Historic shipwrecks found in Lake Superior

WHITEFISH POINT — The Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society along with Marine Sonic Technology, is thrilled to announce the discovery of two vessels that sank in Lake Superior on Nov. 18, 1914.

On Nov. 18, 1914, the Steamship C.F. Curtis was towing the schooner barges Selden E. Marvin and Annie M. Peterson from Baraga, Michigan (Lake Superior) to Tonawanda, New York, all with a load of lumber. The three ships soon found themselves battling through howling winds, snow squalls and punishing waves. Sadly, the Curtis, Marvin, and Peterson were never seen again. Not one person from the trio survived—28 lives were lost that day.

In 2021 the GLSHS located nine lost vessels including the C.F. Curtis. This discovery was a huge highlight for the team that summer. This ship that went missing more than 100 years ago, was only a piece of the puzzle though, but the question remained—where are the Marvin and the Peterson? One year later, in the summer of 2022, after a lot of work and a hint of luck, the crew in the Shipwreck Society’s research vessel, David Boyd, came across another shipwreck within a few miles of the Curtis. After putting the organization’s ROV on the wreck it soon became apparent that the Marvin had been located.

Finding the Curtis and the Marvin are significant historic discoveries in American history as they were all part of the Hines Lumber industry, one of the biggest lumber companies of that era. That day marked the loss of almost one quarter of their fleet in one horrific storm.

When the GLSHS first saw the name Selden E. Marvin it is an event that can never be replicated.

“It was a career highlight to have witnessed the discovery of the Marvin,” said GLSHS board member and maritime historian, Ric Mixter. “As it not only solved a chapter in the nation’s darkest day in lumber history, but also showcased a team of historians who have dedicated their lives towards making sure these stories aren’t forgotten.”

“The combined losses of the C.F. Curtis, Selden E. Marvin and Annie M. Peterson have comprised one of the more tragic stories of shipwreck on the Great Lakes and certainly became one of the Lake Superior’s enduring mysteries,” added Executive Director, Bruce Lynn, of the GLSHS. “To locate the Curtis and Marvin in a space of two years has been amazing…now we just have to find the Peterson!”

According to Darryl Erter, director of marine operations for the GLSHS, finding the Peterson is still one of the goals of the GLSHS.

The moment the wrecks were discovered has been documented on video and is available for viewing online at their website www.shipwrecksmuseum.com.

The Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society was founded in 1978 by a group of divers, teachers, and educators to commence exploration of historic shipwrecks in eastern Lake Superior, near Whitefish Point in Michigan’s scenic Upper Peninsula. Today, the non-profit organization operates two museum sites on historic properties: The Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, Whitefish Point Light Station, Whitefish Point; and the U.S. Weather Bureau Building, Soo Locks Park, Sault Saint Marie, Mich. The Shipwreck Museum is open to the public seasonally from May 1 to October 31.
Chairperson’s Report

By Whitney Gravelle

As the snow begins to melt, and we all begin to wake from our winter slumber, new activity awaits Bay Mills Indian Community as we enter both spring and summer. On April 26 we will be hosting the General Tribal Council meeting at 6 p.m. in Adikameg Hall at the lower level of Bay Mills Community College.

At this meeting we will provide updates to our tribal citizens on projects currently happening in Bay Mills Indian Community, receive presentations from various Departments, and also review changes to the Bay Mills Leasing Ordinance and Member Adoption Ordinance. As the General Tribal Council carries powers and duties to approve business leases and adopt citizens, we would like your feedback on this law prior to enactment.

The HEARTH Act, also known as the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership Act, was passed by Congress in 2012 as a means to offer a voluntary and more efficient land-leasing process for Tribal Nation. Under the HEARTH Act, once a Tribal Nation’s governing leasing and regulations are submitted and approved by the Secretary of Interior, they are authorized to negotiate and enter into leases without further approval from the Department of Interior.

Passage of our own amendments to the Bay Mills Leasing Ordinance pursuant to HEARTH Act regulations will allow Bay Mills to streamline leases when tribal citizens need a mortgage, are receiving a home due to probate, and also gives us more sovereignty over the identification of cultural or environmental concerns upon issuance of a lease. HEARTH regulations will also expand the types of leases we can issue from residential and business, to agricultural, wind, solar, public, religious, educational, or recreational leases. This will streamline economic development, place tribal land management in our community’s hands, and also encourage public comment on environmental issues.

Although Bay Mills Indian Community has never engaged in the practice of disenrollment, we steadily work to make sure our community’s needs are met. Over the last several decades, we have seen various Tribal Nations across Indian Country engage in disenrollment typically for political or financial reasons. However, it is the view of the Executive Council that disenrollment of tribal citizens is a continuing act of historical trauma as the effects of those experiencing disenrollment face an amputation of mind, body, identity, and spirit. Disenrolled citizens face the crisis of no longer being included in their community, being removed by legal force, having their legal standing diminished, and then being terminated from their familial setting. The continuation of historical trauma through disenrollment is something Bay Mills Indian Community does not want as part of its legacy in our past, present, or future.

Bay Mills Indian Community is also continuing our efforts to address the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline, which traverses the entire span of our treaty-ceded territory (including several hundred rivers, streams, and wetlands). The Environmental Great Lakes and Energy Department has conditionally approved one of Enbridge Energy’s three permits to build the tunnel beneath the Straits of Mackinac. The other permits are still before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is currently engaged in the Section 106 tribal consultation process; and the Michigan Public Service Commission. Very recently, Bay Mills Indian Community has also begun a relationship with EarthRights, the Center for International Environmental Law, and Georgetown University to represent Bay Mills in filing international claims associated with the Line 5 project. On April 5, Bay Mills Indian Community in partnership with 50 of our sister Tribal Nations across Michigan, Wisconsin, and Canada, filed an international claim with the United Nations against the Government of Canada for their continued support of the Line 5 dual pipelines and their disregard of obligations to respect and protect Indigenous People’s rights to culture, environment, family, and life.

Last September, the General Tribal Council approved the 2022 Great Lakes Consent Decree on behalf of Bay Mills Indian Community. Shortly afterwards, one of the Parties to the Consent Decree filed objections to the Federal Court in the Western District of Michigan. Since that time, Bay Mills Indian Community has been involved in various court proceedings. Currently, there is a hearing scheduled in May, but we do not know yet what rulings will transpire nor when the new Consent Decree will go into effect. The first Wednesday of every month, the Legal Department meets with the Conservation Committee to provide updates and discuss strategy.

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There have been a lot of cultural activities taking place across Bay Mills as well, including the wild rice knocker workshop, maple syrup candies, smelting, and multiple community workshops that focus on the teachings and passing on of our cultural practices. Chi miigwetch to the Biological Services Department, Cultural Department, Waishkey Bay Farm, Museum and History Departments, as well and everyone else that helps plan, prepare, and coordinate these activities.

We also have some great events coming up for Bay Mills, including the General Tribal Council meeting on April 26; the Bay Mills Community College Pow Wow on April 22; and the Spirit Walk for Safe Communities on April 29. We hope to see you there!

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. You can reach me at 906-248-8100 or wgrave@baymills.org.
Executive Council discusses business at regular meeting

April 10 Meeting

Reports

President Whitney Gravelle
— GTC on April 26. Agenda items include amendments to BMCC leasing ordinance. This would streamline the process. Amendments to the membership ordinance.
— Housing Authority meeting held. Selected a bid for placement of homes on Plantation Hills.
— Met with architects regarding Riverview Campus updates.
— Purple house demolition discussed. Control burn was discussed. Not sure of home materials, will decide approach on that.
— Bus facilities grant. Looking to create a new transportation hub. Would create public transportation in Bay Mills. Grant will be submitted this week.
— Employee benefits changes discussed with enterprise staff.
— Tribal annual renovations are ongoing. Terminating relationship with current contractor. New contractor pushes completion to spring 2024.
— Line 5: International claim filed with the UN Human Rights Council.
— Consent Decree litigation ongoing. Response submitted April 17.
— Several meetings held with BMGA and BMBH. Hope to break ground in July on re-sort expansion.

Tribal Manager Rachel Lyons
— Submitted reporting to BIA.
— Grants meeting held. Coastal resilience grant in the works.
— Attended working session.
— From removal dumping will be available at clean up days.
— Working on Plantation Hills projects.
— Senior Center renovations and Memorial Park ongoing.
— Court expansion will go out for bid in early May.

Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram
— Updated along building plans sent over.
— Bay Mart tax system being updated.
— New accounting processes online. Working on enrolling users.
— Auditors will be on site this week.
— Draft Kinsg audit done.
— Hotel expansion updates given.
— Need to figure out budget for sewer serv.

Health Director Audrey Breakie
— Brimley Area School renovation was not funded. Going to have meeting to reduce costs and would like to continue moving forward.
— Met about landscaping on Portage street.
— Behavioral health is doing Narcan distribution in the community via vending machines.
— Storm impacted bottomline at BMRC.
— Table games holding their own. Table occupancy seen a dip, but week-ends are good.
— Met with HR team for recruitment efforts for BMRC.
— Replacing freezer and cooler for food service operations.

Quarterly Reports

BMHA Director Gail Gleen
— Busy with the new elder homes that have opened. A few issues have arisen.
— Moving elders into homes has opened four homes and one unit. Maintenance work will on bringing them to market.
— Seven vacant homes total and one apartment that they are working on opening up to tackle the waiting list.
— Breviwar’s was awarded the plantation Hills housing. Eight homes have been ordered.
— A lot of infrastructure must be done on the hill still to decide where to situation the homes on their lot.
— Looking at doing a community picnic on June 15 at the former Tot Lot.

BMCC President Duane Bedell
— Hosting graduation on May 12 at 10 a.m. There will be 62 students getting degrees getting 140 credentials this school year.
— Added two bachelors degree programs in the fall. Early childhood education has 190+ students. Business and Computer Science programs launched as well.
— Online enrollment has been opened to California students. We have been marketing to tribal nations in California. Our goal is to increase enrollment and move Native student count up.
— Authorizing 45 charter schools at this time.
— Soliciting a bid for new allied health building and hope to get it published next week.
— Incorporating cultural projects throughout the community.
— Pow wow to be held on April 22. Hoping it will be as popular as round dance.
— Board of Regents on April 21.
— BMCC competed in AIHEC conference. Summer Walk-In Clinic. DSGW will determine lot paved.

Stephanie Roose, NLCC
— Employee benefit review took place. Met with HR and got feedback on language changes. A cost analysis was done. The review will continue. Updates to be provided in the future.
— The new admin renovation is ongoing.
— Went to Lansing to lobby for longterm healthcare facility funds.
— Training taking place on new accounting system.
— Have to hope we done on Riverview Campus done this year. It will begin after Pow Wow.


**OPINION**

**Time to get the kids behind the wheel**

By Tom Purcell

The sun is shining today and Spring is upon us.

Such days remind me still of the excitement I knew when I turned 16 in April and was finally able to get my driver’s license — a wondrous rite of passage fewer and fewer teens choose to experience today.

According to a 2019 article in The Wall Street Journal, in the 1980s half of all 16-year-olds were driving. But by 2020 it was just 25 percent.

Why?

Driving tests began getting stricter and more challenging in many states in the mid-1990s — though passing my test in a 1976 “Starship-Enterprise-sized” station wagon was no easy feat.

The cost of cars has risen and today’s teens are able to get around easily enough using ride-sharing services.

But the biggest reason is simply that many teens have zero desire to drive on their own — because the hunger to get out of the house and socialize is no longer a big incentive.

A study by Common Sense Media finds that teens are spending an average of 8 hours a day on social media apps.

They may think their online habits are enabling them to socialize with “friends,” but several studies, including a 2021 Journal of Adolescence study, see a clear correlation between the explosion in social media in 2012 and increasing isolation, depression and anxiety in teens.

A 2020 Netflix documentary, “The Social Dilemma,” explains in detail how the nature of social media encourages teen isolation and depression.

When you’re online, powerful artificial intelligence tools — algorithms — monitor everything you do. Plus, the tools know your full name, marital status, gender, age, birthday, political views and several of your interests.

Every time you “like” an item, click on a news story or interact with other users, you help these AI tools determine precise personal details, such as who you are dating and whether you are lonely or sad.

The more these tools know about your private life, the more money advertising and confronting his illness.

Reacting to Fettermen’s predicament demonstrates the dramatic transformation of perception and attitudes toward public health and mental illness. For decades, it was seen as a stigma to be afflicted with such an ailment. Politicians were particularly vulnerable.

John Eagleton, a Missouri Democrat and a vice-presidential nominee in 1972, was hospitalized three times for depression and underwent electroshock therapy. The revelation of that news eventually doomed Eagleton’s political prospects, and after his wife revealed that he had been hospitalized, the political candidate they want you to vote for.

The more they know about you, the more often items will appear in your newsfeed that are designed to give you dopamine spikes and keep you online as long as possible -- so their advertisers have never-ending access to sell you.

As you spend time online with social media apps, you are constantly being psychologically manipulated — constantly comparing your looks to famous people, constantly seeking praise and “likes” from strangers or suffering deeply if someone online in any way mocks or criticizes one of your posts.

It’s pretty clear that young people, whose brains are still developing, are being profoundly impacted by social media in many important and trivial ways we don’t fully understand yet.

When we were kids, we had to go outside to drive on our own. Instead of becoming excited at age 16 that they can learn to drive a car and come and go freely, too many kids are content to sit alone in their rooms endlessly texting each other or consuming TikTok.

It’s too bad. Kids today don’t know how much fun, freedom and real social interaction they’re missing without cars.

Cruising the park in a 1972 VW Beetle with my friends is one of the best memories I have of my teen years.

I know the social media challenge is complex, but here’s a good start:

Hey, kids, the weather is breaking. Get your license, turn off our phones and go for a cruise in the park!

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Purcell, creator of the cartoon site ThimbersTail.com, which features pet advice he’s learning from his beloved Labrador, Thurber, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist.

Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.

**Depression and the expectations placed on men**

By Elwood Watson

For many years, the announcement that he checked himself into a hospital was met with bipartisan praise. Far right politicians from Texas senator Ted Cruz to fellow Pennsylvanian centrist representative, Susan Wild, to New York left wing congressman Richie Torres lavished support on the senator for publicly disclosing and confronting his illness.

Reaction to Fettermen’s predicament demonstrates the dramatic transformation of perception and attitudes toward public health and mental illness. For decades, it was seen as a stigma to be afflicted with such an ailment. Politicians were particularly vulnerable.

John Eagleton, a Missouri Democrat and a vice-presidential nominee in 1972, was hospitalized three times for depression and underwent electroshock therapy. The revelation of that news eventually doomed Eagleton’s political prospects, as presidential nominee George McGovern and other Democrats bigwigs encouraged him to withdraw from the ticket.

Societal enlightenment and the progression of public attitudes notwithstanding, we still reside in a society where men have largely been conditioned to repress from being too emotive in their feelings. Historically speaking, it has been seen as inappropriate for men to demonstrate any sort of personal vulnerability. Men who exposed their vulnerabilities were seen as less masculine or effeminate.

As a result, men have been taught to be strong, self-reliant and as independent as possible. Consequently, many men, (due to societal and personal decisions) rather than address the issue with others, have far too often opted to suffer in silence, to their own personal detriment.

I have a very close friend who suffers from an acute level of depression, bordering on manic depression. He has discussed with me how he has encountered some desolately dark chapters, where various sorts of demons’ fiercer and stellar inner self. Yet, with the support of a strong and loving wife and daughter and friends (including me), he has been able to weather such sporadically driving, tumultuous and suffocating storms, witness the eventual light at the end of the tunnel and persevere.

Unfortunately, despite such admirable resiliency, there are moments where he is fearful he will collapse and plunge into a condition that will result in a fatal outcome.

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Unfortunately, despite such admirable resiliency, there are moments where he is fearful he will collapse and plunge into a condition that will result in a fatal outcome.

Like many people, I have endured chapters of depression. This was particularly the case after my parent’s deaths in 1987 and 1995. Through the support of siblings, friends and other vital resources, I was successful in conquering such smothering clouds of darkness.

Depression is not a vice solely confined to middle aged and older men. It can affect young men as well, even in our supposedly postmodern age, are still expected to retain as many of their masculine qualities as possible. While it has become more permissible for men to be sensitive, caring, cultured, and intellectually aware, there remain superficial expectations they still be brawny, robust and as true to their male roots as possible.

Given such a culmination of complex and contradictory factors, it should not be surprising that men as a whole are facing ever increasing amounts of stress, anxiety and depression in their lives. It is imperative that the greater society make an effort to confront, combat and dispel the often-unrealistic expectations that are frequently placed upon them. The reaction to Fettermen’s announcement is a great step in rejecting those expectations.

There is nothing unmasculine in seeking assistance or admitting vulnerabilities. After all, no man is an island. Real men are human.

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Watson is a professor of history, Black studies, and gender and sexuality studies at East Tennessee State University. He is also an author and public speaker.

**LGBTQ+ realities & stereotypes in virtual reality**

By Elwood Watson

I have a very close friend who suffers from an acute level of depression, bordering on manic depression. He has discussed with me how he has encountered some desolately dark chapters, where various sorts of demons’ fiercer and stellar inner self. Yet, with the support of a strong and loving wife and daughter and friends (including me), he has been able to weather such sporadically driving, tumultuous and suffocating storms, witness the eventual light at the end of the tunnel and persevere.

Unfortunately, despite such admirable resiliency, there are moments where he is fearful he will collapse and plunge into a condition that will result in a fatal outcome.
By MORGAN WOMACK
Capital News Service

LANSING – Packed with telescopes and a gadget to measure sky darkness, Minnesota’s “Astro Bob” King is heading to Michigan to commune with fellow night owls and sky enthusiasts.

“People come up here for getting closer to the wilderness and getting closer to the quietness and getting closer to the darkness,” Mueller said.

Speakers will teach workshops on tracking and photographing the Northern Lights. Visitors will even stargaze on snowshoes.

Organizers hope it builds momentum.

“Imagine the world with no light pollution and everyone skiing and snowboarding and there to enjoy, to reflect on, to provide a whole ecosystem can be disrupted when insects like mayflies or fish flies, said the author of “Lights Out: The Terrifying Story of Light Pollution.”

On March 25, the State Board of Education passed a similar resolution to urge “commonsense gun reform” from the legislature for taking the lead and enacting much-needed, commonsense gun safety laws,” said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. “Michigan students and staff are safer because of these new laws. That said, we have more work that needs to be done, particularly with respect to enacting of extreme risk protection orders legislation, which passed the House of Representatives today.”

In March, the State Board of Education adopted a resolution on safe school environments that appreciated the state legislature for “holding (committee) hearings on commonsense gun safety legislation and absorbing the testimony from families and young people whose lives have been impacted by the use of firearms,” and calling for the governor and state legislature to enact safer gun laws.

Five months earlier, the State Board of Education had passed a similar resolution to urge “commonsense gun reform” from the legislature and had lifted up results of a summer survey that showed widespread support of Michiganders of many political backgrounds for new gun laws.

While light pollution can impact human health by making it harder to sleep or enjoy stargazing, it can also harm wildlife, said Liz Parkinson, who studies the impact of light pollution in aquatic ecosystems on insects like mayflies or fish flies, said the whole ecosystem can be disrupted when these insects are steered toward artificial lights because it can affect the food chain.

People can help avoid this ecological issue and reduce the light around their homes by setting lights to a timer and using motion-activated lights, she said.

Parkinson said starting any conversation about preserving the night sky is important.

“An empty jar of darkness is the most important,” Parkinson said. “As humans, we’re becoming so desensitized to artificial light at night and how everything is lit up that I don’t think it’s something that people think about as a genuine problem,” Parkinson said. “Education through dark sky parks is super important.”

Whitmer signs new gun laws


On the campus of Michigan State University, the governor signed six bills that will require universal background checks for all gun sales in Michigan; require safe storage of guns and ammunition in homes; and lower the costs for the purchase of firearm safety devices.

The laws go into effect next year.

“I want to thank Gov. Whitmer and the state legislature for taking the lead and enacting much-needed, commonsense gun safety laws,” said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. “Michigan students and staff are safer because of these new laws. That said, we have more work that needs to be done, particularly with respect to enacting of extreme risk protection orders legislation, which passed the House of Representatives today.”

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Dark sky enthusiasts gather for first UP festival

By MORGAN WOMACK
Capital News Service

LANSING – Packed with telescopes and a gadget to measure sky darkness, Minnesota’s “Astro Bob” King is heading to Michigan to commune with fellow night owls and sky enthusiasts.

They’re coming for the Upper Peninsula’s first dark sky festival, running from April 21-22. It aligns with International Dark Sky Week, a week dedicated to raising awareness about light pollution.

King regularly shares stargazing tips in the Duluth News Tribune and the Sky and Telescope Magazine. He also teaches a public astronomy class at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

“I get so much joy out of the night sky at the many different levels,” King said. “I’d like other people to at least have a taste of that.”

He’ll be leading 50 visitors on a hike to see dazzling stars at the Keweenaw Dark Sky Park, a private 550-acre area around the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, on Earth Day weekend. The visitors will stay at the lodge, take an aurora photography workshop and learn about sky preservation.

The lodge partnered with tourist information center Visit Keweenaw to plan the event. The event sold out a month in advance, said Visit Keweenaw events coordinator Jesse Wiederhold.

“I’m actually going to (the event) myself, and I cannot believe the cool people that were interested in talking about this,” Wiederhold said. “We put a lot of effort into doing this and the turnout is incredible.”

Organizers hope it builds momentum.

The park hopes to get more community organizations like astronomy clubs interested, involved, said the lodge’s chief executive John Mueller.

While 50 participants may seem small, the team will evaluate size and adjust next year.

“People come up here for getting closer to the wilderness and getting closer to the quietness and getting closer to the darkness,” Mueller said.

Speakers will teach workshops on tracking and photographing the Northern Lights. Visitors will even stargaze on snowshoes.

Last June, the Keweenaw park was awarded an international designation after park staff submitted an 150-page application and adjusted its lighting and regulations.

The lodge’s outdoor activity leader Chris Guibert said they decided to name the park vaguely, “Keweenaw Dark Sky Park,” so that if nearby areas wish to receive the designation, the park can be expanded.

Dark sky parks restrict light pollution to allow visitors to see the night sky more clearly. The International Dark-Sky Association designates them.

Michigan has two others designated by the association: Headlands Dark Sky Park in Emmet County and Dr. T.K. Lawless Park in Cass County.

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Michigan’s “Astro Bob” King is head of the University of Michigan’s Astronomy Program.
Travelers face higher costs, from gas to park passes

By SOPHIA BRANDT
Capital News Service

LANSING — Fueled by inflation and the pandemic recovery, travel costs are bound to be more expensive this year than in the past.

“One of the top issues to travelers right now is inflation,” said David Lorenz, vice president of Pure Michigan.

For example, in 2021 to 2022, U.S. retail food costs had the largest annual increase in more than 40 years, rising by 11%, according to the Government Accountability Office, a nonpartisan investigative arm of Congress.

The Department of Natural Resources announced an increase in annual state park recreation passports from $12 to $13 as of March 1, the first increase in three years.

Annual passes for nonresidents increased by $3 on Jan. 1.

Gas prices have also been on the rise.

Michigan prices have been slowly increasing over the past month, according to AAA.

In March, the average price for a gallon of regular gas was $3.499. At the end of the first week of April, the price was $3.606 per gallon. Mid-grade and premium follow the same trend.

Moving into the summer, it may be important for travelers to look for deals on travel-related expenses, Lorenz said.

“The private sector will make accommodations to attract the number of travelers they need. Travelers should be looking for deals and discounts and comparing prices,” he said.

Northern Light Cannabis Company completes first harvest

BAY MILLS — Northern Light Cannabis Company, the state’s first tribally-owned provisioning center in Michigan, has completed their first harvest and now has product for sale in their storefront. NLCC’s operation produced numerous strains with custom genetics.

The $5.5 million grow operation includes three, 17' x 60' flowering rooms, utilizing vertical racking systems accompanied by state of the art environmental controls. Each room houses approximately 540 plants, which will produce 100 pounds per room of dried product. Harvests will now take place every month in rotation.

“Bay Mills Indian Community continues to lead the way in tribal marijuana innovation,” said Kimmi Walden, Bay Mills Business Holdings general manager.

“Our operations have always been about providing the best quality product to our customers, and now our operation is not only community owned, but also community grown.”

The NLCC grow operation began last August with seeds propagating shortly after the grow room construction was complete.

“We are so excited about the opportunity for our grow to be vertically integrated, and test out new craft genetics,” said Cultivation Manager Sean Dyament. “Our rooms are huge. It’s such a big open floor space and we’ve fully utilized the height of the place, setting up levels of growing with vertical racking system. Instead of growing on the floor, we set up two stories of grows in each room.”

The NLCC team has been gearing up for their first harvest for months and is looking forward to the product launch. The General Tribal Council of Bay Mills Indian Community granted the initial investment into the grow operations at NLCC in November of 2021.

NLCC is also partnering with other tribes to provide product across the state with cannabis operations. BMC cannot currently participate in the state marijuana market without the passage of a tribal compact. BMC began speaking to the State of Michigan about a tribal-state marijuana compact back in 2019, and currently supports proposed amendments to the Michigan Regulation and Taxation ofMarijuana Act.

The Bay Mills Marijuana Commission oversees operations at NLCC. All staff at NLCC are Leafly certified in the art and science of cannabis, continually improving their education to meet the needs of their customers.

NLCC opened on Nov. 6, 2020 and was the first retail store in Chippewa County and first tribal cannabis operation in Michigan.

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Rudyard, Michigan
Social Security Administration warns of imposter scams

By Hillary Hatch, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Social Security scams — where fraudsters pressure victims into making cash or gift card payments to fix alleged Social Security number problems or to avoid arrest — are an ongoing government imposter fraud scheme.

For several years, Social Security impersonation scams have been one of the most common government imposter scams reported to the Federal Trade Commission. The SSA has made concerted efforts to address this issue, through extensive outreach and investigative initiatives. These efforts have made a significant impact, reducing money reported lost to Social Security scams by 30 percent from 2021 to 2022.

“I am proud of the work we have done to combat Social Security imposter scams and raise public awareness,” said Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of Social Security. “We will continue to use every tool at our disposal to protect the public and their critical benefits. We urge Americans to remain vigilant, do not give out personal information or money, and report any scam attempts.”

Scammers use sophisticated tactics to trick potential victims into disclosing personal and financial information. Typically, they use the five P’s – Pretend, Prize or Problem, Pressure, and Payment. For example, scammers pretend they are from Social Security in phone calls or emails and claim there is a problem with the person’s Social Security number. The scammer’s caller ID may be spoofed to look like a legitimate government number. Scammers may also send fake documents to pressure people into complying with demands for information or money.

Other common tactics include citing “badge numbers” and using fraudulent Social Security letterhead to target individuals for payment or personal information.

SSA will never:

• Tell you that your Social Security number is suspended.
• Contact you to demand an immediate payment.
• Threaten you with arrest.
• Ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
• Request gift cards or cash.
• Promise a Social Security benefit approval or increase in exchange for information or money.

SSA employees do contact the public by telephone for business purposes. Ordinarily, they call people who recently applied for benefits, are already receiving payments and require updates to their record or requested a phone call from us. If there is a problem with a person’s Social Security number or record, they will mail a letter.

To report a scam attempt, go to oig.ssa.gov. For more information, please visit www.ssa.gov/scam and www.ssa.gov/antifraudfacts.

SCCU scholarship deadline is June 1

SAULT STE. MARIE — Soo Co-op Credit Union is offering educational scholarships for the 2023-2024 academic year. Three Nick Gerrish scholarships will be awarded in the amount of $2,500 each, and one scholarship will be awarded in the amount of $1,500 to a Bay Mills Community College student.

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria to apply:

* Students must be a member in good standing of Soo Co-op Credit Union. Note: You must be a primary member or a dependent of a member for at least two years.
* The student must be enrolled or will be enrolled as a full-time student, in an accredited college, university, or trade school.
* Proof of enrollment showing 12 credits or more is required.
* The student must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75.
* Students who have previously received a Nick Gerrish Scholarship may re-apply.
* Applications are available online at www.soocoop.com/ngs
* Must be submitted by June 1, 2023

Each award will be paid directly to the college, university, or trade school and credited in the recipient’s name. (One-half of the scholarship will be distributed per semester). Failure to maintain your status at school (including termination from school, dropping out of school, or transferring to another college, university, or trade school) will result in the cancellation of the award and any remaining funds will be returned to the credit union. In some cases, the funds will be redistributed to an alternate applicant.

If you have questions, please contact the Member Education Department at 906-632-5887 or by email at marketing@soocoop.com.
IHS Model Agreement CY 2022 - Annual Report

An annual contract was entered into by the Bay Mills Indian Community and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Indian Health Service.

The following Programs, Functions, Services and Activities were performed:

A. Health Management: Provide overall administrative services for Tribal Health and Human Services Programs. Services included overall supervision, coordination, management, and monitoring of all Tribal Health and Human Services Programs. Approximately $943,927.93 was expended on administration related activities. This included support of 10 employees including wages and fringe.

During the CY 2022, there was about approximately an 8% staff turnover including key positions such as Mental Health Therapist, Dental Assistant, 2 Medical Reception, Dental Biller, Nurse, Pharmacist Director, Pharmacist and Health & Human Service Assistant Director. Albeit some move into higher level positions within the Health Center.

Overall, BMHC had a no call/no show rate of 9%, and a 14% rate of canceled appointments throughout 2022. Despite the pandemic consuming much of our attention, BMHC also continued to focus on the build of the new Health Center. BMHC has resumed service in all departments, continuing to engage in safety measures for our patients and employees.

B. Primary Medical and Dental Services: In 2022, the Medical Clinic served 2,021 patients with 8,508 patient visits; staffed by 3.5 FTE medical providers (Medical Doctor, Nurse Practitioners). The Dental Clinic served 1,477 patients with 4,362 patient visits; staffed with 3.76 FTE dental providers (Dentists, Dental Hygienists). The Medical and Dental Services were staffed in accordance with tribal priorities, availability of funds, and demand for services.

The Health Center maintains accreditation through the Joint Commission in Ambulatory Health Care, Behavioral Health Care and Primary Care Medical Home. The Primary Medical Home is both a designation through the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and The Joint Commission. Approximately $2.5 million was generated for medical, dental, pharmacy and behavioral health services through third party billing.

Services were also available to non-Native Americans, and services continued to be provided on Fee for Service and Value Based Care. Efforts are made to capture all possible third-party revenue through insurance companies and other reimbursement parties. Revenue generated by clinic services is reprogrammed into operating expenses, service expansion, employee retention efforts, and apportioned towards the new health facility.

C. Purchased/Referred Care (PRC): In order to provide comprehensive health services to eligible individuals, a Purchased/Referred Care Program was maintained. Health services as defined in this section may be purchased through other health providers when the Bay Mills Health Clinic cannot provide such services. Purchased health services may include hospitalization, specialized physician and dental care, pharmacy, optometry, and patient transportation. The BMHC does not pay for any service that can be provided on site for Tribal Members, unless reviewed by the Health Board. Services procured will be in accordance with IHS regulations and tribal priorities, which will be determined by the Health Board annually on the basis of need and availability of funds. Approximately $669,535. was expended for PRC purchased services, including $359,581. in prescription purchases for tribal members at the Health Center Pharmacy. Bay Mills Health Center has begun to sponsor Elder’s 65 and older for Medicare part D prescription coverage.

D. Substance Abuses Services: Substance abuse services were provided to eligible individuals and consists of intensive outpatient, outpatient counseling, relapse prevention, youth prevention, crisis and referral services and medication assisted treatment. The Substance Abuse Program served 66 clients, totaling 228 visits in 2022. Sessions were conducted through in person service and/or telehealth service.

E. Mental Health Services: Mental health services consisted of outpatient therapy, psychological testing, psychiatry, counseling, family therapy, play therapy, prevention. The full time Behavioral Health Coordinator works closely with our medical clinic staff to integrate behavioral health and primary care. This program served 632 patients and had 3,312 visits. Sessions were conducted through in person service or telehealth service.

F. Community Health Services: Community Health Services were down 1 position for 2022. Patient transportation for medical appointments and medication delivery were active services all throughout the year.

G. Pharmacy: On-site pharmacy services are provided to the Native American and non-Native American patients of the Health Center. Purchase Referred Care funding was used to pay for pharmaceuticals for Native American patients. Bay Mills Health Center Pharmacy offers 340 B, and discounted prescriptions.

H. Environmental Health Program (Sanitarian): Field Environmental Health Sanitarian Services are provided in accordance with IHS criteria through a subcontract arrangement with Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan. These services provide for various inspections/surveys of tribal facilities and training. Copies of these inspections may be viewed in Human Resource Department. The total of this contract is $38,000 annually.

I. Emergency Medical Services: 24-hour emergency medical services are available, including advanced life support. The Health Center has had EMS as a part of our scope of services since January 2020.

J. Optometry Services: Bay Mills Health Center opened the vision center in June of 2022. In 2022 we served 74 patients with 101 visits. Optometry Services were added to the scope of Practice.

Overall no call/no show rate for all departments including Medical, Behavioral Health, Dental and Optometry 17%, Cancellation 32%. Bay Mills Health Center to implement a stringent No Call/No show policy, beginning in the Dental Department for year 2023.

Base funding amounts available in Calendar Year 2022 was $2,575,360 with $408,179 budgeted to indirect cost.

Bay Mills Health Center spent down all money allocated by Indian Health Service in 2022. We supplement this funding with medical revenue funds to ensure that patient received the care they needed.

Submitted by:
Audrey Breakie, MA
Health & Human Services Director
Bay Mills Indian Community
Public land in small communities eyed for solar grids

By Dan Netter
Capital News Service

LANING – Advocates for solar power for Michigan homes are now hoping to ex-
pand solar grids on public land.

Sens. Ed McBroom, R-Wucecdah Township, and Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, have introduced bills to encourage the building and regulation of solar centers to help power entire small communities.

Together, the bills would create a frame-
work for the Michigan Public Service
Commission, the state’s utility regulator, on how to regulate community solar projects to protect consumers and how to provide energy bill credits to subscribers to the proj-
ects.

Community solar panels are typically solar arrays on public lands such as parks, vacant lots or possibly even former dump-
ing sites.

McBroom said he and Irwin have dif-
ferent philosophies for why they pursue re-
newable energy projects, but that the two have been working together on creating community-based projects since entering the legislature over a decade ago.

“I think that renewables in general are much more efficient and practical on a small scale than they are on the large indus-
trial scale and that the state should be pro-
moting that more than much larger wind
farms and large solar arrays,” McBroom said.

He cited Escanaba’s Solar Project
owned by the city’s utility company. It al-

...
Police agencies try new recruitment tactics to address shortages

By JACK TIMOTHY HARRISON
Capital News Service

LANSING – There is a crisis in police agency recruitment and retention, as almost every type of agency is short personnel, said Robert Stevenson, executive director of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

Many agencies are seeking to boost applications while having to operate with officer shortages.

“Since the peak of our officer employment, which was about 22,000 or so when the 911 attacks occurred, we are down about 4,000 officers in the state,” Stevenson said.

Among the reasons for this decline are smaller population pools of potential recruits, weekend hours, declining benefits and negative perceptions, police say.

Departments that are fully staffed have recruited from other agencies which creates staffing problems for smaller departments. The Michigan State Police began a lateral transfer program from local agencies, said Stevenson, previously chief of the Livonia Police Department.

The situation is the same for Michigan State Police, said Shanon Banner, its public affairs section manager.

Fifteen to 20 years ago there were several thousand applicants to run recreation schools, Banner said. That dropped to 1,200 in 2020 and then between 300 to 400 in 2022.

As more troopers have retired, it became harder to keep up with retirements, Banner said.

“While we’re maintaining applicants and still being able to hire, the applicant pool that we’re pulling from has decreased significantly over time,” Banner said. “So it is getting harder and harder to encourage people to apply.”

The Michigan Sheriffs’ Association reports that some sheriff departments are below normal staffing levels and this has led to mandated overtime, said Matthew Saxton, the association’s chief executive officer and executive director.

Since 2020, there are 600 fewer licensed law enforcement personnel due to positions not being filled, he said. The job is a 24/7 position which may cause people to look for other work.

Smaller communities, many in Northern Michigan, are especially affected by shortages, due to less benefits and options for employment within departments, Stevenson said.

These departments are more affected by these shortages because when they are missing several officers in a single-digit staff, the impact is felt more, Stevenson said.

Areas such as Petoskey, Mackinaw City, Cheboygan, lack the populations of large cities to draw law enforcement recruits from, said Harbor Springs Police Chief Kyle Knight.

“Some of the smaller agencies are really struggling up there to get fully staffed because there’s just not that many possible recruits up there,” Knight said.

The cost of living up north, especially for people fresh from the academy is difficult, but his department of seven has a sufficient pension and health care insurance benefits, Knight said.

Students going to college and coming back are helping with recruitment, and retention is strong because the quality of life up north is good, according to Knight.

Police departments, such as Petoskey, are paying for recruits to go to the academy and some departments have received grant funding, Knight said.

“I would say that’s really helped draw people up north or anywhere in law enforcement, but especially up north is to send them through the academy at our expense and not their expense, which is like a $10,000 to $12,000 bonus, plus they get paid while they’re doing it,” Knight said.

Over the years, pensions and benefits have been cut, Stevenson said, but there is some improvement in benefits returning and pay rising.

In minority communities, it is harder to get applicants and diversify because of negative media perceptions, Stevenson said.

The perception issues of all officers being called racist and the calls to end qualified immunity have also made recruitment difficult, he said.

While officers may be willing to risk their lives, “they are not willing to risk their financial well-being of their family for the job,” Stevenson said.

The legislature has made some funds available for police departments to hire and pay for them to go through a police academy, according to Stevenson.

His association has promoted police jobs with videos and purchased airtime on sporting events, a new demographic of recruitment to highlight the good work of the profession.

Law enforcement is an occupation that has spanned generations of a family, Stevenson said. But more current officers are telling their children to seek other careers.

Michigan State Police is pursuing strategies to increase applications, such as creating relationships with universities, reaching returning military members and increasing digital advertising and job postings, Banner said.

State Police have started a billboard campaign to promote openings in southwest Michigan and its Explorer Program allows people as young as 14 to volunteer and engage with the community alongside troopers, Banner said.

Knight said while it is going to be difficult to fill open positions, “it is like a pendulum and I’ve been around long enough that it will turn, it is just going to take a while.”

Camping interest in Michigan stays strong after pandemic

By SAMUEL BLATCHFORD
Capital News Service

LANSING – Summer is right around the corner. That means warmer weather and outdoor activities, especially camping. Camping interest has grown since the pandemic and is staying strong, state officials say.

During the 2021 season, reservations for camping and lodging were at an all-time record high, said Ron Olson, chief of parks and recreation for the Department of Natural Resources.

The reservations fell 3% to 5% in 2022, but remain higher than pre-pandemic levels. Reservations for camp sites and lodging are up 17% since 2019.

The online reservation portal that the DNR has set up provides access to booking lodging and camping sites across the state.

“We are at another threshold level, where (reservations) are still up just under 20% since 2019,” he said.

Overall park attendance has also increased since 2019 as well.

An all-time record was set in 2021 at 35 million visitors to state parks.

According to Olson, there was a 30% increase in park visitation, including camping and day use.

There was also an increase in new park visitors.

“A lot of folks went outdoors (during the pandemic) and are probably continuing to go, along with people that have always gone,” he said.

Ari Adler and his wife, Jessi, have been to all 103 Michigan State parks and have been camping with their recreational vehicle for over seven years. They also camped during the pandemic.

“We camp in state parks whenever we can, and seeing more people enjoying what state parks have to offer is a positive thing,” he said.

He said he noticed an influx of new campers as the pandemic ebbed and flowed.

The increase of new campers led to having to check availability ahead of time and make reservations especially with the more popular sites.

This increase in new campers also has a downside. Adler said people tend to not know the basic etiquette of camping such as no loud radios or TV’s, don’t cut through other people’s campsites and watch after your pets.
Walking On

Elaine Lynn (Quinn) Johnston


Elaine was well known for her many years as the best waitress in the EUP. From her years at the Robin’s Nest, to her final working years at the Lockview, Elaine was the best server any restaurant could ever ask for. To see her working a crowded dining room in the busiest time of tourist season, with a huge smile on her face, was a thing of magic. She loved what she did and it showed.

She and her husband lived a beautiful life filled with many adventures; from camping at Monocle, visits to Wixom Lake to visit their best friends, and trips to Florida after retirement, they never missed a moment to have fun. Many people don’t find their “person,” but they were so fortunate to have found each other.

Elaine’s love for her family was evident every day. She was the peacemaker, the therapist, the shoulder to cry on, and the one you called when you needed anything. Parenting advice, help with a recipe, or a random fact you needed to know were her specialties; especially on any given weekday, where she would beat anyone who dared to challenge her in Jeopardy. She was known as “Grandma Nana” to her grandchildren and great grandchildren, who she adored.

Elaine is survived by her beloved husband Michael, mother Alma Quinn, two siblings: Mike Quinn and Lori (Lon) Desormeau, all of Sault Ste. Marie; MI; four children: Sherri (Don Bentley) Bloomfield and Terry (Nicole) Wilkins also of Sault Ste. Marie, MI; Mike (Angela) Johnston Jr. of Elk Rapids, MI, and Christina Wilkins of Prairie Village, KS; grandchildren: Rachael, Emily (Jeff), Alyssa, Aaron, Sidney, Jenna, and Laila; and great grandchildren: Ryan, Jaxon, Cora, Lauren, and Liam, sisters-in-law Nancy (Russ) Miller of Niceville, Florida, Cindy McKee of Sault Ste. Marie, and Janis (Jeff) Saari of Crystal Lake, Illinois. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and cousins. She is predeceased by her father William, her brother Billy, father-in-law Harry, mother-in-law Eileen, and brother-in-law Bill.

She fought her diagnosis of Progressive Supranuclear Palsy with admirable strength and was determined to make the best of her days. Even when days got hard, Elaine faced it head on, often times using humor as a way to comfort those around her. She will be missed immensely, but her heart will live on in our memories.

Services have taken place. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Ball Hospice House. We would like to extend a special thank you to the angels at MyMichigan-Sault.

Francis Theodore “Frank” Sergeiko

Francis Theodore “Frank” Sergeiko, age 69, of Brimley, passed away on March 31, 2023, at MyMichigan-Sault.

Frank was born on July 4, 1953, in Detroit to the late Peter and Irene (Hubert) Sergeiko. He graduated from Franklin High School in Wayne County and continued his education at Culinary School. On April 22, 1972, he married Jackie Phillips in Plymouth, Mich. Cooking was his life, he worked for many years as a chef and baker. Frank enjoyed playing the guitar and singing. He also enjoyed fishing. Halloween was huge for him. He decorated extensively for more than 45 years, and he also gave out the large candy bars. Frank was a part of Madrigal dinners for years.

Frank is survived by his children: Michelle (Jason Clow) Phillips, Candance (Larry Fultz) Sergeiko, and Shannon Sergeiko all of Brimley, MI and Shane Sergeiko of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren: James Reik, Christina Fultz, Dalton Ciera, Ciara Clement, Callie Fultz, Angelyn Sergeiko, Joseph Phillips, and Honorah Sergeiko; and a sister: Irene Sergeiko.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents and a sister: Susan Winkler. A service will be held at a later time.

Alexander Emerson Teplee

Alexander Emerson Teplee, 34, of Strongs, passed away at home on March 25, 2023.

Alex was born on Dec. 8, 1988, in Sault Ste. Marie. He attended Brimley High School and Ojibwe Charter School. He was a proud member of the Bay Mills Indian Community. Alex worked various jobs but love working as a commercial fisherman.

He enjoyed collecting rocks, his dog: “Maize”, working on cars, and trapping rabbits. He was willing to do anything for anyone. He loved to shovel snow for the elderly.

Alex is survived by his mother: Faith Teplee of Strong; five children: Shadow, Cassidy, Rocky, Brittana and Kyllah; three sisters: Jackie, Lee, and Esther; a brother: Joshua; his biological father: Alex Easton; a grandmother: Theresa Teplee; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Alex was preceded in death by his father: Wayne Teplee; two brothers: Nathan Berkland and Lindsay Waite; grandparents: Lyle and Pauline Hopper, and Emerson Teplee; and his biological mother, Cathy Teplee.

Services took place with the assistance of C.S. Mulder Funeral Home.

Muriel Leonette Beneteau

Muriel Leonette Beneteau, 75, of Brimley, passed away unexpectedly on March 15, 2023, at her home.

Muriel was born on July 13, 1947, in Canada to the late Martin and Lillian (Stephenson) Beneteau. She was a graduate of Walled Lake High School with the class of 1965. Muriel was well known around the Brimley area as being friendly and outgoing, always wearing a smile on her face and flower in her hair. Muriel enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and taking her grand dog for walks. She also enjoyed watching her son coach basketball at Brimley High School and attended every game. She never missed any of her grandchildren’s events or chances to spend time with them.

Muriel is survived by her son: Matt (Shianne) Bathey of Brimley; three grandchildren: Jordan Carrick (Bubba Briones), Sophia Bathey, and Jaxon Bathey; and one great grandchild: Luna Briones.

Muriel was preceded in death by her parents, a sister: Jennie Ross; and her twin brother: Martin Beneteau.

No public services will be held at this time.

Julie Ann Timmer

Julie Ann Timmer, 69, of Brimley, passed away on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at the Hospice of the EUP - Hospice House.


Julie worked as a dispatcher for the Bay Mills Tribal Conservation Dept. She was a tribal member of the Bay Mills Indian Community, and a member of the Paradise United Methodist Church. Julie loved spending time with her grandchildren. She also enjoyed making maple syrup, playing golf, playing pool, fishing, boating, camping, stargazing, and being at the family cabin.

Julie is survived by her husband: Richard; her children: Jason (Sherri Steele) Teplee, Jennifer (Randy Heck) Coleman, and Julie (John) Weist- all of Brimley, and Ricki (Randy) Burley of Sault Ste. Marie; her six grandchildren: Jacob (Brittany), Mariah, Raeagan, RJ, Isabel, and Taryn; and two great-grandchildren: Maci and Adalynn. Julie is also sur- vived by a sister: Theresa Teplee of Brimley; and a brother: Dale Teplee of Brimley.

Julie was preceded in death by her parents, and her siblings: Kenneth Teplee, Glen Teplee, Ronald Teplee, Joan Anderson, Jeanne Tadgerson, Brenda Clor, Rodney Teplee, infant Donald Teplee, and infant Ronald Teplee.

Services took place with Pastor Paul Rappeneau officiating with burial at Mission Hill Cemetery.
Bay Mills Community College has signed an articulation agreement with Lake Superior State University in an effort to assist those seeking a degree in nursing. The agreement will give graduates of BMCC’s associate in health science program one additional point on their application for nursing school at LSSU.

According to BMCC President Duane Bedell, the agreement will benefit students and the local community by helping to increase the number of health professionals in the field.

The Michigan Public Health Institute reports that Michigan is experiencing a shortage of healthcare professionals, and the nursing shortage is expected to continue to 2030. Nursing shortages are expected to become more severe as the Michigan's aging population requires more healthcare and as nurses retire.

Bedell is hopeful the agreement will help bridge the gap in the health care field.

“We look forward to this partnership and creating other partnerships as we move forward.”

LSSU President Rod Hanley echoed Bedell’s sentiments on the relationships between the communities. At the ceremony, Hanley recalled how Bay Mills became a valuable partner in keeping LSSU students and staff safe during the pandemic.

“We were able to get vaccines and testing on campus when it was still months out for other universities,” said Hanley.

When the articulation agreement was brought to the table, he said “it just made all the sense in the world.”

The nursing program at LSSU offers a challenging and rewarding program of study that reflects the standards of professional nursing. This program prepares students to make judgments and carry out nursing care based on critical thinking and research-based knowledge to facilitate disease prevention, health promotion, health maintenance, health restoration, and rehabilitation.

LSSU nursing school graduates are employed by all major health systems in Michigan, the U.S. armed services, health services in Ontario, and even at the Mayo Clinic. The majority of graduates work worldwide as Registered Nurses (around 90% pass the RN exam the first time) and assume leadership positions in public and private health care systems.

Bay Mills Community College will honor the Class of 2023 at ceremonies to be held on Friday, May 12 at 10:30 a.m. Graduation will take place at Bay Mills Community College, 12214 W. Lakeshore Drive in Brimley.

A luncheon and cake will be served following the ceremony.

Guests can attend the ceremony in person, or watch it virtually online through BMCC’s YouTube channel at https://tinyurl.com/yckn8hcu.

Signing the new agreement are Kathy Berchem (Dean of LSSU College of Health and Behavior), LSSU President Rod Hanley, BMCC President Duane Bedell, Samantha Cameron (BMCC VP of Academics).

BY SHANNON JONES
Bay Mills News

BMCC Commencement announced
Waishkey Bay Farm held a workshop on Saturday, April 8, demonstrating how to make ziinzibaakwad (maple sugar) confections, including maple candies and maple cream. Joe VanAlstine instructed the group. The farm used their new processing equipment purchased with support from an AIHEC grant. The class was full and it is anticipated it will be repeated in future years due to popularity.
Cheboygan — Volunteers are needed in Cheboygan County now through early June to stand guard as mature lake sturgeon head upstream to their spawning sites along the Black River.

The Black Lake Chapter of Sturgeon for Tomorrow is working in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and various tribes to protect the fish from being illegally harvested during the six-week spawning season.

Sgt. Mark DePew, who leads DNR Law Enforcement Division’s efforts on the river, said, “This program, that protects this iconic species when they are most vulnerable, is a model of how agencies and the public can cooperate to get needed work accomplished.”

The lake sturgeon, which can weigh up to 200 pounds and live to be 100 years old, is listed as a threatened species in Michigan, with any sport fishing being closely regulated.

“For over 20 years, the annual Sturgeon Guarding Program has proven that people serving as sturgeon guards watching over the river have virtually eliminated poaching, while helping to ensure the protection and reproductive success of the species,” said Mary Paulson, the program’s volunteer coordinator.

“It’s a unique and rewarding experience to witness these majestic fish swimming up the Black River, and to be a key player in safeguarding one of Michigan’s most valuable natural resources,” Paulson said.

Volunteers are assigned shifts along the river to stand watch and report suspicious activity to the DNR conservation officers patrolling the area. The program also uses aerial surveillance for additional monitoring.

“The experience of watching researchers capture, tag and release these amazing fish is, in itself, worth the effort of becoming involved,” said Brenda Archambo, president of Sturgeon for Tomorrow’s sturgeon recovery effort in the Black River/Cheboygan River watershed. “We also encourage those who enjoy mountain biking, mushrooming, hiking, kayaking, canoeing and camping in beautiful wild areas to partner with the sturgeon guarding effort.”

While volunteers will be assigned sites to stand guard, there will be on-site coordinators at the river to assist and answer questions. Additionally, volunteers are asked to assist in recording the number of fish active in the area.

Lake sturgeon rehabilitation has seen ongoing efforts at federal, state, tribal and local levels since the late 1900s, when the species dramatically declined due to overharvesting and habitat loss. Monitoring of harvesting practices, along with rearing and stockping efforts in selected lakes, have headlined restoration efforts across the state. The monitoring activity, designed to protect the fish, is also an opportunity to get involved in natural resource management and has drawn volunteers ranging from families, church groups, Scouting groups and students to artists such as photographers.

Individuals or groups interested in volunteering should contact Jim and Mary Paulson at 989-763-7588. Volunteers also can register online by searching for Sturgeon for Tomorrow, Black Lake Chapter.

Fishing licenses available for the 2023 season

The new fishing license and regulation season kicked off April 1, so anglers need to be sure they have purchased a new license in order to enjoy Michigan’s great fishing opportunities. The 2023 fishing licenses are valid through March 31, 2024.

“Fishing licenses can be purchased at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses or by downloading the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app and purchasing via the app. Michigan DNR Hunt Fish, an official app of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, gives you a mobile path to buy and store fishing, ORV and snowmobile licenses and permits, report harvests, access guides and digests, and get the latest outdoor recreation updates. Make future online fishing license purchases even quicker by selecting auto-renew at checkout to automatically receive licenses in the future.”

2023 fishing seasons

* The possession season for bass opens statewide Saturday, May 27, except for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair and the Detroit Rivers which open Saturday, June 17.

* The 2023 Michigan Fishing Guide and inland trout and salmon maps are available online along with a lot of other helpful fishing information – including fishing locations, species identification and tips for beginners – at Michigan.gov/Fishing.

**Protect your home from bears this spring**

The black bear’s winter slumber will soon be over. In late March to early May, bears leave their dens and begin looking for food to replenish their bodies. As they rove in search of nourishment, it’s important to remember that human behavior affects bear behavior.

*Just like humans waking from a long nap, bears’ first look for water, often drinking from rivers and ponds or eating snow. Their early spring menu consists of last year’s vegetation, salvaged carcasses and fresh green shoots as they emerge,* said Rachel Leightner, Michigan Department of Natural Resources wildlife outreach coordinator.

Though these food sources are readily available, it is difficult to resist the calorie-rich offerings of bird seed, garbage, beehives and pet foods. You might consider watching bears forage near your home as an exciting chance to see wildlife up close. But what’s really happening could be very troublesome for both you and the bear.*

Bears that find reliable food sources near homes can become repeat visitors and may lose their fear of humans, she added. Additionally, if a female bear with cubs teaches her young to forage from these food sources, it can lead to problematic behavior later in life and negative outcomes such as property damage, loss of livestock and dangerous situations for both humans and bears.

Leightner said that, fortunately, avoiding these problems is easy if you take a proactive approach and suggested the following steps.

* Remove bird feeders during the spring, summer and fall. Birds have an abundance of natural food sources during these seasons. If you like viewing birds from the comfort of your home, consider planting native flowers and shrubs this spring that will draw birds in.

* Keep bird feeders away from digs by planting native flowers and shrubs near yard and from a hungry critter looking for a midnight snack.

* Protect beehives with electric fencing, especially if the apiary is in a rural or forested area.

* Secure dumpsters and keep garbage cans indoors overnight. Take garbage cans to the curb the morning of pickup. While it may add a few more minutes to your morning routine, it is still faster than having to clean up garbage contents strewn across your yard from a hungry critter looking for a midnight snack.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BMIC App Available
You can now head to your Google Play or Apple App Store and search Bay Mills Indian Community to download. This mobile app is just another example of various ways our Tribal Nation seeks to improve communication with our tribal citizens, employees, and community members. It will serve as a central source of information, services, websites, recreation, and food throughout Bay Mills Indian Community. Furthermore, the mobile app will also allow for push notifications for important and/or emergency events, which will alert all individuals who install the app. This may include inclement weather, power outages, etc.

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.

Looking for events?
Please check out the community calendar on www.baymills.org for the most up to date listings of events and cultural workshops. You can send your events to newspaper@baymills.org as well to be posted on the calendar.

Request for Proposals
The Bay Mills Indian Community (Tribe) is soliciting proposals for perimeter fencing around an existing wastewater treatment facility. Work will take place on the Bay Mills Indian Reservation in Chippewa County, MI. The Tribe is the owner for this project. The selected firm will contract directly with the Tribe for the services to be rendered. Proposals are due on April 28. Full requirements for proposals can be viewed online at www.baymills.org.

SEASONAL MUSEUM JOBS
Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, Whitefish Point, Michigan.
Seeking retail sales, museum custodial, and historical interpreter/tour guide personnel.
Positions begin late April or early May through Oct. 31.
Competitive wages and flexible schedules, full or part time.
Please contact Bruce Lynn, Executive Director, at 906-635-1742, or blynn@shipwreckmuseum.com

Spring Clean Up
May 8-22, 2023
Monday—Sunday
8 am—8 pm
Located at the waste transfer station, by the Plantation Hill water tower.
Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Saturday, May 13, 9 - 12 & Monday, May 15, 10-6
(used oil, cleaners, batteries, pesticides, oil-based paint)
White Goods/Large Appliances accepted
Scrap tire Collection begins
Electronics now accepted all year
Weekends: Once dumpsters are full, the site shuts down. Please plan accordingly!
Tribal Members Only - ID Required

MSU Extension Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute (AABI) is seeking candidates for a Field Crops Agronomist Educator. This position provides leadership and expertise in field crop production. This position will have statewide responsibilities and will collaborate across work teams, Institutes and community groups, for advancement clientele needs. Please visit careers.msu.edu and search for posting #854495 to learn how you can become the next SPARTAN WHO WILL! MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.

Bay Mills Indian Community’s First Annual
Spirit Walk for Safe Communities
FREE Shirts & Goodie Bags
First come, first serve
#NOExcuseforABUSE  #NOBODYstandsALONE
Join us for a chance to win
MELJER GIFT CARDS! WALMART GIFT CARDS! BLOOM DI D WILD WINGS GIFT CARDS! AND MORE!
April is Child Abuse & Sexual Assault Prevention Month.
Join us and take a step against Sexual Assault & Child Abuse.
When/Where:
Saturday April 29th, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
@The Farmers Market Pavilion
Opening Ceremony:
presented by Tribal President Whitney Gravelle
Prevention walk along Spirit Stone Trail begins @2:00 PM
Informational tables/activities:
Journey to Healing, Crime Victim’s Advocacy,
Bay Mills Social Services, B.A.C.A. (Bikers Against Child Abuse)
Healing for Those Creating Life, Diane Pepprler Center,
Chippewa County Health Department

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 or Christel LeBlanc at 248-8700.
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