museum going and then also put a traders market store there so our people would have a space to sell arts and crafts 365 days a year. My other idea that I’ve thought of is the 477 program and I can explain more to Council. We always hear there is a challenge with firekeepers. I think if we sought funding in our 477 program we could pay our firekeepers even \$10 per hour, maybe that would inspire our young men to step up to the plate, the older men could mentor them, we would be putting some money in these young people pockets to help support our families during their grieving period, and I think our 477 program can help that. Maybe that would assist in that deficit that we have when people are always coming out saying I need help. And everybodys working, everyone’s doing all sorts of things, maybe other people will step up then. In closing I would just like to say Miigwetch Council for all the work you’re doing, for the payments were receiving, for our language and culture program, that we are able to do that. And I want to thank you and our legal department at GTB for aways being at the forefront of environmental, legal, and justice concerns and for our Nme project because that fish has lived for thousands and thousands of years and when you think of the spiritual strength that fish must have, how it’s going to help our community, if we take care of it. Miigwetch.

RESPONSE: Number One: Miigwech for raising this important need. Council recognizes that many of our Elders are facing increasing housing challenges, especially as rental costs continue to rise. Council has been advised that this proposal will be reviewed in collaboration with Department 8 and GTB leadership, and that potential grant funding opportunities will be explored to support planning and development. Ensuring safe, affordable, and culturally respectful housing for our Elders remains a priority for our Tribe. *CNAs: Miigwech for raising this important need. Council recognizes how vital in-home care and daily assistance are for our Elders, and we are grateful for the Community Health Representative program and the CNAs who serve our people. We are committed to supporting access to these services and ensuring Elders are treated with dignity, respect, and compassion. Council will continue working with Department 8 to strengthen outreach, staffing, and awareness so that Elders know where to turn for help when they need it.* **Number Three:** Miigwech for raising this important and compassionate concern. Council recognizes the critical need for recovery-based housing and transitional support for Tribal Members who are working toward healing and long-term sobriety. A recovery or halfway house model offers stability, accountability, and community connection, which are essential during the transition from treatment back to independent living. Council agrees that this type of resource could greatly benefit our community. Staff will continue to explore funding opportunities,

partnerships, and program models that could support the development of a recovery-focused transitional living option for GTB. *This includes identifying sustainable funding sources, staffing needs, and appropriate locations. Your feedback helps guide these efforts, and we are grateful for your advocacy for those in recovery.* **Number Four:** Miigwech for continuing to raise this concern. Tribal Council recognizes that hotel access and length of stay remain an important issue for our members. We have been informed that this matter is currently under active discussion between EDC leadership and the EDC Board. Council will continue to monitor this issue and encourage progress toward solutions that better support our members’ needs. **Number Five:** Miigwech for sharing this suggestion. Tribal Council has been informed that current business volumes and staffing requirements do not support adding a Poker Room at the Leelanau Sands facility at this time. While this option is not feasible, we appreciate members bringing forward ideas and will continue to consider opportunities that strengthen our operations and benefit the community. **Herkner Playground:** The Herkner Road site is part of our long-term housing and community development planning. As future phases are developed, outdoor community amenities—such as green space and family-friendly areas—will be considered. Community feedback like this helps guide future planning and design priorities. **Museum:** Miigwech for sharing this idea. Council is pleased to see the continued growth of the Bi-Odaawk (We Trade) market and the opportunities it creates for local artists, vendors, and community members. Council supports efforts to strengthen and expand cultural and economic opportunities through the museum and looks forward to continued collaboration as the market grows and evolves to serve both vendors and visitors. **Number Seven:** Miigwech for sharing this idea. Council recognizes the cultural, nutritional, and educational importance of restoring bison to our community. In 2024, the Grand Traverse Band pursued a \$3.6 million multi-year grant to establish a GTB Bison Farm. While that funding request was not awarded, Council and the Agricultural Department remain committed to exploring future opportunities to bring this vision forward. Council will continue to seek funding and partnerships that align with our long-term goals of food sovereignty, cultural revitalization, and sustainable land stewardship. **477 Program:** Miigwech for raising this important question and for supporting our Firekeepers and cultural teachers. Council recognizes the value of ensuring that those who carry cultural responsibilities are supported in a fair and respectful way. The 477 Program is a federally funded workforce program that helps eligible Tribal Members gain job training, work experience, and income while developing skills that support long-term self-sufficiency. Because these funds are regulated by federal guidelines, they can only be used in certain ways and for eligible participants. Council and staff will continue to explore appropriate funding options and program structures that both honor cultural roles and comply with funding requirements. Your feedback helps guide these conversations, and we appreciate your advocacy for those who serve our community. **Closing:** Miigwech for your kind words. Tribal Council is grateful to our staff and programs for their dedication, including the work that supports timely payments, language revitalization, and cultural programming. We remain committed to strengthening these efforts in service to our members and future generations. Miigwech for recognizing this work. Tribal Council and our Legal team remain committed to protecting our lands, our rights, and the well-being of our people. We are grateful for your support as we continue to stand for environmental stewardship, justice, and sovereignty.

Wham Marshall: I would like to know if we can have more youth activities at the Antrim County rez.

RESPONSE: Miigwech for sharing this concern. Council recognizes the importance of accessible, consistent youth programming for GTB families. Council supports efforts to expand youth services and explore additional opportunities to better serve all youth. We encourage families to continue utilizing the Youth Services programs available throughout the service area and to refer to the GTB website calendar for current activities. Council will continue working with Youth Services to identify long-term solutions that improve access and programming.

Andrew Myrick: I have spoken at Tribal Council meetings and on Facebook. I have also sent many letters to Tribal Council. Basically, these are not my questions, these are questions from multiple tribal members over the years even decades. Would like to know when we will ever get answers to these questions as it’s been years and sometimes decades. Questions about the LTI fund, fiber project, and having specific questions for Council, not having the legal department answer them. Also things like the GTED Tribal Member Employment rate being 1% - why is that? Why are our most of our websites broken or missing? We can’t get valid updated information on housing and how many units we have even. The waiting list. What about GTED and its outsourcing. Would like to see legal transparency. I have sent documents to each Tribal Councilor and asked if they supported universal voting of tribal members and I haven’t received one answer yet and I was hoping you could answer today but I don’t know if you will. Please answer if you can. Thank you. Miigwetch.

RESPONSE: Miigwech for sharing this concern. Tribal Council agrees that listening to our members and responding in a clear and timely way is essential to good governance. We are committed to strengthening opportunities for dialogue, improving how questions are received and addressed, and ensuring members have meaningful ways to be heard. We appreciate you speaking up. Council recognizes the importance of transparency, access to information, and clear communication across all departments and programs. Council acknowledges the questions raised and notes that relevant information has been previously shared directly with this member. Council has approved funding for a comprehensive redesign of the GTB website to improve usability, navigation, and accessibility for our community. This work is currently underway and is expected to be completed before the end of 2026. During this transition, the GTB Mobile App is being used as an interim tool to share timely updates, announcements, and resources. Council encourages members to continue engaging through available channels and assures the community that improving access to information remains a priority.

Stella Bailey: I just wanted to come up here and say that for 26 years, I was employed by our tribe. Like, many tribal members working within our system, I rarely spoke up. There was a very common fear of being reprimanded. In the sense that voicing our concerns require a certain last name or being in good standing with those higher up. That silence needs to end today. It is unfortunate that this is the environment we operate in. But now that I no longer work here for the tribe, I can finally voice my views. Every one of you on council campaigned with the promise of being here for the membership. Even your goals and objectives, stated, shall be responsive to the needs and statements of our tribal members. How can you campaign on that platform when the Human Resource department are so quick to fire a tribal member employee for a minor moving violation. My job did not require me to drive for my job duties. A waiver could easily have been offered inside, especially given my 26 years of service. I hope you all are now going through every employment

file with two people verifying the MVR reports to ensure fairness and prevent files from mysteriously getting lost. We all know that that can happen. Also, following the policies across the board instead of picking and choosing. We also have tribal member employees who just collect a paycheck. They get away with policy violations, and not doing their job, and nothing is being done. They show no heart, no empathy for our tribal members, or elders, in serving and do not have our membership as their top primary. I loved my job. I went love and beyond for everyone in our membership. I spent 21 years, gaining the trust of our members, elders, coworkers, and providers. I became their advocate. It's embarrassing to hear now that people are in pain because the services rendered through PRC because the system is failing them. The numerous calls and messages that I have received since leaving confirms that things are not going well. Tribal members tell me how much they miss my help, how they knew, things were being taken care of when I was there. ^[P]_[SEP]They can't believe that the tribe let me go for a fixable reason after 26 years. I have been at Munson for five months now. There's no stress, no drama, no politics. My coworkers value me and my work ethic. When asked, if I would come back to the tribe, my opinion is that it's not worth it. I found my new home for the foreseeable future. The other thing I want to bring up is when tribal members pass away, it's being sent out on global email. Why can't that be posted that Facebook for everybody to see? There's been so many that have passed since I have gone, and I have not been able to pay my respects. And that's hurtful because I value our membership. And it's sad that I had to find out months later that they had passed. So I would say, you put everything out on Facebook, why can't we put those out on Facebook? Thank you.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for raising these concerns. Council takes issues of fairness, accountability, and consistent policy enforcement very seriously. All employment policies are intended to be applied consistently and without favoritism across all departments and employees. Council supports the use of standardized processes—such as required screenings and annual reviews—to ensure safety, compliance, and equity in the workplace. We also recognize the importance of maintaining a respectful and professional work environment. If there are concerns about performance or policy compliance, Council encourages them to be addressed through appropriate supervisory or human resources channels so they can be reviewed fairly and confidentially. Your feedback helps us continue strengthening our systems and ensuring they are applied in a way that reflects our values of respect, integrity, and accountability. Council understands the desire to honor our loved ones and keep our community informed during times of loss. Council is committed to respecting each family's privacy and wishes during these very sensitive moments. Bereavement notices may be shared publicly when the family requests it or gives clear consent. Families will always have the choice to decide whether their loved one's passing is shared on social media.*

Sammie Conway: You know, we've got a lot going on in the world right now, and it's so important that we share our hearts with the rest of this world, because they need us now more than ever. They need our understanding of how to care for the mother Earth. When can we get recycle bins at the Harkner property, or at all tribal properties? I bring recyclables all the time. I have more recyclables than I do trash. You know, I only take my trash out when I clean my fridge out, usually because I recycle so much. It's so important that recycling is part of your life. My mom started it in our neighborhood many, many years ago, in the early '90s, and it became like a war. Who could recycle more in the neighborhood? And then at school, I was part of the first recycling club. And it's really great to know that I'm gonna participate in the Zoom meeting for the Green Committee. That's really exciting

to me. And it's nice to see all the familiar faces and see the new faces that I haven't seen before. I'm just very grateful, uh, to be part of this tribe, to be part of this family, and to be welcomed because I never lived up here before, and so many of you have been so kind and so welcoming to me. I am truly grateful. And with that, enjoy your day. Have a beautiful weekend. Miigwetch

RERESPONSE: *Thank you for sharing your kind words and for your care for Mother Earth. Environmental stewardship is an important value for GTB, and we appreciate suggestions that support sustainability at our community sites. The request for recycling bins at Herkner will be shared with the appropriate departments for review and consideration as part of our ongoing facility improvements.*

Nodwesa Redbear: I just wanted to find out how feasible it is for GTB to bring back some of our old dances, like our maple dance and our deer dance. Those are all recorded on the Smithsonian website, FYI, but if anybody wants to do that, that's a future project for youth. Those dances and songs, that's our identity, and I just wanted to just put that out there. And that's all. I will step up. Those are very special to us, and the deer, the deer clan passed away because they did not adhere to the clan system. They intermarried, and they died out. But we still honor them. We can still sing the deer songs. So, maybe that's a dream or maybe its reality.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for this powerful and meaningful suggestion. Revitalizing our traditional dances, including the Maple and Deer dances, is a beautiful way to strengthen cultural connection across generations. Council supports exploring this opportunity in a respectful and culturally accurate way. This work would involve learning the proper songs, teachings, and protocols, and engaging Elders and knowledge keepers to guide the process with care. The Culture Department will begin exploring how these dances can be respectfully reintroduced, including reviewing historical recordings and working with community members who wish to help carry this forward. We are grateful for your willingness to step forward and be part of this effort. Together, we can continue to preserve and share our traditions for future generations.*

Sharon Wasageshik: I just want to say thank you for the stimulus money, it helped out my family. And I also would like to say that if anyone is interested in attending my son's Sundance in North Carolina, you can get more information. He has a little girl now and I want to bring her here next year to come to our membership meeting. All praises to all the new life that we have in our tribe, and God bless you all.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for sharing this and for your kind words. We are grateful that the assistance was helpful to you, and we appreciate the invitation and the spirit of celebration you shared. We honor the strength of our families and the new life within our community, and we remain committed to supporting our people in a good way.*

Jordan Shomin: I'm from Kewadin, and I agree with my younger cousin, Wham. Our numbers show we have the youth and need more activities. Also for Herkner, can we get some Bata bus stops. That's all I ask. Miigwetch.

RESPONSE: *We will look into this, but at the current time we don't have the population density yet to warrant a BATA bus stop, currently the BATA link will go to the Herner as needed. Currently tenants can contact BATA at 231-941-2324 to request a deviation of their West Line. There is a sign for a stop on Bi-Waaseya Miikans for pick ups, cost is \$3 for a regular fair and \$1.50 for Seniors 60+. BATA is also considering a permanent stop later this Spring or early Summer, we'll keep you posted on any developments.*

Theresa Marshall: Formally served on council. I know who we all dislike or like this Saturday or Sunday. We continue to see the same issues that if I like you or not. I mean I loved your casino game, great, but having the main prize be a cute sticker, you literally get to pick if I like you or not. We need to get away from that. Extremely away from that. We need to get back to working on our mental health, we have people that we send for help, they come home to the same place. We're not helping them. I've been advocating, watching, other places are doing stuff for their community. People are volunteering, because they know I am part of the problem and I am part of the solution. We don't have that here. When you walk in this room, we're together, we're working as a community. When I walk through this room, which I love that everyone will tell me what they have issues with. Lets talk about the good stuff we have as well. And lets work on building that community. Lets work on working with each other. Unfortunately we have a whole council right now that I hardly see you all at the community events, which that's fine, I know, but your paid a lot of money to show your community that you support them, act like you support them. We're six counties. I've been saying this for 20 years now. I have to fight for my children to get the services that my older set got on a regular. They never had to worry about if they had an after school program, if they had culture teachings, if they had a ride home because our community supported that. We're not supporting our community. You guys aren't working for a solution, you are working with each other to help your friends, your hommies, your if I like you or not, you're firing 20 year employees that I've seen the exceptions for a lot of stuff when I was there for four years a lot of stuff and we're just persecuting, start loving yourself, starting going to get some help, start taking care of that mental capacity that you're missing, and quit taking your hurt and anger out on our people. Especially our people who are supposed to help us, how many services have we lost in the two years? Its sad. Its disgusting and the art that you guys aren't looking at how can I fix the problem, but you're working on who your hommies are who to fire. Get better. And again, get help because we need help as your community that are struggling with financial issues, mental health, substance use, and we're still waiting for that. 20 years. Figure it out. And just because it's not you having the problem, you're supposed to lead and help with the problem. So figure it out.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for sharing your perspective and for speaking honestly about the pain, frustration, and exhaustion many in our community are feeling. We recognize that long-standing challenges around mental health, substance use, access to services, and trust in leadership have created real hurt for individuals and families across all six counties. Council acknowledges that when people reach out for help and feel unheard, unsupported, or treated unfairly, it damages confidence in the systems meant to serve them. We also recognize the need to move away from division, favoritism, and conflict, and toward unity, transparency, and accountability. Our commitment is to refocus on solutions—strengthening behavioral health, expanding community-based supports, rebuilding trust, and ensuring services are accessible and fair for all members. This work requires collaboration across departments, leadership, staff, and community members alike. We hear the call for stronger presence, better communication, and meaningful action. Council remains committed to listening, improving, and working together to build a healthier, more connected community for future generations.*

Amanda Thiebault: I've got a couple of things that I want to share. In Benzonia, they put the Crystal Shores Casino there. My grandfather lives there, he is a window and lives alone now that my mother is not there either. He doesn't really have that social community anymore so he is very lonely.

Here at the resort there’s lot of space for stores and I really believe that there should be at least a showcase or two of our native artists. Maybe a monthly showcase so they can get their art here as a good way to get their work out especially during the season when we don’t do much vending. I’m not very good on the website and unfortunately I got to work a full time job. Last thing is also at the resort, I noticed that they are doing new flooring in the bar which isn’t really necessary. I think that they should have more native representation and artwork on the walls as well. Not many people even know that this is owned by our tribe. It kinda hurts. We’re still here so lets represent that. Miigwetch.

RESPONSE: Council is truly sorry to hear about your father’s loneliness, and we recognize how important connection, dignity, and community are for our Elders. No one should feel alone. The Elders Program is able to provide outreach and support, including regular wellness calls, social activities, meal assistance, and transportation when needed. We understand that staff will follow up to help determine what services would be most helpful and to ensure he is connected to the appropriate local resources. Please know that Council values our Elders deeply and supports continued efforts to strengthen community connections and care for those who need it most.

Resort: Miigwech for sharing this meaningful suggestion. Tribal Council agrees that increasing Native representation and cultural visibility within our resort properties is important—not only for our members, but for the broader community. We have been informed that efforts are already underway to strengthen cultural presence and storytelling within these spaces. Council will continue to encourage opportunities that honor our artists, reflect our identity, and help the public better understand Tribal ownership and values.

Ryan Memberto: There’s a few things I wanted to get up here and say. Number one, I would like to see our Tribal Council actually be present and sitting right on the stage listening to our members concerns and answer the questions as they are asked. There are so many things wrong with our tribe today and I want us all to come together to try to find solutions cuz that’s how we need to do it. It’s not going to be a group of seven people up there that’s going to fix everything, it’s going to take all of us. Another thing, is I have to agree with the services in our outlining communities. A lot of you know the work that I do and the activities that I try to do with our youth. Peshawbestown was kinda lacking. We have more participation in Kewadin and Charlevoix than we had in Peshawbestown and Traverse City communities. When it comes to our culture and our language, that is who we are. All you parents and grandparents, I implore you, get your children involved. Teach them what you know. If you are a knowledge carrier and you know these things, teach them. To your families to your friends, everyone who’s willing to listen because that’s who we are and if we don’t continue, we’re going to lose it. Thank you

RESPONSE: Miigwech for sharing this powerful message. Council hears the call for greater presence, visibility, and connection with our community — especially our youth. Your words remind us that leadership is not only about decisions, but about being present, listening, and walking alongside our people. Council agrees that sustaining our culture, language, and teachings requires the involvement of all generations. We are committed to supporting programs that strengthen youth participation, reconnect knowledge carriers with our young people, and ensure that Anishinaabe Bimaadiziwin continues to live in our homes, schools, and community spaces. Your feedback reinforces the importance of creating spaces where our children feel inspired, supported, and proud of who they are. Council will continue working with departments, families, and community

members to grow opportunities that reflect these values.

Ryan Memberto: Sorry I’m back, the other point I forgot to make. Is the reports in my opinion are super misleading. They talk about total revenue and net revenue. Where are the deductions for the costs and you know the infamous administration costs that always seem to rise and rise. I don’t care about total revenue, I want to see profits, where we’re losing money, where we’re making money. Thanks

RESPONSE: Tribal Council understands the importance of clear and transparent financial reporting, and we recognize that financial statements can be difficult to interpret. The EDC’s financial reports are prepared in accordance with audited financial standards. Miigwetch for raising this concern.

GiGi Jacko: I just want to say, I used to work at Eyaawing, and it makes me really sad that it’s closed. It's just a warehouse for all of our beautiful artwork and history, and if you want the community to be more involved in your culture you really should invest more in the museum and get it out there. When I worked there we went all around Traverse City and all the surrounding areas and told everybody about all of our tribes and activities and everything that we did. It really brought a lot of potential to our tribe. And also, thank you so much for the money, it was greatly appreciated.

RESPONSE: Thank you for sharing your experience and for the work you contributed to the Museum. We understand how meaningful that space is to many in our community. Cultural programming continues to be a priority for GTB, and the Museum remains an important part of that vision. Your comments regarding outreach, investment, and the use of the space will be shared with leadership for consideration as future planning and funding decisions are made. We also appreciate your acknowledgment of the additional support provided.

Tom Shomin: I just want to address one thing. A tribal member came up earlier and asked about the Herkner property, and asked about the water and sewer into those properties. Just for memberships information, GTEC Engineering firm, worked really hard to try to get those facilities in as soon as possible and we're very frustrated because those facilities are owned by the county and townships. So they have to go through the state process, and get state permits, and local permits. And those things were just held up. We have a really good staff at Grand Traverse Engineering, they’ve done a lot of work for GTB and other tribes. And they were just as frustrated as Betty to try to get those things. Because it holds up the whole project, when you can't do that, then you can’t get other permits. And it bogs down the whole construction process, and construction is a very timing oriented process. I just want to let you know that that is the main holdup so I hope that information helps.

RESPONSE: Thank you for raising this concern. The Tribe, GTEC, and GTED worked diligently to move the Herkner water and sewer project forward. While there were delays, they were largely due to permitting requirements from outside agencies. Our staff remained engaged throughout the process and continued working through the challenges to ensure the project could move ahead. We appreciate everyone’s patience and the efforts of the teams who helped bring this critical infrastructure to the community.

Mary Yannott: I just like to ask if there would be anyone to help with shoveling or with yard work. My husband passed away five years ago and I can't do all that favor anymore. And I'm in dire need. I live right in Peshawbestown. Theres a bunch of us that live there and need help. And all of us elders have been on our own. Thank you.

RESPONSE: Miigwech for raising this concern. Council recognizes how essential these basic services are for elders who are living independently and may not have family or support nearby. Council understands the barriers that currently exist and is committed to continuing to explore safe, sustainable options to expand assistance for elders with tasks such as snow removal and yard care. Ensuring the safety, dignity, and well-being of our elders remains a top priority, and this feedback will help guide future solutions.

Patricia Castenada: I have one gripe. And that is that we got a postcard saying that breakfast was going to be at 7:30 in the morning. We got here at 7:30 and everything was locked up. We didn’t get a memo in Charlevoix about the time change so we’ve been here since 7:30 in the morning. Communication is all it takes.

RESPONSE: Thank you for sharing this feedback. We understand how frustrating it can be when information is unclear or appears to change, especially for something as important as meal times. The breakfast time was listed correctly on the postcard, and the updated schedule was also shared through the GTB Launch App. However, we recognize that not everyone receives information the same way, and we can do better to make sure changes or reminders are communicated clearly and consistently. We appreciate you bringing this to our attention, and we are working to improve how updates are shared so that everyone feels informed.

Victoria Alfonseca: I just want to clarify there was a postcard that was sent out with the new adjusted time, it’s posted on social media, we are doing our very best to communicate to all the tribal members. We actually have a great new app that we launched today, I’ve been working on it for a year, so make sure that you check us out and stay connected to all of our communication outlets. And our regroup alerts. So if you’re not signed up, come visit us at the table and we’ll get you all set up.

Mikki Pino: I’ve been your nurse for the last 41 years in the clinic. And I just want to remind everyone first of all that it’s flu and COVID season yet. Both of them are mutating and I guess this year the flu is going to be really bad. So, I’m reaching out to everybody to go home, tell everyone that you know. Get the flu shot and get the COVID vaccine. We’re losing enough of our tribal members as it is. We don't want to when it’s something that we can help prevent. So please, get your flu and COVID vaccine. And the second one that's dear to my heart is I am a Vice-Commander at Post 120 in Peshawbestown and we are still looking for veterans. Male, Female, whether you’re Cold War, or Vietnam, or later... Any veteran that you know, would like to sign up with us. We are a very acting group. We do get out and do things. But we, once a month, we have no meetings in January, February, and March, because we have a lot of snowbirds. So if you know anybody, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews. Anybody would like to join our little group, please, come and see one of us veterans. Thank you.

RESPONSE: Miigwech for sharing your experience and for reminding our community to take care of one another. Tribal Council appreciates the many years of service you have given to our people. We encourage members to stay informed, take precautions that feel right for them, and use available health resources to protect themselves and their families. Miigwech for sharing this opportunity to connect and support our veterans. Tribal Council is grateful for the service and leadership of those who serve our veterans, and we encourage eligible members to consider getting involved with Post 120 as a way to honor and support one another.

Told Wolf: I come up here from Grand Rapids quite a bit to stay in the hotel, and last year, I mentioned that the tennis courts, I hardly ever see anybody in there, one time I seen some pickleball people. But if we turn that into a water park that whole area I think you’d get

a lot more people coming in the winter, and then there's some undeveloped land. I think if we started a small amusement park with some rides. Everyone’s got to go all the way to Muskegon to ride a ride around here. Why can’t we get something up here for us. That’s all I’m asking.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for sharing this creative idea. Tribal Council appreciates members thinking about new ways to attract visitors and enhance the use of Tribal properties. The tennis courts are currently utilized by GTR paid members, and your broader suggestion has been noted for consideration. Council will continue to support discussions that explore opportunities while balancing community use, feasibility, and long-term sustainability.*

Patty Poertner: I came up here last year too about a place and home for our those who need help mentally. We have residences in our home. I work as a direct care but we have tribal members in a home that have no where to go so they come into our homes and they need help and I’ve wondered why our tribe hasn’t made a home for them. I just think it’s something that we should try to make a reality. And I’ve thought about that for a long time. But that’s my thought.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for bringing forward this concern. Council recognizes the urgent and heartbreaking reality faced by Tribal Members who need safe, supportive housing and have nowhere to go. Every person deserves dignity, stability, and care within their own community. Council supports continued collaboration with Government leadership to evaluate options for culturally responsive supportive housing models, including partnerships with licensed care providers and state-certified programs. This will include exploring funding opportunities, assessing community needs, and identifying sustainable solutions. In the meantime, staff will continue working with existing care networks to ensure that Tribal Members are connected to appropriate resources and safe placements while longer-term solutions are developed. Your advocacy helps guide this work, and we thank you for speaking up on behalf of those who are most vulnerable.*

Andrew Myrick: I’d like to reiterate some of the things that were just brought up. I agree that our Council members should be up on the stage listening to our comments and actually responding it’s really hard to get answers to questions. I mean what do we have to do to get answers? We come to these meetings, monthly meetings, write letters, fill out forms, 10 different ways, ask facebook questions. I mean how else can we ask these questions, when will we get answers. I’d like to keep this prioritized. Answer tribal member questions please please please answer them.

Michelle Shaw: I just want to say Miigwetch for that 3,000.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech. Tribal Council is grateful to be able to provide this support and remains committed to using our resources in ways that benefit our members and future generations.*

Tanya Raphael: I have a couple of things that I wrote down. First of all, I want start by saying, I'm on the election board. We have a position that’s been vacant for almost a year. Anyone that is interested, please, Tribal Council is up there and let them know. We have elections next year and we need a full board. I also want to comment on today's meeting. I appreciate the videos, but I kind of seen that on our little communications website, or GTB website. I would’ve personally appreciated more if people were here to physically say it. In addition to the casino reports, I would appreciate more, I think someone brought this up, that if the reports of what was lost was reported. I don’t know if it's a rumor, if it's true, but supposedly someone stole money from Leelanau Sands, if that was true

that would’ve been great to hear. If not, that would’ve been great to hear too. I’ve been saying it for years and years. Our elders program, we need transportation, appreciate it if we have a fiscal year calendar to keep elders in the loop and let them know what’s going on. Also, I'm asking staff in the elders department, please be nice to our elders. You are messing with their mental health, you may think that they are mean to you, but you’re mean. Stop. Also I had made a request, and maybe that request wasn’t requested right and I know that we have the marina down in Leelanau county, we have a building up on top, I know there’s fishing regulations there’s this there’s that but last year I asked if we can have a place to start harvesting our deer. I’m in my back yard trying to skin these deer freezing and I could just have a place, it would just make it easier. As far as the firekeeper request, I don’t feel like we have to pay anyone to be a firekeeper. But I will ask every male, female, whatever you consider yourself, to step up. We have kids that are missing out on our teachings, our learning, and if we don’t step up, especially men for our youth, we need those role models. And if they can’t learn it at home, reach out to our aunties and our uncles and try to make that connection to them because these kids really need it. I went through my list. That’s all I have. Thank you.

RESPONSE: Board: *Miigwech for bringing this forward. Tribal Council agrees that a fully staffed Election Board is essential to a strong and fair election process. We are committed to working through the appropriate steps to fill vacancies and ensure the Board is supported to carry out its responsibilities in a timely and transparent way.*

Videos: *The video format was used this year at the direction of Government Operations to ensure consistency and to manage time during the Open Forum. Council will share your preference for in-person reporting as we plan future meetings. With regard to financial concerns, all gaming operations are subject to internal controls, independent audits, and regulatory oversight. When issues are identified, they are addressed through established compliance and investigative processes. While personnel matters cannot be discussed publicly, Council is committed to protecting Tribal assets and ensuring proper accountability.*

Elders: *Miigwech for sharing your concerns. Council deeply values our Elders and recognizes the importance of ensuring they are treated with dignity, kindness, and respect in every interaction.*

Council supports the continued development of clear, easy-to-understand calendars and accessible transportation so Elders can participate fully in programs and activities.

We also want to be clear that the well-being and mental health of our Elders matters. Council expects all programs and staff to engage with Elders in a way that is compassionate, patient, and culturally respectful. We appreciate you speaking up and will continue to work with program leadership to ensure our Elders feel safe, supported, and honored.

Deer: *Miigwech for this thoughtful suggestion. Council recognizes the importance of supporting our hunters and ensuring harvested deer and other awesiiyag (animals) are used respectfully and without waste. The idea of a centralized processing space, such as a pole barn or walk-in cooler, reflects community needs and aligns with food sovereignty and sustainability goals. Council appreciates this feedback and will share it with Natural Resources and related departments for further consideration. As a reminder, GTB members retain treaty rights to hunt, fish, trap, and gather on public lands within the 1836 Treaty Ceded Territory. Current regulations, maps, and seasonal guidance are available through the GTB Natural Resources Department website and mobile app. Members are encouraged to contact NRD directly for assistance or questions about permitted hunting areas and harvest practices.*

Firekeepers: *Miigwech for speaking from the heart about our youth and the need for positive role models. Our children deserve*

to grow up connected to culture, teachings, and strong community guidance. Council supports the development of Firekeeper teachings and related cultural programming as a way to strengthen identity, responsibility, and respect for our traditions. These teachings are currently in the planning stages and will be shared with the community once they are ready. Cultural teachings follow long-held protocols and responsibilities, and they are guided by our knowledge keepers to ensure they are shared in a good way. Alongside this, additional cultural learning opportunities will continue to be offered for all community members. We are grateful for your willingness to step forward and help uplift our youth. Your voice reflects the care and commitment so many hold for the next generation.

Devon Hampton: I’m just wondering if I’m the only first timer here or if there are others that have never been here that are here for the first time? I just want to say thank you for this wonderful event and I’m proud to be a member of the tribe and I look forward to giving back in any way that I can. Thank you.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for attending and for sharing your experience. We are glad you joined us and are grateful for your kind words. Tribal Council looks forward to continuing to walk together as a community and appreciates your willingness to give back in a good way.*

Hope Wolf: Mental Health should be brought up more.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for raising this important concern. Council agrees that mental health must be spoken about openly, respectfully, and often. Creating space for honest conversation helps reduce stigma, strengthens connection, and supports healing within our community. Council appreciates the work of Behavioral Health Services and community partners who are expanding both clinical and culturally grounded supports. We are encouraged by the preventative programs, community events, and survey efforts underway, and we value the voices of our members in shaping future services. Mental wellness is a shared responsibility, and Council remains committed to continuing this conversation, supporting accessible care, and listening to community needs as we move forward together.*

Gerry Luskey: I’m a member of the Natural Resources Committee. We are looking into a place to help out with deer processing. Also, I’d like to mention Dave Spinniken, he was the first GTB Newsletter editor and he did a great job, he was a good friend of mine, and his first office was in the Natural Resources building so I got to know his quite well and he was a good guy. So maybe a moment of silence for Dave Spinniken, he passed away a few days ago. And I was in Natural Resources for 17 years as a Great Lakes Fisheries Technician and then I joined the Natural Resource Committee. So we’re always looking out for environmental, water, hunting, gathering as it relates to our Natural Resources, which is all the stuff that we as Anishnaabe have been willing to do for thousands of years. Miigwetch

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for attending and for sharing. We appreciate your words and acknowledge of the service and memory of David Spinniken. Tribal Council thanks you for your engagement and looks forward to continuing this work together.*

Theresa Marshall: We don’t see you guys communicating with all of us. I understand you can’t like everybody, I get it, but act like you do. I work in a public sector and everyone that walks in that office acts like they’re my best friend. I would much rather have that then people that act like they can’t see me. Especially our leadership. And coming in here and having people say, did you know it started at this time? That’s top down. You have the highest amount of contracts for your homies and friends. Then I got had people ask, why they're not fulfilling their contract? And you

guys don't even question it. Whereas, like, as a former worker, I was questioned a lot because people didn't know what I did. A contract spells it out. We're waiting for a comp study, I'm hearing that, you know, you're shortened work week, but then we want to start paying overtime at 36 hours? That's crazy. Give people the money they deserve, Look at our wages compared to this community. Make that raise instead of helping those certain people who have to work above that 36 hours. Help your whole employee team. We had to. The 1.3 we should have did back when I was on, that we couldn't get everyone to agree on because some were hit better than the others, and not their friend group. Get it done. We've seen us waste money at these comp studies. We have an HR director that did one that was beautiful. And actually I showed it to my team, outside of here and they were like, can we hire her. I like, you might be able to, 'cause shes been treated pretty poorly here. So figure it out. Your job and leaders is to figure it out for all of this. And, yeah, we all heard about the 78,000 walking out and walking back in to get his keys. But the ticks that haven't been used at all entities are failing us. If one of us as a tribal member, worker, walked out with \$100, we would be fired, and everybody around us would be. Everybody who talked to us. The tix, when I was even at that table, I stated those ticks aren't followed in every casino. Fix that issue. That is my money. That is your money. And you guys are like we have friends, we have people we know. My sister works there. Big thing. Fix that issue. Do your job.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for sharing your concerns. Tribal Council understands the frustration expressed here and recognizes that clear communication, fairness, and accountability are essential to maintaining trust within our community. We are committed to improving how information is shared, ensuring policies are applied consistently, and reviewing concerns related to contracts, wages, and workplace practices through the appropriate processes. While we cannot address individual personnel matters or privileged information in a public forum, we take all concerns seriously and will continue working to strengthen transparency, equity, and communication across our organization. We appreciate members who speak up, and we remain committed to doing this work in a good way for the benefit of our people.*

Amber Lewis: I just want to say that I agree with everything Theresa Marshall said. Thank you for getting up and speaking up, I appreciate it. And this is my first meeting. Thank you, Miigwetch.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for attending and for sharing your perspective. Tribal Council appreciates members who take time to participate, speak, and engage in our community conversations.*

Helen Chippewa: There was a comment made about the elders, and I feel like some of these elders need to be corrected about that because they need to be nice to the workers. And I have seen that they have not been nice to the workers so before you make that comment, you need to be sitting up there every day. You people that do work for the elders, you guys do a damn good job. And before you make that comment you need to check yourself and look at yourself, so if you have a problem with that then you need to stay at home because I feel like they are doing a good job. And nobody has said anything about our pharmacy, I want to let you know I'm glad about the pharmacy because I get everything I had to get at Costco.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for sharing this. Tribal Council appreciates the dedication of our Elders staff and Pharmacy team, and we are grateful for the care they provide to our community. We also value the reminder that respect and kindness strengthen our relationships. We will continue to support a culture of mutual respect for everyone we*

serve and who serves our people.

Amanda Theibeld: Preventative for MMIP is to provide tribal housing for women and men survivors so they have a safe place to go and possibly work placement to help them save up to improve their life for them and the people around them. I think this will help a lot of women and men to just get out of the situation if need be. Miigwetch.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for bringing forward this important concern. Council recognizes the urgent need for safe, stable housing and meaningful employment pathways for MMIP survivors and those affected by violence. We appreciate the collaborative work underway between Behavioral Health Services, Tribal Housing, Human Resources, and the 477 Program to identify available supports and service gaps. Council supports continued cross-department coordination to ensure survivors can access housing, wrap-around services, and workforce opportunities in a safe and culturally respectful way. Council is committed to advancing solutions that prioritize safety, dignity, and long-term stability, and we will continue to support efforts to include survivor-centered housing and employment initiatives in future planning and grant development.*

Jeremy Shehan: I just want to say I'm proud to be a Grand Traverse Band member because of all the beautiful people here and all these opinions. I was hired at the lodge and it took me to get out of what, took me 5 years of being in trouble to getting out of trouble to get a job. If there's any way we could bypass that for some people that, you know, we can tell had changed. I used to be a pretty bad person back in the days. And a lot of people were proud of me then, I hope they are proud of me now. And I just want to thank the tribe for giving me that chance so that I can provide for my family and getting benefits and all that stuff. You know I've come a little ways from where I used to be. Just want to thank the tribe for doing all that and all these opinions and all these strong opinions that we're having just remember the federal government shut down for how ever many long because of their differences in opinions and what not and I feel that our tribe is moving in the good direction and I'm proud to be a part of it.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for sharing your story. Tribal Council is grateful to walk alongside members as they grow, heal, and provide for their families. We are honored that you are part of our community and appreciate your pride in being a member. We remain committed to creating opportunities that strengthen our people and support future generations.*

Sammie Conway: Boozhoo again, somebody wanted me to share this, kind of touching on what someone had previously said regarding a facility for our elders. When it comes to when their bodies are breaking down, their minds are breaking down. [P SEP] Working in a skilled nursing facility, I've seen it firsthand, the discrimination our indigenous elders received when they are there. And I was just so grateful that I would be, I was able to be there to help care for them in the way that they needed to. You know, I think it's been in the talks with the designs and everything, but having, like, a story building, several stories high, you know, different levels for different cognitive abilities, different physical abilities, you know, having our own facility to help our elders when they are transitioning as they grow, as we all grow older, is very important. You know, lots of families, everybody has to work today because we can't afford anything. And so, they can't always get there to be with their loved ones. And as community members, if we had that main facility, you know, you don't have anything to do, let's go to the elders and just hang out. You know, maybe draw on bingo for them or something. I don't know. Whatever, you know? As volunteers, too. That' it.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for raising this deeply important concern. Council recognizes the growing need to ensure our Elders are safe, supported, and treated with dignity as their care needs increase. We also understand the fears families have when loved ones must rely on outside care. While skilled nursing facilities are licensed medical centers and not operated by the Tribe, GTB does not step away from our responsibility to advocate for and check on our members. When we are made aware that a Tribal member is residing in a skilled nursing or assisted living facility, our Community Health Representatives can conduct wellness visits and follow-ups to ensure their well-being. Council also supports long-term planning to explore multi-purpose or Elder-centered care facilities that reflect our values and provide culturally respectful support. Department 8 will work with GTB leadership to evaluate future options and identify funding or partnership opportunities. Your voice helps guide that vision, and we are grateful for your care and advocacy for our Elders.*

Delores Niigaanakwad: All tribal owned buildings - to have uniform toilets in all. Preferable 16" high toilets for Elders anyone with handicap needs. One size is good for all. Cultural activities and community room in Antrim County. Elder housing in Antrim - Low income and ceiling rent housing 2 bedroom 2 bath garage. Ramps of the porches. 2 bedroom 2 bath for caregivers for our elders.

RESPONSE: *Miigwech for raising this important accessibility concern. Council agrees that our facilities should be welcoming and usable for Elders and all members with mobility needs. Government Operations will review restroom fixtures across Tribal facilities to ensure ADA compliance. Where upgrades or corrections are needed, they will be addressed as part of ongoing facility improvements.*
Antrim: *Miigwech for bringing this forward. Council recognizes the importance of cultural programming and community gathering spaces for our members in every county we serve, including Antrim County. Council supports efforts to explore future options that would allow programming to expand in this area. This may include partnerships, shared spaces, or long-term facility planning. Council remains committed to ensuring that all GTB members have meaningful access to cultural, educational, and community-based opportunities, regardless of location.*
Housing: *Miigwech for sharing this important vision for our Elders and caregivers. Safe, accessible, and affordable housing is essential to supporting our community as we age. Council recognizes the need for elder-friendly housing options in Antrim County, including low-income and capped-rent units, accessibility features such as ramps, and housing that can accommodate caregivers. These needs align with long-term goals already being explored through GTB Housing, Behavioral Health, and the Permanent Housing Program. While housing development requires careful planning, funding, and site evaluation, Council supports continued assessment of elder housing needs across all counties we serve. This includes exploring grants, partnerships, and design models that prioritize accessibility, independence, and family support. Your input will be shared with the appropriate departments as part of ongoing housing planning efforts. Miigwech for advocating for our Elders and helping guide future solutions.*

Geneva Pino: For the Casinos, especially Peshawbestown, cars park in the Handicap/ walkway. Asked may times to place yellow no parking there for past 4 years. They didn't notice they're young healthy of course. They can walk this. Casino Bus: TC transport every 1 hour? People wait wait wait. The buses just sit there if busy. Push to 1/2 hour please. Who: Housing, What: home repair over 2 years (Jan 23), Where: home in Ptown, Why: health and safety, Who fixed?! My door

outer flew off 2 years ago in January in storm. 1st reported - they won't help - nothing for 6 months, 2nd - went into the office and 'they forgot', 3rd went again and 'had to reapply' and get door measurements again. Sept 25 was told door will be here before the snow falls but it's Nov 21 and no door. Why? Now inner and outer door.

RESPONSE: Miigwech for bringing this forward. Tribal Council agrees that accessible parking and walkways must remain available to those who need them, and we appreciate you advocating for that. Each casino has designated handicapped parking areas, and when access concerns arise, guests may contact a Shift Manager so the issue can be addressed promptly. We will continue to stress the importance of respect, accessibility, and enforcement to ensure our facilities are safe and welcoming for all.

Casino Bus: Miigwech for sharing your experience. Tribal Council understands how frustrating long wait times can be, and we appreciate you bringing this concern forward. This type of shuttle schedule has been evaluated in the past, and based on operational and financial analysis, it is not currently feasible. We will continue to encourage management to look for ways to improve service efficiency and communication so riders have the best possible experience.

Repair: Thank you for bringing this to our attention. We sincerely apologize for the delays, repeated applications, and lack of follow-through you experienced. This should not have happened, especially when your health and safety were at risk. We are reviewing this case immediately to understand where the process broke down and why the repair was not completed as promised. A work order has now been escalated as a priority safety repair, and a staff member will contact you directly to confirm next steps and timelines for replacing both the inner and outer doors. We also recognize the frustration caused by being asked to reapply and remeasure multiple times. This feedback will be used to improve our tracking, communication, and accountability processes so members do not experience this again. Thank you for your patience and for bringing this to our attention. Your safety matters.

Holly Alberts: I would love to see youth activities be held on weekends and at night to make them attainable. It used to be like that when I was a kid. Youth workers should know that is just part of the job.

RESPONSE: Miigwech for sharing your thoughts and for advocating for our youth. Council agrees that accessible programming—especially evenings and weekends—plays a vital role in keeping our young people engaged, safe, and connected to their community. Council supports the expansion of youth programming hours and understands the importance of meeting families where they are. Staffing capacity is currently the limiting factor, and we are encouraged that plans are in place to add a Youth Intervention Specialist, which will allow for more weekend and evening activities in the future. Your feedback reinforces the need for continued investment in youth services, and Council will continue to support efforts that make programming more accessible to our youth.

Jim McSauby: Put up some advertisement for the Benzie Casino. The last I heard is that the Leelanau Sands Casino loses about 1.8 million dollars a year. If so, it should be closed. Maybe add a room on to the gas station with some slot machines that would have to cut the Sands loses considerably. Make the Lodge and Resort and Turtle Creek pet friendly. Where do the funds for senior movie tickets, canoeing, skiing come from. If it come's from the federal government or from tribal funds. If it comes from tribal funds all tribal members should be able to participate in these programs.

RESPONSE: Miigwech for the suggestion. Tribal Council appreciates your interest in

seeing continued growth and visibility for the Benzie Casino. Crystal Shores currently utilizes billboards in the Benzie area and surrounding communities, along with social media and other marketing efforts to promote the property. We will continue to encourage outreach and visibility efforts that support the success of Tribal enterprises and benefit the community as a whole.

LSC: Miigwech for sharing your concern. Tribal Council understands how important it is for members to have clear and accurate information about Tribal enterprises. The Tribe provides transparent, audited financial statements, which are shared with membership twice each year in connection with General Welfare distributions. Council remains committed to responsible oversight of Tribal businesses and to ensuring members have access to reliable financial information.

Pet: Miigwech for sharing this suggestion. Tribal Council appreciates ideas that help our properties better serve members, families, and visitors. This topic has been discussed at a preliminary level, and your feedback helps elevate that conversation for further consideration. We will continue to encourage management to explore options that balance guest experience, safety, and operational needs.

Elder: Miigwech for your question. Funding for programs such as senior movie tickets, canoeing, and skiing comes from a combination of federal and tribal sources. Each year, departments go through a formal budget process to allocate funds for age-specific programming. For the Elders Program, federal funding is primarily designated for nutrition and wellness services for those age 60 and older (with Tribal Elders eligible beginning at age 55). Tribal funds are used to support programs specifically for GTB members. Council continually works to balance available resources so that programs are as inclusive, fair, and accessible as possible for our membership.

Leanne Snowden: How do I find out if I'm eligible to have my driveway plowed out in winter? I am an elder but don't live on the rez. Another tribal elders lives just down the easement from me. I also need some lawn care but cannot afford to hire a landscaper.

RESPONSE: Miigwech for sharing this. Council understands how difficult it can be for Elders to manage winter conditions and property upkeep—especially when living outside the reservation and on a fixed income. No Elder should have to choose between safety and affordability. Council supports efforts to expand access to seasonal services such as snow removal and lawn care for Tribal Elders, including exploring partnerships with county programs and Tribal workforce initiatives like the 477 Program. Staff will continue reviewing ways to make these services more accessible to Elders regardless of location. In the meantime, we encourage you to connect with your Area Elder Coordinator, who can help determine eligibility and assist with applications. Your feedback helps us identify gaps and advocate for improved support for our Elders.

Michelle Madrigal: What happens to all the money or cash out tickets security finds on our slot machines? Why does Turtle Creek Casino offer money give aways and Leelanau Sands only offer rewards play? What & Why did Leelanau Sands stop having the polka bands? I thought that it was busy in the showroom. Was treated very unprofessionally when I tried to reapply for my yearly PRC application. Lots of back and forth before finally getting taken care of. Why can't we have our own license plate? Could we retire out Tribal flag. Design a new flag, but keep the eagle landing on the branch.

RESPONSE: Miigwech for this question. Transparency and accountability are important to Tribal Council, and we appreciate the opportunity to clarify this process. When unattended cash or tickets are found on slot machines, any amount under

\$50 is directed to the “Cash In on Kindness” donation program. For amounts over \$50, every effort is made to identify and return the funds to the guest. These procedures are in place to ensure fairness, integrity, and responsible handling of all funds.

Promotions: GTB casino properties offer a mix of promotions, including cash, reward play, and prize-based giveaways. While the timing and structure of promotions may vary by location based on operational and market factors, each property is included in overall promotional planning. We appreciate you sharing this concern, as feedback like this helps ensure our properties continue to serve guests in an equitable and thoughtful way.

Polka: Miigwech for sharing this — we know the polka bands were meaningful to many guests and created a special sense of community at Leelanau Sands. Although the shows were well attended, they did not consistently increase overall casino floor activity enough to sustain the program. For that reason, the weekly series was discontinued. We are pleased to report that Leelanau Sands continues to support Cedar PolkaFest by way of sponsorship and is exploring new entertainment options in the showroom. We encourage members to watch for upcoming events and continue sharing feedback about the types of shows you would like to see.

PRC: Miigwech for sharing your experience. We are truly sorry that you felt disrespected and frustrated while trying to access services that are meant to support you. That is not the experience Council wants for any of our members. While certain documentation is required for annual PRC eligibility, Council recognizes that the process must be handled with professionalism, respect, and clear communication. We take concerns about treatment very seriously. Your feedback has been shared so that improvements can be made, and we appreciate you speaking up. Our goal is to ensure every member is treated with dignity and care when seeking assistance.

License Plate: Miigwech for this question. The Tribe can issue its own license plates, but the process depends on how “Indian Country” is legally defined for each Tribe in Michigan. Some Michigan Tribes already have plates because federal court decisions established clearly defined reservation boundaries for them. GTB does not yet have the same legal geographic designation, so we must first negotiate with the State of Michigan to define where GTB plates can be issued and recognized. GTB is currently in active discussions with the Michigan Secretary of State to establish this agreement. Negotiations are expected to begin soon, with the goal of creating a GTB plate system once the legal framework is finalized. Council is committed to pursuing this and will share updates as the process moves forward.

Flag: Miigwech for sharing this thoughtful idea. The GTB Tribal flag is a symbol of our history, sovereignty, and identity, and any changes to it must be approached with great care and respect for our ancestors and our community. While the current flag remains an important and recognized symbol of the Grand Traverse Band, Council is always open to hearing creative ideas that honor our culture and reflect who we are today. Any consideration of a new or updated design would require a community-driven process, including input from elders, cultural leaders, artists, and Tribal members. At this time, the Tribal flag will remain as it is. However, we welcome continued dialogue and encourage members to share ideas through cultural forums, art initiatives, and community discussions so that future generations can help shape how our story is told.



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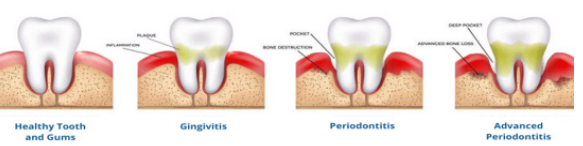
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DENTAL CONNECTIONS

The GTB Dental Clinic would like to thank all the members who came out to support and celebrate 30 years of excellent health care at the Medicine Lodge this year at the GTB Annual Health Fair. It was fun to see you all enjoying the festivities on such a nice summer day.

September is National Gum Care Month and we would like to focus on gingival (gum) tissues. Gums and gingiva can’t get cavities like teeth, but the need for healthy gums is vital to maintaining a healthy mouth. Without proper care, gum tissue can become irritated, painful, swollen, and infected. These ailments can have lasting effects on our overall health in the long term and can cause unpleasant odors in the mouth known as halitosis (bad breath).

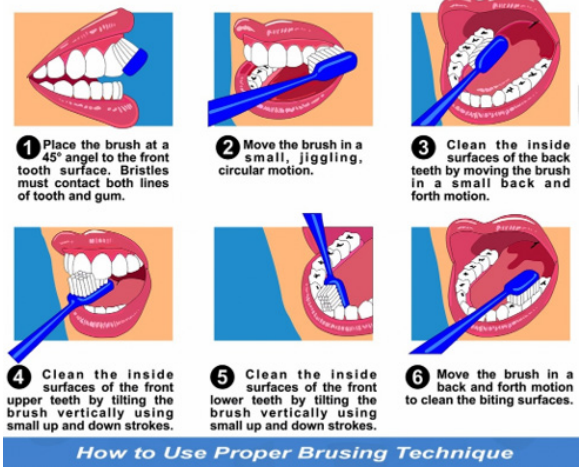
GINGIVITIS VS PERIODONTITIS



Gingivitis is a reversible condition, and can resolve with improved oral hygiene (brushing, flossing, gingival debris removal), however, if left untreated, gingivitis progresses to periodontitis. Periodontitis is an irreversible condition characterized by chronic gingival inflammation which leads to the loss of bone around the teeth. As you can imagine, losing bone around a tooth compromises the long-term health of the mouth because teeth can become mobile, and deep pockets around teeth can become infected and lead to a dental abscess. Sometimes, teeth are lost due to severe bone loss and subsequent infection,

and without proper intervention to improve tissue health, patients will eventually need to get replacement teeth with dentures. The graphic below demonstrates the progression from healthy tissues to severely damaged tissues from periodontal disease.

FIGHT BAD BREATH, CAVITIES, AND GINGIVAL WITH HOME DENTAL CARE



Be diligent in your home dental care to fight bad breath, cavities, and gingival inflammation. This graphic below demonstrates proper brushing technique, which focuses on cleaning the teeth AND the gum tissue simultaneously. Taking the time to brush all these tissues will benefit your long term oral health and help keep your mouth clean and fresh. As a reminder, we would appreciate it if patients gave at least 24 hours’ notice if they’re unable to attend their dental appointment to allow for another patient to take your appointment slot. Our staff contacts our patients via text message and telephone calls, so please communicate via these methods if

you’re unable to attend your appointment. Providing ample notice allows our staff the opportunity to provide patients who are waiting for an appointment with better access to dental care and reduce the scheduling lag that we are still experiencing.



- | | |
|---|---|
| ❖ Learn from Indigenous providers | ❖ Become a leader & advocate in Native healthcare |
| ❖ Partner with a medical student mentor | ❖ Earn a certificate for college applications |
| ❖ Explore Native health topics | ❖ \$50 Weekly Raffle + additional compensation |

When?

Wednesdays
4:30–5:30 PM CT
Sept 9 – Nov 18

Where?

Live on Zoom

Who?

High school students who identify as Indigenous or Native American

Scan to Apply - It takes 2 minutes!

First session starts Sept 9, 2026

<https://healthcarecollaborative.com/indigenous-hcc-2/>

Indigenous Health Career Collaborative – Questions? Visit the website above

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF HEALTH, HEALING AND SOVEREIGNTY

The Grand Traverse Band recently celebrated the 30th Annual GTB Health Fair, marking three decades of service, wellness, and community care through the Medicine Lodge. The milestone was an opportunity to reflect on the vision, dedication, and people who helped establish a foundation of health and healing for Tribal citizens.

Thirty years ago, a vision took shape: to create a place where GTB citizens could access comprehensive, culturally integrated healthcare while strengthening the Tribe’s sovereignty and commitment to the well-being of its people. That vision became the **Medicine Lodge**.

The celebration recognized two individuals whose dedication helped build the foundation of the GTB Health Department and the healthcare services the community continues to benefit from today.

HONORING RUTH BUSSEY

The first Guest of Honor was Ruth Bussey, the original Health Administrator for the GTB Health Department. In the early years of the department, Ruth played a vital role in establishing the healthcare infrastructure that would become the foundation for the Medicine Lodge.



Her leadership helped turn the vision of comprehensive, culturally integrated healthcare into a reality. The care provided to generations of Tribal citizens, the lives touched, and the many years of healing made possible through the Medicine Lodge are part of the lasting legacy of the path she helped pave.

HONORING MIKKI PINO

The celebration also honored Mikki Pino, one of the very first employees of the GTB Health Department and an important part of its history from the beginning.

For three decades, Mikki’s dedication and service helped shape the healthcare mission and services that Tribal citizens rely on today. Her contributions represent the commitment of the early employees who helped establish the foundation for what would become a lasting place of health, healing, and community care.



Mikki was recognized for her decades of service, dedication, and contributions to the Grand Traverse Band and its healthcare system.

CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF WELLNESS

The 30th Annual Health Fair was more than a celebration of an anniversary. It was an opportunity to honor the people whose vision, leadership, and dedication

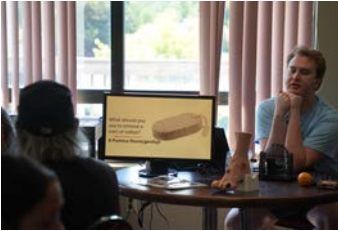


helped make the Medicine Lodge what it is today.

The milestone served as a reminder that



strong healthcare services are built over generations, through the commitment of those who envisioned something better, those who laid the foundation, and those who continue that work today.



The Grand Traverse Band extends a heartfelt Chi-Megwetch to Ruth Bussey, Mikki Pino, and all those who have contributed to 30 years of health, healing, and wellness for the community.



More photos can be found by following the link:https://bit.ly/GTB_Photos
Or Scan QR Code

SOBRIETY WALK BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER AT ANNUAL POWWOW



On Sunday, August 16, community members gathered at the PowWow Grounds for the annual Sobriety Walk, held before the Kchi Wiikwedong Anishinaabek Maawnjodowin Traditional Grand Entry later in the afternoon. The walk brought people together to honor recovery, healing, and the strength found within community.

On the morning at the PowWow Grounds Pavilion, participants walked together before gathering at the Strongheart Center for a talking circle. The circle provided an opportunity to show appreciation for the purpose of the walk, recognize GTB programs and resources that have supported sobriety, and share personal stories and experiences.



The walk had a wonderful turnout, and the rain stayed away. Just before the event began, a bald eagle flew overhead—a powerful and humbling presence as community members gathered with a shared focus on healing.

During the talking circle, participants shared their recovery journeys and spoke about the importance of healing within the community. The need for a healing forest was also shared, offering an opportunity to reflect

on the continued importance of healing, connection, and support along the journey of recovery.

The Sobriety Walk was a meaningful part of Sunday morning’s PowWow festivities and served as a reminder that recovery is strengthened through connection, support, and community. Behavioral Health extends its gratitude to everyone who participated, shared their stories, and helped make the walk possible.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

911 OR 988: WHICH SHOULD I CALL?

911 — Physical Emergencies
Call 911 for immediate threats to life or safety, including serious injuries, medical emergencies, fires, accidents, or crimes in progress. Dispatchers send police, fire, or EMS for immediate physical intervention.

988 — Behavioral Health Crises
Call, text, or chat with 988 for emotional distress, suicidal thoughts, panic attacks, mental health, or substance use crises when there is no immediate physical danger. Trained crisis counselors provide support, de-escalation, and connections to local resources. Fewer than 2% of 988 contacts require emergency-service dispatch.

Both 911 and 988 are free and available 24/7.

NEED SUPPORT?

Behavioral Health Services: 231-534-7090
Health Services: 231-534-7200
24/7 Crisis Lines:
National Crisis Lifeline: 988 or 1-800-273-8255
Crisis Text Line: Text NATIVE to 741741
Antrim & Charlevoix: 877-470-4668
Benzie & Manistee: 877-398-2013
Grand Traverse & Leelanau: 833-295-0616

MEET OUR TEAM

Joanie Eisner, LMSW, CAADC — Human Services Department Manager with 29 years of social services experience serving individuals and families experiencing behavioral health concerns.

Bill Martell, LMSW, CAADC — Behavioral Health Counselor and tribal member with more than six years of counseling experience. Uses traditional approaches alongside evidence-based therapies to support mental health and recovery.

Patrick Prevo, LPC — Therapist specializing in anxiety, depression, and life transitions through compassionate, evidence-based and person-centered care.

Bryan Cloninger — Clinical Mental Health Counseling Intern focused on culturally responsive, person-centered support for Elders, individuals, and families.

Marion Wabanimkee-Minzey — Behavioral Health Clinical Caseworker providing case management, assistance, and resource navigation since 2022.

Rosalyn Stringer, PMHPNP-BC — Board-certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner providing compassionate medication management for mood disorders, anxiety, and depression.

Additional Services: Massage therapy • Energy healing/Reiki • Auricular acupuncture • Traditional healing, ceremonies, teachings, medicines, and spiritual guidance.

DID YOU KNOW?

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive stimulant that can cause serious physical, psychological, and social consequences. Effects may include increased heart rate and blood pressure, overheating, insomnia, memory loss, paranoia, hallucinations, psychosis, impaired judgment, relationship and employment problems, stroke, heart disease, and overdose. **If you suspect an overdose or immediate danger, call 911.**

COMMUNITY RESOURCE

2026 TRAVERSE CITY/NORTHERN MICHIGAN OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK

Saturday, Sept. 19 • Clinch Park, Traverse City

Check-in: 9 AM • Walk: 10 AM • FREE TO PARTICIPATE

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention walk supports suicide prevention, awareness, research, advocacy, and community healing. Learn more at afspwalks.donordrive.com.

Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness Classes

Join us
Thursdays through 9/24/26
From 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
Medicine Lodge Cafeteria



Anishinaabek Family Services
Family Violence Prevention Services

For more information contact Denise at 231-534-7124



GTB
ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES
MASSAGE THERAPY

Scan QR code below to
schedule a 25 minute session:
https://bit.ly/GTB_MASSAGE



THERAPEUTIC SESSIONS

Great for stress relief & muscle tension

MANUAL LYMPH DRAINAGE

Provides a boost to your immune system + great for fluid retention, lymphedema and pre/post operative care (with Dr. clearance)

FACIAL GUA SHA

Reduces puffiness, can help with sinus pressure, and feels wonderful

CUPPING

Creates negative pressure to lift tissue and increase circulation for tight muscles



CONTACT:
Marion Wabanimkee-Minzey
(231) 534-7091
Marion.Wabanimkee-Minzey@gtb-nsn.gov

GTB NEWS 14

NIIZH ANIMIKIIG (SPF-PFS) PROGRAM INITIATED THEIR ANNUAL EVALUATION

In 2025, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Niizh Animikiig (SPF-PFS) program initiated their annual evaluation of current programming, events, activities, and community members’ opinions on mental health and substance misuse/addiction needs and services. Below you will find a few of the questions with responses related to substance misuse and mental health: Approximately 91% of survey respondents believed that substance misuse and addiction is a concern for the Grand Traverse Band community. **Sources of Messaging**

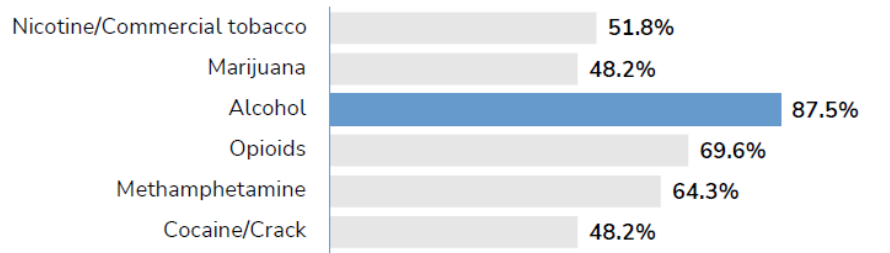


Figure 8. Perceived substances of greatest concern in the Grand Traverse Band community. When asked about which substances they perceive to be of greatest concern, most survey respondents selected alcohol. Respondents were able to select more than one response, so the total percentage may exceed 100%. Survey respondents were asked about which age groups they perceive to use the following substances:

- ♦ Alcohol
- ♦ Opioids (*Heroin; Fentanyl; prescription opioids such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, etc.*)
- ♦ Methamphetamine (*Meth*)
- ♦ Nicotine/Commercial tobacco (*cigarettes, cigars, electronic vapor products (Juul, e-cigarettes), etc.*)
- ♦ Marijuana (*weed, THC*)
- ♦ Cocaine/Crack

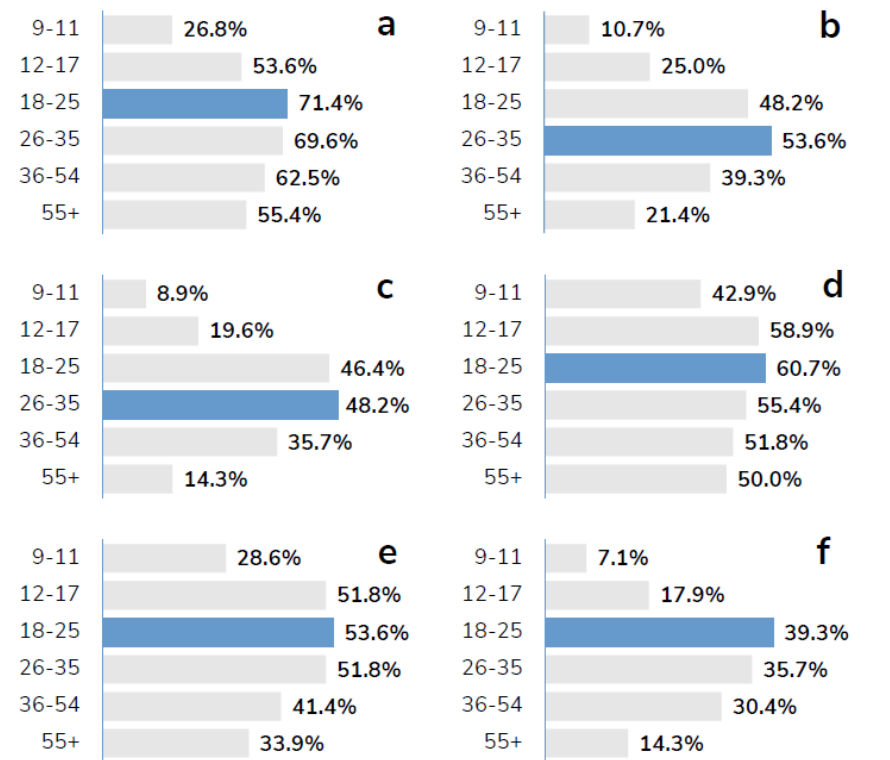


Figure 9. Perceived use of (a) alcohol, (b) opioids, (c) methamphetamine, (d) nicotine/commercial tobacco, (e) marijuana, and (f) cocaine/crack among different age groups. Survey respondents believe that those age 18-26 generally use the most substances. Survey respondents thought that alcohol use was most prevalent among those age 18-25 years. Survey respondents thought that opioid use was most prevalent among those age 26-35 years. Survey respondents thought that methamphetamine use was most prevalent among those age 26-35 years. Survey respondents thought that nicotine/commercial tobacco use was most prevalent among those age 18-25 years. Survey respondents thought that marijuana use was most prevalent among those age 18-25 years. Survey respondents thought that cocaine/crack use was most prevalent among those age 18-25 years.

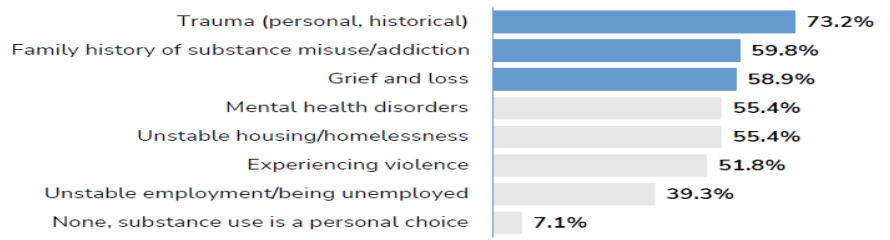


Figure 10. Factors that play a role in substance use and addiction. Survey respondents believe that the three main reasons that lead to higher substance use and addiction are trauma, family history, and grief and loss. Respondents were able to select more than one response, so the total percentage may exceed 100%. Those who chose “Other” wrote in responses related to loneliness or not feeling included. Additionally, when asked about what issues they believe substance misuse and addiction leads to, at least 70% answered domestic violence, unstable employment/being unemployed, mental health disorders, and unstable housing/homelessness. Respondents were asked whether they believe that substance misuse/addiction can lead to trauma, and if so, what kind(s) of trauma.

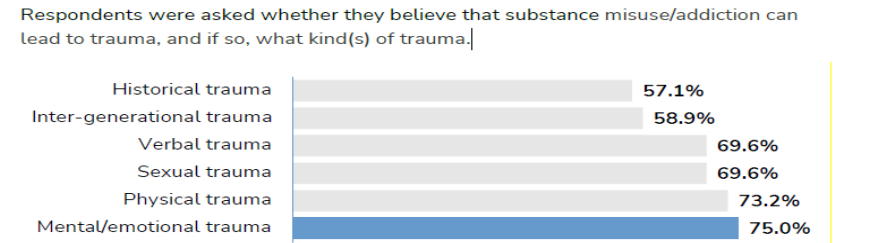


Figure 11. Types of traumas that substance misuse/addiction can lead to. Survey respondents believe that mental and/or emotional trauma is most likely to lead to substance misuse/addiction. Respondents were able to select more than one response, so the total percentage may exceed 100%.

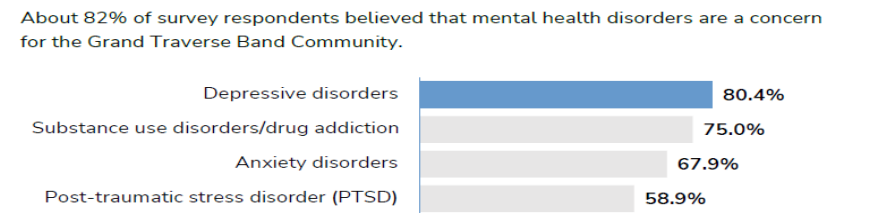


Figure 12. Mental health disorders of greatest concern in the Grand Traverse Band community. Survey respondents believe that depressive disorders are most prevalent in the community. Respondents were able to select more than one response, so the total percentage may exceed 100%.

IT IS OKAY TO CALL FOR HELP!
GTB INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE IS AVAILABLE

Behavioral Health Services

231-534-7090

Health Services

231-534-7200

Nurse Care Navigation

231-534-7237

CRISIS PHONE LINES

AVAILABLE 24/7

National Crisis Lifeline

988 or 1-800-273-8255

National Crisis Text Line

Text NATIVE to 741741

Antrim County

877-470-4668

Benzie County

877-398-2013

Charlevoix County

877-470-4668

Grand Traverse County

833-295-0616

Leelanau County

833-295-0616

Manistee County

877-398-2013

BOTH 911 AND 988 ARE FREE
AND AVAILABLE 24/7

NENAANDAWI'IWED
TRADITIONAL HEALER
Gerard Sagassige



Gerard Sagassige is from Curve Lake First Nation with family connections to Serpent River and Wikwemikong. With over 20 years of experience in traditional healing practices across Anishinaabek communities in the United States and Canada, Gerard is dedicated to cultural revitalization, holistic wellness, and community-based healing. For the past seven years, he serves as the Traditional Practitioner for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, providing culturally grounded healing services, ceremonies, and teachings that support the spiritual and emotional well-being of community members.

Gerard also serves as the Cultural Director for Anishinaabemowin-Teg, Inc. He is a first-language fluent speaker of Anishinaabemowin, with English as his second language. Gerard believes language is central to Anishinaabe identity, wellness, and spirituality, and Anishinaabe worldview and traditional healing practices are inseparable from our language.

Gerard's responsibilities include guiding fasting camps, sweat lodge ceremonies, sunrise ceremonies, sacred fires, and offering spiritual guidance, traditional teachings, healing, and medicines. He works with individuals of all ages and support staff and organizations in learning and integrating Anishinaabek traditional ways of life into their lives and work.

Call Marion Wabanimkee-Minzey to schedule 231-534-7091

Or schedule online at:
<https://massageGTBbh.as.me/>



GTB NEWS 15

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!

Robert	Kewaygoshkum	1-Sep	Michael	Genaux	11-Sep	Kenneth	Menefee	21-Sep
Robert	Carlson	1-Sep	Carol	Gage	12-Sep	Keith	Williams	23-Sep
Gary	John	1-Sep	Michael	Wayashe	12-Sep	Pamela	Pikaar	23-Sep
Sherrilee	Craner	1-Sep	Wanda	Carlisle	12-Sep	Scott	Scholten	23-Sep
Evelyn	Rose	2-Sep	Vicki	Wayne	12-Sep	Linda	Shafer	23-Sep
Michael	Chippewa	3-Sep	Brian	Pierce	12-Sep	Tamara	Alcock	24-Sep
Anita	Lewis	3-Sep	David	Crockett	12-Sep	Dean	Van Paris	24-Sep
Kimberly	Moubray	3-Sep	Roger	Miller	14-Sep	Melissa	Curtis	24-Sep
Terrie	Willis	4-Sep	Ernest	Menefee	15-Sep	Sandra	Warren	24-Sep
Craig	Napont	5-Sep	William	Russell	15-Sep	William	Martell	24-Sep
Steven	Koon	5-Sep	Bobbi	White	15-Sep	Mary	LeGault	25-Sep
Ronald	Waukazoo	6-Sep	Shawn	Koeferl	16-Sep	Gregory	Bailey	25-Sep
Bryan	Molina	6-Sep	Ellen	Ance	16-Sep	Elizabeth	Beckham	25-Sep
Joseph	Belcher	6-Sep	Joyce	Card	16-Sep	William	Beaver	25-Sep
Duane	Wright	7-Sep	Jaramie	Cabinaw	16-Sep	Lincoln	Niewiadomski	26-Sep
Phyllis	John	7-Sep	Robert	Wright	16-Sep	Ruth	Bussey	26-Sep
Judith	Blackmer	8-Sep	Helen	Chippewa	17-Sep	Mary	Burgess	26-Sep
Daniel	Traylor	8-Sep	Betty	Beckman	17-Sep	Debra	John	27-Sep
Bonnie	Willis	9-Sep	Gerald	Dashner	17-Sep	Catherine	Crowley	27-Sep
Tanya	Raphael	9-Sep	Georgette	Castorena	17-Sep	William	Bottrell	27-Sep
Michael	Fox	9-Sep	Deborah	Leech	18-Sep	Jeffery	Niewiadomski	27-Sep
Elizabeth	Conner	9-Sep	Keith	Mosher	18-Sep	Marietta	Smith	28-Sep
Melissa	Martinez-Sandoval	9-Sep	Keith	Cobb	18-Sep	Allen	Stevens	28-Sep
Kristopher	Sands	9-Sep	Deborah	Running	18-Sep	Nora	Anderson	29-Sep
Wilfred	Mattson	10-Sep	Laura	Walk	19-Sep	Susan	Sicotte	29-Sep
Carrie	Aldrich	10-Sep	Joel	Miller	19-Sep	Bryan	Chippewa	29-Sep
Judy	Crockett	11-Sep	Wilson	Paepke	20-Sep	Mark	Snyder	29-Sep
George	Seeley	11-Sep	Sheila	Wheeler	20-Sep	Rachelle	Trumbull	30-Sep
Carolyn	Tighe	11-Sep	Christine	Katsma	20-Sep	Darlene	Denemy	30-Sep
Shirley	Raphael	11-Sep	Lawrence	Schaub	21-Sep	Patricia	Sams	30-Sep
Daniel	Wabsey	11-Sep	Michael	Bigjoe	21-Sep			
Perry	Ghering	11-Sep	Kay	Ance	21-Sep			

MID-MICHIGAN HONOR FLIGHT VETERAN APPLICATION

WORLD WAR II ☐
(1939-1945)

KOREAN WAR ☐
(1946-1958)

VIETNAM WAR ☐
(1959-1975)

TERMINALLY ILL ☐
(Any Era)

The mission of Mid-Michigan Honor Flight is to transport **World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War** and **Terminally Ill Veterans** from any war, to Washington, D.C. to see their memorials **free of charge**. It is a small way to say thank you to all the brave men and women in Michigan who served our country so selflessly. To help us achieve our goal, Guardians are assigned to accompany Veterans on every flight to provide assistance and to ensure our Honorees have a safe and memorable Tour of Honor.

FULL NAME: _____
(Please print your full name as it appears on your ID)

NICKNAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ COUNTY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: HOME _____ CELL _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

T-SHIRT SIZE: S ____ M ____ L ____ XL ____ XXL ____ XXXL ____

BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____ DATES OF SERVICE: _____

DUTIES DURING WAR: _____

INTERESTING EXPERIENCES DURING WAR: _____

MEDALS/AWARDS/COMMENDATIONS RECEIVED: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Secondary Contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

ALL VETERANS OVER 70 YEARS OLD **MUST** BE ACCOMPANIED BY A GUARDIAN!

Are you requesting to travel with a specific *Guardian? ____ Yes ____ No

Your Guardian **MUST** have an application on file with MMHF prior to the Veteran being notified of their Honor Flight.

If yes, what is that Guardian's Name? _____

Phone: _____

*Guardians must be between 18-70 years of age, cannot be a spouse, and **must** have a Guardian Application on file with us **before** you are notified for a flight.

PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY AND SIGN

The undersigned acknowledges and agrees that:

- I understand that medical insurance is my responsibility and I understand that neither MMHF nor the aircraft provider provides medical coverage. .
- I have been informed that Mid-Michigan Honor Flight strongly recommends that I discuss this trip with my private physician prior to flight date.
- I hereby give permission for my name to be released to other veterans via a flight roster. Information provided to other veterans will include: name, phone number, hometown and branch of service.

Signature of Veteran

Date

Please mail this form to:

Mid-Michigan Honor Flight
Attn: Dena Wilson
2605 N. West Bay Shore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49682
dena.wilson@gtb-nsn.gov

Questions? Call our office at 231-803-4255 or visit
our web page www.midmichiganhonorflight.org

Grants to Indian Tribal Government Project &
Anishinaabemowin Dept presents



Kwewag Aasgaabwitwaayan

Wiiji Kwewan

Women Supporting Women

Building a healthy community through:

- Cultural crafts like beading, necklace making, painting, sewing, language
- Connection i.e. auntie jokes, talking, sharing

There are no expectations to talk or share. Any woman in GTB community is welcome to come sit, craft, talk or just enjoy the vibes

Cultural Building near
P-Town Powwow Grounds

Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday

5:30pm - 7:30pm
September



3-Mile Satellite Office

Every 1st & 3rd Thursday

5:30pm - 7:30pm
September

Potluck Style Dinner, please bring a dish to pass

For More Information:

Yvette Weese 231-534-7381 **Leilani DeFoe 231-534-7093**



This event was created in collaboration with GTB grant # 15 JOVW-22-GG-03376-TRIB awarded by the Office of Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

BOOZHOO LEILANI DEFOE

The Culture Department is pleased to welcome Leilani Defoe into her new role, where she will help support and strengthen the work of preserving, sharing, and carrying forward our culture and traditions.

Below, Leilani shares more about her new role, her background, and what this opportunity means to her.

"Aanii kina wiya/hi everyone, my name is Leilani DeFoe.

I have gotten acquainted with the wider GTB community under my previous role as program director of Niizh Animikiig under Behavioral Health the last 2.5 years. I am thankful for everything I learned and am excited to announce that I am transitioning into a new position under the Anishinaabemowin Department.

My new role will be Cultural Coordinator. In this position, I will be able to utilize some of my own cultural knowledge, along with what I have learned from the community and my higher education. I have an associates degree in Business Administration, along with an associates in Anishinaabe Language Instruction. I am working on finishing my bachelors degree in Native American Studies with a minor in Anishinaabe Language Instruction at Northern Michigan University.

I look forward to continuing my service to Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians community.

Mino-yaan/Be well."

Anishinabek maanijwiding to honor our traditions and
our treaty rights preserved for us by the Gekaajig



22nd Natural Resources Fair & Feast

Saturday September 19, 2026
10 AM TO 3PM

Arthur Duhamel Marina
3400 NW Bayshore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI

The Grand Traverse Band Natural Resources Department would like to invite you to the **22nd Natural Resources Fair & Feast**. The theme of the Fair revolves around the responsible use, management and preservation of natural resources for future generations.

Food, Fun and Give-Aways

Nearly Noon:
FEAST—Wild game, smoked fish, frybread, corn soup, fruits and salads, refreshments and more.

FUN ACTIVITIESALL DAY LONG:



Fishing Pond
Bow Shoot
Paintball Shoot
Door Prizes and Raffle
Kids games
And Much Much More!



Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and Gathering licenses will be available for the 2026 season if you haven't renewed on the app or gotten your's yet!!!

We are in need of demonstrations for the Fair particularly for the cultural aspects of hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering. If you know how to tie flies, stretch fur, call game, taxidermy, artwork—anything related to natural resources we want to hear from you!

For More Information Call the Natural Resources Department at 231-534-7500





Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Annual Sturgeon Release Ceremony



September 12th, 11AM to 1PM

Hannah Park on Sixth Street

Downtown Traverse City

Please join us for our third annual ceremony to return Nmé (Lake Sturgeon) back into the Ottaway River. The event will include a drum ceremony and prayers, food and drinks and a community release of hundreds of juvenile Nmé. Please bring a lawn chair.

For additional information, please contact GTB Natural Resources Department at (231) 534-7500

GTB NEWS 17

NATURAL RESOURCES

INLAND HUNTING 2026–27 – GTB TRIBAL LANDS & 1836 CEDED TERRITORY

As our fall and winter seasons approach, we want to remind Tribal of permit requirements and safety priorities under the GTB Natural Resources Department. These seasons reaffirm our responsibility to hunt-with-respect and uphold our Anishinaabe traditions and treaty rights.

PERMIT & LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

- ♦ All Tribal citizens planning to hunt must secure a valid GTB hunting license/ID.
- ♦ Physical ID: Obtain renewal stickers for the 2026-27 licensing year.
- ♦ Digital ID: Ensure your information is up-to-date.
- ♦ Special-use permits (for disabled hunters, subsistence/ceremonial harvests, road-kill, etc.) are issued by the Natural Resources Department.

SAFETY & CONDUCT REMINDERS

- ♦ Hunting hours generally run from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset, except for certain night hunts (e.g., raccoon, fox, etc.).

- ♦ Orange (hunter-alert) apparel is required when using a firearm for elk, deer, bear, and general small-game.
- ♦ Firearm discharge is not permitted within 450 feet of occupied buildings without occupant permission.
- ♦ Respect landowner rights: Private property requires permission for access.
- ♦ Aim to harvest ethically: the target animal must be identified clearly before firing.
- ♦ Respecting Our Traditions & Resources

These seasons are more than regulations—they reflect our stewardship of the land and our Anishinaabe heritage. The Natural Resources Department monitors harvests, performs game-bag checks and conducts surveys to ensure our wildlife populations remain healthy for future generations.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS & GET MORE INFO

GTB Natural Resources Department: 3505 Putnam Rd., Peshawbestown, MI 49682.
Phone: (231) 534-7500 **Email:** NRD@GTB-NSN.GOV

DIGITAL DEER & TURKEY TAGS NOW AVAILABLE

- Digital kill tags are available through hunt.gtbindians.org
- o Access your tag immediately through the app.
 - o Tag a harvested deer using your mobile device.
 - o Use your digital tag even without cellular service.
 - o Complete harvest reporting through the app.

Digital tags are completely optional. Hunters who prefer a traditional paper license and kill tag can continue using them.

SAVE THE DATE EVENTS

NRD Final Traditional Cookout Wednesday, September 2nd Location: Peshawbestown Gitigaan (<i>Garden across Strongheart Center</i>) Time: 4PM - 7PM	NRD Annual Fair & Feast Saturday, September 19th Location: Arthur Duhamel Marina Time: 10AM - 3PM
NRD Annual Sturgeon Release Saturday, September 12th Traverse City Hannah Park Time: 11AM - 1PM	NRD 4th Annual Deer Processing Workshop October 14th Location: TBD Time: 5PM - 8PM

National Preparedness Month

Understand Your Local Disaster Risks

Identify potential hazards in your area like floods, large storms, or wildfires. Knowing these risks helps you plan and prepare effectively.

Build An Emergency Disaster Kit

Stockpile essential items including clean water, canned food, flashlights, first aid supplies, warm clothing, and important documents for at least three days.

Create A Family Communication Plan

Walk Elders and children through your family plan for each disaster. Establish how you will contact each other and where you will meet if you are separated during a sudden emergency.

Learn Basic First Aid Skills

Acquire vital lifesaving skills like CPR and wound management. Knowing how to treat injuries can save lives before help arrives.

Stay Informed Through Official Channels

Stay updated with local news and emergency alerts, and follow evacuation orders promptly to keep your family safe during crises.

Any questions about preparedness for environmental disasters, contact:
Courtney Hessel, Environmental Services Coordinator
courtney.hessel@gtb-nsn.gov or 231-534-7379

Manoominke Camp

2026 Intertribal Ricing Camp



Join Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians as LTBB hosts an intertribal rice camp September 18th-20th at the Cross Village campground

Weekend activities:

- Toolmaking - Push poles, knockers, moccasins, and more!
- Manoomin processing

- Manoomin harvesting, if rice is still present
- Fyke net demonstration and harvest

Fall Feast!

September 18 @ 6 PM

Please bring your feast bundles and a dish to share!

Open to all MI Tribal communities

Limited shared campsites available - first come, first serve



To register and view event details, please scan the QR Code to visit the Eventbrite page. For questions, contact Sophie Buchholz at sbuchholz@ltbbodawa-nsn.gov or 231-242-1577



GTB NEWS 18

FOREST & WATER FUND OFFERS COST-SHARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MICHIGAN LANDOWNERS

Michigan landowners may be eligible for financial assistance through the Forest and Water Fund, a program supporting projects that improve forest health and protect shared water resources.

The program provides **80% to 100% reimbursement, up to \$25,000**, for eligible projects on privately owned forested land. Funding can support practices such as protecting mature trees and habitat, prescribed fire, ecological tree planting, and forest resilience and health treatments.

Tribal landowners and organizations are among those specifically encouraged to apply, along with new landowners, veterans and active-duty military members, and landowners with limited resources or located in high-poverty regions. Eligible applicants must be private Michigan landowners with fewer than 2,500 acres of forest.

The Forest and Water Fund is offered by the Michigan Forest Association, with support from the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts and funding from the USDA Forest Service.

For eligibility requirements or to learn more about available funding, contact Project Manager Vic Lane at vic.lane@michiganforests.org or visit www.forestandwaterfund.org.

Please see the accompanying flyer for additional program details and eligible practices.



About the Fund

The Forest and Water Fund provides direct cash reimbursement of up to \$25,000 for projects to enhance your woods and protect our shared water resources by using specific practices for your forested land.

Practices & Cost Share

What practices are included?

- High Carbon Reserves – protect mature trees and habitat.
- Prescribed Fire–restore ecosystems with controlled burns.
- Ecological Tree Planting–plant native, climate-smart species.
- Resilience & Health Treatments–thin and cultivate diverse forests.

You can receive between 80% and 100% reimbursement for the costs of these practices, depending on your project.

Who Qualifies?

Any private Michigan landowner with fewer than 2,500 acres of forest can apply for funds. We want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to participate, especially those who often are underserved, including;

- New landowners who have owned their land less than 10 years
- Veterans/active duty military
- Tribal land owners and organizations
- Landowners with limited resources or in high-poverty regions

Contact us to find out what you can qualify for on your land!

Funding & Incentives

- Total program funding: \$6.4 million over 4 years
- At least \$2.6 million directly to underserved landowners
- Reimbursements between 80% to 100% of costs, up to \$25,000

Partners & Contact

This program is offered by Michigan Forest Association with support from Michigan Association of Conservation Districts and funding from USDA Forest Service. All partners are equal opportunity providers and employers. Get in touch today to get started!

Contact: Project Manager, Vic Lane
Email: vic.lane@michiganforests.org
Website: www.forestandwaterfund.org



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF EVENTS FOR FALL 2026

As the summer months transition into fall, several counties in Michigan are preparing for their upcoming Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) drop-off events. These events provide residents with a valuable opportunity to responsibly dispose of unwanted hazardous materials, ensuring the safety of our communities and environment.

The last summer HHW collection events for Benzie, Charlevoix, and Manistee counties wrapped up in August. While those summer collection opportunities have concluded, residents in surrounding counties still have several upcoming opportunities to properly dispose of household hazardous waste.

Antrim County will be hosting its HHW drop-off on September 26th at the Antrim County Road Commission. This event will take place from 8 AM to 12 PM. Residents are encouraged to check the Antrim Conservation District HHW website or call (231) 533-8363 for more information regarding accepted items.

Leelanau County has scheduled two HHW collection events in the coming months. The first will occur on September 21st at the Peshawbestown Recycling Site, running from 12 PM to 5 PM. The second drop-off will be on October 10th at Elmwood Township Park, from 8 AM to 1 PM. Residents are reminded to schedule an appointment in advance by contacting Leelanau County Planning and Community Development at (231) 256-9812 or visiting their HHW website for details on accepted materials.

In **Grand Traverse County**, the next HHW event will take place on September 12th, from 9 AM to 2 PM, with the location to be announced once you register for an appointment. Individuals interested in participating need to make an appointment. More information and registration can be accessed by calling (231) 941-5555 or visiting the Grand Traverse County HHW website.

As always, it’s essential for residents to review the full list of acceptable items specific to their county to ensure safe and compliant drop-off of hazardous waste.

If you have further questions or need assistance, please contact Courtney Hessel at the Natural Resources Department via email at courtney.hessel@gtb-nsn.gov or by phone at (231) 534-7379.

Stay safe and help keep our communities clean by participating in these critical collection events!



COMMUNITY CARBON FOOTPRINT PROJECT SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT

The Grand Traverse Band’s Natural Resources Department (NRD) is working to better understand our community’s carbon footprint and is asking for community input.

A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions generated through everyday activities, including using electricity, driving, heating buildings, and producing waste. The NRD is currently studying energy use and emissions across the community to identify where we can take meaningful action.

What do you think creates the most emissions in our community?

Transportation, buildings, electricity, waste, or something else?

The NRD also wants to know what you believe should be the community’s top priority for reducing emissions. Possible areas of focus include renewable energy, energy-efficient homes and buildings, transportation improvements, forest and land protection, and waste reduction and composting.

Your input will help guide the Grand Traverse Band’s Climate Action Plan and future energy and climate initiatives.

Have thoughts about what our community should focus on? Share your ideas with Courtney Hessel a courtney.hessel@gtb-nsn.gov

HOW TO GARDEN SAFELY WHEN YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN THE SOIL

It is normal for soil to have some lead, but it can reach harmful levels when it is contaminated by other sources of lead. Extra care to avoid lead should be taken if your home:

- ◆ Was painted with **lead-based paint**. If your home was built before 1978, it may have been painted with paint that has lead in it. Lead paint may have chipped off and landed in the soil next to the house.
- ◆ Is near a historically busy roadway. Until the mid-1980s, car exhaust released lead into the air, which settled onto the soil around heavily traveled roadways.
- ◆ Is near factories or businesses that use lead. Lead can be released into the air through different industrial activities, such as the production of iron and steel; lead-acid battery manufacturing; or the burning of solid waste. When lead is released into the air, it may travel long distances before settling onto the soil.
- ◆ Is built on an area that was formerly a fruit orchard. Pesticides that contained lead were commonly used in orchards to control insects from the late 1800s through the 1950s. Lead can remain in the soil if the soil was not removed.

HOW LEAD FROM GARDEN SOIL CAN GET INTO YOUR BODY

- ◆ Lead can get into your body when you breathe in or swallow soil that has been contaminated with lead from paint chips, dust, or air pollution.
- ◆ Children can get soil in their mouth and swallow it when playing outdoors.
- ◆ People and pets can track lead-contaminated soil into your home.
- ◆ People can also be exposed to lead in the soil through fruits and vegetables grown in lead-contaminated soils.
- ◆ Some plants may take in some of the lead from the soil as they grow.
- ◆ It is sometimes difficult to wash fruits and vegetables well enough to be sure you’ve removed all the contaminated soil.

GARDENING PRACTICES THAT CAN HELP YOU AVOID EXPOSURE TO LEAD

1. Locate gardens away from heavily traveled streets and painted houses where lead may have chipped off and landed in the soil.
2. Use mulch in your garden beds to reduce dust and soil from getting on fruits and vegetables.
3. Cover walkways with grass, mulch, landscape fabric, stones, or bricks to help keep soil off your shoes so that you do not accidentally bring soil into your house or car.
4. Build raised beds or container gardens and fill them with purchased soil. If you make a raised bed, use a liner to separate the existing soil from the new soil that you put into your bed.
5. Wear gloves when gardening. Wash hands after gardening and before eating and drinking.
6. To avoid bringing soil from the garden into the house, take off shoes at the door and leave gloves and gardening tools outside. Store unwashed gardening clothes separately (in a bag, for example) or wash gardening clothes by themselves in a separate load of laundry after each use.

CHOOSING CROPS WHEN YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD

You are more likely to accidentally swallow small amounts of soil when you eat root crops such as carrots, beets, and potatoes.

- ◆ Grow more fruiting vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, okra, and eggplant.
- ◆ Plant vegetables that grow on vines such as peas and beans.
- ◆ Grow fruit trees and berries that grow on bushes, such as blueberries and raspberries.

Protect yourself from lead by:

- ◆ Washing fruits and vegetables before eating them.
- ◆ Getting rid of outer leaves of leafy vegetables like cabbage and lettuce.
- ◆ Peeling root vegetables such as carrots, potatoes, and beets.

RAISED BED AND CONTAINER GARDENING

If you want to garden but are concerned about lead in soil, you can build raised beds to reduce the risk that you and your family could be exposed to lead. Building a raised bed can be expensive, but you can use inexpensive materials instead. Use untreated wood, stone, concrete blocks, or bricks. You can even use smaller containers like plastic pots and make a container garden.

If you have questions about lead in soil or how to safely garden, please call 800-648-6942 to talk to an MDHHS staff person.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) does not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, national origin, color, sex, disability, religion, age, height, weight, familial status, partisan considerations, or genetic information. Sex-based discrimination includes, but is not limited to, discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, and pregnancy.



COMPOST BULK SALES BEGIN

As readers will recall, our large-scale fish waste composting efforts began in 2021 after receiving approximately \$350,000 from the state to enhance our fish waste collection and composting initiatives. Since then, we have received an additional \$205,000 to support this work.

While we have sold our compost and hydrolysate in smaller batches in the past, this year we started experimenting with bulk sales. We have a 16-foot dump trailer that allows us to deliver compost directly. Two nearby farms, Farm Club and Loma Farm, have purchased our GTB Fish Waste Compost at a rate of \$85 per yard, plus a \$100 delivery fee. These farms have placed several orders, which helps cover the inputs needed for the composting process.

We have secured continued funding from the state through 2027 for our efforts, but we need to develop strategies to make this project financially sustainable in order to meet our long-term goals for GTB food sovereignty. These sales represent a positive step toward achieving that sovereignty. Having high-end customers like Farm Club buy our GTB-produced compost demonstrates our ability to create a consistent, high-quality product that can support agricultural growth in GTB, enhance tribal fisheries, and promote local and organic food production.



4TH ANNUAL DEER PROCESSING WORKSHOP – OCT 14TH | 5PM - 8PM

Join the GTB Agriculture staff for an evening dedicated to honoring and showcasing the magnificent Waawaakesh, or white-tailed deer. During this workshop, we will demonstrate how to properly skin, quarter, and break down a deer.

The event will begin with a prayer to honor the whitetail deer and express gratitude for the nutritious and healthy food it provides. Following the prayer, we will dive into the butchering process, concluding with a demonstration of a technique for vacuum packing the meat.

We typically bring a smoker to the event and offer participants some delicious smoked venison jerky, along with light snacks and water. With a bit of luck and skill from a tribal hunter, we aim to provide a freshly harvested local deer for this year's workshop.

If you’re interested in learning how to break down and process large animals, this is a fantastic workshop for you and your family.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIPS

- Summer Fire Safety Tips:
- ◆ Never leave outdoor fires unattended. Always extinguish them completely before leaving
 - ◆ Closely watch children when the fire pit is in use.
 - ◆ Keep pets away from grills and fire pits. Cooking food and leftover grease can be an attractive scent. Grills can be knocked over easily and embers can ignite the nearby grass and vegetation.
 - ◆ Build campfires at least 25 feet away from tents, shrubs and anything that can burn.
- Lightning is a natural electrical discharge that happens during storms. It forms when charges build up inside the clouds and then suddenly releases energy creating the flash of lightning. Lightning is dangerous because of many reasons.
- ◆ Lightning can strike 3-10 miles away from the storm.
 - ◆ Lightning has extreme heat which can cause severe burns.
 - ◆ When lightning hits a tree or the

- ground, it can create a “ground charge,” spreading the electricity through the soil. There are also side flashes where lightning can travel from an object struck like a tree to another nearby object like a person.
 - ◆ If lightning hits a person, it can cause cardiac arrest leading to death. Last, lightning can travel through metal, so if it hits a building, you should avoid contact with running water and electrical outlets. Lighting can strike trees, buildings, water, and even people.
- During extreme lightning storms it is best to stay inside a building. Avoid open fields, tall trees, and metal objects because they attract lightning. Even after the rain stops, it is safest to wait 30 minutes after seeing the last lightning strike or hearing thunder before resuming outdoor activities. Being aware of lightning safety can help keep you safe. By paying attention to weather alerts and taking storms seriously, people can better protect themselves during a storm.



FINAL 2026 COOKOUT: SEPTEMBER 2ND 4-7PM

We are excited to announce our 2nd Annual Farm Cookout Series. The September Cookout will take place on September 2nd at the Peshawbestown Gitigaan (farm). We will be distributing freshly harvested produce and featuring traditional foods such as bison burgers, grilled lake trout, and ashed corn. Additionally, we plan to have traditional crops like winter squash and beans available by the September Cookout.

Come hungry and enjoy all that the farm has to offer! Our potato, tomato, pepper, and onion crops are thriving this year. We ask for everyone's patience and understanding as we provide these free services and goods.

Last month, we had a wonderful turnout when we hosted a cooking event in conjunction with the GTB Language Camp Dinner during Pow Wow week. We prepared food for 120 people, and the Cultural Department caterer also brought food for 120, with nearly all of it being consumed! We estimate that around 220 people attended the dinner.



We look forward to hosting everyone for one last cookout this season!

View photos here: https://bit.ly/GTB_Photos



FIRE CHIEF ANDREW DOWN



A n d r e w Down is honored to serve as Fire Chief for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, bringing with him 34 years of experience in fire and emergency medical services. His career began as a volunteer firefighter in his hometown of Freeville, New York, where his passion for serving others quickly grew into a lifelong profession. He later became the youngest Fire Chief in the department's history and has served continuously in chief officer roles since 1999. Andrew also spent 16 years with Cornell University in the Environmental Health and Safety Department's Fire and Emergency Services Division, where he focused on emergency preparedness, fire prevention, and life safety.

In 2016, Andrew relocated from upstate New York to Michigan to accept the position of Fire Chief for Long Lake Fire Rescue. During his ten years there, he led the department through tremendous growth and transformation, expanding emergency medical services, modernizing the fleet, securing grant funding, strengthening regional partnerships, and enhancing community outreach. Throughout

his career, Andrew has remained committed to building organizations that are professional, progressive, and responsive to the needs of the communities they serve. He is a certified Michigan EMT, Fire Inspector, and Fire Instructor.

Andrew believes that leadership starts with integrity, trust, and treating people with respect. He is passionate about developing strong teams, mentoring the next generation of firefighters, and creating a department that employees are proud to serve and the community is proud to support. He values open communication, fiscal responsibility, and building meaningful relationships with community members, elected officials, and partner agencies.

When he's not at the fire station, Andrew enjoys restoring and preserving antique automobiles, several of which have been passed down through generations of his family and represent a true labor of love. He also enjoys playing pickleball with friends, spending time with his two dogs, and making the most of northern Michigan with his longtime girlfriend, Carrie. Andrew is excited to begin this new chapter and looks forward to serving the Grand Traverse Band community with dedication, compassion, and professionalism.

The new GTB Fire Chief can be reached at the GTB Fire and Rescue Department, Office: 231-534-7666.

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Government Operations

Administrative Assistant (FT)

Associate Degree in Business related discipline. A min. of four (4) years of work experience as an Administrative Assistant. Knowledge of Gaming Commission & background functions are helpful and the ability to work independently is essential. -\$19.84/hr. - until 8.3.26

Court Clerk/Assistant Probation Officer (FT)

Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Legal, Paralegal, Business, Administrative Services, Social Work/Services, Social Science, Sociology, Psychology, Liberal Arts or similar degrees may be considered. A combination of education and experience may be considered in lieu of a bachelor's degree. General knowledge of applicable law, regulations, rules, policies, procedures and administration is required. Must have a valid Michigan Driver's License and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$22.26/hr. - 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, prophyjet, X-ray, radiograph processor, panelipse, dental chair and unit, sterilizers, hand scalers, and curettes. At least one year of experience as a full time dental hygienist preferred. -\$35.27/hr. - until filled

Director of Community Development and Housing (FT)

Bachelor's degree in Urban Planning, Community Development, Public Administration, Real Estate Development, or a related field required. Min. of seven (7) to ten (10) years of progressive experience in housing, community development, or real estate development, including at least five (5) years in a management or leadership role. Comprehensive knowledge of federal housing programs and regulations, including NAHASDA, IHBG, HUD requirements, and tribal housing policies. Demonstrated experience managing complex development projects, construction initiatives, and multi-million-dollar budgets. Strong leadership, strategic planning, and intergovernmental coordination skills. Knowledge of tribal sovereignty, federal Indian housing policy, and government-to-government relations. -\$DOE - until filled

Early Head Start Assistant Teacher (FT)

Child Development Associate (CDA) required. Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education or related field required. Experience working with infants/children. -\$17.83/hr. - until filled

EHS Education & Family Services Coordinator (FT)

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. -\$61,983/yr. - until filled

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. -\$16.73/hr. - until filled

EHS/HS Bus Driver (PT)

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/First Aid 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. -\$21.21/hr. - until filled

Grants Writer (FT)

Associates Degree in Public Administration, Social Sciences, Public Health, Business Administration or related field. (must produce degree) Certificate in Grant writing (must produce degree) Three (3) years of proven experience in grant writing and experience with writing successful grant applications to federal, state, local, tribal, and foundation funders. Experience in the management and/ or administration of state or federal grants. Experience with evaluation, strategic planning, and quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis. Must have a valid unrestricted driver license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$60,144/yr. - until filled

Gym Attendant (FT)

High School diploma or GED required. Some experience working with exercise, gym and cardiovascular equipment preferred. Must have and maintain current CPR/First Aid certification. -\$18.14/hr. - until filled

Housing Utility Worker (FT)

High School Diploma or GED preferred. Must have some housekeeping experience. Must have a valid Michigan Driver's License and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$16.46/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. -\$55,433/yr. - until filled

Infrastructure Director (FT)

Bachelor's degree in Facilities Management, Construction Management, Engineering, Public Works, Public Administration, or a closely related field. Minimum five (5) years of supervisory or management experience in infrastructure, facilities, public works, fleet, or utility operations. Demonstrated experience coordinating multiple technical trades or service departments under a unified operational plan. Knowledge of safety, environmental, and operational

regulatory requirements applicable to infrastructure systems. Valid, unrestricted Michigan driver's license and ability to be insured under GTB's insurance carrier. -\$DOE - 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 - Charlevoix

High School Diploma or GED equivalent. Prefer (1) yr. experience in office management. Must have basic math skills & written skills. -\$21.24/hr. - until filled

Recruiting Specialist (FT)

Bachelor's degree in Human Resources, Business Administration, or related field preferred. Three (3) years of recruitment or talent acquisition experience required. Demonstrated experience in full cycle recruiting and use of applicant tracking systems (ATS). Understanding of (or commitment to learn) TERO requirements and tribal hiring preferences. Excellent communication and relationship building skills. Proficiency in social media recruiting, digital sourcing, and networking for hard to fill roles. Valid driver's license and acceptable driving record required. -\$60,670/yr. - until filled

Registered Nurse (FT)

Bachelor's Degree in the Registered Nurse Program, with a current State of Michigan RN License. Three to five years of nursing experience in a family clinic setting. Must have current BLS Certification. Must have a valid unrestricted driver license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$70,033/yr. - 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. -\$71,913/yr. - until filled

(2) Summer Youth Worker (Temp)

High School Diploma or GED. Some experience working with youth. Valid Michigan Chauffeur Licenses. Insurable by GTB insurance. Preferred. Must have reliable transportation. -\$16.73/hr. - until filled

Truancy Intervention Specialist (FT)

Must possess a bachelor's Degree in Counseling, Social Work, Psychology, Education, or a related field. Must have 3-5 years of experience working with youth.

Advertisements, call 231-534-7008 or Email: GTBGovt.News@gtb-nsn.gov

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.**

Apply Online: <https://gtbindians.applicantpool.com/jobs/>

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

150 Bereavement



Nisswih Raphael, 30, traditional mahnoomin harvester of Peshawbestown walked on August 8, 2026. Samson was born in Traverse City on June 2, 1996, the youngest and beloved son of Mari (nee Dudley) Raphael and Howard Raphael Jr. Sammy is survived by his mother and father, his siblings, Max Raphael, Monni Raphael, and Silas Broome; special cousins like brothers to Sammy, Miles Chisholm and Johnny Biidaasige; his grandmother, Elsie (nee Yannott) Dudley; his aunts and uncles, Ruth Dudley, Jim Dudley, Len (Lori) Dudley, David Dudley, Eileen Dudley, Sharon Kennedy, Barb Raphael, Rose Raphael, Helen Raphael, Shirley Raphael, Sandy Raphael, Kathy Raphael-Ortega, and many loving cousins and extended family members. He was preceded in death by grandparents, James “Red” Dudley, Elsie (nee Robinson) Raphael and "Gaagaakshin" Howard Raphael Sr, and uncles Timbuk Raphael, and Jimmy Raphael.





Interested in placing an advertisement in the GTB NEWS? Do you have photography, graphic design or print needs?

GTB COMMUNICATIONS IS HERE TO HELP!

GRAPHIC DESIGN

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Eye-catching Business Cards, Postcards, Brochures, and other print materials that distinguish and market your brand!

PHOTOGRAPHY

High Quality
Professional Equipment & Set Up
Digital & Print
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Contact Us

GTBGovt.News@gtb-nsn.gov
231-534-7008

GTB NEWS 22



Grand Traverse Band - All Government Offices CLOSED

MONDAY, AUGUST 7TH

In observance of Labor Day
Government Offices will reopen
at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 6th!

Emergency numbers are posted at office entrances. For immediate assistance, refer to the emergency number list.



FOLLOW QR CODE OR LINK
FOR EMERGENCY NUMBERS.
https://bit.ly/GTB_EPN_042326

Chi Miigwech for your understanding.

Grand Traverse Band - All Government Offices CLOSED

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

In observance of National & State American Indian Day
Government Offices will reopen
at 8:00 a.m. Monday, September 28th!

Emergency numbers are posted at office entrances. For immediate assistance, refer to the emergency number list.



FOLLOW QR CODE OR LINK
FOR EMERGENCY NUMBERS.
https://bit.ly/GTB_EPN_042326

Chi Miigwech for your understanding.



Grand Traverse Band News

Submissions due by
the 3rd Friday each month

Victoria Alfonseca
Victoria.Alfonseca@gtb-nsn.gov

Phone: (231) 534-7366



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



Subscribe to our YouTube Channel:
"Grand Traverse Band Communications"

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49682-9275

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



LEELANAU SANDS CASINO SHOWROOM PRESENTS



BELLAMY BROTHERS
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

LEELANAU SANDS CASINO SHOWROOM
DOORS OPEN: 7PM • SHOWTIME: 8PM

MyNorthTickets
VISIT LEELANAU SANDS CASINO.COM/EVENTS FOR FULL DETAILS.

AGES 18+

LEELANAU SANDS CASINO
LeelanauSandsCasino.com | 800.922.2WIN

Please see Players Club for promotional rules and details.
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.





*don't worry
beach happy*
recreational
cannabis



drive-thru
window

weekly deals
rewards
locally owned
231.534.7420



beach fire
cannabis

6038 W Turtle Creek Dr, Williamsburg, MI 49690

Keep your information
FRESH to KEEP

SNAP

food assistance benefits.

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP KEEP FOOD ON THE TABLE.

If you're getting SNAP food assistance benefits, are you getting the right amount? When it's time to update your information, it's important to report any changes to your income, employment, family situation or address.

Learn more at Michigan.gov/FoodAssistance.

