

BMIC breaks ground on multi-use building

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Indian Community held a groundbreaking ceremony on June 22 to kick off construction of a new mixed-used building at the site of the former Kings Club Casino. The former casino/tribal administration building, located on Lakeshore Drive, was demolished last year to make way for the project.

The project, dubbed the Kings Re-Development, will provide nine second-floor apartments (a mix of studio, one bedroom, and two bedroom units) and five retail spaces on the ground floor. BMIC’s Zibii Mart (also known as AOT/RiverMart) will move to this new location, leaving four retail spaces for rent. According to the general contractor, Immel, each floor will be 6,400 square feet for a total of 12,800 feet, with 76 parking spots available for tenants and customers.

“We’ve already received strong interest from individuals and businesses looking to be part of this development, which speaks to the need for both housing and commercial space in our area,” said BMIC President Whitney

Gravelle. “This project reflects the vision of our membership and our continued commitment to strengthening the local economy while honoring our history.”

Foundation work will run through July of this year, with the second story framing of the structure coming together by September. The exterior facade will feature custom woodwork with aluminum storefronts.

The price tag for the project is estimated at \$8 million, with \$2 million from Indian Community Development Block Grant funds and the USDA Rural Development Grant allocating \$300k toward the project. DSGW Architects designed the building, and Immel Construction will build it, with a target completion date of Spring 2027.

“This groundbreaking represents another important step in transforming a place that holds tremendous significance for Bay Mills Indian Community,” said Gravelle. “The former Kings Club site helped lay the foundation for our Tribe’s economic growth



and self-determination. Today, we are building on that legacy by creating new housing opportunities, supporting local businesses, and investing in a vibrant space that will serve our community for generations to come."

Mark your calendars for the Superior Whitefish Festival

BAY MILLS – The Superior Whitefish Festival returns to Bay Mills Indian Community on Saturday, July 25. Residents and visitors alike will gather for the day to celebrate one of the Upper Peninsula’s most treasured resources, the whitefish, and the cultural significance surrounding it.

“Whitefish has long been an important part of life in our region,” said Whitney Gravelle, BMIC president. “This festival is an opportunity to celebrate that heritage and share the stories, traditions, and experiences that we enjoy.”

The festival will be held along the shores of Lake Superior and will highlight the cultural, historical, and economic importance of whitefish to the region. Attendees will enjoy a day filled with activities that includes cultural demonstrations, live entertainment, food, and various vendor booths.

The family-friendly event is open to all ages and free to attend.

For additional information, event schedules, vendor opportunities, or sponsorship information, please contact tribal administration at 906-248-8100 or visit www.destinationbaymills.com.

Lane closure on International Bridge for maintenance work

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. – One lane of alternating traffic will be open on a portion of the Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge this summer during ongoing maintenance work, including painting of the lower U.S. arch steel and bridge deck resurfacing.

A portion of one lane on the south side of the U.S. arch and U.S bridge approach will be closed due to the work and staging of necessary equipment. One lane of alternating traffic will be maintained using temporary traffic signals.

The lane closure will be in place from Monday through Thursday each week. All lanes will be open Friday through Sunday. Maintenance work is expected to be completed by the end of August. Motorists should expect brief delays.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Superior Whitefish Festival

BAY MILLS, MICHIGAN

JULY 25, 2026

12099 Lakeshore Dr.
Brimley, Michigan

Food, live bands, games, prizes, and family fun! Celebrate whitefish, Great Lakes treaty fishing, and the traditions that honor our heritage.

Chairperson’s Report

By BMIC President Whitney Gravelle

This week, the Executive Council undertook major financial planning decision with the development and creation of a Long Term Investment Fund for Bay Mills Indian Community. This is a historic step toward strengthening the financial future, stability, and sovereignty of our Tribal Nation. This Trust has been created with a vision that extends beyond the challenges and circumstances of today and is intended to serve as a permanent financial foundation for generations of tribal citizens yet to come.

Throughout our history, our Tribal Nation has faced periods of financial uncertainty, limited resources, and challenges in maintaining consistent funding for essential governmental operations and services. These experiences have demonstrated the importance of building a stronger financial foundation that is not dependent solely upon current revenues, changing economic conditions, or the decisions of any single generation of leadership.

The purpose of this Trust is to create and preserve a long-term investment fund that will grow over time through prudent, disciplined, and responsible investment management. The assets placed into the Trust are intended to be preserved and expanded so that, when the Trust reaches sufficient maturity, the investment earnings generated by the Trust may provide a sustainable source of revenue to support the governmental operations of the Tribal Nation in perpetuity.

Looking at future projects in the coming years, the Executive Council along with various Departments recently participated in a design charette with DSGW Architects, Leadership, and the Planning & Development team to explore early concepts for a new recreation facility at Bay Mills. The proposed multi-use facility is envisioned as a hub for health, wellness, community gatherings, and student activities.

Early concepts include two basketball courts that can be converted into two volleyball courts, an elevated indoor walking track, dedicated fitness classrooms, and a comprehensive weight room area. Beyond recreation and wellness programming, the facility is designed to serve as a central gathering space for community events and milestone celebrations, including Bay Mills Community College graduation ceremonies.

The long-term goal is to complete the facility within the next five years. This timeline aligns with BMCC’s interest in establishing an athletics program and expanding opportunities for students, families, and the broader Bay Mills community. In addition to the Recreation Facility, we also got together to discuss future Brimley Development projects and review early concepts for a mixed-use development aimed at expanding local housing and business opportunities.

The proposed project would feature commercial space on the ground floor to encourage new business ventures, including a potential laundry facility and dedicated office space for on-site property management. The upper levels are planned to include approximately 40 residential apartments, helping address the community’s growing need for quality, accessible housing.

The planning team also discussed opportunities to recruit a franchise food service operator to enhance convenience for residents and contribute to the project’s long-term success. A portion of the apartments would be designated as student housing in support of BMCC’s initiative to attract student athletes to campus. Together, these projects represent important steps toward strengthening community infrastructure, supporting economic growth, expanding housing options, and creating new opportunities for residents, students, and future generations.

Finally, the month of July will be a huge month for decisions related to the proposed Great Lakes Tunnel Project and Line 5 dual pipelines. Bay Mills Indian Community continues to actively oppose the proposed Enbridge Line 5 Great Lakes Tunnel Project and remains engaged in the ongoing state and federal permitting processes that will determine the project’s future. Several key decisions are expected, including actions by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources related to the use of public trust lands beneath the Straits of Mackinac.

EGLE is responsible for reviewing several permits related to the proposed tunnel project, including applications involving Great Lakes submerged lands, wetlands, and water discharge activities. These reviews focus on whether the project meets Michigan’s environmental protection standards under state law. One of the current EGLE reviews involves Enbridge’s request for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, which would authorize the discharge of treated wastewater associated with construction and operation of the tunnel facilities. EGLE opened a public comment period and held a public hearing to gather input before making a final permitting decision.

Bay Mills Indian Community has participated in these processes by raising concerns about potential impacts to the Great Lakes, including risks to fisheries, water quality, cultural resources, and treaty-protected rights. We have emphasized since the beginning of this process that decisions affecting the Straits of Mackinac must fully consider the responsibilities owed to Tribal Nations and the long-term protection of these waters for future generations.

In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a separate federal review of Enbridge’s permit application. The USACE decision is a critical step because the project would involve impacts to federally regulated waters and wetlands under the Clean Water Act and other federal authorities.

Bay Mills along with other Tribal Nations have expressed concerns that the federal review process must fully evaluate the risks associated with continued operation of Line 5, including the potential consequences of a pipeline failure in one of the most sensitive freshwater ecosystems in the world. We have also advocated for meaningful consideration of Tribal treaty rights, cultural resources, and the government-to-government relationship between Tribal Nations and federal agencies.

Another important decision involves the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the proposed use of Great Lakes bottomlands held in trust by the State of Michigan. A “take” permit is required when a project proposes to use, occupy, or impact public trust resources beneath the Great Lakes.

The MDNR review focuses on whether the proposed use of these submerged lands is consistent with Michigan’s obligations to protect public trust resources, including navigation, fishing, and the preservation of the Great Lakes for the benefit of current and future generations.

Bay Mills Indian Community has maintained that the Straits of Mackinac are not simply a transportation corridor or industrial location but are part of a larger cultural and ecological landscape protected through treaty rights under the 1836 Treaty of Washington. We continues to assert that any decision involving these waters must recognize the importance of protecting natural resources, maintaining access to traditional resources, and honoring commitments made to Tribal Nations who are signatories to those treaties.

Our teams will continue to strive for the success of Bay Mills Indian Community. Please check out our tribal website or the official Tribal Chairperson Facebook Page for regular updates about what is going on here at Bay Mills. Please don’t hesitate to call, email, or stop by for a visit to share your thoughts, questions, and concerns with me.

Flu Clinic

Our goal is to keep the community safe from severe illness this season. An annual flu shot helps lower your risk of influenza and can reduce the severity of illness if you do get sick.

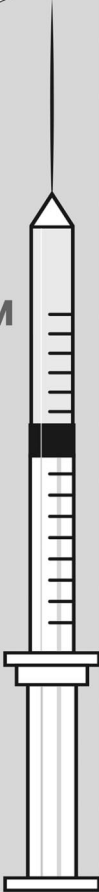


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Executive Council discusses business at regular meeting

July 13 meeting

President Whitney Gravelle

— Expecting Great Lakes Tunnel Permits decisions any day now. Decisions must be done by July 16. Our team has been working on strategy depending on the decisions.

— Kings Club Redevelopment groundbreaking was held on June 22. Many developments on the site since. There are trees on the land that have been in Bay Mills since the Jack family came over from England in the early 1800s. BMIC is working to propagate the poplars as they will be removed for the construction to take place. These trees will be honored in some way down the road. They cannot be dug up as they have significant root systems and often die if they are transplanted.

— Water trampoline safety is being addressed. Several meetings held and new equipment has been installed.

— On June 25 a CORA meeting was held. They are preparing for the Aug. 20 meeting and compliance with decrees and wolf stipulations.

— Several investment presentations have taken place. We are looking at long term options for operations.

— On July 10 BMCC held Board of Regents meeting. They are in the midst of construction as well on new facility. It will be complete in December 2027. The parts of their building are prefabricated, which is why you will see work being done at what appears to be a faster pace.

— Legal department has begun creating a report to track projects. There are many contracts that require review.

— Tribal website updates are ongoing. The new site will have a member and employee portal. Waiting for photos from HR to begin another round of review before the site is considered complete.

Tribal Manager Rachel Lyons

— Grant financial review meeting held.

— Ordering yard equipment for lending program.

— Conservation and admin have placed numerous items on site for the water trampoline. Housing installed a life jacket holder and signs will be in soon.

— Senior program is working to finalize elder trip.

— Met with bio about composting proposal, funding to be pursued.

— Assistant GM interviews took place.

— Employee Fest planning is taking place.

— Paving is being done throughout the reservation.

— Vault toilet has been installed at Gumshoes.

— Storybook trail is up and running.

— Boat launch bid was out of budget. Considering posting again.

— Sampling Plantation Hill wastewater.

Chief Financial Officer Crystal Wilcox

— Still working on NLCC insurance claim.

— Looking at proposed partnerships for NLCC, waiting on outcome of GTC before signing.

— Working on investment strategies.

— Working on check cashing policy.

— Office 365 training email sent out, it is mandatory. Additional offerings will be given if staff cannot make the first round due to time off.

— Riverview Campground is receiving great reviews online.

Health Director Lucy DeWildt

— New software being installed at health center and pharmacy.

— Gathering data on community recovery center as it celebrates the first year in operation.

— First Farmer’s Market was held last Thursday. The markets will continue in to October.

Human Resources Director Stacey Walden

— Staff are attending training conference for risk management.

— Nearly everyone on staff is THRP certified.

— Organizing a meeting with Two Spirit Committee to provide training and development to staff.

— Working on employment manager description.

— Employee engagement survey data being evaluated.

Cultural Director Allyn Cameron

— Working with families on services and ceremonies.

— Social singing is well attended.

— Have been working to connect Boys & Girls Club with cultural center.

— Contacted Bad River to get information about their immersion program.

Bay Mills Gaming Authority Richard LeBlanc

— New promo coming out in the next few weeks.

— Sacy’s closure is impacting food and beverage sales.

— The RV park occupancy rate is holding steady, some work in being done in the area to install streaming service.

— Working to finalize new assistant gm selection with HR.

Bay Mills Business Holdings Justin LeBlanc, Four Seasons & Bay Mart

— The heat is requiring extra cooler maintenance.

— Making sure pumps work with cards not being stuck at Bay Mart.

Jesse Smith, NLCC

— Retail sales are up over last year.

— Cameras are being updated.

— Water tested by EPA recently and in acceptable ranges.

— Office Manager position has been posted.

— Budtender interviews are being held this week.

— Grow is going well.

Old Business:

1. Resolution No. 26-06-08G: Acceptance of Trust Title – River Street- Tabled
 2. Resolution No. 26-06-08H: Acceptance of Trust Title – 2nd Street-Tabled
 3. Resolution No. 26-06-08L: Acceptance Trust Title – Bay Mart- Approved.
- New Business:**
1. Resolution No: 26-07-13A: Waiver of Sovereign Immunity Fillmaster Systems.
 2. Resolution No. 26-07-13B: Accepting Asset Transfer of Migizii Hall from Bay Mills Community College. Several items to be fixed in the building. BMCC has the lease on the land still. This is where the wildland fire crew is currently housed.
 3. Resolution No. 26-07-13C: Establishment and Creation of Long Term Investment Fund for Bay Mills Indian Community. To create a stable and perpetual source of funding for BMIC operations.
 4. Resolution No. 26-07-13D: Establishment of Additional Accounts with Central Savings Bank and Designation of Authorized Signers & Representatives for Bay Mills Indian Community.
 5. Resolution No. 26-07-13E: Establishment of an Additional Account with CG Financial Services and Designation of Authorized Signers & Representatives for Bay Mills Indian Community.
 6. Resolution No. 26-07-13F: Residential Lease Termination Joseph Michael Parish.
 7. Resolution No. 26-07-13G: Residential Lease Jody Parish.

8. Resolution No. 26-07-13H: Residential Lease Monica Spencer.
9. Resolution No. 26-07-13I: Residential Lease Rosamond Nasser.
10. Resolution No. 26-07-13J: Residential Lease Gerald Jesse.
11. Resolution No. 26-07-13K: FY 2026 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Program Funding. This was previously approved. Resolution required by BIA.
12. Resolution No. 26-07-13L: Support for Tribal Energy Development Capacity Grant Application. This is for funds to conduct tribal utility study.
13. King’s Club Redevelopment – Revised Proposal and Change Order #1.
14. Approval of Biology’s Non-Point Source Pollution Management Plan.
15. Approval to Submit:
 - a. Office of Violence against Women Rural Grant Program - \$693,712
16. Approval to Accept:
 - a. Bay Mills Violence Against Women (VAWA) Training - \$344,783.00
 - b. Public Health Emergency Preparedness Support 2-2026 July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026 - \$6,669.00
 - c. SAMHSA Tribal Opioid Response - \$250,000
 - d. ITCM Healthy Start Initiative – Addendum - \$65,000
17. Raffle Permit 26-008 – BMCC & 26-009. These are related to the upcoming golf scramble.
18. Donation Request: Sugar Island Pow Wow Committee request. \$2k donation approved. BMIC has donated in the past as well. This is an independent pow wow.



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CORA shares an update on fish contaminant monitoring in 1836 treaty waters of Lake Huron

Submitted by Mike Langendorf
CORA Environmental Coordinator

Each spring brings a new fishing season for the recreational, subsistence and commercial fishers throughout the Great Lakes region. At the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA), spring also includes results from the prior field year’s biological studies that are used for tracking contaminants in fish from the 1836 Treaty ceded waters of the Upper Great Lakes. CORA regulates the fishing within the 1836 Treaty Ceded waters of Michigan and takes actions needed to protect, preserve and enhance the fishery on behalf of the five tribes which signed the 1836 Treaty of Washington: Bay Mills Indian Community; Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians; Little River Band of Ottawa Indians; Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians; and Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

As part of its role as the tribal resource management entity, CORA determined more than 45 years ago that it would be necessary to collect data regarding the health of the 1836 fishery and has since carried out a program which monitors environmental contaminants that may be present in the fish populations harvested from within the 1836 waters. This is necessary to understand the presence and impact of environmental contaminants in the 1836 fishery, rather than relying upon findings that are developed by other state or federal agencies for basin wide fish populations which do not necessarily accurately represent the fish community of the 1836 waters. In addition, CORA also uses its data to monitor the effectiveness of environmental remediation efforts and to identify new or emerging biological and contaminant level impacts. Together, this information serves as a means to protect the fishery and convey the most accurate and relevant findings of the contaminants present within the regionally specific fishery in which Tribal fishers practice both subsistence and commercial fishing activities.

In carrying out the contaminants monitoring of fish from the treaty waters, CORA takes samples each year from either Lake Huron, Superior or Michigan on a three year rotating basis. These fish are then prepared for analysis and sent to an independent laboratory for testing. This spring, the results of the samples tested included those for lake trout and lake whitefish taken from Lake Huron. These species were intentionally selected as they constitute the primary fish targeted for both subsistence and commercial harvest. Each fish was tested for mercury and PCB’s, which have been historically identified as contaminants that can impact human health. In addition, testing was also conducted for the presence of PFAS/PFOS, as this chemical family has become more recently recognized as having significant potential to adversely impact human health and is now often referred to as the “forever chemical” in that it is resistant to environmental degradation.

The results of the 2025 year testing for the presence of both mercury and PCB’s showed that these contaminants found in fish fillets from the 1836 waters of Lake Huron had remained at levels consistent with prior years, and in some samples had even declined slightly from the previous year tested in Lake Huron (2022). The unchanging or slight reduction in these two “legacy” contaminants comes as no real surprise, as the steadily low levels of these contaminants is indicative of effective long-term remediation of contaminated sites and an absence of new deposition of these chemicals entering the environment over many decades.

As to PFAS, CORA recognizes that these substances have potential to impact human health just as many legacy contaminants still do. More specifically, it has been found that PFOS is the type of PFAS that is not only the most often detected type of this chemical family found in fish, it also has the greatest known potential for causing adverse human health impacts. As a result, PFOS has now become widely regulated and remains one of the most frequently studied substances. In an effort to safeguard human health from exposure to these chemicals, numerous recommendations have been made by state health agencies to limit fish consumption from Great Lakes waters.

In 2021 CORA began its own annual testing for both PFAS and PFOS in fish from the 1836 waters. As of the conclusion of the most recent round of testing in Lake Huron during summer 2025, CORA has now completed an assessment for the presence of PFAS/PFOS in fish across all three Upper Great Lakes, which included two separate years of testing in Lake Huron. The results of the 2025 Lake Huron testing showed that PFOS substances found in each of the species tested were detected at very low ranges, and in some cases resulted in no detections of PFOS in fish. These results were later combined with CORA’s prior test results for PFOS found in fillets from fish harvested across the 1836 ceded waters that included all three Upper Great Lakes between 2021-2025. The results for the combined average PFOS in fillets from the 1836 waters was then compared against the average level of PFOS in fish fillets harvested from across Michigan waters as reported in 2025 by the State of Michigan. The results of these comparisons showed the levels of PFOS detected in the average fish from the 1836 waters was 10-times less than Michigan’s average fish.

CORA’s recent results indicate that the contaminant levels tested for in fish from the 1836 waters of Lake Huron remain stable, and in some cases have shown a moderate decline. These findings are also indicative that the decades-long efforts to remediate environmental degradation to the Great Lakes are effective. Over time, the many regulations that have been put in place to restrict or phase out the manufacture, use and

deposition of environmentally harmful substances has helped lead to a reduction in contaminants in fish. Today, most legacy contaminants are now found at consistently lower levels than in previous decades and remain mostly unchanged in year over year testing.

Many state agencies collect and share contaminants data from fish tested in specific inland lakes, rivers and streams that is later used to develop fish consumption guidance to help avoid exposure to contaminants that are in the fish you may choose to consume. However, when it comes to contaminants data from fish tested at the Great Lake level, this data is often only taken from a few testing locations and is then made applicable for consumption guidance of species found throughout an entire lake body. This basin wide approach does not take into account that regional proximity to source point pollution or an absence of such connection, can result in differing levels of contaminants found in regionally distinct fish communities.

The results of comparing CORA’s findings for PFOS in the fish from 1836 waters, to that of the PFOS levels being reported by the state of Michigan as the state wide average in fish across Michigan’s waters, serves as a clear example as to why it is important to consider regional contaminant data from throughout each basin of the Great Lakes. In using regional data in conjunction with basin wide data, health agencies can better provide the most relevant

contaminant data and consumption advice for not only the species of fish people are choosing to eat but also from the differing regions of a given basin fish are actually harvested from.

With respect to the results of CORA’s recent testing, or when evaluating other agency results or media articles about fish, it remains important to recognize that trace levels of environmental contaminants can still be found in Great Lakes fish and the public should be provided with the most accurate and relevant information available on the fish they are eating. Just as importantly, the choice to eat fish or whether or not to consult the widely available fish consumption guidance produced by state level health agencies should always remain the choice of the consumer.

Today, the monitoring of the fish populations found in the 1836 waters remains of paramount importance in protecting and conserving the fishery resources both now and in the future. CORA remains committed to continuing a contaminant monitoring program that demonstrates the importance of studying and analyzing fish populations at the regional level. By doing so, resource managers can better determine the most accurate and relevant levels of contaminants that can be found in our fish communities, which serves as the means to best inform both tribal and non-tribal consumers as to the health of the fish they may likely choose to consume.



Flu Clinics

Our goal is to keep the community safe from severe illness this season. An annual flu shot helps lower your risk of influenza and can reduce the severity of illness if you do get sick.

OCTOBER SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7TH 3:00PM – 5:30PM: FARMERS MARKET PAVILLION (DRIVE-UP)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 8TH 9:00AM – 11:00AM: BAY MILLS HEALTH CENTER – ELLEN MARSHALL ROOM

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10TH 1:00PM – 4:00PM: POP-UP AT RIVERMART

MONDAY OCTOBER 12TH 2:00PM – 4:00 PM: BAY MILLS HEALTH CENTER – ELLEN MARSHALL ROOM

THURSDAY OCTOBER 15TH 4:00PM – 6:30PM: FARMERS MARKET BOOTH

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21ST 4:00PM – 6:00 PM: BAY MILLS RESORT & CASINO

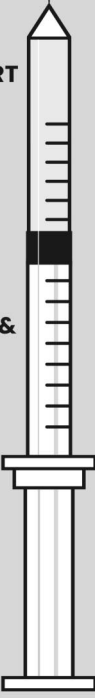
THURSDAY OCTOBER 22ND 9:00AM – 11:00AM: BAY MILLS HEALTH CENTER – ELLEN MARSHALL ROOM

MONDAY OCTOBER 26TH 1:00PM – 3:00PM: BAY MILLS HEALTH CENTER – ELLEN MARSHALL ROOM

THURSDAY OCTOBER 29TH 1:00PM – 3:00PM: BAY MILLS HEALTH CENTER – ELLEN MARSHALL ROOM

For more info about the annual flu shot, call **906-248-5527**

FLU CLINICS DATES/TIMES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON VACCINE AVAILABILITY!



Central Savings Bank's 15th Annual Burger Bash raises nearly \$10k for Road to Recovery

SAULT STE. MARIE — Central Savings Bank's 15th Annual Burger Bash raised \$9,360 to support the Road to Recovery program for local cancer patients.

The aroma of freshly grilled burgers and the spirit of generosity filled downtown Sault Ste. Marie on the evening of June 24, as community members gathered for a cause that continues to make a meaningful difference. Central Savings Bank's 15th Annual Burger Bash \$9,360 to support the Road to Recovery program, helping provide transportation for local cancer patients traveling to life-saving treatments.

The Road to Recovery Program, powered by dedicated volunteers, provides transportation for local oncology patients traveling from Sault Ste. Marie to Petoskey for critical cancer treatments. For patients facing the physical, emotional and financial challenges of cancer, the ride offers far more than transportation—it provides comfort, compassion and reassurance during a difficult journey.

"This program continues to be a powerful example of what can happen when a community comes together to care for one another," said Tanya Overman, volunteer coordinator. "Every donation helps remove barriers to treatment by covering essential expenses such as fuel, bridge fare and vehicle maintenance, ensuring patients can focus on healing."

Now in its 15th year, the Burger Bash has raised more than \$106,000 to date, making it the single largest annual fundraiser supporting the program.

Kevin Kalchik, president of MyMichigan Medical Center Sault, expressed gratitude for Central Savings Bank's continued leadership in supporting the program. "We are incredibly grateful to Central Savings Bank for their unwavering dedication to the Burger Bash and to the Road to Recovery program," said Kalchik. "Their long-standing commitment, along with the generosity of everyone who participates, helps ensure our patients can access the care they need. This support makes a meaningful difference in the lives of those facing cancer and demonstrates the remarkable compassion of our community."

Alex Schulte, marketing director at Central Savings Bank, said, "Burger Bash is about more than serving great food—it's about supporting our neighbors when they need us most. Seeing so many people show up year after year reminds us how strong and compassionate this community truly is. We're honored to help keep this important program moving forward."

Donations to the Road to Recovery program are accepted year-round through the MyMichigan Health Foundation at www.mymichigan.org/foundation. To volunteer as a driver or learn more, contact Tanya Overman at 906- 635-4352 or tanya.overman@mymichigan.org.



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Teams compete in Race to Great Futures Canoe Race



The Race to Great Futures Canoe Race was held during the Bay Mills Pow Wow on Saturday, June 27. It was a beautiful sunny day to hit the lake and compete for bragging rights!

- Congratulations to the winners:
- 1st Place: Gozy White and Noodin Shawanda
 - 2nd Place: Elizabeth Shields and Wes Parish
 - 3rd Place: Terry Carrick and Alan Carrick



Great Summers Start at the Club!

Bay Mills Club

Monday - Thursday
8am - 5pm
Friday
8am - 3pm
Starting July 24th, closing
at 1 p.m. on Friday.

Healthy Meals Arts & Crafts Cultural Activities Physical Activities

The Brimley Club will be CLOSED during the Summer.
All applications from the 2025/2026 school year are still current.
Call 906-248-8573 or email boys&girlsclub@baymills.org
for more information.

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Mackinac Bridge Walk preparations under way

ST. IGNACE — For the safety and convenience of all participants in the 2026 Mackinac Bridge Walk, the Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA) will again start the event from both ends of the bridge, in Bridge View Park in St. Ignace and the Jamet Street ramp in Mackinaw City.

Starting the walk in both cities, as it has been since 2018, eliminates the need for busing and offers additional options for participants.

Additionally, due to its success since 2024, the walk will begin on the north end of the bridge from Bridge View Park on the west side of I-75 rather than at the MBA administration building. As most participants who start in St. Ignace already park at Bridge View Park, starting the walk from that side reduces the number of people crossing the interstate before the event begins. Participants who park on the east side of I-75 will be guided

across the road before and after walking the bridge.

“Together, these changes to the Annual Bridge Walk format we’ve made over the past several years have made it safer and easier for everyone to participate in this beloved event,” said MBA Bridge Director Kim Nowack.

A video, posted on the MBA website at www.MackinacBridge.org/Walk, explains the bridge walk schedule and the choices people have whether they start from the north or south ends of the bridge.

Walkers essentially have three main options, outlined in the video:

- * Starting from either end of the bridge and walking toward the center, turning around at the midpoint and returning to the city they started from, where their transportation is located. The turnaround points will move toward the ends of the bridge beginning at 10 a.m., but walkers can walk at

least a portion of the bridge if they start by 11:30 a.m. Walkers must be on the side of the bridge they wish to return to before 10 a.m.

- * Walking the entire length of the bridge starting from either end. Those who choose this option must reach the midpoint before 10 a.m. or they will be turned back. Anyone who walks the entire bridge must arrange their own transportation back to the side they started once the bridge reopens to public traffic at noon.

- * Crossing the bridge, starting from either end, and then turning around and walking back to the side they started from. In this option, walkers will need to cross the midpoint on their return trip by 10 a.m. or they will be turned back and need to find their own transportation back across the bridge after it reopens at noon.

As with the last several events, because walkers can start from either end of the

bridge when they arrive, there will be no buses transporting participants across the bridge. Participants must plan accordingly to ensure they end their walk on the same side of the bridge as their transportation. The MBA does not provide any shuttle service after the walk and cannot guarantee outside shuttle services will be offered.

The bridge will again be closed to public traffic during the 2026 walk, from 6:30 a.m. to noon on Labor Day, Sept. 7, based on recommendations from the Michigan State Police and U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Emergency vehicles will still be permitted to cross the bridge, but no public vehicles until the walk concludes and participants are off the bridge.

The bridge walk has been an annual event since 1958, with the exception of 2020.

Michigan’s strangest local laws trace back to bygone eras

By Janelle D. James, Bridge Michigan

Dig into the city code and you’ll find a related crime: “No person shall spit on any sidewalk or on the floor or seat of any public carrier, or on any floor, wall, seat or equipment of any place of public assemblage.”

The local law is among a series of outdated — and mostly unenforced — rules that remain in city codes across Michigan as relics to a prior era.

Anti-spitting ordinances still on the books in Marquette, Wyandotte and Muskegon point back to a more than century-old campaign to discourage public spitting amid a raging battle against tuberculosis.

It was a time that “coincided with the widespread use of spittoons,” Marquette City Manager Karen Kovacs told Bridge Michigan. “Public health officials actively discouraged spitting in public places and many local governments adopted ordinances to reinforce that message.”

Today, tuberculosis is preventable and curable, but during the 1800s and 1900s, the infectious airborne disease was a death sentence that killed millions, with children and the elderly among the most vulnerable.

That prompted many American cities to adopt anti-spitting laws.

In Muskegon, spitting on a sidewalk is still technically prohibited, and violators can be cited for a civil infraction. But officers rarely cite people for the crime: It’s been documented in police reports just eight times since 2000, said Tim Bahorski, captain of the Muskegon Police Department.

“All of those incidents involved disorderly subjects or public intoxication,” he added.

Spitting is also considered a civil infraction in Marquette, but the local ordinance is “rarely (if ever) enforced,” Kovacs told Bridge in an email.

“We have been cleaning up sections of

city code over the past year, but this hasn’t risen to the level of needing to be updated compared to other sections such as e-bikes,” she said.

Michigan lawmakers have in recent years worked to repeal what they call unenforceable “zombie” laws dating to bygone eras, most recently sodomy and adultery bans.

The same has happened at the local level in cities like Kalamazoo, where officials in 2022 reportedly repealed ordinances that had banned swearing and spitting in public, palm-reading and more.

Petoskey also repealed a fortune-telling ban in 2022, but the practice is still prohibited in Otsego, where it remains illegal to “pretend to tell fortunes” using “cards, tokens, trances, inspection of the hands or skull, mind reading, consulting the movements of the heavenly bodies, or otherwise.”

Court rulings over the past several decades have forced some Michigan cities to scale back or stop enforcing ordinances that restricted profanity, offensive language and loitering.

Grand Rapids has a breach-of-the-peace ordinance that prohibits the use of “profane, obscene or injurious language.” But in 2020, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled the local law conflicts with the First Amendment, so the city no longer enforces it, city spokesperson Steven Guitar told Bridge.

Cadillac’s municipal code continues to ban language deemed obscene, offensive, profane or inappropriate if it is likely to annoy others or incite a confrontation. The code also prohibits behavior considered disruptive to the city’s peace, order and decorum.

Even as courts have scrutinized comparable restrictions elsewhere, there have been no discussions to update or change the ordinance, Cadillac City Manager Marcus

Peccia said.

Both cities also prohibit loitering, which originally stems from vagrancy laws that made unemployment and idleness illegal. But in the early 1970s, the US Supreme Court unanimously ruled such vague rules violate the Fourteenth Amendment.

Grand Rapids, Cadillac and Warren still restrict loitering, but their ordinances have been narrowed over time. Today, they generally apply only when someone knowingly loiters where illegal activity is taking place, to solicit prostitution or to harass another person.

Cadillac’s city code specifically bans loitering in “a house of ill fame.”

At least one Michigan city still regulates horse use on local streets, requiring them to be closely watched or fastened to a hitching post at all times.

Reminder issued about water safety at Riverview Park

Bay Mills Indian Community would like to remind all tribal citizens, community members, and visitors that the water trampoline and obstacle course at Riverview Park is use at your own risk, as there is no lifeguard on duty.

Tribal citizens and community members are reminded to utilize the life jackets available on-site. While the lake offers excellent recreational opportunities, its currents and conditions can change quickly. Exercising good judgment and making responsible decisions are essential to preventing accidents.

The water trampoline and obstacle course were installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, including placement in water that meets the required depth for safe operation and provides adequate clearance to ensure users remain safely above the anchoring system securing the equipment. Although it may appear to be a considerable dis-

But in this case, those rules are still heavily enforced: In 1898, Mackinac Island banned motorized vehicles to prevent them from spooking horses, which remain a primary mode of transportation on the island.

Motorists can drive to Mackinac City or St. Ignace and take the ferry over to the island, leaving their car on the mainland. The only way to get around in the city is by walking, biking or taking a horse-drawn carriage.

The city also has ordinances aimed at protecting horses, including bans on negligent behavior that could frighten or disturb them and prohibitions against cracking a bullwhip within 100 feet of a horse.

This story was originally published by Bridge Michigan, a nonprofit and nonpartisan news organization. Visit the newsroom online: bridgemi.com.

tance from shore, it is located just beyond a naturally occurring sandbar that runs alongside the equipment.

Additional safety measures, including safety ropes, buoys, floats, and enhanced signage, have been installed to further improve awareness and access. While the Tribe remains committed to enhancing safety wherever possible, it is important to recognize that no amount of signage or safety equipment can replace responsible behavior, active supervision, and sound permitted to use the equipment without appropriate supervision. Youth are also reminded to avoid horseplay, rough play, and other unsafe conduct while using the trampoline.

If unsafe behavior and misuse of the equipment continue, the Tribe will be required to consider additional measures, including the removal of the water trampoline and the obstacle course, in the interest of public safety.

BMIC hosts 35th Annual Honoring Our Veterans Pow Wow



They came from near and far for the 35th Annual Honoring Our Veterans Pow Wow that was held June 26-28. Bay Mills welcomed eight new dancers into the arena this year, for a total of 153 dancers, and five drums. The event also honored two men who have dedicated themselves to carrying the songs of our community, and celebrated the transition of one young dancer from one style to another. The seeking volunteers. You can see more from the weekend by visiting their Facebook page- Bay Mills Pow Wow. Photos by Brianna Bowen/Destination Bay Mills.





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LSSU receives \$30 million appropriation from state budget for renovation & expansion

SAULT STE. MARIE – Lake Superior State University has received a \$30 million capital outlay appropriation in the State of Michigan’s Fiscal Year 2027 budget to support the renovation and expansion of LSSU’s Center for Applied Science and Engineering Technology (CASET).

The appropriation marks the largest Capital Outlay investment in LSSU history and a major milestone in the university’s ongoing commitment to modernize campus infrastructure and expand academic opportunities. The total estimated project cost is \$40 million, with the state’s investment covering 75 percent.

Originally constructed to support the university’s growing science and technology programs, CASET has served as a cornerstone of academia for generations of Lakers. The facility houses classrooms, laboratories, and specialized learning spaces that provide students with hands-on educational experiences and prepare them for careers in high-demand fields.

Renovating and expanding CASET has been a campus priority for many years, according to school officials. The project will modernize aging infrastructure, enhance existing academic spaces, and create new areas that support experiential learning, research, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration. The renovation is considered a transformational investment in a building that has long played a central role in advancing LSSU's academic mission.

“This landmark investment demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to the future of Lake Superior State University,” said LSSU President Dr. David Travis. “The appropriation will strengthen our ability to provide exceptional educational opportunities for our students while expanding programs that drive innovation and workforce development across Michigan. We are deeply grateful to Rep. Parker Fairbairn for his leadership, as well as Sen. John Damoose and our many partners throughout the state, whose support and commitment made this historic investment possible.”

The renovated CASET facility will ensure LSSU students continue to benefit from small class sizes, hands-on learning, and research that addresses real-world challenges. The updated building will feature state-of-the-art laboratories, equip-



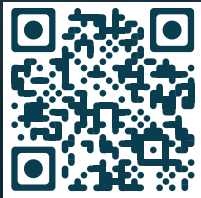
ment, and collaborative learning spaces where students can work together on projects that enhance their education while strengthening partnerships with industry.

“CASET Hall is home to many programs that exemplify LSSU's commitment to applied learning and student success, including engineering, computer science, mathematics, paramedic technology, and fire science,” said Provost Dr. Kimberly Muller. “This investment will support students and faculty across these disciplines while also serving as the future home of criminal justice. The renovated facility will provide outstanding spaces for collaboration, innovation, and discovery, helping prepare our graduates with the skills needed to succeed in an evolving workforce. We are tremendously excited about the opportunities this renovation will create for our students, our faculty, and the future of Lake Superior State University.”

Planning and project development will continue in coordination with the State of Michigan’s Capital Outlay process. Additional details regarding the project timeline and construction schedule will be released in the future.

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Walking On

James Edward Thomson

James Edward Thomson, known to nearly everyone as "JT," passed away peacefully on July 2, 2026, surrounded by love after a life lived fully and on his own terms.

Born on April 13, 1953, in Chicago, Illinois, James moved to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, at the age of 12 and the city became his home for the rest of his life. A proud member of the Bay Mills Indian Community, JT carried his heritage with him throughout his life, it was woven into everything he did and everywhere he worked.

He was a man who belonged wherever he stood, equally at home behind the DJ booth spinning music for a crowd or settled into his chair commanding the battlefield in Call of Duty.

JT built a life around two things he did naturally and well, music and people. As the owner of his own DJ business, he had a gift for reading a room and knowing exactly what it needed. He served his community with dedication working as a security guard at the Kings Club Casino and at Bay Mills Resort and Casino, places that were not just jobs but part of the community he loved and belonged to. He carried himself with the quiet authority of a man who didn't need to raise his voice to be heard.

He loved music, movies, and video games with a dedication that never wavered. Right up until the end he was still gaming, still himself. Put him in front of Call of Duty and he was completely at home.

Those who knew JT knew two things immediately. First, when he walked into a room something changed. He was outgoing, friendly, and easy to be around in a way that drew people to him naturally. He could strike up a conversation with a complete stranger and within minutes have a new friend for life. Second, when JT made up his mind about something, that was it. His stubbornness was the flip side of his integrity. He was a proud man who handled his own affairs, asked for nothing, and gave what he could to the people he loved.

JT shared fifty-one years of marriage with his beloved wife Linda Thomson, a partnership and a love story that outlasted everything life put in front of it.

JT is survived by his wife, Linda; his children, Michael Thomson, James Thomson Jr., Brenda VonBank, Lisa Adell, Martin Azevedo, and Theresa Thomson; his twelve grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren who knew him as Grandpa; and his brother, John Thomson.

James was preceded in death by his father, James Thomson; and his mother, Clara Thomson, known and loved throughout the community simply as Aunt Clara.

He was not the kind of man who asked for help or sought the spotlight for himself. He was the kind of man who showed up, stood firm, made people laugh, and loved his family in the way stoic men do, not always in words, but always in presence.

He was 73 years old. He was a DJ, a gamer, a community servant, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great grandfather, and a friend to anyone lucky enough to meet him.

The world had a JT in it for 73 years. That was a gift.
-Michael

Services have taken place.
Family Life Funeral Homes – Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Druid Lake Warner

Druid Lake Warner, 21, of Bay Mills, Michigan, began his journey from a great being to a great spirit on June 13, 2026. He was born on Aug. 11, 2004, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to Lindsay Waite and Sharolynn Warner.

Druid was a well-known citizen of the Bay Mills Indian Community. His contagious laugh and bright personality could bring a smile to anyone's face and fill those around him with joy.

Throughout his life, Druid shared his caring spirit with all who had the honor of knowing him. He made everyone feel welcome, included, and valued. Whether helping members of the community or spending time with friends, Druid was always there for others.

Graduating from Ojibwe Charter School in 2022, Druid participated in cultural activities and was active in numerous sports, including basketball, soccer, track and field, cross country, and coed volleyball. He also loved robotics and cherished the time he spent with his teammates, coaches, and mentors. His determination, strong work ethic, and intelligence helped him succeed in everything he pursued. After graduation, Druid began his career at Bay Mills Resort & Casino. He eventually met the love of his life and hoped to fulfill his dream of becoming the General Manager.

Most importantly, Druid was known for his kind heart, quick wit, infectious laugh, helpful nature, and extraordinary generosity. He never felt the need to fit into a mold, and people were drawn to the authenticity with which he lived his life. His eagerness to learn and ambition inspired others to be fearless and embrace new opportunities. He touched countless lives by showing up when people needed him most. Druid was a trusted friend, a devoted son, a loving brother, a caring partner, and a source of comfort and support for many.

We are the ones left to carry his light, the great love of his life, Raina Vert; his sisters, Riversong Warner and Harmony Rain; his mother, Sharolynn Warner; his pets, Waffle Cone and Cherry; many cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends whose lives he touched along the way.

Druid was preceded in death by his father, Lindsay Waite; his uncles, Robert Teeple, Alex Teeple, and Nathan Berkland; his grandmother, Rita Hunter; and his great-grandmother, Linda Sylvester.

Druid's memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.
Services have taken place.
In lieu of flowers, donations in Druid's honor can be made to Ojibwe Charter School, 12099 W. Lakeshore Dr., Brimley, MI.
Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Darrell Emery Belleau

Darrell Emery Belleau, 82, of Sugar Island, Michigan, passed away peacefully on June 9, 2026, surrounded by friends and family at the John Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. He was born on Jan. 18, 1944, in Sault Sainte Marie to Cletus and Mary (Ranson) Belleau.

Darrell graduated from Sault Area High School with the Class of 1965 and immediately entered the workforce at the Soo Locks (Poe Lock). He went on to enjoy a long and rewarding career as a Carpenter-Diver with Lee Turzillo Contracting, Prepakt Concrete, Durochers Dock and Dredge, and J.F. Brennan Company, where he retired at age 70.

On Oct. 29, 1966, Darrell married his high school sweetheart, Gayle Leask, at St. Mary's Cathedral. Together they built a life centered on family and community, raising four children and welcoming six grandchildren. In 1979, Darrell completed building the family home where they would spend the next several decades creating cherished memories.

Darrell was a member of the Sacred Heart Church on Sugar Island, Carpenter's Local Union 361, a Lifetime Member of the Soo Elks Lodge 552, Sugar Island Historical Society, and the Sugar Island Lions Club.

Darrell enjoyed playing the guitar and mandolin with his family and friends. He was a devoted NASCAR fan and looked forward each year to attending the Father's Day race at Michigan International Speedway. Darrell was always willing to lend a hand. When he wasn't working, he could often be found helping family, friends, and neighbors repair their cars or tackle a project. He especially loved spending time with his grandchildren, rocking babies, and enjoying the company of those he loved. Darrell had a kind heart, and had a signature laugh, that could fill an entire house.

Darrell is survived by his beloved wife, Gayle Belleau; his children, Wendy Belleau of Sault Ste. Marie, Bradley Belleau of Sugar Island, Stacey (Emery) Whitmire of Dundee, and Stephanie (Phillip) Roy of Sugar Island; his adored grandchildren, Chad and Austin Pifer, Ranson and Ryker Whitmire and Addison and Chloe Roy; siblings, Edward Belleau of Sugar Island, Susan Belleau of Sault Ste. Marie, Brent (Sue) Belleau of Sault Ste. Marie, Cheryl (Rich) Hall of Denver, Colorado, and Janet (Danny) Marra of Kincheloe; sisters-in law, Donna (Leo) Leask, Donna (Gordon) Leask; brother-in-law, Elmo Smith; and many nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly.

Darrell was preceded in death by his parents, Cletus and Mary Belleau; brother, Brian Belleau; brothers-in law, Theodore (Lorraine) Leask, Leo Leask, and Gordon Leask; sisters-in-law, Linda Leask, Lorraine (Melvin) Rutledge, Carol Smith, Joyce (Arthur) McCoy, Wilma (John) Cairns, and Esther Belleau; and his good friend, Robert McKay.
Services have taken place.

Memorial Donations may be made in Darrell's memory to Hospice of the EUP, 308 W. 12th Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, in recognition of the compassionate care they provided, Alzheimer's Association, <https://donorservices.alz.org>, or to the Sugar Island Fire Department, 6401 E. 1 ½ Mile Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.
Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Allen John Demroske

Allen John Demroske, 96, of Brimley, Michigan, died on Friday, Feb. 13, 2026. He was born on Dec. 21, 1929, in South Bend, Indiana, to Anthony and Margaret (Zakrzewski) Demroske.

Allen was a proud Korean War veteran who arrived in Korea in March 1951. Assigned to frontline duty as an infantryman with C-15, he served with courage and distinction. For his bravery and sacrifice, he earned the Marine Corps Combat Action Ribbon, a Battle Star, and the Purple Heart.

Known to generations of students as "Mr. D," he began his career at Brimley High School in 1967. Over the years, he taught biology and physical science, along with U.S. History and junior high life science. In addition to his work in the classroom, he dedicated himself to coaching, first football, and later junior high girls' basketball, mentoring countless students both academically and athletically.

Allen is survived by his wife, Mary (Coesens) Demroske; daughter, Regina Marchetti; and grandson, Matthew Marchetti.
Allen was preceded in death by his parents, Anthony and Margaret.
A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, 2026, at Brimley Area Schools Cafeteria, 7134 M-221, Brimley, MI 49715.
Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Keys announces run for 108th District House seat

BRIMLEY — On June 30, Bay Mills Indian Community citizen Rachel Keys announced her run for the Michigan House, 108th District. To date, she is the only Democrat on the ticket and will run uncontested in the August Primary. There are currently six Republicans who will face off in the Aug. 4 Primary. Rep. David Prestin currently holds the seat, but has announced his candidacy for Michigan’s 38th State Senate District.

Keys is a U.S. Navy veteran who served six years onboard the USS Iwo Jima and another six as an anti-ship cruise missile defense weapons specialist combat trainer for the DoD waterfront.

As Anishinaabekwe, an enrolled citizen of the Bay Mills Indian Community, she works as keeper of the Point Iroquois Lighthouse in partnership with USFS. According to her release, she is “steadfastly committed to protecting God’s Country from ex-



ploitation.”
“As an avid hunter and outdoorswoman, I want to protect the Upper Peninsula from those that would sell off our backyard as an asset to foreign interests and financial gain,” she said.
Keys holds degrees from Lake Superior State University and Bay Mills Community College, where she studied business administration and

cannabis business management. She is currently working on a degree in Native American studies with a focus on Ojibwe language.

Her campaign — built on the theme “We, the People, respond” — puts service ahead of winning, she said.

“I’m not here to win a title. I’m here to serve. I have lived a life of service. To my Church, to my family, to my community, and to my Country. I know service is more than just ‘winning.’ Real service requires sacrifice, requires loss. I know how to serve, and I will serve you, the people,” Keys said.

Keys’ platform is focused on affordable healthcare, improving veteran access to healthcare, strengthening the public school system, and protecting the environment.

Michigan’s 108th House District spans the central and eastern Upper Peninsula, including Delta, Menominee, Schoolcraft, and Luce counties

and portions of Chippewa and Mackinac counties — communities from Escanaba and Manistique to Newberry and the Bay Mills and Kinross area.

To learn more about her stance on the issues, you can visit votemikeys.com.

Michigan voters are encouraged to register as early as possible before an election. Residents age 16 to 17.5 can preregister to vote. Methods and requirements for voter registration depend on the following deadlines:

If there are 15+ days before an election, voters can register online, by mail, or in person.

Within 14 days of an election, and on Election Day, voters may only register by visiting their local clerk’s office to register in person with proof of residency documentation.

Voters can check their voter registration status and look up their local clerk information at Michigan.gov/Vote.

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FREE TUITION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

Help track Michigan's next generation of wild turkeys

If you spot a hen turkey leading a line of poults (baby turkeys) this summer, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources wants to hear from you.

It's time for Michigan's wild turkey brood survey: a community science effort that helps wildlife biologists understand how well turkeys are reproducing across the state and provides valuable information about the health of Michigan's turkey population. The DNR is asking residents to report sightings of wild turkeys and turkey broods — family units consisting of at least one adult hen and her young — July 1 through Aug. 31.

"Summer is one of the best times of year to see wild turkey families," said Adam Bump, the DNR's upland game bird specialist. "Every brood observation helps us better understand how many young turkeys are surviving and where reproduction is occurring across Michigan."

Wild turkeys are one of Michigan's greatest wildlife conservation success stories. Once extirpated (locally extinct) from the state, turkeys have rebounded and now are found in every Michigan county.

Maintaining healthy turkey populations requires continued monitoring, and that's where residents can make a difference.

Now entering its fourth year, the turkey brood survey is part of a larger multistate effort supported by the National Wild Turkey Federation to monitor turkey populations using a standardized survey protocol.

Since the survey launched in 2023, Michigan residents have submitted more than 17,000 observa-

tions, documenting over 36,200 hens, 95,300 poults and 15,500 male turkeys.

Those observations will allow biologists to track annual changes in turkey reproduction and compare Michigan's turkey population trends with those in other states.

"Turkey populations are influenced by many factors, including weather, habitat conditions and poult survival," Bump said. "By collecting observations year after year, we're building a long-term dataset that helps us understand trends before they become problems."

The survey focuses on turkey broods because they provide insight into reproductive success.

When participants report the number of hens and poults they observe, biologists can estimate average brood size and other indicators that help measure how successfully young turkeys are surviving through the summer months.

"Broods tell us a lot about what happened during nesting season and the weeks immediately after hatching," said Caitlin Ott-Conn, a labo-

ratory scientist with the DNR Wildlife Division who oversees survey data collection and analysis. "When thousands of people share observations from across the state, we gain a much clearer picture of turkey reproduction than we could through traditional surveys alone."

Anyone can contribute to the turkey brood survey. Between July 1 and Aug. 31, simply report any wild turkey sightings using the online survey form available on the turkey brood survey webpage.

Participants will be asked a few short questions about:

- * The date of the observation.
- * The location.
- * The number of hens observed.
- * The number of poults observed.
- * The number of gobblers (adult males) or jakes (juvenile males, about a year old) observed.

Most reports take only a minute or two to complete. The survey uses an email login so observations can be associated with individual participants, helping biologists better analyze the data.

Whether you see a single hen with two poults or a large flock of

turkeys feeding in a field, your observation can help improve understanding of Michigan's wild turkey population.

"Everyone can play a role in wildlife science," Bump said. "If you see turkeys this summer, take a minute to report them. Together, we're creating one of the most comprehensive pictures of turkey reproduction in Michigan and helping ensure wild turkeys remain part of our state for generations to come."

Learn more and submit an observation at Michigan.gov/Turkey.



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Report: Mackinac Bridge below threshold risk of collapse due to theoretical vessel collision

Fast facts:

- * Following the March 2024 collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore after it was struck by a container ship, the National Transportation Safety Board called on owners of 68 bridges in the United State, including the Mackinac Bridge, to evaluate those structures for risk of collapse.
- * The Mackinac Bridge Authority contracted with consultant engineering firm Parsons to evaluate the bridge against the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) design guidelines.
- * The evaluation found that the risk of the Mackinac Bridge collapsing due to a vessel collision was below the annual frequency of collapse threshold.

ST. IGNACE — The Mackinac Bridge Authority has reviewed a report from its consultant engineering firm that confirms the bridge is at a lower risk of collapse due to a vessel collision than nationally established thresholds, following an evaluation requested by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

The MBA reviewed the study conclusions during its regular meeting on July 8 on Mackinac Island. The study was submitted to NTSB in March.

“This report confirms what we’ve long believed to be true, that the risk of the Mackinac Bridge collapsing due to being struck by a vessel is extremely low,” said Bridge Director Kim Nowack. “We hope this gives greater assurance to everyone who crosses the bridge that there is very little danger of such a tragedy here.”

The report is in response to a request from the NTSB to 30 owners of 68 bridges

in 19 states, recommending that each conduct a vulnerability assessment to determine the risk of bridge collapse from a vessel collision. The request came following the March 2024 collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore after it was struck by the ocean-going container ship, the Dali.

The NTSB recommendations were issued to bridge owners to calculate the annual frequency of collapse for their bridges using the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide Specifications and Commentary for Vessel Collision Design of Highway Bridges.

The analysis took into account the bridge design and structural capacity, the characteristics of the Straits of Mackinac, and the size, type and frequency of vessels navigating near the bridge.

The Mackinac Bridge review found: “The AASHTO Method II vessel collision analysis determines a total annual frequency of collapse of 0.000097, corresponding to a return period of approximately 10,350 years, which is below the AASHTO limit of 0.0001 for critical bridges. For one-way vessel traffic, the calculated annual frequency was 0.000045. Both results lie comfortably within the acceptable probability thresholds established by AASHTO for critical infrastructure, confirming that the Mackinac Bridge meets the prescribed reliability criteria.”

By comparison, the NTSB found that the Key Bridge was almost 30 times above the acceptable risk threshold for critical or essential bridges, according to AASHTO guidance.

Police agencies across Michigan stepping up speed enforcement throughout July

Speeding is a leading and persistent contributor to deadly traffic crashes. Drivers who choose to exceed safe speeds dramatically raise the risk of catastrophic collisions, endangering passengers, other motorists and all roadway users.

In 2024, Michigan recorded 22,260 speed-involved crashes, an increase of 4.2 percent over the 21,357 crashes in 2023, according to the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute. However, while speed-involved crashes increased, the number of speed-related fatalities fell from 210 in 2023 to 177 in 2024, a decrease of 15.7 percent.

Single motor vehicle crashes were the most common crash type associated with speed-involved crashes in 2024 at 71 percent (15,809).

To encourage safer travel this summer, the Michigan State Police, along with local and county police agencies, will carry out focused speed-enforcement patrols throughout July.

“Speeding is one of the most preventable causes of deadly crashes,” said Alicia Sledge, director of the Michigan

Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). “Exceeding the speed limit reduces reaction time, increases impact forces and raises the risk to all road users. Slowing down is one of the simplest and most effective ways to save lives.”

Summer travel brings higher speeds and a higher risk as traffic volumes increase with families, young drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists taking to the roads.

Director Sledge, who chairs the Governor’s Traffic Safety Advisory Commission, said the launch of the SAFER by 2030 initiative in December 2025 is already having an impact on traffic safety in Michigan. The statewide effort brings together numerous agencies and traffic safety partners around a shared goal: reducing roadway fatalities by 30 percent by the year 2030.

“As part of the initiative, July’s speed-enforcement campaign reflects our commitment to saving lives on our roads through three key focus areas—Awareness, Engagement and Enforcement,” Sledge said. “This coordinated

enforcement effort is one way we’re putting the initiative into action. We urge drivers to obey speed limits, be extra cautious during this busy time and use patience behind the wheel.”

The July speed-enforcement cam-

paign is supported with federal traffic safety funds provided by the United States Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and administered by the OHSP.

DNR reduces public walk-in hours at Sault Ste. Marie Customer Service Center

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has announced it will reduce in-person customer service operations at its Sault Ste. Marie Customer Service Center. As of July 1, the office moved from offering public walk-in hours five days a week (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to three days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

The decision comes after careful consideration of operational capacity, walk-in traffic and limited staffing. Of the DNR’s 13 customer service centers, in-person customer service activity is consistently lowest at the Sault Ste. Marie office. Shifting two days per week away from being available to handle unpredictable streams of walk-in customers means staff can use those two days to plan for and address other critical natural resources priorities.

“Face to face, on the phone or online, the DNR remains committed to providing our customers and the community with the best possible service,” said Aaron Crawford, the DNR’s northern Michigan administrative manager. “We welcome the public to visit the Sault Ste. Marie office during those walk-in hours, knowing that some things — such as obtaining assistance with a timber sale transaction or getting guidance on new hunting or fishing regulations — can take a little more time.”

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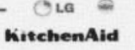
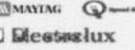
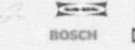
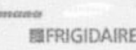
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Manoominike Giizis – Ricing Moon – August 2026						
Niizhwaaso Giizhigad	Ntam Giizhigad	Niizho Giizhigad	Nswo Giizhigad	Niiwo Giizhigad	Naano Giizhigad	Ngodwaaswo Giizhigad
2 Maajitaadaa! (Let’s start!)	3 Geyaabi n’goshkoz. (I am still waking up.)	4 makade mashkikiaaboo (coffee)	5 Mawadisidiwag. (They visit each other.)	6 Aaniish ezhinikaazoyin? (What are you called?)	7 ___ n’dizhinikaaz. (My name is ___.)	8 ___ n’digo. (My spirit name is ___.)
9 Wegonesh g’doodem? (What is your clan?)	10 ___ n’doodem. (My clan is ___.)	11 Gaawiin n’gikenimaasiin n’doodem. (I don’t know my clan.)	12 manoomin (wild rice)	13 waabi- manoomin (white rice)	14 Manoominike. (S/he is harvesting wild rice.)	15 Bawa’am. (S/he knocks wild rice.)
16 Bawishkam. (S/he threshes wild rice.)	17 iwedi (that over there)	18 Gabeshi. (S/he is camping.)	19 gabeshiwin (a campsite)	20 bagwayaanegamig (a tent)	21 zaag’amoogamig (bathroom; outhouse)	22 misan (pieces of firewood)
23 Boodawedaa. (Let’s build a fire.)	24 N’jiibaakwe. (I am cooking.)	25 dagoniganan (seasonings; ingredients)	26 Nitaa- jiibaakwe. (S/he is a good cook.)	27 Aaniish minik? (How many?; How much?)	28 bezhik-waabik (\$1.00)	29 baashdaagwaan (broadleaf plantain)
30 giinwaako- kosimaan (zucchini)	31 Giizhiitaadaa! (Let’s finish!)		To hear the pronunciation of these words, please scan this QR code for our videos:			
Bay Mills Language and Culture – Gnoozhekaaning Anishinaabemowin miinwaa Anishinaabe Bimaadziwin						



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elk Permits

Bay Mills elk hunting applications are now available. Interested and eligible Bay Mills members may apply at the Conservation office through July 31st. For more information, please call (906) 248-8645.

Pharmacy Update

Bay Mills Health Center has launced new pharmacy software, which means the previous mobile app and text messaging system are no longer active. A new app and text messaging system have been set up. Text messaging is expected to be available soon and may depend on your phone carrier for activation. To download the new app, text RXLOCAL to 64890.

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.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We are excited to announce that starting July 1st Bay Mills Health Center’s Purchased Referred Care (PRC) Team will be utilizing gas cards in replace of travel checks to assist with medical mileage assistance.

More information will be posted at BMHC. For further needs, please call 906-248-8326 or email PRC@baymills.org



-Your Bay Mills PRC Team



Flu Clinics

Our goal is to keep the community safe from severe illness this season. An annual flu shot helps lower your risk of influenza and can reduce the severity of illness if you do get sick.

NOVEMBER–JANUARY SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4TH 11:00AM – 1:00PM: BAY MILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5TH 3:00PM – 6:00PM: BAY MILLS RESORT & CASINO – SUNSET ROOM

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13TH 2:00PM – 4:00PM: BAY MILLS HEALTH CENTER – ELLEN MARSHALL ROOM

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18TH 9:00AM – 11:00AM: BAY MILLS HEALTH CENTER – ELLEN MARSHALL ROOM

MONDAY DECEMBER 7TH 9:00AM – 11:00AM: BAY MILLS HEALTH CENTER – ELLEN MARSHALL ROOM

THURSDAY JANUARY 7TH 1:00PM – 3:00PM: BAY MILLS HEALTH CENTER – ELLEN MARSHALL ROOM

For more info about the annual flu shot, call 906-248-5527

FLU CLINICS DATES/TIMES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON VACCINE AVAILABILITY!





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