



TURTLE PRESS

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historic Detroit burial mound

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WMU offers new Tribal
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DECLARING INDEPENDENCE

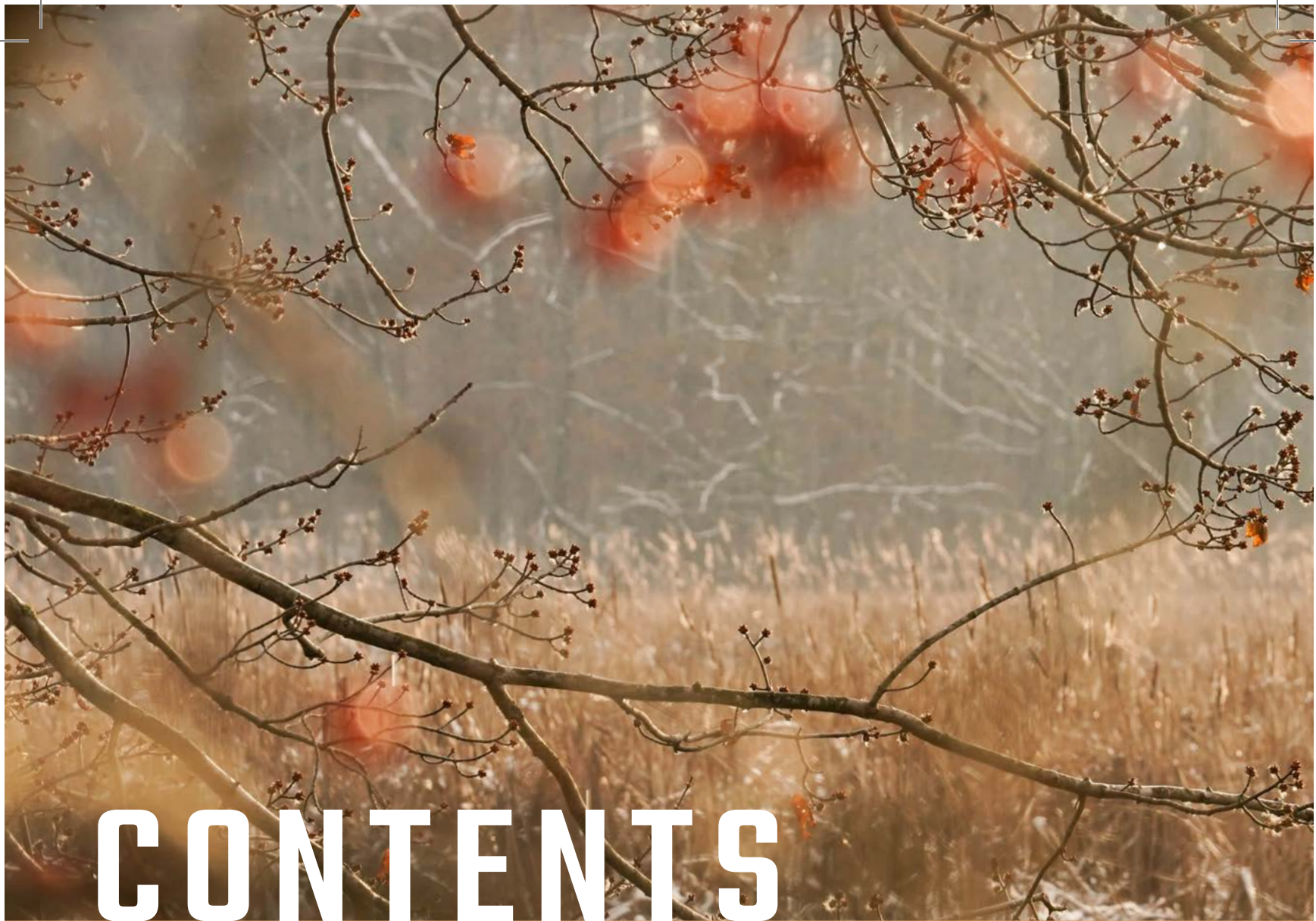
Tribal Member finds healing
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WINTER 2022



NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI
A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL GOVERNMENT



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Planning in a Good Way

WRITTEN BY JORDAN BRADLEY
PHOTOS BY EMILEE GUZAK





NHBP Shares Insight With Tribal and Non-Tribal Governments to Aid in Better Cooperation, Understanding and Future-Planning

Planning for and creating security for the next Seven Generations takes research, strategy and discipline. It also takes collaboration in a lot of cases and hard work in every case. The NHBP Planning and Land Use Committee has been in operation since 2004. Before the casino, before the expanded government center, there were plans rooted in solid Bodéwadmi values, ethics and traditions.

In late October of 2021, NHBP Chief Planning Officer Dan Green, Tribal Member and PLUC Member Nat Spurr, and Tribal Member and PLUC Member Chris Rogers presented a webinar on Native American sovereignty, planning and land use. Hosted by the Michigan Chapter of the American Planning Association, NHBP's presentation served as insight into the inner workings of Tribal government and ways we plan for the future to encourage better understanding from our neighbors and co-habitants in the region.

Following an introduction by Tribal Member Doug Taylor, the Traditional invocation by Tribal Member Adre Mandoka and Drumming provided by Charlie Pfeifer, Rogers spoke of the Tribe's history and how the federal government's treatment of Native Americans from the creation of the United States has impacted Tribal sovereignty and government structuring.

A notoriously complicated system, Rogers brought attention to the U.S.'s history of removal and forced assimilation, the boarding school era and finally, self-determination beginning in the early 1960s and on.

"We have our own Constitution, which acts just like the United States Constitution," Rogers explained. "It's our guiding document, the foundational structure of our government. We passed that and follow it using our own court system."

While Native Americans on reservations still have to obey federal laws, Rogers continued, "we do absorb all of the rights and responsibilities outside of that, all of the governance of a state or a city, autonomously amongst ourselves. We pass our own laws, have our own legislative body and we also do our own planning."



Values and Ethics of NHBP Planning

Next, Spurr shed light on Bodéwadmi values and ethics that inform planning and land use strategies – as well as daily life.

Collaborations between Peoples of the Great Lakes region extend far into NHBP's past, Spurr explained, relaying a brief history of the Three Fires Confederacy between the Ojibwe, Odawa and Bodéwadmi.

"One thing that's representative of not just the Potawatomi values, but the values of the People of the Three Fires is Mno-Bmadzewen; the ability to do things following a good path. And the Seven Grandfather Teachings are something we try to incorporate in everything we do."

Spurr went on to explain the significance of the number seven in Potawatomi culture, offering two different interpretations of the next Seven Generations.

"We try to think Seven Generations into the future," Spurr said. "The effects of the decisions and the things that we do today, how are they going to affect the generations to come? The other way of looking at it is that the Seven Generations can mean the three generations that preceded us, the current generation, and the three to follow.

"Everything we do has to be done with that kept in mind."

When the Tribe established the PLUC in 2004, NHBP's physical and financial landscapes were very different than what we know today.

"When it was created, our Tribal budget was less than 1% of what it is now," Spurr said, "so it was extremely important for us if we were to make an investment in land acquisition or to acquire a new property, we had to go through the process and we had to think about everything... Still today, we use the same process."

When a new piece of property becomes of interest to the Tribe, it goes through a thorough vetting process. First, it goes through an internal administration approval process, then NHBP's Environmental Department conducts an investigative research report on the parcel of land to make sure that it "would be beneficial to the people, didn't have pollution issues" or any other concerning issues, followed by a public comment open to all NHBP Tribal Members. After that, the PLUC makes a recommendation regarding the land to Tribal Council, who then decide how best to use the land going forward.

NHBP Approaches to Planning

Green explained NHBP's approach to planning, sharing with the audience that NHBP owns approximately 1,000 acres of land, most of which is in Calhoun and Branch counties. Much of the management of that land deals with open spaces and natural resources.

"NHBP follows an integrated resource management plan," Green explained, "which involves multiple departments, assessments, evaluations of lands and includes a Community input process."

NHBP also uses a unique land classification system different than other municipal zoning systems, denoting land as culturally significant or sensitive land, among other categories.

Planning includes a multitude of technical and best practice tools to properly collect and analyze information in order to make sound decisions. Additionally, the use of geographic information systems (GIS) is an integral part of any land use planning process regardless of Tribal or non-Tribal Government, and NHBP is fortunate to have this GIS capacity to aid our Government.

NHBP gathers critical resource information about properties considered within the land use process and shares this information to the Tribal community during an input process. Balancing natural resources, open space, and other nondevelopment activities with government facilities and infrastructure is a priority across the Government and one that is emphasized during each of the planning steps.

On the other end of the planning spectrum, PLUC also considers and manages capital improvement planning, which manages government facilities, roadways, fiber optics, access to natural resources and more.

"NHBP is not immune to the difficulties of rural infrastructure," Green said. "We are fortunate to have fiber optic infrastructure that's recently been expanded to Tribal households. That's been beneficial to NHBP families, especially during this pandemic and during remote learning."

NHBP maintains co-working relationships with area counties, townships and villages to ensure effective structural outcomes, like culvert and roadway improvements on the Pine Creek Indian Reservation.

Harmony Gmazel of the Michigan State University Extension Land Use Team hosted the virtual presentation and closed out by saying, "I think the best benefit of these webinars is really the connections that can be made between people... I appreciated hearing the history and policies that brought the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi to where it is today. I really appreciated that piece of it. And your planning for healthy, open spaces is so critical to resiliency and sustainability. Local collaboration really was key too."

As 2021 comes to a close and 2022 expands before us, we are just one year shy of enacting a new five-year Strategic Plan. Looking back to share our planning processes with Michigan residents, leaders and planning and environmental agencies enables us to then look forward, think of our future generations and know that we continue to walk in a Good Way.

RECLAIMING ABORIGINAL TERRITORY

NHBP'S QUEST TO OBTAIN THE DEED FOR A 1,000-YEAR-OLD BURIAL MOUND IN DETROIT

WRITTEN BY BY JEFF CHIVIS, PH.D., M.L.S. NHBP TRIBAL COUNCIL TREASURER

PHOTOS BY EMILEE GUZAK AND PROVIDED BY JEFF CHIVIS, PH.D., M.L.S. AND THOMAS KILLION, PH.D.

On the north bank of the Detroit River in Detroit, Michigan, and located within the present-day boundaries of Historic Fort Wayne, stands the Fort Wayne Burial Mound. Dating roughly from 750 to 1200 A.D. (see Figure 1), the Fort Wayne Mound was once part of a larger burial complex in the Detroit region known as the Springwells Mound Group. This group consisted of at least five or six known burial mounds located within a one-mile radius of the current location of Historic Fort Wayne (see Figure 2).



Today, the Fort Wayne Mound is the last remaining burial mound of the Springwells Mound Group.

Figure 1 (right): A recent view of the Fort Wayne Mound taken in October 2021.



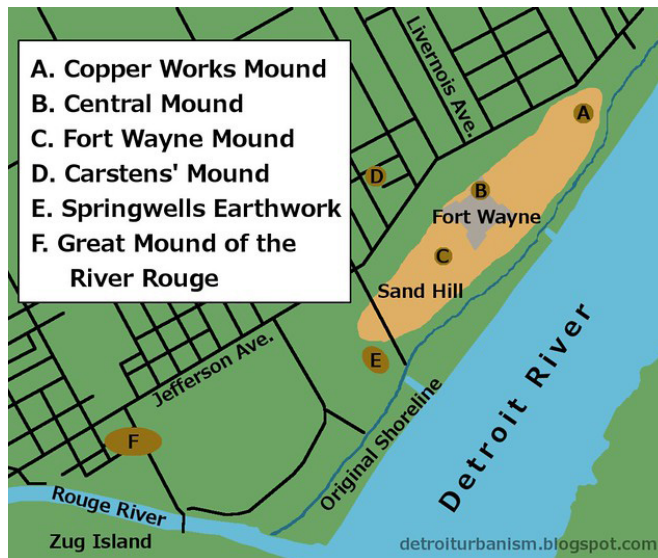


Figure 2 (left): Springwells Mound Group, including the location of the Fort Wayne Mound.

NHBP's connections to both the Detroit region and the Fort Wayne Mound are well established. The Detroit region was an important homeland of our Ancestors during at least the 1700s and 1800s, and certainly well before that. Our People are descended from the Detroit Potawatomi, who later relocated to the Huron River Valley and became known as the Huron Potawatomi. In 2014, NHBP reclaimed Ancestral remains and burial items from the Fort Wayne Mound and surrounding Springwells Mounds and reburied them in our repatriation cemetery, further cementing NHBP's link to the Fort Wayne Mound and the greater Detroit region.

NHBP'S EARLY HISTORY IN THE DETROIT REGION

In 1701, the Potawatomi, Odawa, Ojibwe and other Indigenous Nations allowed the French to co-found Fort Pontchartrain at present-day Detroit. Partly in response to increased trade opportunities, NHBP's Ancestors established a village near Fort Pontchartrain in approximately 1704. Three decades later, in 1732, a Potawatomi village was established adjacent to the location of today's Historic Fort Wayne property (see Figure 3). NHBP is the most recent Native Nation whose Ancestors occupied the immediate area of the Fort.

After establishing numerous villages in the Detroit region in the following decades, many Detroit-area Potawatomi moved 40 miles west to the upper reaches of the Huron River near Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor in 1765, and soon became identified as the "Potawatomi of the Huron." In 1774, another village was established near the Huron village on the Saline River (a northern tributary of the River Raisin).

While NHBP's Ancestors were living in the Detroit and Huron River valley regions, our cultural practices continued to include rituals performed at the Fort Wayne Mound and other surrounding burial mounds.



Figure 3: Jacques-Nicolas Bellin's 1764 map showing the new Potawatomi village close to the bluff at Springwells/Historic Fort Wayne (marked as Ecorse de Sable).

Early eyewitness accounts mention that numerous Native Americans living in the Detroit area (most likely including the Potawatomi) buried their Ancestors in the mounds at Fort Wayne and other surrounding mounds as late as the early 1800s. It wasn't until the years 1810 through 1815 that several Huron Potawatomi bands began migrating west and establishing villages on the Nottawaseppi or Nottawa Creek in present-day Leonidas Township in St. Joseph County and on the St. Joseph River near Mendon, Michigan.

CURRENT NHBP PLANS REGARDING FORT WAYNE

In light of NHBP's undeniable cultural and historical ties to the Detroit region, I have been consulting on behalf of the Tribe with the City of Detroit since 2013 on several key issues at Historic Fort Wayne. The first important issue concerns the future ownership and preservation of the Fort Wayne Mound itself. Currently owned by the City of Detroit Parks and Recreation Division, the Tribe has requested the transfer of the deed of the Fort Wayne Mound to NHBP. The City recently expressed their intent to follow through with this request. Our goal here is to assume the long-term responsibility of protecting and preserving the Fort Wayne Burial Mound and any Ancestors that may still be buried within it.

NHBP has gained a significant amount of support for this initiative. Associate Professor of the Department of Anthropology at Wayne State University Dr. Thomas W. Killion has been a strong proponent since talks began in 2013 and 2014.

"Returning that Ancestral burial ground at Springwells to the Tribe is the right thing for the City to do," Killion said, "and I hope it will enlighten all people and encourage more Native American involvement in the protection and interpretation of the site and many other places like it for a long time to come."

A second important issue at Historic Fort Wayne involves the walls of the Star Fort, which were constructed with fill from the once-standing Central Mound and perhaps other surrounding mounds (see Figure 4). As a result, there likely are Native American Ancestral remains contained in the walls of the fort today. Therefore, NHBP considers the Star Fort a sacred place in much the same way as the Fort Wayne Mound. Both are the resting places of our Ancestors and sacred objects. In response, NHBP has recommended that no further alteration or destruction of the Star Fort occur. The Tribe is also working on drafting an archaeological conservation easement with the City of Detroit that would provide better legal protection for our Ancestors and sacred objects located within the Star Fort.

Third, recent archaeological surveys on the former Parade Ground, which is the current location of a soccer field (see Figures 4 and 5), suggest the likely presence of a Native American (perhaps Potawatomi) village located underneath the surface of the field. Since there may be sacred objects or even Ancestral human remains buried in this area, NHBP has recommended no further (especially destructive) archaeological investigations be conducted at the location without explicit consultation with NHBP. Similarly, we are working on a separate conservation easement to legally protect this location as well.

Lastly, NHBP is interested in assisting in the restoration of the former Native American Museum that was once present at Historic Fort Wayne. However, this would require substantial grant funding to accomplish. The Tribe is working internally and with the City of Detroit to explore available grants that could fund this initiative.

Superintendent at the River Raisin National Battlefield Park Scott Bentley agrees with the Tribe's initiatives to better protect the numerous significant cultural items at the Fort: "The National Park Service is honored to work with the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi and City of Detroit to ensure control over the burial mound and remains of Tribal Ancestors at Springwells are returned to the care

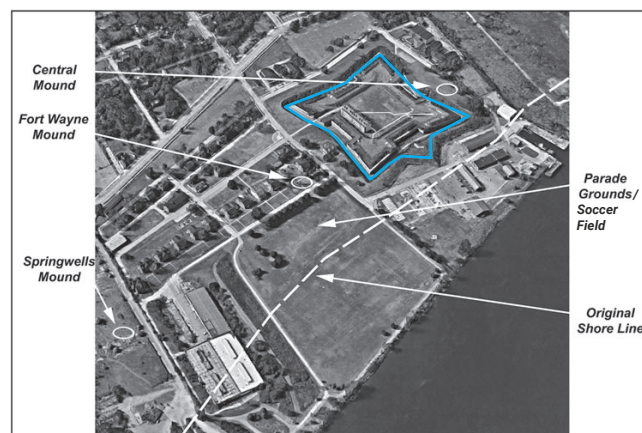


Figure 4: Historic Fort Wayne, Star Fort (pictured outlined in blue), Parade Ground/Soccer Field, and original location of three Springwells burial mounds.



Figure 5: Current soccer field (former Parade Ground)

and protection of the Tribe in perpetuity. As ownership of the burial mound is returned, we look forward to ongoing conversations about how to best protect and honor Tribal Ancestors that also remain within the walls of the Star Fort and possibly other areas of the Fort's grounds."

LONG-TERM PLANS

As Bentley suggests, obtainment of the Fort Wayne Burial Mound deed will be the first important step towards NHBP providing for the protection and preservation of important Tribal resources on the Historic Fort Wayne property. However, the deed transfer will also usher in a new era of renewed NHBP involvement and collaboration at the Fort. A longer-term goal of the Tribe is to better educate the public about NHBP's and other Tribes' connection to the region. To this end, the Tribe is excited to collaborate and consult with other Tribal Nations that are aboriginal to the Detroit region, as well as with the City of Detroit, Fort Wayne Staff, nearby universities and other entities.

"Our work at Wayne State with the NHBP and the City of Detroit represents an unprecedented opportunity to work together and build a better understanding of the past as a place of Native American people in this landscape from the very earliest times right up to the present," Killion said.

Sharing information about the contemporary status of NHBP and other Tribes and our connection to the past is another important component of our long-term goal. We envision the creation of interpretive signs that better connect past Peoples to present-day Indigenous Peoples, something that is rarely highlighted. We also plan to hold annual events aimed at celebrating and sharing our collective history and culture with the larger public. The burial mound, soccer field, Star Fort and museum could work together as effective educational tools and important points of interest at Fort Wayne to bring awareness to Potawatomi and other Tribes' history in this region. We believe it is vital to inform

the larger non-Native public of our ongoing connection to the Historic Fort Wayne and Detroit region and that we are the living descendants of those Ancestors.

WE NEVER DISAPPEARED AND WE STILL RETAIN A STRONG SPIRITUAL CONNECTION TO OUR DETROIT-AREA HOMELAND.

Manager of Historic Fort Wayne for the City of Detroit John Armstrong stated, "The City of Detroit and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi are working together over the coming months to negotiate the deed and appropriate easements required to return the burial mound to proper ownership. This partnership is the basis for sharing a larger collective story to Detroiters and other visitors who may know little about the histories and importance of this land to Native Nations. It's my hope that this work with the NHBP can serve as an example for working with Native groups in Detroit and other regional municipalities."

NHBP looks forward to this collaborative effort and the eventual deed transfer of the Fort Wayne Burial Mound to the Tribe. Reclaiming this historical and culturally significant burial mound property located within our 1807 Treaty territory will be an important expression of our sovereignty. I personally wish to thank all those who have supported this endeavor. Migwéché!



WMU Takes Profound Action

Western Michigan University Walks the Walk with Indigenous Partners

WRITTEN BY BY TAYLOR KOOPMAN

In the fall of 2019, Western Michigan University adopted a land acknowledgement in recognition of the Ojibwe, Odawa and Bodéwadmi land the campus was built upon. Wonderful – they get a pat on the back and can move on with business, right?

Not so fast.

Many critics of land acknowledgements argue they are merely acts of performative allyship. As compelling as they may be, land acknowledgements are only meaningful when coupled with real action.

To that end, WMU spent the next two years working closely with the region's Bodéwadmi Tribes – NHBP, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and the Match-

E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians – to ensure their statement does not ring hollow but instead sparks a deep partnership to honor the university's Indigenous roots.

"It's not simply reading words and acknowledging this land," NHBP Higher Education Specialist Andrea Rainer said. "What is the follow-through?"

For WMU, that follow-through comes in the formation of the Native American Affairs Council and the addition of a new online course in Tribal governance for non-degree seeking students at the graduate level.

"Western has been the model for going beyond the land acknowledgement," Rainer said. "Provost Bott was always

present at our meetings to develop the course. A lot of individuals at that level, more than likely, send their assistants or other individuals, but the Provost was there from the very beginning.”

As Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at WMU, Dr. Jennifer Bott says this work is deeply important to her and to the community.

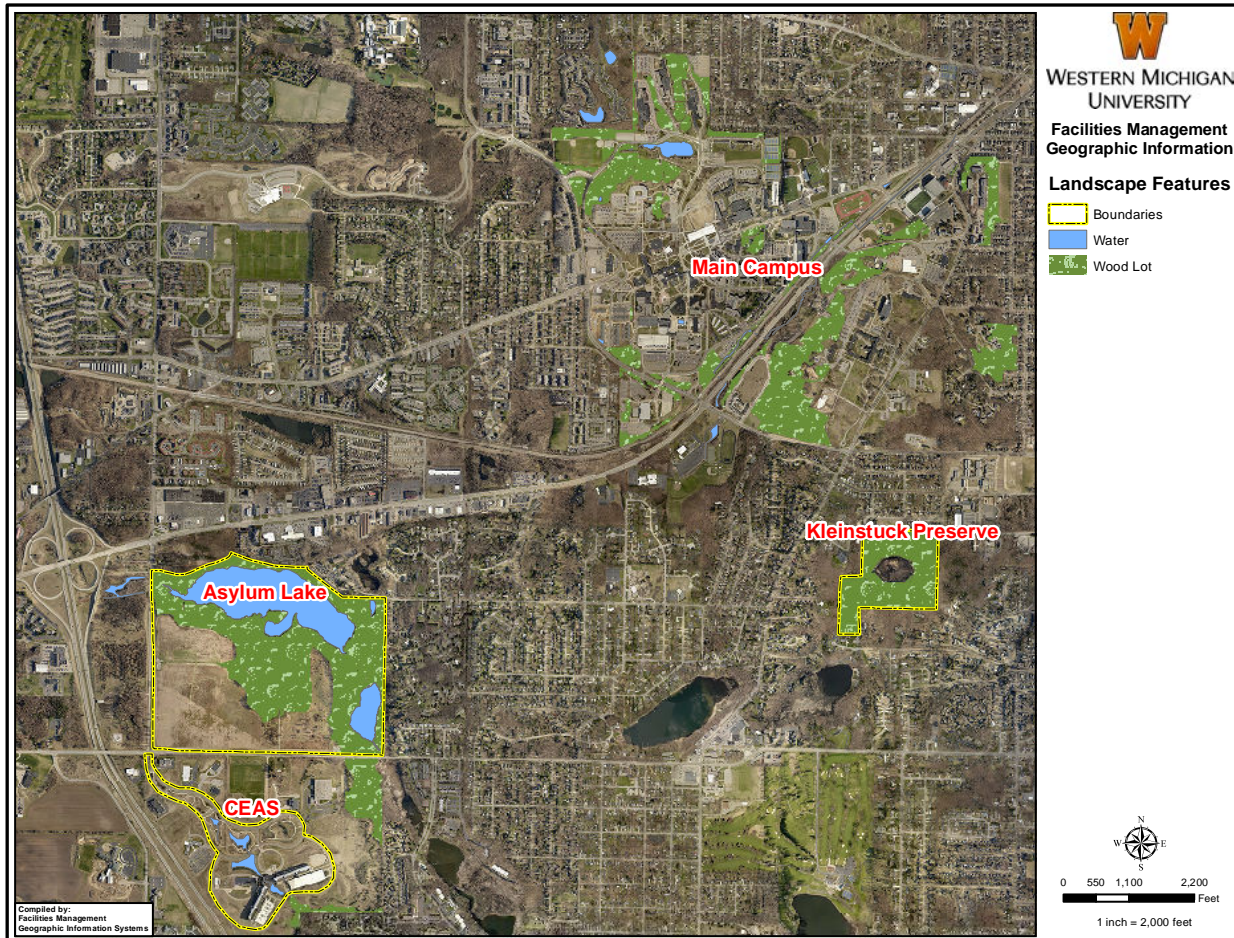
“Our campus sits on Tribal land, and it is important to not only acknowledge this, but to also engage in work that connects to and supports our Indigenous people,” Bott said in a press release. “It is our goal to make WMU a place where all students can succeed. The work of the Native American Affairs Council will make great strides in doing that both inside and outside the classroom.”

In a collaborative effort, the Council is tasked with developing Native American programming and curriculum at the university, as well as strengthening relationships with Tribal communities and “empowering students by decolonizing learning and administrative environments.” They are set to take their first step later this month with the introduction of “Tribal Governance: Sovereignty through Self-Determination” to WMU’s MPA program.

Pokagon Tribal Council Secretary Sam Morseau, who will be the Course Instructor, was motivated to advocate for the establishment of this class by the lack of education and understanding of the Tribes that exists in the community.

“Who were the leaders and advocates who solidified legislation and helped each one of the three Bands establish recognition with the federal government? How do we, as growing and rebuilding Nations, balance all of the duties of not only governance, but also economic diversification and turning sustainable futures for our Nations and Tribal citizens?”





“It is our hope that with our combined collaborative partnerships and relationships, we continue to build upon the successes that we’ve had in terms of long-term sustainability, not only for the university but also for our Tribal Nations,” Morseau said.

Morseau was a major driving force in making the course a reality and hopes to expand to a full program later on, according to Rainer.

“The class is modeled after a one-of-a-kind Tribal governance program at Evergreen State College in Washington, and Sam has actually taken part in the program,” she said. “It just made sense that Sam would

be the one to teach the course. It all came full circle, and it’s great that he’s able to take those best practices and implement them into this program.”

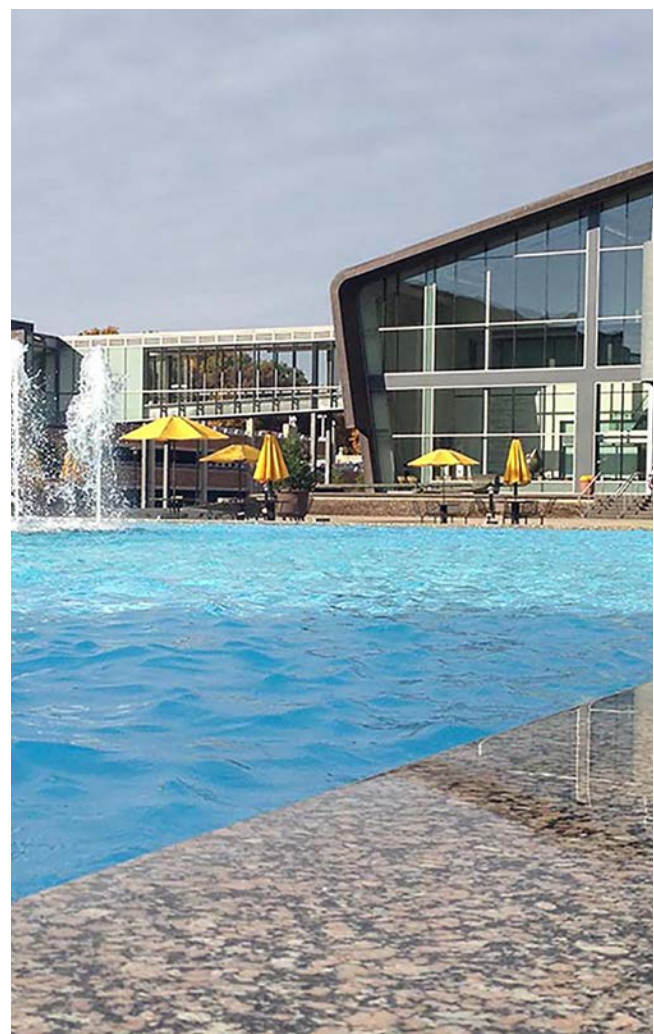
Focusing on Indigenous leadership, the path to federal recognition, Nation rebuilding and sustainable sovereignty in relation to the three Bodéwadmi Tribes, Morseau says the course is a testament to the collective knowledge-building and learning Tribes have done for ages.

“There are so many unique resources that are being used to capture the history of the Potawatomi Tribes, and bring it up to today and how we are impacting things nationwide,” Rainer said.

Over the course of 12 weeks, several experts from the three Tribes will share their perspectives on Tribal governance, as well as the challenges faced by public administrators in understanding the sovereign status of Tribal Nations, which have demonstrated substantial social, economic and political resilience since the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975.

NHBP Tribal Council Chairperson Jamie Stuck, who is also the Chair of the NHBP Education Committee, is one of many who is set to lend their experience to students.

“It’s important that students recognize each Tribe has their own story,” Stuck said. “Sometimes we are all lumped together, but we have different constitutions, laws, ordinances, even different ways of speaking the language. Even though we’re all people of the Three Fires, we’re still different from each other.”





DECLARING INDEPENDENCE FROM ADDICTION:
**ONE TRIBAL MEMBER'S 10,000-FOOT
CLIMB TO ACHIEVE INNER TRANQUILITY
AND CLOSENESS WITH CREATOR**

WRITTEN BY KATIE HALLORAN | PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JOHNATHON MOULDS

If you had asked Tribal Member Johnathon Moulds at age 19 what his dreams were, he would have said nothing. Graduating from high school near the bottom of his class, he had no plans for his life. Deep in the grips of anxiety, fueled by addictions to alcohol and opiates, ending his own life seemed like his only way out. Before he was 20 years old, he had attempted suicide – twice.

“What got me off addiction was the way I found the Creator and how the Creator taught me the full understanding of my meaning here on Earth,” said Moulds, now 33.

He still struggled with addiction in his 20s.

“I was spending much of my monthly income on drugs, going nowhere,” he said.

As he watched his children grow up, he slowly began to turn his life around.

“It’s an open wound. I am still recovering every day.”

He found solace and comfort throughout his recovery in traveling and hiking solo, discovering his inner tranquility and closeness to the Creator.

“Outdoor recreation was always a passion of mine, and I started to rekindle this passion,” said Moulds.

Over the next few years, Moulds traveled and hiked all over the United States, but once he laid his eyes on the majestic Mount Rainier – also called Tahoma or Tacoma – in July 2019, he immediately thought, “Here’s the challenge I am looking for.”

As part of the Cascades chain, Mount Rainier stands as the tallest peak in the state of Washington at 14,410 feet above sea level. Being a glaciated peak, it remains snow-covered year-round and requires special equipment to climb. Only 10,000 people attempt to scale Mount Rainier each year, with a mere 60% success rate, according to the National Park Service.

Moulds wasted no time applying for a climb date and was selected for an original date of July 4, 2020, which was later delayed.

After “mentally falling apart in late 2019, I gained a lot of weight. It wasn’t until COVID hit in March 2020 that I started running again and really getting into the official training in August 2020.”



Left: Tribal Member Johnathon Moulds raises his Tribal flag at the top of Mount Rainier. Above: The journey up the glaciated peak of Mount Rainier begins.

PUSHING FARTHER

From that day forward, if he could exercise, he did. Training as many as three times a day, Moulds hired a personal trainer to oversee his posture and push him farther than he thought he could go. In total, he ran 1,000 miles as part of his training.

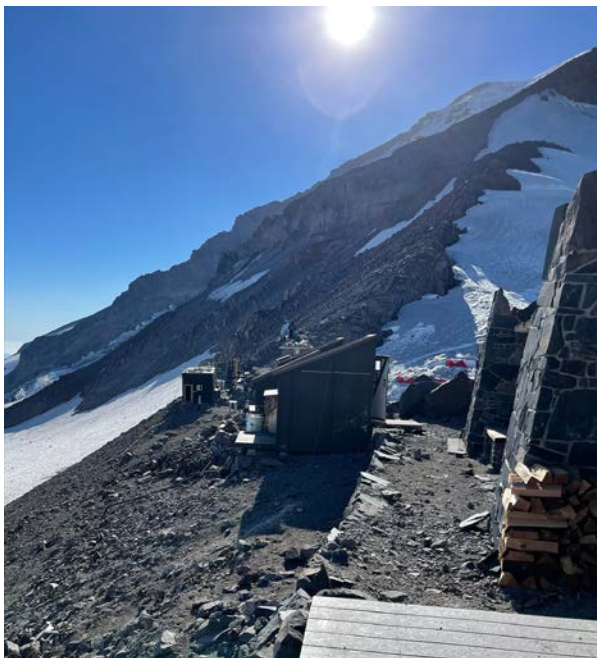
The entire training process changed his life.

“Training was a battle within itself, and a few times, the only way to heal was through tears. It was so tough, but I knew I had to go back out and do it,” said Moulds. “I’ve developed self-awareness through my self-discipline.”

Even the pandemic couldn’t stop Moulds, whose initial date for his Mount Rainier climb was canceled due to COVID-19. Moulds rescheduled for the summer of 2021 and used the extra year to train harder.

Moulds often donned weighted vests of 30 or 60 pounds while running or walking. While everyone else would hunker down, Moulds would eagerly await Michigan snowstorms so he could train outside to build his lung strength and capacity.

Finally, at 9 a.m. on July 3, 2021, Moulds faced his long-awaited challenge of climbing Mount Rainier.



Camp Muir sits 10,000 feet above sea level and serves as a resting stop for the mountain climbers.



Top: Traveling down the snowy mountainside proves as treacherous as the climb up. Bottom: The sun rises to greet Mount Rainier on the morning of July 4, 2021.

Traveling to Paradise, Washington, Moulds began the sojourn up the mountain with eight other individuals from all over the country led by expertly trained and experienced guides.

Beginning at 5,000-foot altitude at the Paradise Trailhead, the group hiked at the grueling pace of 1,000 feet of elevation per hour.

“Two other climbers, a guide and I all were attached to each other with ropes, heading up on the snow-covered trail,” said Moulds.

They made it to Camp Muir, which stands at 10,000 feet, where the group rested from 5 to 11 p.m. before once again trekking up the now pitch-black mountain at midnight.

“We avoided the heat of the late afternoon with the timing of the climb and breaks,” explained Moulds.

However, not everyone could muster the strength to keep going up the mountain. One by one, trekkers began turning back down Mount Rainier. Only five would make it to the top.

“It was so disheartening when others didn’t make it,” said Moulds. Those who turned back were led down by guides, where they waited for the others to climb back down that afternoon.

“I told myself, ‘You need to finish this,’” said Moulds. The darkness helped Moulds concentrate on his climbing and breathing, which helped him stay focused on his mission.

The night slowly turned back into day toward the top of the mountain.

“Seeing a sunrise from that perspective, and that high in the sky, is a memory I will hold onto for the rest of my life,” he said.

FOR “THOSE WHO AREN’T WITH US TODAY”

At 6:10 a.m. July 4, Moulds declared his independence from his own mental and emotional constraints. He had made it to the top of Mount Rainier, a total climb of 10,000 feet, where he stood 14,410 feet above sea level.

Moulds proudly held up his Tribal flag on the summit, overlooking the clouds.

“I dedicated my summit to those who have fought hard but ultimately lost their battle to addiction; to those individuals who aren’t with us today.”

Having made it to the top, the trekkers then faced the arduous descent from Mount Rainier, where they reconvened with the others at Camp Muir. They climbed back down the mountain by 2 p.m. that day with increasing difficulty as fatigue and disorientation set in.

“It was definitely a trial, thankfully, with no errors,” said Moulds. “My motivation came from a strong community of voices and from allowing me to represent NHBP as a Nation making that climb.”

“We go back to our roots, and we reconnect with our Ancestors, absorb their wisdom and knowledge and we live by our Seven Grandfather Teachings. It’s knowing what your battles entail and how to overcome them.



Top: Johnathon Moulds takes a short break while climbing Mount Rainier. Bottom: Moulds earns a Certificate of Achievement from the hiking company he worked with to scale Mount Rainier.

People can turn their lives around, live whatever their dreams are, doing so with passion and motivation.”

For Moulds, his future is much brighter than his bleak early adulthood.

“I plan on traveling more and to continue making memories with my family,” he said. “I would like to involve my kids with more outdoor activities, including climbing.”

Moulds hopes his summit will inspire Tribal Members to live their dreams, no matter how small or big they are – even as large as the national icon, Mount Rainier.



Bald Eagle Nest Platform Installed on Pine Creek Indian Reservation

WRITTEN BY JORDAN BRADLEY | PHOTOS BY EMILEE GUZAK

If you've spent any time on the Pine Creek Indian Reservation, you've heard it. It changes from season to season, the birdsong melody. We know the rhythm of the fall, spring, winter and summer by the sandhill cranes trumpeting and trilling, the cardinals chirping and calling, the mourning doves' melancholia in the morning.

Soon, we could be hearing a new call; the call of the bald eagle.

In the fall of 2021, NHBP's Environmental and Public Works departments teamed up to install an eagle nesting platform

that stands 43 feet above some of The Reservation's wetlands, near the Wild Rice ponds for easy viewing. Under federal protective regulations, humans aren't allowed within 300 feet of the platform's base, which sits across the street from NHBP's Government Center, where some of the property's Ricing paddies can be found.

For Environmental Director John Rodwan, this nesting platform has been 15 years in the making.

"We've talked about installing an eagle nesting platform from the beginning because we knew the bald eagle is

culturally significant," he said. "Even 15 years ago, they were a lot scarcer than they are now."

True, the sight of a bald eagle has become increasingly common in recent years, with a trend toward growth.

"We're getting calls almost weekly saying people have spotted bald eagles," Rodwan said. "Some people have

never seen one before. Some people are starting to see patterns where they're coming back and there are several known nests."

Rodwan himself has seen the sacred birds around The Reservation; in one instance, a bald eagle was feeding on a dead opossum found in the small Ricing pond at the Environmental Department's outpost.

Gathering the Materials

Seeing this bird reignited something for Rodwan, leading him to take inspired action, but a big hurdle in the project has been sourcing the suitable materials to create the platform.

Finally, with the help of DPW Director Darrel Vorce, the pair were able to find a utility pole from a locally owned electric company in Marshall, Michigan, after a handful of weeks of research, calls and dead ends. Initially, Rodwan was a little concerned about the quality of the utility pole and its platform, but he and the team were pleasantly surprised.

"That thing is gorgeous. I think we're definitely going to have one of the nicest platforms in the state," he said with a proud smile. "It's straight as an arrow."

The utility pole is 50 feet in length, with 7 feet buried in the earth for stability.

When first erected, the platform stood bare. With the help of Vorce and DPW's bucket truck that can reach a maximum

height of 60 feet, Rodwan plans to add logs and branches to create a more natural feel and a strong home base for future feathered tenants.

Bald eagles are sea eagles, meaning they live near waterways, and prefer to make their nests "atop a large, isolated tree or pinnacle of rock located within easy flight of water," according to britannica.com. The nests usually measure about 5 feet wide but can grow to twice the size over time as more branches and twigs are added. Lack of proper nesting spaces has contributed to slow population growth over the years.

"One of the problems with large raptors is a shortage of suitable nesting habitats," Rodwan said. "Farmers are taking down all the tree rows and we're always chipping away at our old forest growth."

Furthermore, the Pine Creek Indian Reservation is about 40% wetlands, ideal eagle habitat.

Future Flying

"We would hope to have a nesting pair start scouting early next spring and start developing a nest shortly thereafter," Rodwan said.

The U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife recommends a 330-foot radius to safely and naturally observe the majestic and sacred birds.

"What'll happen is we'll abide by the Fish and Wildlife recommendation of 330 feet," Rodwan said, "so we're not going to want a lot of traffic down there. At some point, the eagles might acclimate a little bit, but we're still not going to want people hanging around the pole."

Fortunately, Rodwan was clever enough to choose a spot for the nesting platform that is almost eye level with the ridge at the necessary distance.

"Bald eagles were recently de-listed as endangered because their population is doing so well. That de-listing does come with a lot of restrictions," Rodwan said. "But we do have a chance. Eagles are coming back."

Rodwan anticipates receiving several questions about nest cams and has begun his research. Without Wi-fi access on the Rice pond, Rodwan is unsure of his options. As for fallen feathers, more research is necessary to establish protocol and procedures, Rodwan said, and will be available at a later date.

Going forward, Rodwan and the Environmental Department are looking forward to discovering the lives of Eagles alongside the NHBP community. The department is also seeking input from Tribal Members regarding the installation of a nest cam. Rodwan can be reached by email at john.rodwan@nhbp-nsn.gov or by phone at 269.704.8507.



WRITTEN BY FKCH | PHOTOS PROVIDED BY FKCH

BIANCA BEERMAN

FireKeepers Casino Hotel would like to congratulate Tribal Member Bianca Beerman on her promotion to staff accountant in the Finance Department. Beerman started her journey at FKCH as a summer intern in 2020, which allowed her to work in every department to learn about the gaming industry.

After completing her internship, she accepted a position as a revenue auditor and returned to school to focus on earning her bachelor's degree in accounting from Purdue University. Beerman decided to further her knowledge within the casino by joining the Career Development Specialist Program, giving her the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the departments of her choice. Beerman has spent the last year developing herself by learning the technical skills needed to move up to be a staff accountant. FKCH is grateful to have Beerman as part of the team. She brings an enormous amount of dedication and knowledge to her new position.



J-ALLEN BENTZ

FKCH would also like to acknowledge J-Allen Bentz for successfully completing the FKCH summer intern program. Bentz is currently enrolled at Purdue University, studying pre-finance and is interested in entrepreneurship. Bentz joined the FKCH team in June and began the 12-week program, which is designed to expand the intern's knowledge within the gaming industry and give participants practical experience that they can apply in their career.

Bentz said, "I am ever so thankful to have had the opportunity to learn from and participate with such a successful business. My experience at FireKeepers has inspired me to continue learning and growing even further, just like the casino is constantly doing. There are so many outstanding lessons and standards that get practiced at FireKeepers; and it all stems from the exceptional company culture, WEEA. I enjoyed learning from every department I got to spend time with and the different lessons they had to offer. I think my time there has been a unique experience and I look forward to applying everything I've learned."



To learn more about the career development programs at FireKeepers Casino Hotel, please contact Kiara Dougherty at 269.967.4155 or tribaldevelopment@firekc.com.

THE HOTTEST STARS



DAUGHTRY
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18
DOORS: 7 PM • SHOW: 8 PM



GOLDEN BOYS
FRIDAY, MARCH 25
DOORS: 7 PM • SHOW: 8 PM

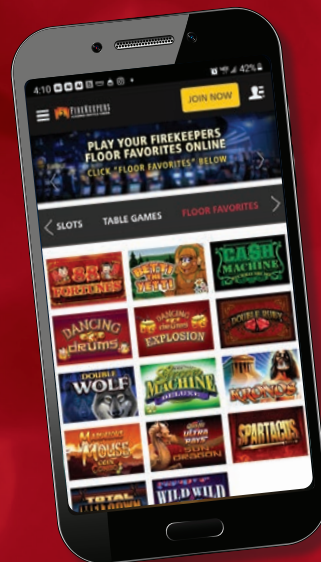
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FIREKEEPERS
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WASÉYABEK DEVELOPMENT COMPANY AND GUN LAKE INVESTMENTS OBTAIN OWNERSHIP OF ZIP XPRESS AND GREEN TRANSPORTATION

RARE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TWO TRIBES RESULTS IN UNIQUE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

WRITTEN BY PRESIDENT & CEO OF WASÉYABEK DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC, DEIDRA MITCHELL



Michigan-based Zip Xpress and Green Transportation deliver sustainable shipping solutions

Dina McKnight-Dargis (left), former owner and CEO of Zip Xpress, Inc., with her husband, Mike Dargis (right), former owner and CEO of Green Transportation, Inc.

In a first-of-its-kind collaboration in Michigan, two Tribally-owned economic development companies have partnered to acquire a pair of operating companies. Waséyabek Development Company and Gun Lake Investments are investing to obtain full ownership of Zip Xpress, Inc., and Green Transportation, Inc., of Holland, Michigan.

The partnership and businesses will be actively managed by DWH, LLC, a Tribally-owned business consulting firm that

also specializes in Tribal economic development. Currently, the businesses are owned and managed by a wife-and-husband team who have built both companies from the ground up. Dina McKnight-Dargis owns and manages Zip Xpress, while her husband Mike Dargis owns and operates Green Transportation.

"This is an exciting opportunity for us and the collaboration with both Tribes and current ownership has been incredibly

successful, making this process really effortless and enjoyable,” DWH CEO Monica King said. “Not only will these businesses be Tribally-owned, each entity involved is managed by female leaders, something we’re incredibly proud of.”

Zip Xpress and Green Transportation are Less Than Truckload and truckload companies. Zip Xpress, founded in 2001, is a woman-owned, general and specialty commodity carrier known for load consolidation and white glove services. Green Transportation was founded in 2007 to provide enhanced long-distance trucking services to Zip Xpress and several others. Both companies focus on freight optimization and environmentally sustainable solutions, something that aligns very closely with the principles of both Tribes. Unlike many other transportation services, Zip Xpress’s mission is to fully load their trucks for each trip using a unique optimization process that reduces their customers’ cost and carbon footprint.

“For my husband and me, growing these businesses has been a labor of love and each company has grown around the foundations and principles we believe in,” McKnight-Dargis said. “It is always a tough decision to sell a company that you have built yourself, but with DWH we know it is in good hands and will only help to contribute to continued growth for our team members and the companies themselves.”

“Leadership and a common philosophy about how our respective Tribes do business are really what makes this deal work. Dina and Mike’s commitment to their employees and the community is what makes it truly meaningful,” WDC President and CEO Deidra Mitchell said. “The way this rounds out our portfolio, both financially and from a diversification standpoint, aligns with our investment strategy.”

Green Transportation is notable for its training school, which provides a pipeline of trained and talented drivers for the company. This has become especially important during severe labor shortages across the country.

The school focuses on teaching drivers how to operate successfully in a high-risk business and how to be healthy while doing it. Drivers that graduate from Green



Transportation’s program are also underwritten for insurance with the company so they can capture more of their income from driving, with most drivers making six figures within a couple of years of graduating.

While both companies are Michigan-based, they serve a national clientele with Green Transportation’s service to 38 states. Together, both companies employ around 90 people.

“In addition to being a great investment, this acquisition also brings career development opportunities for Tribal Members in the form of truck driving instruction. This makes it an added benefit for both Tribes as Tribal Members plan for careers,” NHBP Tribal Council Chairperson Jamie Stuck said.

Boards of both development companies approved the deals and partnership.

Gun Lake Investments Board Vice Chairman Jason M. Palmer said, “Gun Lake Investments is thrilled to be part of the new ownership team for Zip Xpress and Green Transportation. Our community development investment goals, people-first companies with a history of success in Michigan, align with our strategic partners and represent another historic co-investment from these two formidable Tribes,” referring to an early 2020 real-estate co-investment with their purchase of McKay Tower in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

“We look forward to sustaining and growing the successful business that Dina, Mike and their team have built,” Palmer continued.

WDC Interim Board Chair Chris Rogers also added, “The Zip Xpress/Green Transportation acquisition represents more than an investment for Waséyabek and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Indians. The collaboration of the two Tribes is an outreach and manifestation of our desire to be in partnership with other Tribes to advance Indian Country.”



WASÉYABEK

DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC

DEIDRA MITCHELL NAMED BY THE GRAND RAPIDS BUSINESS JOURNAL AS ONE OF THE 200 MOST POWERFUL BUSINESS LEADERS IN WEST MICHIGAN

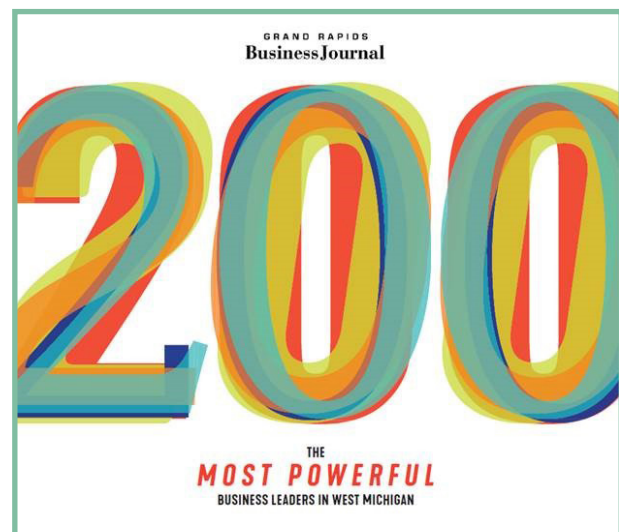


DEIDRA MITCHELL
PRESIDENT & CEO OF WASÉYABEK
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC

Congratulations to WDC President and CEO Deidra Mitchell for being named by the Grand Rapids Business Journal as one of the 200 Most Powerful Business Leaders in West Michigan. We are proud to see NHBP and WDC being recognized for their continued positive impact on West Michigan.

Grand Rapids 200 is a comprehensive list of the most powerful executives in more than 20 industries in Grand Rapids and is the most highly selective biographical database of business leaders in Grand Rapids.

The resource list of individuals was compiled based on a number of factors, including the size of a given company or organization, growth rate, geographical reach and extensive personal contacts.



WASÉYABEK DEVELOPMENT COMPANY INVESTS IN BAMF HEALTH

GRAND RAPIDS-BASED HEALTH CARE STARTUP BAMF HEALTH DEVELOPING REVOLUTIONARY CANCER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY

WRITTEN BY PRESIDENT & CEO OF WASÉYABEK DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC, DEIDRA MITCHELL



Left to right: Waséyabek Board Vice Chair and Interim Chair Chris Rogers, Waséyabek Board Member Bryant Phillips, President and CEO of Waséyabek Deidra Mitchell, BAMF Health Chief Executive Officer Dr. Anthony Chang, and BAMF Health Chief Operations Officer Chad Bassett.

WDC announced a \$3 million investment into health care startup BAMF Health. The passive investment marks the first foray of the company into the health care industry and further diversification of its portfolio. Grand Rapids company BAMF Health is developing cutting-edge cancer treatments with a technology that is showing promise in treating non-cancer-related ailments as well.

“Our goal is to invest in companies that not only align with our values but also show a strong potential for growth and success,” WDC President and CEO Deidra Mitchell said. “This technology shows so much promise and BAMF’s vision to provide accessible and affordable treatment solutions is one that we stand firmly behind.”

The technology, which is already being practiced in Germany, uses an innovative radiopharmaceutical approach that more directly targets cells and is less invasive than current methods. Patients from over 44 countries have sought treatment, including many from West Michigan. In their work to create a scalable platform for the treatment, BAMF launched a \$30 million Series B raise, which WDC is participating in along with other investors.

“Having diverse communities invest in this company is well aligned with our mission and vision,” said CEO of BAMF Health Dr. Anthony Chang. “These treatments and early detection can significantly impact positive outcomes for patients. We’re working towards smarter solutions, like same-day diagnosis and treatment, while deploying advanced AI and other technology to ensure it is affordable and accessible for everyone that needs it.”

BAMF’s process uses 1/40th the amount of radiation in traditional detection routines, making it more affordable and much less strenuous on the body. BAMF has been working on technology and the infrastructure to support it that will drive the cost down, enabling more patients access and making earlier treatment and detection the goal.

According to the CDC, Native American communities suffer much higher rates of several cancers, including lung, colorectal, liver, stomach and kidney cancers. They are also more likely to be disproportionately impacted by a lack of preventative health care access and affordability.

“This investment represents something that is sorely needed in the health care industry, Tribal participation. When our communities are lacking accessible and affordable health care, it is our responsibility to ensure we’re making decisions to increase access and quality of care,” said NHBTP Tribal Council Chairperson Jamie Stuck. “Making this type of treatment and technology available to all is something that aligns closely with our values.”

“We welcome opportunities to be involved in groundbreaking technologies, especially those that are being researched and developed right here in Michigan,” said WDC Board Vice Chair and Interim Chair Chris Rogers. “This is our first investment in the health care sector and another opportunity for us to broaden our investment strategy.”

NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI | TURTLE PRESS WINTER 2022



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