

BAY MILLS NEWS

Serving the Eastern Upper Peninsula

“Gnoozhekaaning Bidajimowin”

October 2024

New UN Report adds to chorus of calls for Canada to shut down Line 5 oil pipeline

WASHINGTON — In a recent report, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation called on Canada to cease the operation of the Line 5 pipeline until the “Free, Prior, and Informed Consent” of affected Indigenous Peoples is secured.

The report is the culmination of the Special Rapporteur’s visit to Canada and is based on information gathered ahead of and during his official country visit.

In his report, the Special Rapporteur states that he “received concerning information about the risks posed by the Line 5 pipeline to the Great Lakes, which are home to 20 percent of the world’s surface fresh water and provide drinking water to more than 40 million people. ... Risks of catastrophic oil spills due to the aged infrastructure and the strong currents in the straits are well documented.” He also draws attention to the company’s plans to reroute the existing pipeline in Wisconsin and build a tunnel under the Straits of Mackinac, which the Rapporteur notes “has raised opposition from civil society, academia, businesses, local government and Indigenous Peoples,

among others.”

He recommends that Canada: “Suspend large-scale mining and oil and gas pipeline projects, such as ... the ... Line 5 pipeline[s], until the necessary processes of assessing the impact of long-term risks to human rights, the environment and biodiversity, and guaranteeing the right of the Indigenous Peoples concerned to respect for the principle of free, prior and informed consent, have been completed.”

Bay Mills Indian Community has been on the forefront of the battle to shut down line 5, advocating for tribal input in the process.

“The Indigenous People have their ways of life embedded and imprinted on this land. Line 5 is more than an environmental threat, it’s a danger to our culture and our history,” said Jacques LeBlanc, vice president of Bay Mills Indian Community.

The Special Rapporteur joins a chorus of calls by other UN experts and bodies. He “reiterates” a recommendation to Canada by the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples to “cease construction or operation of the ... Line 5 pipeline until the free, prior and informed consent of the In-

igenous Peoples affected is secured.” Similarly, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in 2023 and 2024 called for “Canada and the United States to decommission Line 5,” which they recognized threatens human rights and the Great Lakes. In December 2023, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination sent a letter to Canada seeking information regarding its support for the Line 5 pipeline. In its letter, the Committee noted, “it is also concerned that, by supporting Enbridge’s continued operation of Line 5, the State party enables discriminatory practices and poses foreseeable risks to the Anishinaabe People’s rights.”

“Canada must stop ignoring the calls by Indigenous Peoples, UN Special Rapporteurs, and the UNPFII to cease the pipeline’s operations. As the Special Rapporteur’s report highlights, Canada must respect the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of affected Indigenous Peoples. Here, this requires Canada to withdraw its support for Line 5, said Tamara Morgenthau, senior attorney for the Climate and Energy Program at the Center for International Environmental Law.

Healthcare Pathways Consortium will grow healthcare workforce

BRIMLEY— In an effort to address the needs of local healthcare facilities, Bay Mills Community College has partnered with MyMichigan Medical Center Sault, Lake Superior State University and Sault Area High School and Career Center, establishing a program that aims to bridge the gap between education and employment, providing various pathways for individuals at different stages of their healthcare journey.

On Sept. 17, officials gathered to sign and officially launch the Healthcare Pathways Consortium. Representatives signing included Duane Bedell, president of BMCC, Kevin Kalchik, president of MyMichigan Medical Center Sault; Dr. David Travis, president of LSSU; Jeanine Sherman, principal of SAHCC.

The Healthcare Pathways Consortium is an innovative initiative program designed to meet the needs of our rural healthcare community. The goal is to streamline the educational pathway ensuring a seamless progression for students as they make their way into the healthcare workforce.

“It was amazing to see how a conversation that took place 16 months ago developed into an excellent partnership that will help build the healthcare workforce,” said Bedell. “What started as a brief discussion to learn how we can work together to develop the healthcare workforce, all of the leaders in the room stepped aside to allow the experts to do what they do best, cultivating a robust program that all partners support. Team members from all organizations worked feverishly to build this critical pathway while creating opportunities for those who are passionate about health care. I am looking forward to seeing how we can continue this work together.”

Key features of the program include collaborating with educational institutions to offer a wide range of programs, guaranteeing accessibility for individuals with diverse levels of prior education and experience. Students will learn practical skills enhancement through first-hand training opportunities such as internships, clinicals, apprenticeships, and simulation exercises.

“After graduation, the program’s hope is that students will stay or return to the area to care for members of their own communities,” said Carrie Perez, director of nursing at BMCC.



From left to right. Janine Sherman, Principal of Sault Area High School and Career Center; Dr. David Travis, President of Lake Superior State University; Duane Bedelle, President of Bay Mills Community College, and Kevin Kalchik, President of MyMichigan Medical Center Sault, at the signing ceremony held on Sept. 17 in Sault Ste. Marie.

This collaboration will ultimately provide individualized career guidance and mentorship to aid participants in effectively navigating their journey in rural healthcare.

“This Healthcare Pathways Consortium is more than just an agreement—it’s a commitment to the future of our community. By aligning educational resources across institutions, we’re providing students with a direct line to fulfilling and impactful careers in healthcare,” said Dr. Kathy Berchem, dean of the College of Health and Emergency Responders at LSSU. “It’s a win-win for students, educators, and the healthcare sector, and I’m thrilled to see the positive changes this will bring to the region.”

For any questions or interest in discussing opportunities with the Healthcare Pathways Consortium, please contact euphealthcarepathwaysprogram@gmail.com.

Executive Council discusses business at regular meeting

Oct. 14 meeting

Reports

Tribal Manager Rachel Lyons

- Working on scattered sites projects. Contractor has done an amazing job.
- Conducting interviews for new executive secretary assistant. Position just closed.
- New security cameras installed in admin building.
- Attended the tribal-state summit in Marquette with council.
- Maintenance has begun shredding old files, will be done in the next few weeks.
- Justice Center expansion project final walk through done with DOJ. Final payments submitted to contractor. Sound proofing panels ordered. Hope to close this out within the month.
- Met with HR to discuss plans for department.
- Discussed financial with departments.
- Raising the cost of snowplowing.
- Club Expansion is complete.
- Admin reno and expansion is ongoing. IT has moved their furniture in to their department. Once IT moves in, the downstairs work will begin, which will take about five months.
- Grading and utilities done at homes on Plantation Hills for new homes. Tenants are moving in.
- Garages are up at professional homes. Electrician coming this week so they can install garage doors. Water has been hooked up at the sites. Concrete will be poured this week.
- Riverview should be opened in the spring.

Chief Financial Officer Crystal Wilcox

- Working on finishing out 2022 audit. Audit for 2023 in process as well.
- Policy review being done with HR. Travel policy and key card policy in process as well.
- 2025 budget timeline will be sent out this week.
- Software demo set up for later in the week.
- Working on quote for Office 365.
- Accounting will be posting a position for grants. Another will be posted for clerk. AOT is looking for staff as well (stock/delivery).

Health Director Lucy DeWildt

- Meetings being held with state for Brimley Clinic.
- Drop-in Center is in construction phase.
- Rain Garden work is being done, nearly complete. Halloween is the expected finish date.
- Looking to apply for long term care grant funding in May of next year.
- Hoping to get some interns in the future, possibly in dentistry.
- Attended Michigan Tribal Health Director's meeting.

Human Resources Director Philip Espinoza

- Individuals for grievance review board selected. Seeking council approval for candidates during next meeting.
- Working on job descriptions and org chart.
- Open enrollment will take place during November.
- Policies are being developed for a dress code.
- Language being crafted for performance improvement plan.

Bay Mills Gaming Authority Richard LeBlanc

- Attended Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas.
- Hotel occupancy is healthy. RV park starting to decline, with a closure on the 20th for the season.
- Would like to add more modules to gaming system.

Bay Mills Business Holdings

Justin LeBlanc- Bay Mart/Four Seasons

- Bay Mart tank project- working on survey to get permit.

- Working on software issues to do inventory.

Glen Philpot- NLCC

- Oct. 8 NLCC experienced a gas leak. Was repaired.
- Will be harvesting room one soon.

New Business

1. Health Center - Approval of Pharmacist Employment Contract. Approved.
 - a. Andrea Carethers
 - b. Adam Gurnoe
2. Grant Department - Acceptance of Awards
 - a. Acceptance of Identifying Movement Patterns of Atikamegwag (Lake Whitefish) in Whitefish Bay for Treaty Rights and Resource Protection - \$334,297. No match required. Approved.
 - b. Acceptance of Bay Mills Indian Community Tribal Youth Natural Resources Career Experience - \$60,000. This provides for interns to learn from hands on experience with Bay Mills Biological Services. Approved.
 - c. Acceptance of Bay Mills Indian Community Continued EDRR for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Invasive Species Management - \$114,000. Approved.
 - d. Acceptance of Restoration of Miinan (Blueberries) and Ishkode (Fire) in a Climate Change Refuge: Reconnecting and Enhancing Community Engagement with Culturally-Important Species - \$450,000. Monitor berry production before and after logging. Will fund workshops and community workshops and learning. No match required. Approved.

- e. Acceptance of External Safety Assessment Award - \$1,000. Boys & Girls Club Native Services award, this is a gift. No match required. Approved.

- f. Acceptance of MDHHS P4 Funds (Diabetes Prevention Program), year 2 of 2 - \$2,383 (advised additional \$60,000 to be funded this year). No match. This expands nutritional education and cultural teachings while promoting healthy foods. Approved.

3. Grant Department – Approval to Submit
 - a. Approval to Submit Tribal Home Visiting 2024-2025 Sub-Contractual Agreement - \$100,000. ITC funds, no match. Approved.

- b. Approval to Submit Annual Funding Agreement – IHS -\$2,627,265. Approved.

4. Land Office: Approved.
 - a. Resolution 24-10-14A - Lease Cancellation for Burt Bowen

- b. Resolution 24-10-14B - New Lease Nathan Bowen

5. Plantation Hill Lot Applications: Approved

- a. Terry Carrick Jr.
- b. Amie Baragwanath
- c. Rane Herring relinquish lot to Joslyn Stewart

6. Reaffirmation of Poll Votes: Approved

- a. Emergency Medical Donation Tribal Citizen Comment

A tribal citizen expressed concern about filing a complaint. He noted he was not heard by law enforcement and did not know where to turn. Council indicated they would look into the matter.



Let's meet!

GTC Meeting

*Wednesday, Oct. 23 @ 6 p.m.
Armella Parker Building*

The meeting will take place in-person at the Armella Parker Building (Bay Mills Elder Center).

Refreshments will be served.

All tribal citizens are encouraged to attend, as a quorum is needed to conduct business.

The agenda is forthcoming.

Tahquamenon Falls to remain open during construction

PARADISE — The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is has announced a major enhancement to the popular Upper Falls day-use area at Tahquamenon Falls State Park.

The Upper Falls will soon feature a new, fully accessible 900-foot-long boardwalk winding through an old-growth forest and providing views of the 200-foot-wide falls. The new structure will also feature benches.

Construction began Oct. 14 and is expected to be completed by Aug. 1, 2025.

All other Upper Falls viewing areas will remain open to visitors during construction, including the three viewing platforms situated above the falls.

“The new, accessible boardwalk will replace the aging stairway structure that leads to the brink viewing platform,”

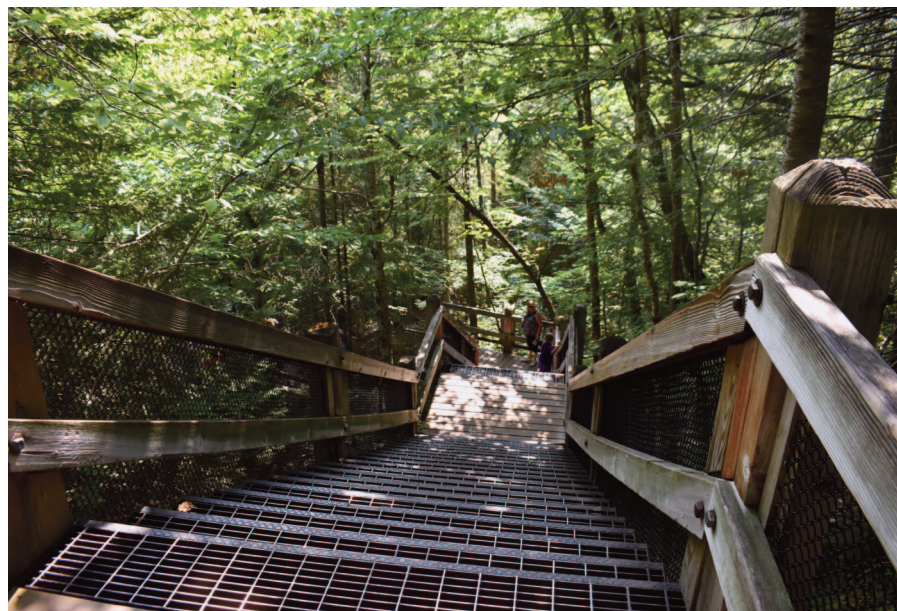
said Kevin Dennis, supervisor of Tahquamenon Falls State Park for the DNR Parks and Recreation Division. “Despite construction, the majority of the viewing area remains open and accessible this fall through next summer.”

The privately owned Tahquamenon Falls Brewery & Pub also will remain open during construction.

A \$3.275 million allocation in federal relief funding made these and other renovations possible at the park.

A \$273 million boost in federal America Rescue Plan relief funding was approved by the Michigan Legislature and has enabled the DNR to tackle a decades-long backlog of state parks, recreation and trail system infrastructure and rehabilitation needs.

The funding, secured through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and



A new, fully accessible 900-foot-long boardwalk will soon replace this aging stairway structure that leads to one of the Upper Tahquamenon Falls viewing platforms.

aligned with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s Building Michigan Together Plan, will also support the construction of a new state park in Flint (Genesee County).

Virtual nursing initiatives aim to reduce job burnout

By ANNA ROSSOW
Capital News Service

LANSING — The implementation of virtual nursing programs in Michigan hospitals focuses on reducing nurse burnout.

Programs are being created and operated to combat shortages of health professionals by keeping nurses on staff and allowing them to connect with their patients virtually.

Several hospitals around the state have already introduced such programs.

Laura Appel, the Michigan Health & Hospital Association’s executive vice president, said there are 4,000 nursing slots that hospitals in the state would like to fill.

In addition to being stressful, the profession can be physically demanding. Nurses may be on their feet for long periods and may have to move and lift patients.

Jeff Breslin, a registered nurse at University of Michigan Health-Sparrow in Lansing and president of its Professional Employees Council, said the hospital is planning a virtual nurse program of its own.

He has been in the float pool his entire career, getting his assignments each morning and moving to multiple locations in the hospital.

“There will be a nurse that can connect to the rooms virtually,” said Breslin, a member of the board of directors of the Michigan Nurses Association, an Okemos-based union. “They will be set in a room someplace, off of the unit, where they will be able to monitor multiple patient rooms by TV monitor.”

“They’ll have the ability to click on and virtually enter those rooms so they can come up on the TV screen and talk to the patient and interact with the patient, see what the patient is doing, to help keep an eye on them,” he said.

Similarly, Munson Healthcare based in Traverse City began its Ask-A-Nurse program as a nurse hotline in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The hotline runs 24/7, 365 days a year, according to Bonnie Kruszka, the Ask-A-

Nurse chief operating officer for the Munson Physician Network.

She said Ask-A-Nurse serviced over 30,000 callers from all over the state in just one year.

The program lets nurses work from home to handle callers. Kruszka said the program combats nurse burnout by capturing “pre-call intention,” such as helping patients choose where to go for care.

Kruszka said nurses recommend a lower level of care than 40% of callers originally planned.

That reduces emergency department traffic, “ensuring that emergency services remain available for those who really need them,” said Kruszka. “It also saves the caller’s health care resources, connecting them with the right care in the right place.”

Breslin said Sparrow is pushing hard to ensure virtual nurses are still working on-site. He said allowing nurses to work from home may raise an array of questions.

“If you can do it from home, what’s to stop it from being done out of state or, potentially, even out of country?” Breslin said. “It gets very convoluted. From there, what standards would that virtual nurse be held to? Where do they need to be licensed? A whole host of other things.”

Differing virtual nursing programs mean different rules.

Kruszka said nurses participating from home must have a good WiFi connection.

“Although they might be tens or hundreds of miles apart, it goes into one call center, and it’s very seamless so a patient or a caller would never know that they were in a remote environment,” she said.

Breslin said one benefit of virtual nursing is the ability to keep experienced nurses with irreplaceable skills.

“We’ve got a lot of people that have gotten out of the profession because of the increased patient loads, not only with numbers, but the physical demand to take care of those patients,” Breslin said.

“They just don’t feel that they can keep up. They don’t feel that it’s worth the toll that it takes on them to stay at the bedside and continue to work,” he said.

In addition, experienced nurses often have more skills that newer employees do not have yet.

Breslin said Sparrow would like to have more experienced nurses participate in its trials.

“During the initial talks for the virtual nurse, we were looking to take some nurses who have been around longer, who may be struggling a little bit to keep up with the physical demands, and allow them to get into these positions where they would still be able to offer their knowledge, their expertise, their advice,” Breslin said.

Appel, the association executive, said

Trinity Health Michigan based in Livonia has its own virtual nursing program called TogetherTeam Virtual Connected Care.

Trinity began its program over a year ago, and Appel said it has nurses who want to keep working and taking care of patients without the physicality of the job.

Appel said virtual nursing is only part of reducing nurse burnout.

“We want to make sure that we’re getting enough staff,” said Appel. “We want to make sure that we’re addressing people’s needs, if they’re facing difficulties, such as people who are new to the hospital and getting accustomed to the workflow and things like that.”

“There’s a lot of things that go into reducing the stressors of being a nurse,” said Appel.



Community Flu Vaccination Clinics for 2024

@ Bay Mills Health Center (use front entrance)

Monday	October 21	10 AM to 1 PM
Friday	October 25	2 PM to 5 PM
Wednesday	October 30	8 AM to 11 AM
Tuesday	November 19	Noon to 2 PM
Monday	December 16	2 PM to 4 PM

Dates & times subject to change. 906-248-5527.



OPINION

By Danny Tyree

My parents used to talk about the county's farmers streaming into town on Saturday and shopping until midnight.

From my own childhood, I still remember Petula Clark's then-new song "Downtown" blaring from the radio at my hometown's first Dollar General Store (located about a block from the public square).

During junior high, I sketched a map of all the businesses and landmarks surrounding the courthouse. (You're right; that venture should have been a genuine chick magnet, but somehow I got the polarity reversed. Or maybe it was the fact that this one particular zit was bigger than the town's Civil War statue. At this late date, who knows?)

Alas, the nation's downtowns (or central business districts or "that tumbling tumbleweed wouldn't give me the right-of-way" zones) have faced cataclysmic obstacles in the ensuing decades.

Once upon a time, downtown reliably included drugstores, jewelers, shoe repair shops, a movie theater, a grocery store, "dry goods" stores, the "five-and-dime," churches and so much more.

A combination of parking problems, bypasses, strip malls, online ordering and budget-busting maintenance costs for century-old buildings has really done a number on downtown (and in extreme cases that number is "666").

True, a precious few communities haven't missed a step, maintaining diverse and thriving downtowns against all odds. Others fell into decay but managed to revitalize themselves with clean-up projects, boutiques, retro malt shops and themed festivals. ("Come for the rhododendrons. Stay for the explanation of why our founder wasn't so terrible as racist misogynists go.")

Others towns, however, continue to struggle year after year. Seriously, courthouse yards are supposed to be decorated with historic monuments — not humongous defibrillators. ("Clear! Clear! Mom! Pop! Keep that licorice-and-coal-bucket emporium open!")

Youngsters and newcomers may be baffled by the nostalgic emphasis on downtown tradition; but People of a Certain Age have earned the right to yearn for the simplicity of receiving real service at the shoe store, whittling for hours, paying the doctor with a chicken (when he sets the leg you broke trying to feed the parking meter in time), receiving a free asbestos-wrapped lollipop from the bank president and so on. Good times.

The more optimistic municipalities care enough to secure state/federal grants, motivate volunteers, spruce up the landscaping and subsidize squeamish entrepreneurs. They just have to keep their focus on the three big questions. "What are the core needs



of the populace? What resonates with tourists? What's in it for the mayor?"

One cringe-worthy aspect of the uphill battle is that some towns bite off more than they can chew (and the dentist is now way down by the interstate exit). They seem locked into a cycle of a new "once-in-a-lifetime chance to rebrand our town" every five years or so.

As the Good Book teaches, "Civic pride goeth before... putting on a wig and fake moustache and applying for yet another state/federal grant."

Or, if you're more into Chubby Checker, "Let's refurbish again like we did last summer. Let's refurbish again like we did last year. And the year before and..."

Don't give up if your initial efforts prove fruitless. Be creative. Throw everything against the wall and see what sticks.

"Aiiiee! We threw everything against the wall and the whole building collapsed! Can we posthumously sue the contractor who patched the leaky roof with materials from the five-and-dime? Find a lawyer who accepts eggs in payment..."

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades."

Tightening your belt until it hurts

By Jason Graves

In the current economy, when a visit to the grocery store requires a long-term financing plan, it has become clear that our family must find ways to spend less. This is especially challenging for us considering that we have two daughters in college, one daughter in private school, and three pets, all of whom seem determined to ensure that we won't be able to purchase hamburger meat without selling our plasma.

Our first step toward financial freedom, or at least parole, involved canceling our lawn service. Tragic, I know! This meant I had to exhume my vintage Craftsman push lawnmower that had been comfortably decomposing in our storage shed for the past three years, or so.

After replacing a spark plug, adding some oil of unknown origin, and praying for the souls of Briggs and Stratton, I had exhausted my vast knowledge of troubleshooting small combustion engines. So, I resorted to seeking help and risking ridicule from my mechanically inclined cousin. Unfortunately for me, he soon had me back to inhaling hydrocarbons, sweating profusely, and wishing for the good old days when I could compliment my lawn guy and go back inside to take another hit of aerosol whipped cream.

I had also forgotten about the toll mowing takes on my post-middle-aged carcass. When I finished the yard for the first time in a while, I felt like I had participated in an aggressive one-on-one match against U.S. Woman's Rugby Olympian Iona Maher... and lost...



badly. The next day, I could barely move — except to go to church in hopes that the sermon would focus on those verses about someday getting a new, glorified body that doesn't require a steady regimen of Tylenol and lying prone on our bedroom floor whining, instead of doing the lumbar stretches my doctor prescribed.

The cancellation of our weekly swimming pool service compounded my budgetary heartbreak. Gone were the Fridays when I could come home to crystal-clear pool water and a door hanger indicating that the pool had been brushed, vacuumed and tested by technicians who could do it without complaining to their wives that no one ever swims in the pool anymore — except for the occasional bullfrog, possum, or hyperactive (and not terribly bright) pet doglet

accidentally falling in while trying to chase our antique Polaris pool sweeper. I do admit that, nowadays, I sometimes strip down to take a brief dip in the pool after mowing, and I may or may not risk traumatizing the neighbors and being arrested by doing so in my underwear. Our final act of supreme sacrifice was to cancel most of our TV and movie

streaming services. This has probably been the easiest adjustment for me since I rarely had time to watch anything other than cable news networks, none of whom tell the whole story, so I had to watch all of them in order to get my blood pressure elevated properly. I do miss the nerve-induced nausea I experienced watching my beloved Texas A&M Aggies play football on TV, but I can almost get the same sensation that I'm about to toss my tacos by listening to the games on the radio.

The government has been assuring us lately that the economy is improving and inflation is declining, so I guess there is reason for hope. I just wish someone would tell the hamburger meat.

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Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. His columns have been featured in Texas Escapes magazine, The Shreveport Times, The Longview News Journal, and The Kilgore News Herald. Contact Graves at susanjase@sbcglobal.net.

Bay Mills News

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This publication is owned and operated by Bay Mills Indian Community. Opinions expressed on this page are those of the relevant contributors.

The next deadline is Thursday, Jan. 16 at 4 p.m.

Submissions may be emailed to: newspaper@baymills.org.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District's New Lock at the Soo project in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, awards \$222.7 million contract Option 3 (Chamber Lock Operational) to Kokosing Alberici Traylor, LLC (KAT) of Westerville, Ohio. The Option 3 award will allow for construction to proceed as required to have a fully functional lock. Option 3 includes construction of the lock floor, installation of the mechanical and electrical systems, completion of the filling and emptying system, placing soil in between the New Lock and old Davis Lock, and commissioning of the lock chamber.

Chamber Lock Operational Option 3 awarded for New Lock in Sault Ste. Marie

SAULT STE. MARIE — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District's New Lock at the Soo project in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, awards \$222.7 million contract Option 3 (Chamber Lock Operational) to Kokosing Alberici Traylor, LLC (KAT) of Westerville, Ohio.

The Option 3 award will allow for construction to proceed as required to have a fully functional lock.

"Option 3 includes construction of the lock floor, installation of the mechanical and electrical systems, completion of the filling and emptying system, placing soil in between the New Lock and old Davis Lock, and commissioning of the lock chamber," said Inland Navigation Design Center, New Lock at the Soo Technical Lead Darin White.

With the on-time award of Option 3, the project continues to be on track for completion in 2030.

The New Lock at the Soo project is being built in 3 phases. Phase 1 (Upstream Channel Deepening) was completed in 2022, and Phase 2 (Upstream Approach Walls) is nearing completion this summer. The Phase 3 contract was awarded to KAT in July 2022 as a base contract at \$1.068 billion. Awarding the base contract allowed the contractor to begin work in 2022 with the remaining work (contract options), to be awarded over the next three years.

"To date, Options 1A (Upstream Wide Wall Monoliths), 1B (Chamber Wall Monoliths), 1C (New Power Plant Bridge Ramp), 2 (New Pump Well Completion) and 7 (Alligator's Mouth Mooring Area) have been awarded, totaling \$503.7 million," said District Senior Civilian Kevin McDaniels. "The leadership team throughout the Corps of Engineers have made the New Lock at the Soo project a national priority and we have continued to see strong support

HACCP Training to be held Dec. 10-12 at Bay Mills Resort & Casino

BAY MILLS — GLIFWC will pay the \$160 HACCP Registration fee (which includes the course book), provide hotel rooms, and food and mileage reimbursements* for the following qualified participants:

— Any Lake Superior commercial fisherman licensed by Red Cliff, Bad River, Keweenaw Bay or Bay Mills.

— Adult family members of any Red Cliff, Bad River, Keweenaw Bay or Bay Mills licensed fisherman currently working at a family's fish shop.

— Any enrolled member from any GLIFWC member tribe (i.e. enrolled members of Fond du Lac, Mille Lacs, Red Cliff, Bad River, St. Croix, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Sokaogon, Lac Vieux Desert, Keweenaw Bay, and Bay Mills). This includes subsistence fishermen and those active in harvesting and processing fish

The costs for Tribal fisheries and conservation staff of GLIFWC member tribes will also be covered.

Participants must attend all three days to obtain the HACCP certificate and have their travel costs reimbursed by GLIFWC.

*After participants complete the three-day class, they will sign a GLIFWC travel form for mileage and per diem (meals) reimbursement based on Federal GSA rates.

You can find the application link online at www.baymills.org.

every step along the way."

Three contract options, totaling \$95.3 million, await to be awarded. These options are Option 4 (Downstream Work), Option 5 (Hands-Free Mooring), and Option 6 (Downstream Ship Arrestors). The Corps of Engineers aims to award these options over the next year.

Phase 3 construction began in late 2022, and is expected to last seven years, given efficient funding and favorable weather. The New Lock at the Soo will be constructed in the footprint of the Sabin Lock and will be the same size as the Poe Lock (1,200 feet long, 110 feet wide and 32 feet deep).

"The contractor has completed over \$400 million worth of work through the end of July 2024," said New Lock at the Soo Senior Project Manager Mollie Mahoney. "The contractor is demolishing existing concrete monoliths and beginning bedrock excavation in the footprint of the existing Sabin Lock. In the Davis Lock they are beginning excavating for the New Pump Well and preparing to fill the Davis Lock with excavated material. The contractor is also constructing a new bridge to the New Power Plant and a new utility access structure."

Additional activities planned to occur in 2024 include pump well substructure construction and new concrete monolith construction.

The Soo Locks allow vessels to transit the 21-foot elevation change at the St. Mary's Falls Canal. Over 88 percent of commodity tonnage through the Soo Locks is restricted by vessel size to the Poe Lock. The New Lock at the Soo project will construct a second Poe-sized lock.

The Soo Locks are essential to U.S. manufacturing and National Security, the New Lock at the Soo project will provide resiliency for this critical node in the Great Lakes Navigation System. A 2015 Department of Homeland Security study estimates a six-month Poe Lock closure would temporarily reduce the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) by \$1.1 trillion, resulting in the loss of 11 million jobs.

OPEN HOUSE

Meet the St Marys River Bi-National Public Advisory Council!

The St Marys River, Bahweting, is a place with long history, a place of great fishing, but also industrial pollution. Come learn about the St Marys River and history of clean-up efforts. The Bi-national Public Advisory Council (BPAC) is a group of partners dedicated to ensuring that the river water quality and the ecosystem are improved and protected for all users of the river. Hosted by Bay Mills Indian Community.

November 6, 2024 1:00pm- 5:00pm
Bay Mills Community College, Adikameg Hall (lower level)
12214 Lakeshore Dr Brimley, MI 49715

Progress on Clean-Up

- ✓ Tannery Bay sediment clean-up
- ✓ Soo, MI combined sewer system separated from storm water system
- ✓ Soo, ON sewer upgrades (Bellevue Park, East End WWTP)
- ✓ Sediment clean-up of Consumers Energy Manufactured Gas site
- ✓ Little Rapids Restoration
- ✓ Fish tumor and health survey results
- ☐ Upcoming: Whitefish Island Restoration

Discover more on our website <http://bpac.algomau.ca/>

Snacks and refreshments will be provided!
Presentations on river history, restoration efforts, status of the fisheries, and more!

BMIC to construct \$17 million solar array with EPA grant

BAY MILLS — The Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$17.3 million as part of Climate Pollution Reduction Grants to Bay Mills Indian Community. The funds will be utilized to create a solar array that will offset the community’s energy consumption, while promoting the renewable and sustainability goals of the State of Michigan.

BMIC has made a concerted effort over the past 6 years to understand their energy infrastructure and identify renewable energy solutions that will support their long-term sustainability goals. In addition to renewable energy efforts, BMIC has also adopted a “Green Buildings and Grounds Checklist” and conducted a Green Community Assessment.

“BMIC has dedicated significant effort to understanding our energy infrastructure and identifying renewable

energy solutions that align with our long-term sustainability goals.” said Brianna Gunka, planning manager. “This project goes beyond a commercial solar initiative — it’s about creating energy independence for BMIC while honoring the Tribe’s commitment to sustainability and protecting the future for the next seven generations.”

The energy produced from the solar array will create enough Renewable Energy Credits to completely offset the energy consumption of BMIC, making the community 100% renewable in their energy profile. This project will also serve as a revenue stream for the tribe.

Additionally, the solar array will support grid resilience in the Upper Peninsula by providing another long-term price stable generation project for electricity consumers. The tribe

plans to commence solar array construction and distribution system work on Sept. 1, 2025, with completion before the end of 2026.

“This project could not have happened without cooperation and assistance from many partners. Bay Mills Indian Community has worked closely with Cloverland Electric Cooperative to identify opportunities for renewable energy generation,” said Jennifer Satchell, environmental coordinator. “As EPA’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grants were rolling out, Michigan’s Department of Energy, Great Lakes and Environment provided technical assistance funding to several organizations who then collaborated with entities interested in submitting the grant applications. 5 Lakes Energy worked closely with us to write a compelling narrative and pro-

vided the required technical analysis needed for the application. Bay Mills Community College will also be a part of this project by creating a workforce development program to foster ongoing support and growth of the tribe’s renewable energy endeavors.”

EPA received more than 100 applications from tribal nations, tribal consortia, and territories requesting a total of more than \$1.3 billion in funding. EPA selected a total of 34 applicants to fund in a diverse range of projects. These selections mark a major milestone for the \$5 billion CPRG program, a program designed to catalyze ambitious climate pollution reduction measures designed by state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to achieve significant greenhouse gas reductions by 2030 and beyond.

BMIC launches dug out canoe

BAY MILLS — Chi miigwetch to Dwight Bucko Teeple, Jesse Bowen, Allyn Cameron, the Bay Mills Conservation Department, and all the community volunteers that helped construct Bay Mills’ own dug out canoe and birch bark canoe.

On Aug. 31, the canoe was launched on the water and shared teachings about the first jiimaan that traveled the waters of the Great Lakes.

Dugout canoes are made by hollowing out large logs such as cedar or pine, and are robust, durable, and ideal for navigating the rivers and lakes of the Great Lakes. Meanwhile, birch bark canoes are crafted by stretching sheets of birch bark over a lightweight cedar wooden frame, and ideal for their agility, speed, and portability. These canoes were fundamental for fishing, transportation, and trade, enabling ancestors to move swiftly across vast networks of waterways, connect with other communities, and access resources vital to our way of life.

Keeping the traditions of dugout and birch bark canoe-making alive is crucial for preserving tribal cultural heritage and identity.



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Ojibwe Charter School

Communities reimagine how to use cemetery spaces

By GABRIEL S. MARTINEZ/Capital News Service

LANSING — Cemeteries are providing new services to encourage community involvement, rethink burial practices and double as places that promote knowledge of local history and outdoor recreation.

Onelee Zartmen, a representative of Ridgeview Memorial Gardens in Grandville, the only certified green burial cemetery in western Michigan, says cemeteries are trending away from embalming practices and are doing more green burials because of practicality and cost.

“A traditional funeral is expensive because of the cost of the coffin. Do you get a fancy coffin or a simple coffin? Either way, it’s an expensive purchase. Then you got the vault and the space at the site, so a funeral can easily cost \$17,000,” Zartmen said.

“While a lot of people think cremations are the budget way to go, there are some negatives,” she said. Those include carbon dioxide pollution created by a crematorium.

With traditional funerals, the use of toxic embalming chemicals such as formaldehyde and methanol have raised environmental and health concerns.

“People are starting to clue in on that,” Zartmen said. “I know someone that put their mom’s cremains in a cookie jar, and they talk to mom everyday.”

“Well, that’s kind of creepy, so they don’t have anywhere to put the cremains. When you consider all of that, you start to wonder, what’s the alternative?” she said.

Green burials provide a natural option that doesn’t include toxic substances.

Such burials use shrouds and plywood caskets and don’t require a concrete vault.

The process allows a body to decompose naturally without harming the environment.

Cindy Dodge, a cemetery expert and contractor for the Michigan Townships Association, says she’s working to hold historical events at cemeteries that engage community residents and help make cemeteries financially self-sustaining.

Municipal cemeteries cost a lot and take tax money that could be used for services such as roads, sewers and fire protection, Dodge said.

“One way for cemeteries to become more self-sustaining is by making them part of the parks and recreation plan and do events in them,” she said, and they can be included in local trail systems.

Cemeteries also educate the public about community history and provide more green space, Dodge said.

Clinton Grove Cemetery in Macomb County’s Clinton Township was founded

in 1855 and has added a green burial section.

Tina Wunderlich, the general manager of Clinton Grove, said the cemetery’s board recently discussed ways to attract community residents to use the cemetery for historical events.

“We are all about promoting the history of the area,” Wunderlich said. “We work with the Crocker House Museum (in Mt. Clemens) and just did a historical walk honoring the first volunteer firefighters of Mt. Clemens.”

“We are rich in local history, and this is a place where genealogy is huge. We have Revolutionary War soldiers here, so people do love to come here for the history,” she said. “We are more than just a green cemetery.”

Updated 2024-2025 vaccine recommendation

The CDC recommends everyone ages 6 months and older receive an updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine to protect against the potentially serious outcomes of COVID-19 this fall and winter whether or not they have ever previously been vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine.

The virus that causes COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, is always changing and protection from COVID-19 vaccines declines over time. Receiving an updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine can restore and enhance protection against the virus variants currently responsible for most infections and hospitalizations in the United States. COVID-19 vaccination also reduces the chance of suffering the effects of Long COVID, which can develop during or following acute infection and last for an extended duration.

Last season, people who received a 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine saw greater protection against illness and hospitalization than those who did not receive a 2023-2024 vaccine. To date, hundreds of millions of people have safely received a COVID-19 vaccine under the most intense vaccine safety monitoring in United States history.

CDC also recommends everyone six months of age and older, with rare exceptions, receive an updated 2024-2025 flu vaccine to reduce the risk of influenza and its potentially serious complications this fall and winter.

Most people need only one dose of the flu vaccine each season. While CDC recommends flu vaccination as long as influenza viruses are circulating, September and October remain the best times for most people to get vaccinated.

Bay Mills Health Center has both flu and COVID-19 vaccines available.



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On Oct. 4 students from Ojibwe Charter School enjoyed the outdoors at Monocle Lake. The lesson of the day was to learn about their local watershed. Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan received a competitive grant in 2023 to support this work, as part of the first Great Lakes B-WET for Indigenous Communities competition. Bay Mills Biological Services was also a partner in this field trip.



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Returning Club members must have a new Club application turned in and their Club dues paid by Friday, November 1st.

After November 1st, Club members cannot return back to Club until they update their application and their Club dues are paid.

Club Applications can be picked up at any of our three Clubhouses or online at www.baymills.org/boys-girls-club.



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Bay Mills Club - Brimley Club
C.A.M.P. Extension (Chippewa Allied Mentoring Program)

BMIC honors those lost to boarding schools with local events



The orange shirt is inspired by Phyllis (Jack) Webstad's experience of having her orange shirt, given to her by her grandmother, taken away upon arrival to the Mission school. The orange color reminded Webstad of her experience and "how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared."



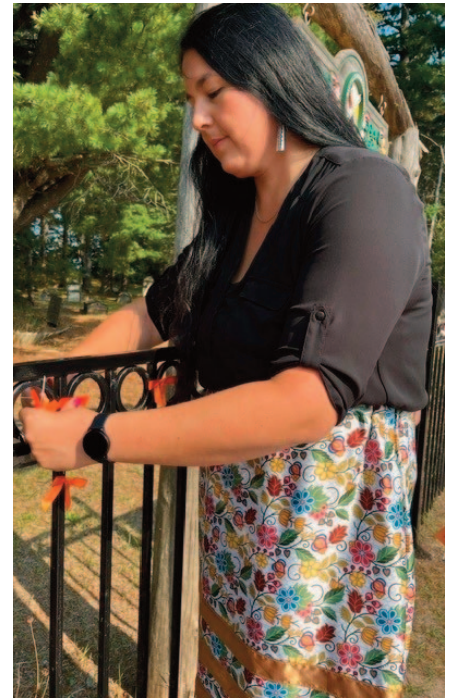
BAY MILLS — On Sept. 4, Bay Mills Social Services gathered for the Second Annual Every Child Matters Ceremony. The ceremony is to honor those who have gone through the dark times that were brought to tribal nations through the boarding school systems.

"To this day we acknowledge these times of hardships our ancestors faced so that we could be here today. Boarding schools tried to strip us of our language, culture, and families but on this day, we reminded them that we are still here," said Autumn Charles, family spirit liason with BMIC Social Services.

Taking part in the event were members from the community, including Whitney Gravelle, BMIC tribal president,

and the Bay Mills Police Department. Gravelle gave an opening speech and BMPD made sure everyone was able to cross the road safely to the Indian Burial Ground fence where the fence decorating ceremony was held. Orange ribbons were tied upon the fence to serve as a reminder of our ancestors.

On Sept. 30, students at Ojibwe Charter School and Bay Mills Community College took part in Orange Shirt Day. Orange Shirt Day was established in 2013. Orange Shirt Day initiated, and continues to allow for, conversations about residential schools on an international scale, and allows for meaningful discussions of the impacts and legacies of residential schools.



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Walking On

Brenda Marie Leigh

It is with great sadness that the family of Brenda (Solko) Leigh announces her sudden passing, due to a severe stroke on Oct. 5, 2024. She was born on Nov. 20, 1954, to James Leigh and Adeline Gregg.

Brenda brought immeasurable joy and light into all of our lives with her kind heart, radiant smile and boundless energy that lit up every room she walked in. She loved everything outdoors, especially gardening in her many flower beds that are enjoyed by everyone. But above all, she loved her time on the “Big Lake” (Lake Superior) taking in the views, collecting rocks and just enjoying the simple things in life.

Brenda is survived by her soulmate and husband of nearly three decades, Jim Solko; brothers, Mike Leigh and John (Kathy) Leigh; sisters, Donna (Jim) Greenfield, Paula Boutillier, Renee Crisp, Cindy (Randy McKinney) Leigh, and Rhonda (Joe) Cottelit; many nieces and nephews as well as other family and friends whose lives she touched and who will all miss her dearly.

Brenda was preceded in death by parents, James and Adeline; brother, Chuck Leigh; and nephew Bobby.

Per Brenda’s wishes there will be no funeral, however the family will have a Celebration of Life.

All who cherished Brenda are welcome to join her family at the VFW, 401 W Portage Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, on Oct. 19, 2024, from 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. We will share stories, laughter and tears just as Brenda would have wished. Please bring a dish to pass if possible.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family.

James “Jim” Ronald Moore

James “Jim” Ronald Moore, 74, passed away peacefully on Oct. 8, 2024, at MyMichigan Medical Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He was born on June 27, 1950, in Altmar, New York, to Orville and Wilma Moore.

Jim served in the United States Coast Guard from 1969- 1989, where he retired at the Sault Ste. Marie post. He then started working for the Michigan Department of Corrections in 1989 and he retired in 2008. In January 2013, he became the Kinross Township Supervisor up until his passing.

Jim was involved in many different Clubs and Organizations such as, Chippewa County Shooting Association (CCSA), 4-H Youth Shooting Club, Chippewa County Health Department Board of Directors, Hiawatha Behavioral Health Board of Directors, Chippewa County Commissioner, Chippewa County EDC Board of Directors, Chippewa County Airport Board of Directors, Kinross Township Trustee, MI Township Association, Kinross Township Supervisor and more.

Jim enjoyed spending all of his free time outdoors! Most of all, he had a passion for hunting and shooting.

Jim is survived by his wife of 54 years, Elyse Moore of Kincheloe; daughters, Carolyn (Clint) Hall and Melissa (David) Atkinson; granddaughter, Tynecia (Jerry) Turley; grandsons, Tyler (Allison) Wilke and Cohnor Hall; brother, Robert “Bob” (Pam) Moore of Tawas; and sister, Joanne Blair of Sandy Creek, of New York.

A Celebration of Life for Jim will be held by his family at the Kinross Township Hall, 4884 W. Curtis St. Kincheloe, MI 49788, on Oct. 26, 2024, from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please send Memorial Contributions in memory of Jim to, CCSA, 6710 S. Ridge Rd. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. (website: <https://chippewa-countyshootingassociation.com/>)

Beverly (Bev) Jane Nesseth

Beverly (Bev) Jane Nesseth, 81, of Barron, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 at home surrounded by her family.

Bev was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. on March 19, 1943 to Walter and Bertha (Campbell) Albrough. She graduated from Brimley High School and went on to college to pursue nursing.

Bev married Raymond Nesseth on Aug. 22, 1964 and went on to raise four children, while moving to Barron. Bev had a long struggle with dementia but never forgot any of her family and friends’ names. She was one of a kind, a sweet and very “spicy” lady. Our Mom was fiercely devoted to her kids and grandkids and was always the loudest fan at all of their sports games.

She loved spending time at the lake, playing cards, crocheting, watching and playing sports, pitching on a softball team, square dancing, gardening, and baking amazing pies and cakes. What Bev loved most, was to be surrounded by her family and friends.

She is survived by her four children. Her son, Mark, daughters, Kari (Mark) Nesseth-Klein, Shawn (Kevin) Nesseth-Lipke, Sonya (Jason) Young; nine grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and one on the way.

Bev is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ray; many siblings, June (Bill) Streeter, Donna (John) Weiland, Deed and Ralph Albrough; nephew, David Ladd; nieces, Kathy and Marion Albrough, and Carol Streeter.

A Celebration of Life for Bev will be at the VFW in Barron, Wisconsin on Sunday, Nov. 10 starting at 1 p.m.

Arrangements are being handled by Rausch and Steel Funeral Home in Barron. Online condolences can be made at www.rauschandsteelfuneralhome.com.



Raelynn Grace Sweeney

Our sweet baby girl, Raelynn Grace Sweeney, made her arrival into this world on Sept. 17, 2024, at 7 a.m. She was born and received into the arms of Jesus, her Heavenly Father.

Raelynn was a lively girl full of energy in the womb. This was clearly seen and felt, as her mama would feel her kick rambunctiously, and as we also got to watch her doing flips and waving to us on a couple of ultrasounds.

Our hearts are completely shattered, and we feel broken into a million tiny little pieces that will never be made whole again until our Heavenly Father calls us home to be with Him and our daughter. And so, we cling to this hope—the hope and faith we have in knowing Jesus and that we will see our precious baby girl again.

Raelynn’s mama was brought peace through Jesus during labor, as she prayed aloud and was reminded of Job 1:21, “...The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.” God is still good and still worthy, even when it doesn’t seem like it and we don’t understand during our darkest hours and seasons of life. And so, we will still praise Him.

Raelynn Grace is survived by her loving parents, Jordan and Miranda Sweeney, and her big brother, Maverick, who loved her from the start and couldn’t wait to hold her and rock her.

She is also survived by her grandparents who loved her dearly, Brian and Marcella Reattoir, Lindy and Raya Hunt, and David and Susan Sweeney; great-grandparents, Judy Reattoir, Marilyn Sweeney, Janette Renaud, and Jim and Jodi Hamel; aunts and uncles, Jason (Courtney) Sweeney, Ashley Sweeney, Christian Reattoir, Trey (Hope) Paquin, Hossack Sweeney; and many cousins and other relatives who loved her and were ecstatic to meet her.

She is preceded in death by her great-grandparents, Gerald and Marilyn Jewett, Daniel Reattoir, Michael Sweeney, and Fred Renaud, along with other loved ones in our extended family.

We ask for continued prayers as we navigate our new life without our daughter in our arms. We love you forever and will always remember you, Raelynn Grace. Raelynn's life will continue in Heaven with Jesus. Her physical body will be laid to rest at Cedar Cemetery in Cedarville, Michigan.

In lieu of Flowers, Raelynn’s family asks that any Memorial Contribution be sent to Jordan and Miranda Sweeney at 7533 S Piche Rd., Brimley, MI 49715. This will be used to help with related expenses and/or will be put towards a good cause.

More high school students take advantage of personal curriculum

LANSING – A growing number of the state’s high school students are using a personal curriculum to take courses aligned to their post-high school educational and professional goals while completing the Michigan Merit Curriculum high school graduation requirements.

During the 2022-23 school year, 12,840 Michigan students had a personal curriculum, which represented 2.7% of students. That’s up from 9,656 students, or 1.9% of students, five years earlier.

“So you’re looking at 3,200 more young people who had a personal curriculum in the 2022-23 school year compared to five years before that, an increase of about one-third,” State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice said. “The personal curriculum gives more children more opportunities to pursue what they need in life.”

State Board of Education members received an update about the personal curriculum during a recent meeting.

The personal curriculum option also improves students’ attendance and chances of graduating, said Ms. Rashell Bowerman, educational consultant for the Michigan Department of Education Office of Educational Supports.

The personal curriculum aligns with the Michigan Merit Curriculum, which ensures that all students who earn a diploma, at a minimum, have demonstrated proficiency with the content outlined by the state aca-

demie standards or guidelines. The personal curriculum is a process to modify specific content expectations or credit requirements based on the individual learning needs of a student. It is designed to serve students who want to accelerate or go beyond Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements and students who need to individualize learning requirements to meet the requirements.

“The personal curriculum contributes to Goal 5 of Michigan’s Top 10 Strategic Education Plan, to increase the percentage of students who graduate from high school,” said Dr. Delsa Chapman, deputy superintendent of MDE’s Division of Assessment, School Improvement, and Systems Support.

The purpose of a personal curriculum is to align students’ high school courses and experiences with their educational development plan and post-high school career plan. Students will have a course of study that aligns with their passions and goals. MDE officials emphasize that a personal curriculum is not a way to remove courses that are too difficult or that a student does not want to take, or a last-minute decision to help a student graduate.

For example, a student might waive credit in a non-core content area by taking extra credit in core areas or completing a career and technical education program.

While personal curricula are for students both with and without disabilities, they can

be particularly important for students with disabilities. In such cases, the personal curriculum needs to align both to the student’s education development plan – which is the plan created by all students in Michigan mapping out their educational and career

goals – and the individualized education program – which is a written document for students with disabilities that outlines their educational needs and goals and any programs and services that will be provided to help the student make educational progress.

First round of student loan repayments awarded to more than 9,500 educators

LANSING – More than 9,500 educators from over 500 Michigan school districts are receiving the first payments from the Student Loan Repayment Program, the Michigan Department of Education announced.

Over \$19.2 million is being awarded through applicant school districts and intermediate school districts.

The program is funded with \$225 million in the 2024 State School Aid Act, Michigan Compiled Law (MCL) 388.1627k, that was approved by the legislature and signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. The program is intended to provide direct financial assistance to educators who are paying on student loans under the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. Eligible program participants in Michigan’s Student Loan Repayment Program receive up to \$200 per month, or \$400 per month if their employer is assigned to Band 6 in the opportunity index, in which at least 85% of pupils in the district or intermediate district are economically disadvantaged.

Public Act 120 of 2024 streamlines the application process for Michigan’s Student Loan Repayment Program. As a result of this change, participants will submit future applications through a vendor-developed online portal. Information about this transition will be posted on the Michigan Department of Education Student Loan Repayment Program website in the coming months.

Earlier this month, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona during a visit to Michigan discussed the importance of repaying educators’ loans.

The Student Loan Repayment Program is one of several successful efforts in Michigan to address teacher shortages over the last 2 ½ years that were approved by the legislature and signed into law by Gov. Whitmer.

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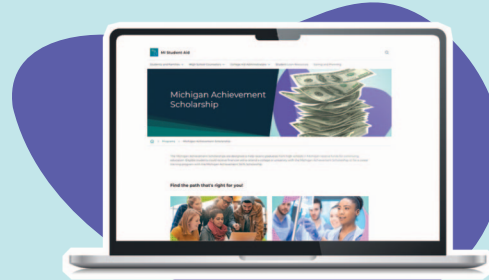


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Community colleges' vocational skills programs boost student employability

By VICTOR WOODDELL
Capital News Service

LANSING – Community colleges across Michigan are offering skills-focused education to help students in rural areas find employment in the state and elsewhere.

And such programs are badly needed, said Rep. Tom Kunse, R-Clare.

“My district is the most economically depressed district in the state,” Kunse says. “We are dealing with ‘Appalachian-style’ poverty – it’s generational.”

While the number of total jobs in major metropolitan areas in Michigan increased by over 183,000 between 2006 and 2023, rural counties lost over 41,000 jobs in the same period, according to a report by Rural Insights, an Upper Peninsula nonprofit research group, and data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

According to Kunse, the most important policy issue by far has always been the economy. “We need good jobs,” he says.

There is a path to good jobs, Kunse said, and that is through career technical education. “If you want to make \$100,000 in Michigan, be a welder.” “That is the path out,” says Kunse. “That is how we are going to break some of these cycles.”

Scott Mertes is the provost of academic affairs at Mid Michigan College in Harrison and Mount Pleasant, which offers career technical education.

“We have a career center that helps students find internships and jobs and helps prepare them for things like career fairs, resume writing and collects dress clothes for those who don’t have

funds to buy them, in addition to career selection and placement,” he said. Mid Michigan College’s advisory board helps identify the skills that most employers are looking for from its graduates, he said.

That often leads to industry partnerships such as the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3), a coalition of employers around the country that have set up certificates that Mid Michigan College has incorporated into its curriculum, he said. The college has issued 590 such certifications since 2018.

“As the student takes a class, they are able to be certified in these skills, and those certifications go with them as they apply for jobs, even if they cannot complete the academic degree,” said Mertes.

Mid Michigan College also offers academic degrees including advanced integrated manufacturing, automotive and welding.

These can lead to jobs with employers including Festo USA, an industrial robot manufacturer based in Troy, he said, or NC3 partner FANUC America, another industrial robot manufacturer based in Rochester, he said.

“Most of our students do want to stay local. We host the Central Michigan Manufacturers Association on our

campus, including 130 local manufacturers, and we partner with them to gauge what they are looking for,” said Mertes.

Finally, Mid Michigan offers a career technical education dual enrollment curriculum in local high schools. Dual enrollment programs offer high school students the opportunity to take free college-level courses in their own school which count toward academic degrees offered on campus.

Roy Smith is the lead instructor for Utility Tech, a program at Alpena Community College that trains students in power line installation and repair.

Smith said the program tends not to attract the typical college student who seeks a four-year degree right out of high school.

“More typically it’s a worker who is very good with their hands and loves to work outdoors,” he said.

Alpena Community College also offers a one year-certificate program and an advanced certificate option that allows students to become apprentice linemen with Consumers Energy.

Other options are a two-year associate of science degree and a four-year bachelor of science degree in electrical systems technology.

Job outcomes for recent students in the program have been good, he says.

“If they are willing to move away from their hometowns, they pretty much all get jobs.”

Utility Tech typically enrolls about 60 students annually. Of them, Smith estimates that Consumers Energy alone has taken 15 to 20 for the last several years. LeCom Utility Contractors, a fiber optic and electrical line construction contractor based in Warren, has been hiring another 20 a year.

“We have the best success rate placing them when they graduate of any technical program in Michigan,” he said.

Bay Mills Township **Recreation Plan 2025 – 2029**

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Project update: Chippewa Landing Brownfields Clean Up

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Indian Community acquired Chippewa Landing, located on Bay Mills Point, in 2021. Chippewa Landing is a brownfield site, which is a property whose future use is affected by environmental contamination. The current buildings contain asbestos and lead based paint and the ground is contaminated by petroleum due to an underground fuel pipe that had leaked in the past. As part of the cleanup process, the current septic system and lift station will be removed following Chippewa County Health Department guidelines.

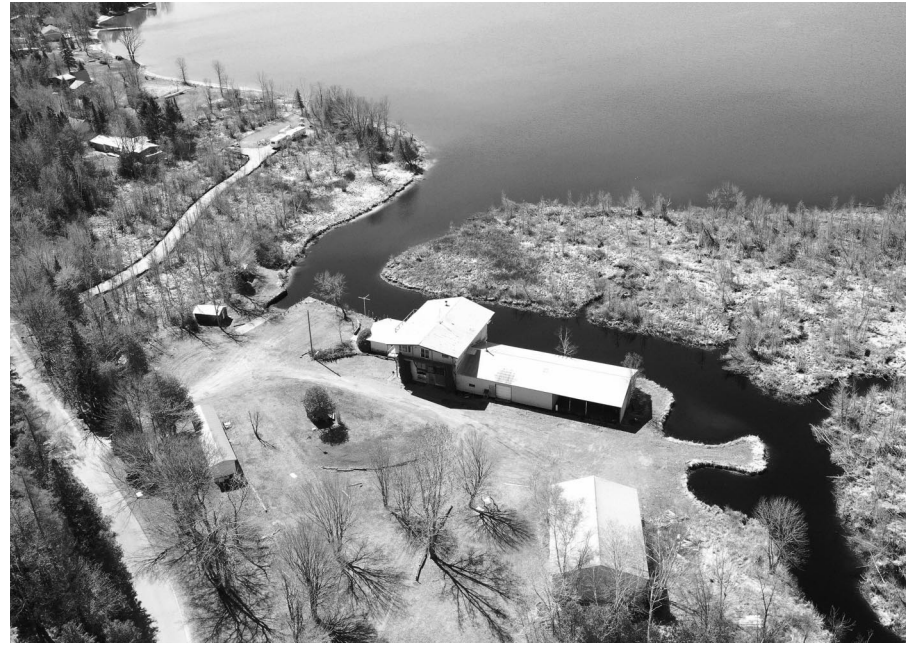
BMIC was awarded an Environmental Protection Agency Clean Up grant through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to address the environmental concerns at Chippewa Landing. At this time, the project is behind schedule. The Tribe is waiting to hear back on a Joint Permit, which requires review from both US Army Corps of Engineers and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. EGLE has provided their input on the Joint Permit, USACE has not yet responded.=

Completed steps to date include:

- A qualified environmental firm has been hired to oversee the clean up project.
- An asbestos abatement contractor has been hired to safely demolish the buildings.
- An environmental contractor has been secured to address the petroleum contamination in the soil.
- A Quality Assurance Project Plan has been finalized and approved by EPA.

BMIC hopes to demolish the buildings yet this fall and address the soil contamination in December. However, weather and the permitting process may delay these activities until 2025. After the contaminants have been removed, the site will be monitored for up to a year to ensure the site is meeting the State of Michigan clean up criteria levels.

A clean up plan and many other documents related to the Chippewa Landing clean up are available for anyone to view by accessing the Chippewa Landing Brownfield Clean Up Project: Information Repository located on BMIC's



Brownfields webpage: <https://www.baymills.org/brownfields>. A hard copy of these documents are available at the Tribal Administration office located at 12140 W. Lakeshore Drive, Brimley, MI 49715. Questions can be directed to BMIC's Environmental Coordinator: Jennifer Satchell at 906-248-8655 or jmsatchell@baymills.org

A Brownfields and Dump Site Clean-up Update Lunch-n-Learn will be held at the new Tribal Administration building conference room on Nov. 6 from noon – 1 p.m. This will include information on recent projects including the former laundry and hair salon building and hardware store in Brimley, Chippewa Landing, Silver Dome, Sugar Island dump site at the corner of 8 Mile Rd and Homestead Rd, Gumshoes pallet trail and other sites. Please RVSP to Jen Satchell by Nov. 1, at 906-248-8655 or jmsatchell@baymills.org if you plan to attend so that enough food will be provided for attendees.

LSSU launches 'STEP UP' Prison Education Program

SAULT STE. MARIE — Lake Superior State University has announced the launch of its prison education program, 'STEP UP' (Success Through Educational Pathways in the UP), the first program of its kind in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The STEP UP program is designed to extend educational opportunities to an underserved population, offering participants the chance to earn an Associate Degree in Small Business Administration.

The program features a full-time curriculum, including summer semesters, and provides a high-quality educational experience. STEP UP is intended to equip individuals with essential skills for personal and professional development while providing valuable knowledge in business, finance, management, and entrepreneurship.

This fall, 20 incarcerated students at the Chippewa Correctional Facility (URF) will embark on this transformative educational journey.

"We are excited to collaborate with the Michigan Department of Corrections, whose support has been invaluable in making this transformative opportunity possible," said Dr. David Travis, President of Lake Superior State University. "Our partnership with other universities and colleges through MiCHEP (Michigan Consortium for Higher Education in Prison), of which LSSU is a member, has helped establish standards for providing higher education to this community."

The development of the STEP UP program began in 2022, with LSSU securing approval from the Higher Learning Commission and the Michigan Department of Corrections for its

implementation. Approval for the Associate Degree in Small Business Administration was granted in February 2024, and the program has since enrolled its first cohort of 20 students scheduled to graduate in Summer 2026.

"The ripple effects of this program will be felt for generations. Lake State is proud to support communities across the state of Michigan as research has shown that higher education in prison significantly reduces recidivism rates," said Marc Boucher, the director of Library and Academic Services at LSSU.

STEP Up is made possible by the restoration of Pell Grant funding for incarcerated students through Congress' passing of the 2021 FAFSA Simplification Act. This change restored access to federal aid by allowing incarcerated students to receive

Federal Pell Grant funding which they had lost in 1994.

"I've been here for ten years and spent every moment of every day trying to figure out how to make time go by faster. Since the start of the semester, I've wanted time to slow down, I want more time to study, read, learn, and work on homework." a participant from the STEP UP program shared.

The launch of STEP UP underscores LSSU's unwavering commitment to expanding educational opportunities and providing essential resources for personal and professional growth in the Upper Peninsula.

If you are interested in supporting the STEP UP program, you can make a donation by visiting <https://advancement.lssu.edu/give-today/> and selecting the support category 'STEP UP'.










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October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Triumph Over Trauma

Justice is Restored Holding Perpetrators Accountable

It is important to recognize that our relatives are struggling to heal from generations of trauma stemming from colonization, forced relocation, genocide, the abduction of children and babies carted off to more than 350 government-funded boarding schools and countless non-Native foster homes which caused irreparable harm to Native American and Alaska Native communities.

“When we call attention to Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we must not forget the path Tribal nations have been on for centuries,” concluded Jump. “Until Native American history is told in truth and totality we must continue to tell our stories of triumph over trauma.”

To read the full story “Triumph Over Trauma Justice Is Restored” visit our website at www.strongheartshelpline.org

StrongHearts advocates are available 24/7 and can provide:

- Peer support and advocacy
- Information and education about domestic and sexual violence
- Personalized safety planning
- Crisis intervention
- Referrals to Native-centered service providers
- General information about jurisdiction and legal advocacy referrals
- Basic information about health options
- Support finding crisis centers trained in the care of survivors of sexual assault



Talk or Text 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483)

Chat online at www.strongheartshelpline.org

We envision a return to our traditional lifeways where our relatives are safe, violence is eradicated and sacredness is restored.



STRONGHEARTS
Native Helpline

**Domestic Violence Is
Never Okay**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is conducting Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance in the surrounding area including Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft counties. BMIC Biological Services Department is assisting in this surveillance by collecting lymph nodes from deer harvested by BMIC members. Chronic Wasting Disease is a deadly disease in cervids such as deer, elk, and moose, that affects the brain and nervous system. CWD is caused by a contagious, misshapen protein (prion) and spreads through animals via direct contact (saliva or feces) and can stay in the environment for years. If you are a BMIC member interested in testing your deer for CWD, call 906-248-8651 to submit the head. First 14 receive a \$30 Meijer gift card!

For more information about MDNR CWD testing visit this website: <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/wildlife/wildlife-disease/disease-monitoring/cwd/cwd-testing>

Questions? Call 906-248-8651 or email mverch@baymills.org for more information

BMIC Members reminded about Purchased Referred Care

If you or a family member seek emergency medical care you must inform the office within 72 hours of your care by calling them to get help with payment. Elders have up to 30 days to contact PRC. This includes visits to the emergency room or use of an ambulance. You can reach them by contacting 906-248-8326.

Have you moved? Update your address!

Bay Mills Tribal Enrollment office asks all tribal citizens to maintain a current address with their office. An online form can be found at www.baymills.org.

Walking path is closed to motorized vehicles

BMIC has developed a pedestrian/bicycle path connecting both sides of the Reservation. This path is for pedestrians and bicyclists only, and our existing tribal ordinances prohibit motorized vehicles from using this path. Signs have been posted. Please be aware that BMPD has been directed to strictly enforce this rule along that pathway to protect walkers, runners, cyclists, and the path itself. If you ride an ATV, ORV, dirt bike, motorcycle, golf cart, etc on this path, you should expect to receive a ticket and pay a fine. per@baymills.org as well to be posted on the calendar.

Bay Mills Community College events

Bay Mills Community College will host a pow wow on Saturday, Nov. 2. Additional information will be posted on their Facebook page.

The 40th Annual Fall Feast will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 11:45 a.m. in the lower level of BMCC. Staff, students and community members are welcome to attend. Please bring a dish to pass.

Cannabis Regulatory Commission has three vacancies

The Bay Mills Cannabis Regulatory Commission meets on a monthly basis. The term for this vacancy is from appointment date through Dec. 31, 2028.

Exclusions of Commissioners: At the time of appointment a Commissioner shall not

1. Be an employee of any entity owned and operated by Northern Light Cannabis Company;
2. Be a member of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission staff; or
3. Have a spouse, parent, step-parent, child, step-child, sibling, or other immediate family on the Business Holding Board, Cannabis Regulatory Commission Staff, a Primary Management Official, or employee of Northern Light Cannabis Company. For purposes of this subsection a "Primary Management Official" is a person operating as the chief executive of Bay Mills Business Holdings and "immediate family" is as identified herein and also includes any individual who resides in the household of the person under consideration.
4. An applicant who is otherwise prohibited from being considered under this subsection may apply to the Bay Mills Business Holdings Board of Directors for a waiver of conflict. Candidates must pass a background investigation, be at least 21 years of age and be a member of the Bay Mills Indian Community.

If you would like to be considered to fill this vacancy, please contact Beth Hill for a Cannabis Regulatory Commission application and any questions you may have. All applications must be turned in by Dec. 1, 2024. Please contact Beth Hills at bmhill@baymills.org.



Stay Healthy This Fall



Vaccinate against the Flu

2024 INFLUENZA VACCINE SCHEDULE

10/21 10:00 - 1:00 | Bay Mills Health Center

10/25 2:00 - 5:00 | Bay Mills Health Center

10/30 8:00 - 11:00 | Bay Mills Health Center

11/19 12:00 - 2:00 | Bay Mills Health Center

12/16 2:00 - 4:00 | Bay Mills Health Center

PLEASE KNOW ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



COMMON LEGAL MISTAKES MADE BY BUSINESSES

Presented by **VARNUM**

ABOUT

Hosted by Varnum Law, these seminars will focus on the common legal mistakes businesses make. Registration is required for each event, as lunch, dinner or snacks are included.

This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number SLFRP0127 awarded to the State of Michigan by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

10.23 City of Sault Ste. Marie EDC
2345 Meridian Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
12 to 2 p.m. Lunch will be served.

10.24 Luce County EDC
14150 Co. Road 428
Newberry, MI 49868
9 to 11 a.m. Breakfast will be served

10.23 Kewadin Casino Convention Center
2186 Shunk Road
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783
5 to 7 p.m. Dinner will be served.

10.24 Kewadin Casino
3015 Mackinac Trail
St. Ignace, MI 49781
2 to 4 p.m. Snacks will be served

Scan the QR code to Register

This event is being provided free of charge to Michigan Small Businesses. All others are welcome to attend but will require a registration charge.

Give Your Child a Good Start ... with Head Start!

The Bay Mills Child Development Center
is currently accepting
applications for the upcoming school year.



**For more information, please call
Andrea Shaw at 248-8700.**

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