

# BAY MILLS NEWS

Serving the Eastern Upper Peninsula

*“Gnoozhekaaning Bidajimowin”*

February 2019

## Snowman burning to usher in spring, ward off snow

SAULT STE. MARIE – Run out of places to put the snow? Ready to kick winter to the curb? The 49th annual Lake Superior State University Snowman Burning might help beat the winter blues. The event will take place on Wednesday, March 20, to welcome spring and banish Old Man Winter. Ceremonies commence at noon on the south side of the Walker Cisler Center with LSSU President Rodney S. Hanley emceeing. Spring officially arrives in the Northern Hemisphere later that day, at 5:58 p.m. EST.

The time-honored tradition is open to the public with free food, beverages, provided by the Native American Center, poetry, and of course, the burning snowman. Daffodils will be given out to the first 200 spectators, courtesy of Co-Ed Flowers.

“Everyone has been looking forward to this unique Laker tradition, which brings the whole community together to banish winter and celebrate spring,” said LSSU President Hanley. This will be Hanley’s first snowman burning experience since taking the reins as LSSU’s tenth president last year.

LSSU has invited Tom O’Hare, chief meteorologist at 9&10 News, to set the snowman ablaze to formally mark that spring has sprung. O’Hare joined the 9&10 Doppler Weather Team in 2004 and has since been a staple in the Eastern Upper Peninsula’s routine by providing the latest weather updates. “After a cold winter, I can’t wait to light the snowman and bring some warmth,” he remarked.

Back by popular demand is a spring-themed poetry contest, this year with a new twist. All are invited to submit spring-



themed haiku poems for judging. Winners will receive prizes and be invited to read their poems prior to the snowman burning. Submissions can be made online at [lssu.edu/snowman-burning](http://lssu.edu/snowman-burning) until March 15.

This year the fun doesn’t end after the snowman burns. The celebration of spring continues at 6 p.m. with the help of Bird’s Eye Outfitters. Owners Ken and Wilda Hopper will host an after-burner-party, complete with a mini snowman burning, s’mores, hot cocoa bar, and specials.

Snowman burning was instituted in 1971 by the Unicorn Hunters, a former campus club, which advocated folklore that smoke rising from a fire wards off blizzards and ushers in spring-like weather. Shortly after the snowman was burned that year, a blizzard rolled through the Eastern Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula but miraculously spared Sault Ste. Marie. Thus, the myth was born to be celebrated ever since.



**ROYALTY CROWNED**— Brimley Area Schools announced their homecoming king and queen at festivities in January. Crowned were Ivory Maxwell and Mason Cameron. *More photos on page 10*

## Chairman's Update

# Planning for our future

By **Bryan Newland**

Bay Mills Tribal Chairman

Planning is essential for any organization. Too often, governments and organizations do not develop a vision for the future, and fail to tie their actions to that vision. The results are easy to spot: inconsistent decision-making, lack of coordination between different departments, overspending, and infighting.

Bay Mills has not developed a strategic plan or long-term vision in decades.

Our Executive Council has begun the process of developing a strategic plan and long-term vision for our Tribe. This is an effort to establish who we want to be as a community, and what we want our community to look like in a decade.

I realize that strategic planning may sound like boring bureaucratic-speak to the casual observer. But, the outcomes are easy to spot. Having a clear long-term vision, that has been endorsed by the Tribe and our leaders, will set priorities for budgets, provide direction for our various departments, ensure that our departments are working together, and give our tribal members a measuring stick with which to hold elected leaders and department managers accountable. A strategic plan will also chart a course for our tribe to follow, even as we make changes to our Executive Council every two years during our elections.

This process will take several months to complete, and involves our Executive Council members and senior managers from the tribal government. We will also solicit tribal member feedback on this plan before we put it into motion. At the end of the day, we hope to have a plan that can guide our policy makers, employees, and tribal members for the next decade.

In addition to that work, we are continuing our efforts to protect our treaty fish-

ing rights by preparing for negotiations with the State of Michigan and the federal government over the next 18 months. This work is time-intensive, but critically important: treaties are the cornerstones of the relationships between tribes and the United States. Protecting our rights is one of the reasons I asked to serve in this job.

Unfortunately, our federal trustee is making it more difficult for us to protect those rights.

In the 1970s, the Federal Government filed a lawsuit against the State of Michigan for violating our right to fish under the Treaty of 1836 – United States v. Michigan. The Federal Government, along with Bay Mills and several other tribes, prevailed in that lawsuit. We have been managing our fishery under agreements that came out of that lawsuit, and that lawsuit is actually an ongoing case.

At different points during this lawsuit, Bay Mills, other tribes, and the Federal Government have had to return to court, or engage in negotiations with the State of Michigan over the management of the treaty fishery. Each time, the Federal Government has helped the tribes cover some of the costs in this litigation; including costs for collecting and analyzing data, and costs for engaging in negotiations. This has been true for administrations from both parties. Presidents Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush II, and Obama all agreed to provide “litigation support” to the tribes to ensure that we were able to protect our treaty rights. In many ways, this support benefits the Federal Government because we are on the same side of the lawsuit – the case is called “United States v. Michigan,” after all.

Now, the Federal Government is withholding this litigation support as we prepare for new negotiations with the State of Michigan. In essence, the Federal Government is asking Bay Mills and our fellow

treaty tribes to actually subsidize the BIA's costs of participating in these negotiations. This is a dramatic change in federal policy, and it makes it more challenging for us to engage in negotiations with the State of Michigan. You can help by calling our members of Congress and urging them to demand that the Bureau of Indian Affairs provide “litigation support” to Bay Mills and our fellow 1836 Treaty Tribes.

On a final note, the Bay Mills General Tribal Council has directed the Executive Council to adopt a law that would allow individuals on the reservation to possess and use marijuana on a recreational basis. This action puts Bay Mills tribal members on an equal footing with other people in the State of Michigan. We are in the process of drafting this new law, and expect to present it to the community at a meeting of the Executive Council. We also expect to adopt a new marijuana ordinance by the end of April, pursuant to the General Tribal Council's directive.

*Please check out our tribal website, and my official Tribal Chairman Facebook Page for regular updates about what is going on here at Bay Mills. And, please don't hesitate to call, email, or stop-in to share your thoughts, questions, and concerns with me – I work for you. Miigwetch!*

*You can reach me at 906-248-8115 or [bnewland@baymills.org](mailto:bnewland@baymills.org). My official Facebook Page is “Bay Mills Indian Community Tribal Chairman.”*



# Executive Council discusses business

**By Shannon Jones**  
Bay Mills News

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Executive Council met for regularly scheduled meetings on Jan. 30 and Feb. 11

## Jan. 30

After approving meeting minutes from Jan. 14 and the agenda, council moved to reports.

In the Chairman's report, Bryan Newland updated the council on Health Center development plans, noting that in the next week a meeting was scheduled with USDA Rural Development regarding financing options. The council's deadline for the new tribal ordinance on recreational marijuana is April 16. Intertribal fishing negotiations are ongoing, as tribes continue to work towards the next consent decree.

An appeal in the Vanderbilt case continues, with briefs to be submitted to the court on Feb. 4.

Other items discussed included:

- Turnover at the health care center;
- Public works projects for 2019;
- Plantation Hills water and sewer design; and
- Tribal Action Plan final product.

Tribal Manager Duane Bedell discussed his work on the BIA Model Contract and that he is working with department managers to get a draft together. He is also in the process of helping with the hiring of the grant management assistant and working with education on an awards banquet.

Human Resources Director Ken Peron addressed changes in Blue Cross and minimum wage. He is also working on evaluations and preparing for an upcoming job fair.

Bay Mills Resort & Casino General Manager Richard LeBlanc reported that Sacy's will have new menu items and the remaining ATMs are being changed out.

In old business, the risk management plan, which had been previously tabled, was presented by Dan Tadgeon and passed by the council. A contract for Serina Carrick was renewed. Carrick assists with the billing issues that arise from the complexities of Bay Mills Fire Program.

In new business, the following items were approved:

- Jail services agreement to include mental health services and direction on prescription for tribal members lodged in Chippewa County Jail;
- Code of Conduct Policy 403- required for grant applications;
- Raffle permit for Brimley Robotics; and
- Revisions to the DSGW contract.

Items regarding the new ambulance were tabled until the next meeting.

## Feb. 11

In reports, Chairman Newland discussed the strategic plan for the tribe, noting one has not been in place for many years. Plantation Hills soil borings have taken place with plans for water/sewer expected to be approved. Newland said he also plans to bring the Tribal Action Plan to the council in March for final approval.

Tribal Manager Bedell submitted a written report.

Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram said he is continuing to work with HR on updating the timekeeping system and looking at how to budget the expense over the next five years. The overall cost of the Kronos update has not been finalized. Bertram also discussed the new Wi-Fi option available to the members of the community. He said the company has sent flyers out to community members regarding the service and the Bay Mills Community College will be utilizing the service.

Bay Mills Health Center Director Au-

drey Breakie said she continues to work out billing issues with War Memorial Hospital and will discuss the Purchased Referred Care program at the next General Tribal Council meeting.

BMRC GM LeBlanc presented information about changes to some of the casino slot machines and said they were a "necessary upgrade." He said the weather continues to present challenges to casino business but he is meeting the challenges with curbing expenses.

In new business, a possible gaming waiver was tabled, as the individual seeking it was unsure if they needed it as the infraction occurred when they were a minor. The council said they would look into the issue and move forward from there.

Items approved were:

- An agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study erosion control along the beach area at the ball diamond. The Corps will study wind direction, measure sand and waves in order to come up with a plan. The agreement is only to allow a study in hopes of creating a plan for the future to stop the erosion in the area.
- Grant application policy;
- Drum social funding of \$1500;
- Grant applications for biology (2) and victims services- neither has a match requirement;
- Contract with Whitener Group- part of this year's tribal advocacy training summit to be held in Lansing;
- Raffle license for the Boys & Girls Club;
- Donation of \$500 to the law enforcement polar plunge, which will fund Special Olympics.

The next meeting of the Bay Mills Executive Council will take place on Monday, Feb. 25 in the tribal administration building.

## OPINION

# Republic before Democracy

By Sharon M. Kennedy

What happens when good people become disillusioned with the status quo and turn to a showman to make things right? The answer is simple. They elect someone who shouts what they want to hear and promises to make their country great again. Much like a magician who waves a wand and bad things disappear, so too, the reigning barker will right all wrongs, subdue all oppressors, and bring the free press to heel.

However, any huckster who fooled the populace with his colorful rhetoric needs assistance when overthrowing a regime. To finance his crusade and keep the ugly truth from raising its heinous head, he calls on friends with pockets as deep as his own. When one friend is removed from the scene and locked away like a disgraced prince, another appears to take his place. Some friends are proud of their ability to twist truth like a piece of soft licorice, but others hide behind a curtain of hard cash.

There's only one snag with this scenario that prevents a successful coup from muzzling the press. Like an octopus with tentacles reaching in all directions, respected journalists keep coming. I'm not talking about commentators who express their opinions before conducting due diligence on issues they're reporting. I'm talking about journalists who conduct thorough investigations before they print one word. These are the men and women who rely upon knowledgeable sources for facts not privy to the public. If they re-

main hidden, such facts have the potential to devour the values of a democratic nation until it becomes a fascist one.

But the United States is a capitalist republic before it is a representative democracy. Most people do not realize there's a difference between the two. I haven't taken a civics class since eighth grade or an American Government class since I was a high school senior so I had to do a little digging for accuracy. One definition of a republic can be found at [www.diffen.com](http://www.diffen.com): "A republic is similar to a representative democracy except it has a written constitution of basic rights that protect the minority from being completely unrepresented or overridden by the majority."

Further, the website defines democracy as "Rule by the omnipotent majority. In a democracy, an individual and any group of individuals composing any minority have no protection against the unlimited power of the majority. It is a case of Majority-over-Man." I find this interesting when discussing the role billionaires play in our government. Although in the minority, it appears the richest 1 percent of our population wields greater power than the majority because, as a republic, our constitution legally protects them from being "overridden by the majority."

Like many others, I'm concerned about what's happening in Washington. The man in the White House was elected by good people mesmerized by a showman who morphed into a self-proclaimed



emperor. Most voters had no idea who was working behind the scenes. Watching the events of 2016 unfold was like watching a Broadway play. We saw the actors but had no idea what was going on off stage. Two years into the production, many spectators are thrilled by the plot while many others on both sides of the aisle are terrified.

Almost daily, responsible journalists are raising red flags and sounding alarms that something sinister has infected the United States government. I won't venture a guess as to where investigations will lead. Whether conducted by Special Counsel or honorable journalists, one can only hope our flag, as well as our country, is not in shreds when the probing into covert matters is over.

*Kennedy is a freelance writer who resides in Brimley.*

Bay Mills News

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

The next deadline is Thursday, March 14 at 4 p.m. Submissions may be emailed to: [newspaper@baymills.org](mailto:newspaper@baymills.org).



Back Row L-R: Tallulah Slabosheski, Dominic Miller, Kamara Bator, Lawrence LeBlanc Middle Row L-R: Jayden Thompson, Wyatt Case, Ruth Sweeten, Addisyn Ranta, Norah Smart, Nickole Tadgerson, Front Row L-R: Henry Sweeten, Addilyn LeBlanc and Hannah Tremblay  
Missing from picture: Adriana Tremblay

## Brimley Area Schools announces Students of the Month

**Henry Sweeten** is a very responsible young man who remembers to follow directions at all times. He never has to be reminded to take care of his things. During lessons, he is always listening and learning. He is a very dedicated student who is always on task and modeling excellent behavior for his peers. I can count on him to produce quality work. Henry is a very sweet boy, who is willing to help others. I appreciate that he always uses the correct voice level and follows the school rules in all settings. As a result of his hard work, he excels in all areas. We are lucky to have such a kind, hardworking boy in our class. You should be proud! Awesome job, Henry! — Mrs. Hill

**Addilyn LeBlanc** is a great example of how to follow Bays Ways in all aspects of the school day. Addilyn is a very hard worker and always tries her best. She is a good friend to all of her classmates and very helpful to others. Addilyn is very responsible and organized and enjoys helping the teacher around the classroom. We are so lucky to have her in our class. Congratulations Addilyn! — Mrs. Leep

**Hannah Tremblay** is the perfect role model and excellent choice. She is a leader in our classroom and is always ready to learn, body basics, and awesome listening. Hannah is respectful in school and on the playground where she waits her turn, raises her hand when she wants to be heard, and always has a level 0 voice in the classroom, hall, and bathroom. She is kind and helpful in our classroom and at school. Hannah is a responsible learner as she completes her tasks in a timely manner, follows directions, and always does a quality job. She also makes good decisions when it

comes to safety. We are thrilled to have Hannah in our classroom and look forward to her leadership every day. — Ms. McPherson

**Addisyn Ranta** is a very conscientious student who is 'ready to learn' and embraces her work. She is a very responsible student and does a fantastic job of using her manners. We can always count on Addisyn in helping a friend out when needed. Congratulations on a job well done, Addisyn. — Mrs. Castagne

**Wyatt Case** is a student who enters the classroom with a big smile on his face and ready to learn. He has a positive attitude and always treats his classmates with kindness and compassion. Wyatt has an excellent work ethic and can be counted on to do quality work. Wyatt does a great job following directions and is an excellent example for his classmates. Keep up the great work! — Mrs. Gross

**Adriana Tremblay** is a very hard worker who puts forth her best effort in all that she does. She is a good friend to her classmates and is very responsible. Adriana appears to really enjoy school and being with her friends. She is the type of person who is able to get along and work with any of her classmates. Adriana is an excellent reader who is able to capture her audience with her great expression and enthusiasm. Although Adriana can be very shy/quiet at times she has a beautiful personality. I have really enjoyed getting to know Adriana this year and look forward to seeing the great things she will accomplish throughout her educational journey. — Mrs. Schaedler

*Continued on the next page*

**Norah Smart** is an exceptional student. She is constantly going above and beyond. Whenever someone needs help, Norah is the first one to volunteer. She often gives help before it is even asked. I can always count on her to follow the Bays' Ways and to give gentle reminders about how to follow them to others. Norah puts forth a lot of effort into her school work and always gets it turned in on time. Congratulations, Norah! I'm very proud of you! — Ms. Peller

I am so proud of **Nickole Tadjerson**. She is an awesome young lady who has followed the Bays' Ways every month since school started. Nickole is respectful, helpful, and considerate in class, at recess, and where ever she is. She works hard on her assignments and turns in quality work. Nickole is well liked by her peers and adults alike. She is an exemplary role model, and we are honored to have her in our class this year. Congratulations Nickole! Keep up the great work. — Mrs. VerStrate

**Ruth Sweeten** is a student who walks into the classroom with a smile on her face and always has something exciting to share. She loves everyone and can always find something positive to say about those around her. She is a student who is always willing to help her teacher as well as her fellow classmates. Ruth is a terrific role model and a great example of a student who follows the Bays Ways. Congratulations Ruth! Keep up the great work! — Mrs. Alexia Jarvi

**Jayden Thompson** does a great job of following the Bays Ways in and out of the classroom. I can count on him to make good choices in the hallway, at recess, and any special classes. He is respectful to his classmates and makes safe choices for himself and others. Jayden always comes to class ready to learn with a positive can do attitude and is very responsible about turning in all his assignments. I really appreciate the fact Jayden is willing to try new things and put in the extra effort if a task is challenging. Congratulations Jayden on earning January Student of the Month. — Mrs. Rogers

**Tallulah Slabosheski** is an amazing part of our class. She is a very hard worker and a great friend to her classmates. Tallulah has been on the Honor Roll all year. She works hard to keep up with her studies and is an active learner in the classroom. Tallulah is always willing to lend a helping hand to those who may need it. Tallulah can always be counted on to follow the Bays' Ways by being safe, respectful, responsible, and ready to learn! Tallulah enjoys spending her time participating in girl scouts, being a cheerleader, and playing outside. Congratulations, Tallulah! We are so proud of you! — Mrs. Rutledge

**Kamara Bator** enters our classroom each morning with a positive attitude toward others and toward her responsibilities as a student. She is prepared for the day and ready to learn. I can count on her to help others and to help make our classroom a better place. She is very organized and always turns her work in on time. She takes pride in doing her best and all of her assignments are very neat. We are grateful to have her in our class! — Mrs. Hope

**Lawrence LeBlanc** is a great kid with a great personality. He follows the Bays' Ways by Being Safe and Respectful. Lawrence is very kind to his classmates and lends a helping hand. Lawrence is responsible. He can be trusted with errands and other chores. We appreciate Lawrence positive attitude in 6th grade. — Mrs. Osborne

**Dominic Miller** is a hardworking student. He strives to do his best on his assignments and tries to turn assignments in on time. Over the course of the school year he has gotten better and better at completing his school work. Dominic also has a winning personality. He is always pleasant to everyone. Just talking with Dominic is sure to put a smile on your face. Dominic is also an excellent artist. He is very skilled at drawing all types of figures, people and animals alike. Dominic is a student who can always be depended on to do the right thing. He is helpful to others, and often helps without being asked to. It is a pleasure to have Dominic in our class. Keep up the good work, Dominic! — Mrs. Hutchins

## Students should apply early for priority FAFSA processing

LANSING — The Michigan Department of Treasury is reminding students and their families that the very first step to take when applying for scholarships and other forms of financial assistance is completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, commonly referred to as the FAFSA.

Priority consideration for state aid programs administered by Treasury's Student Scholarships and Grants division are given to students whose FAFSA is received at the federal processor on March 1 or earlier.

"The FAFSA is the first step in the process of applying for financial aid," said acting Deputy State Treasurer Anne Wohlfert, who oversees Treasury's student financial aid programs. "Students and families who are seeking financial assistance are encouraged to file this free application immediately."

Prior to completing the online FAFSA, the student and at least one parent must obtain a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). This ID serves as a legal signature and confirms an applicant's identity when accessing financial aid information through certain U.S. Department of Education websites.

To get started with the FAFSA, go to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). To learn more about state of Michigan scholarships and other financial assistance programs, go to MI Student Aid's website at [www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid](http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid) or call toll-free at 1-888-447-2687. Follow @MiStudentAid on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Snapchat.

# OCS names January Students of the Month

BAY MILLS — Ojibwe Charter School recently chose their January Students of the Month. Ojibwe Charter School uses the Seven Grandfather Teachings for their Student of the Month program along with TRIBE. TRIBE is a positive system of following school wide rules. TRIBE stands for; Treat others kindly, Ready to learn, I need to listen, Be safe, and Everyone tries their best. The Grandfather Teaching for January is Truth/Debwin.

Truth is represented by the turtle as he was here during creation of Earth and carries the teachings of life on his back. The turtle lives life in a slow and meticulous manner, because he understands the importance of both the journey and the destination. Truth is to know all of these things.

**Animikee Teeple** (Kindergarten) - Ms. Heikkinen:

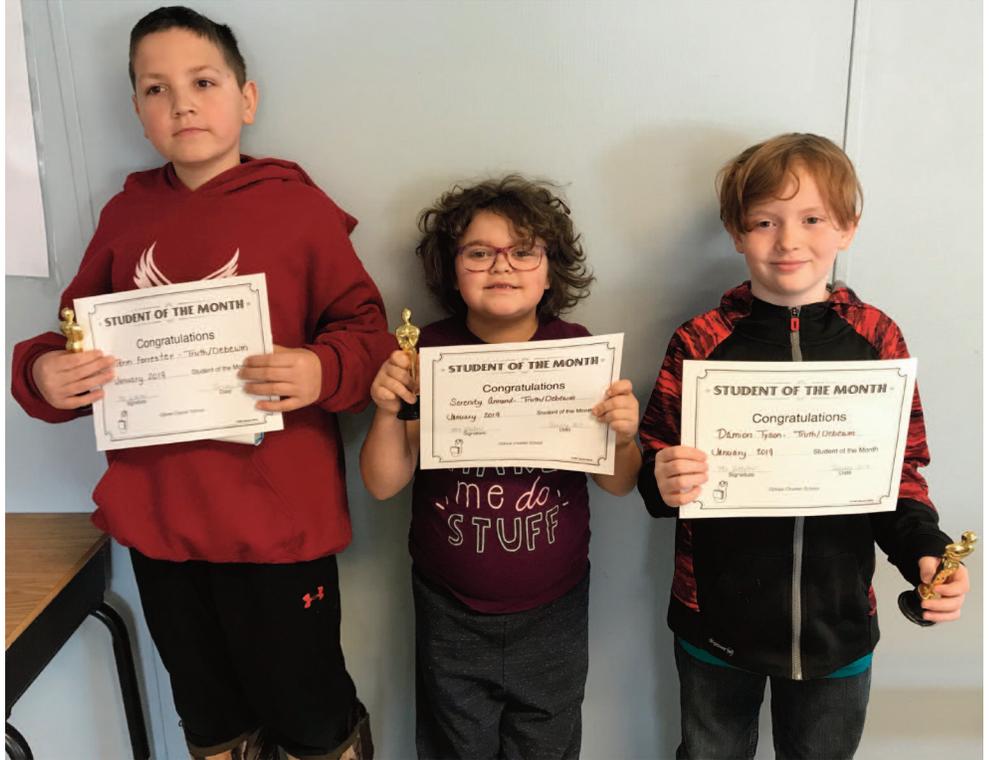
Animikee has been chosen for January's grandfather of truth. I can always count on Nim to be truthful in all situations. He has grown over the last few months and is interacting more his peers. Great job Nim!

**Serenity Annand** (1st/2nd Grade) - Mrs. Dell:

Serenity is always caring for everyone around her. She is the first to encourage any student that has accomplished a task. She wishes for the best for the people around her and is always cheerful and making people smile.

**Damion Tyson** (3rd/4th Grade) - Mrs. Bowen:

The third and fourth grade student of the month for January is Damion Tyson. Damion



has a heart of gold. Damion works hard to foster great relationships with his peers and is always willing to put forth extra effort in order to understand a difficult concept.

Damion excels in all subjects and doesn't give up when things get tough. He comes into the room each day ready to learn with a smile on his face. In class he shares his ideas with others and listens closely to his peers. Damion goes above and beyond by using his time wisely and offering to help others without being asked. Thanks for helping make our class great!

**Terin Forrester** (5th/6th Grade) - Ms. Vittitow:

Terin is the 5th and 6th grade student of the month for January. Great job Terin!



Earlier this month Superintendent Vittitow and teacher Angela Rowell were honored for 15 years of service at OCS.



**The Bay Mills Child Development Center is currently accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year.**

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



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# BMCC's February Spotlight on Success: Ildikó Melis

BAY MILLS — Ildikó Melis has many roles at Bay Mills Community College. She is a full-time writing instructor, and also does a lot of editing work for the college. She also teaches college and pre-college level writing, both online and on campus. Her background includes bachelor's degrees from Hungary, Europe, majoring in English and Hungarian language, culture, linguistics and literature.

Melis also holds a master's degree and doctorate, both from the University of Arizona, where she studied teaching English, rhetoric, and college composition. She chose to become a writing instructor because she believes in life-long learning and in life-long teaching. According to Melis, being able to teach is the sign of true understanding, so her main motive for teaching writing is to deepen her own understanding of how texts and writers work.

"Teaching also challenges me to learn more. When I see a student struggle, it gives me incentive for looking up new ways and new materials," she said.

She also does many things to enhance her students' learning. Her approach is that writing is a craft that everyone can learn to do reasonably well over time and with practice.

"Some parts of writing must be done by the writer in a relative solitude, but some parts of the process benefit from collaboration. Before writing, generating ideas through discussion or shared note taking can be helpful. Once a draft is ready, all writers need some feedback on what works and what needs improvement."

Melis likes using hands-on exercises and games for practicing editing for grammar and punctuation skills. One thing she has been working on for a long time is to find ways of connecting Native American ways of knowing and learning with what is often labeled as "Western science." She is working on finding ways to incorporate indigenous values of learning in research projects. Her students are often asked to present one final project to their classmates and to invited audience as a

way of giving back to our teaching/learning community.

"I think the idea of doing research and writing research papers with the purpose of informing others is a neat idea," said Melis. "We live in a century when more people write than even before in human history. Writing well for various purposes, diverse audiences and finding reliable and credible information are vitally important and much valued skills both in the workplace and in our personal life."



## BAY MILLS Community College

Spring Semester 2019  
CULTURAL WORKSHOP

Guest Speaker  
**Cathy Devoy** - Ojibwe, Sault Tribe  
OCS Teacher

"Stories of Nanaboozhoo and  
Other Mostly True Tales from  
Bahweting & Sugar Island"

FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH  
10AM-12PM  
RM 110 & 111, MIKANUK BUILDING

Everyone Welcome  
Refreshments will be served

For more information contact Kathy LeBlanc, BMCC Cultural Services, 906-322-7037

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Bay Mills Community College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission  
hlcommission.org

# Cadarette Collision Racing takes home the I-500 trophy

SAULT STE. MARIE — The Cadarette Collision Racing #21 / Arctic Cat – Snowmobiles entry with Troy DeWald (third career win), Ryan Spencer (1st) & Bill Wilkes (2nd) won the 51st annual International 500 Snowmobile Race on Feb. 2.

After going down by four laps at the midway point of the race, the trio clawed their way back to the lead lap with 84 laps to go. Then, DeWald made the winning pass on rookie, L.J. Quick (Hoos Racing #67) for the lead with 69 laps to go to bring home the win.

For DeWald, 49, it was his third career Soo I-500 victory to go with his triumphs in 2010 (With Jeff Leuenberger) and 2009 (With Leuenberger and Bryan Dyrdaahl), all with Cadarette Collision Racing. As for Spencer, the 43-year-old from Flint, collected his first career I-500 victory. Finally, for Wilkes, the 50-year-old from Wasilla, AK grabbed his second career win to go with his 2007 triumph with Chad Gucco.

For Cadarette Collision Racing, in addition to the three victories with DeWald, they also had a victory in 2011 with Ross Chartrand and Tim Leeck.



## 2019 I-500 Snomachine Race Soo I-500 Track Results of I-500 - 2019 I-500 Snomachine Race

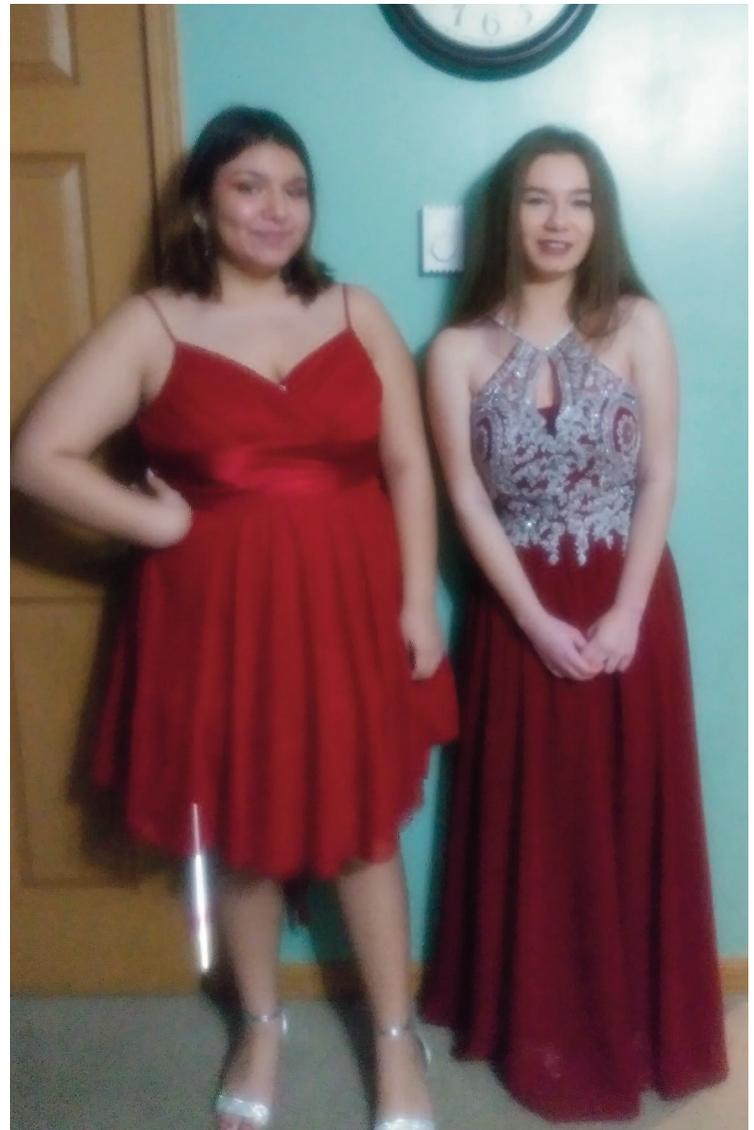
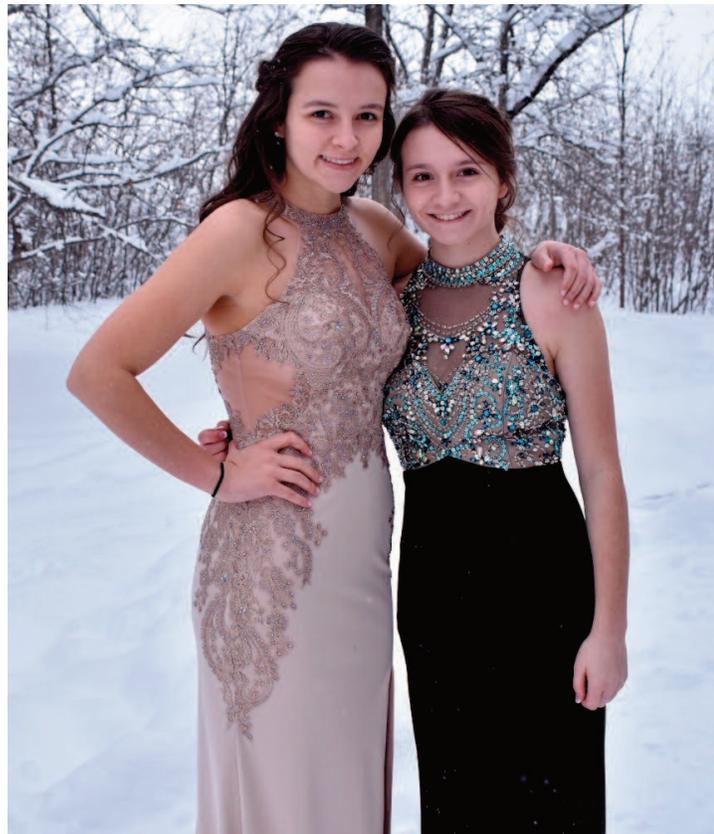
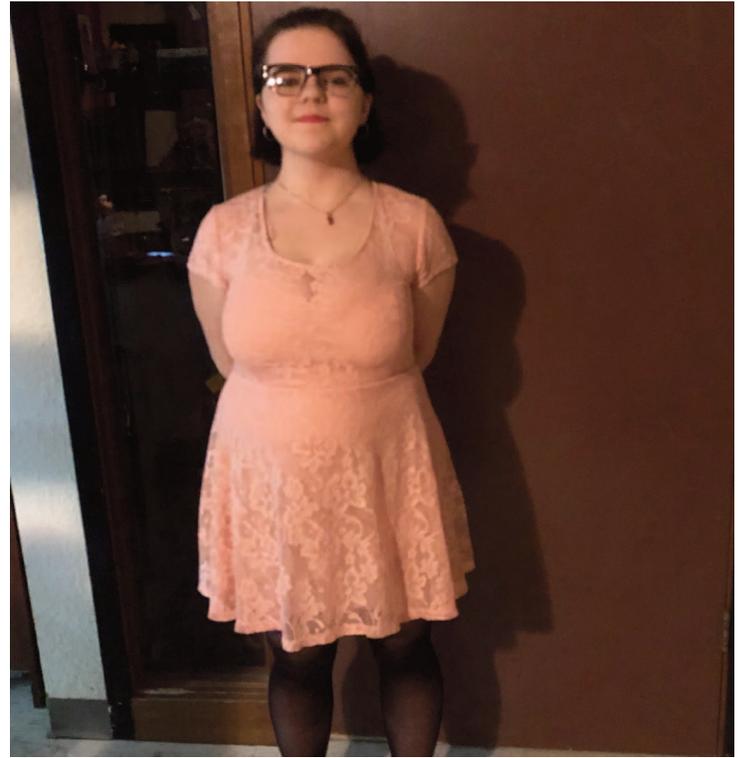
Pos	PIC No.	Name	Class	Laps	Total Tm	Diff	Gap	Avg. Speed	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap
1	1	21 Cadarette Collison Racing - Arctic Cat	I-500	500	8:17:37.568			60.286	42.553	84.600	9
2	2	67 Hoos Racing - Polaris	I-500	500	8:17:44.899	7.331	7.331	60.271	42.267	85.173	8
3	3	125 Little Ceaser's Racing - Polaris	I-500	499	8:17:41.693	1 Lap	1 Lap	60.157	42.619	84.469	2
4	4	414 Yovich Racing - Polaris	I-500	495	8:17:58.440	5 Laps	4 Laps	59.642	42.648	84.412	10
5	5	44 WV Racing - Polaris	I-500	494	8:18:06.005	6 Laps	1 Lap	59.506	44.257	81.343	134
6	6	52 Christian Brothers Racing - Arctic Cat	I-500	490	8:18:01.695	10 Laps	4 Laps	59.033	42.318	85.070	6
7	7	01 Naithen Joseph Racing - Polaris	I-500	485	8:17:58.765	15 Laps	5 Laps	58.436	44.527	80.850	131
8	8	25 Bell Racing - Polaris	I-500	485	8:18:00.836	15 Laps	2.071	58.432	44.781	80.391	3
9	9	34 Kovar Racing - Polaris	I-500	480	8:18:06.707	20 Laps	5 Laps	57.818	43.625	82.521	5
10	10	13 Piche Racing - Polaris	I-500	479	8:18:16.550	21 Laps	1 Lap	57.679	44.564	80.783	3
11	11	24 R&K Motorsports - Polaris	I-500	478	8:17:47.374	22 Laps	1 Lap	57.615	43.796	82.199	3
12	12	11 Wuppet Wace Team - Polaris	I-500	478	8:17:51.818	22 Laps	4.444	57.606	42.743	84.224	8
13	13	190 Kallock Racing - Arctic Cat	I-500	478	8:17:57.918	22 Laps	6.100	57.594	42.925	83.867	2
14	14	20 R&R Racing - Polaris	I-500	449	7:49:36.843	51 Laps	29 Laps	57.366	43.501	82.757	21
15	15	353 Kolbus Racing - Polaris	I-500	445	8:18:03.941	55 Laps	4 Laps	53.607	44.685	80.564	3
16	16	7 KMW Racing - Arctic Cat	I-500	414	8:17:54.624	86 Laps	31 Laps	49.888	43.808	82.177	5
17	17	111 Team Scream - Arctic Cat	I-500	408	6:58:35.910	92 Laps	6 Laps	58.481	43.999	81.820	3
18	18	18 Nelson Racing - Polaris	I-500	399	7:59:52.202	101 Laps	9 Laps	49.889	43.840	82.117	11
19	19	0 Team ECR - Polaris	I-500	394	7:07:55.439	106 Laps	5 Laps	55.243	44.448	80.994	6
20	20	72 Team Applebees - Polaris	I-500	392	6:33:57.344	108 Laps	2 Laps	59.702	44.372	81.132	39
21	21	3 XLT Engineering - Polaris	I-500	378	6:15:35.254	122 Laps	14 Laps	60.385	43.822	82.151	26
22	22	74 Bunke Racing - Polaris	I-500	377	6:23:21.579	123 Laps	1 Lap	59.005	42.222	85.264	3
23	23	231 Langaas Racing - Arctic Cat	I-500	251	4:13:45.505	249 Laps	126 Laps	59.348	43.160	83.411	14
24	24	150 Team Rivercity Motorsports - Polaris	I-500	251	5:39:53.993	249 Laps	1:26:08.488	44.307	44.560	80.790	6
25	25	99 Bouchard Racing - Arctic Cat	I-500	246	4:17:09.457	254 Laps	5 Laps	57.397	42.840	84.034	4
26	26	28 Contryside Motorsports - Polaris	I-500	214	3:41:40.627	286 Laps	32 Laps	57.922	44.709	80.521	5
27	27	17X Christan Brothers Racing - Arctic Cat	I-500	179	3:51:31.869	321 Laps	35 Laps	46.387	42.410	84.886	5
28	28	02 Team Blu - Polaris	I-500	177	4:28:48.802	323 Laps	2 Laps	39.507	44.100	81.633	3
29	29	19 Tommie Bauer Racing	I-500	164	2:44:39.195	336 Laps	13 Laps	59.762	42.452	84.802	14
30	30	17 R& S Racing - Arctic Cat	I-500	151	2:47:35.175	349 Laps	13 Laps	54.062	44.823	80.316	7
31	31	537 Bunke Racing 2 - Polaris	I-500	108	2:01:06.149	392 Laps	43 Laps	53.508	42.360	84.986	9



## Brimley students all decked out for Homecoming

In January, Brimley Junior/Senior High held their homecoming dance. Above, Justin Carrick and Xavier Bedell pose as they head to the dance Yooper-style.

Above right, Rebecca Sherman shows off her outfit for the evening. Bottom left are Kendra and Brooke Carrick. At right is Jantine Napoletano and Emma LeBlanc, sophomores.



# Lake State launches nation's first cannabis-specific chemistry program

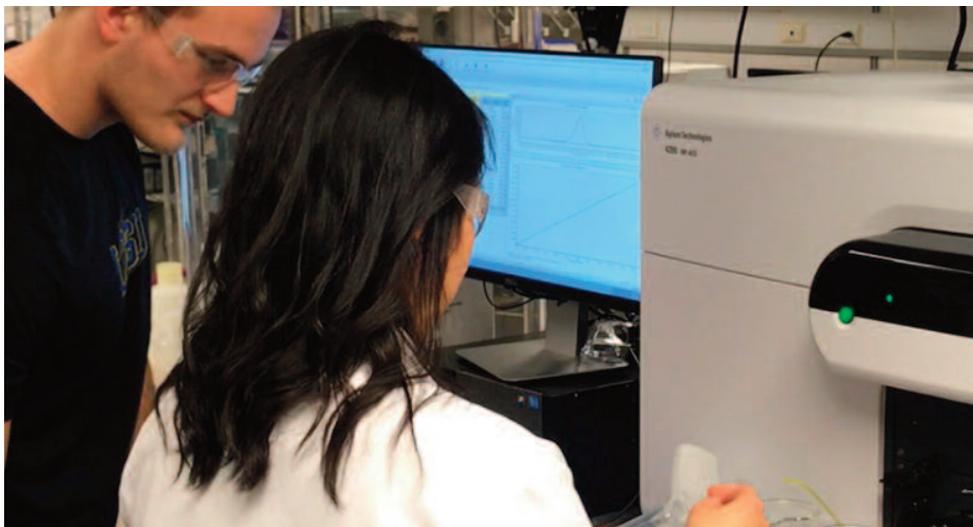
SAULT STE. MARIE — Lake Superior State University is launching the country's first degree program focused squarely on the chemistry of cannabis. A bachelor's degree with a major in cannabis chemistry will be offered beginning in fall 2019, along with an associate's degree program in cannabis science. Students can opt in for an American Chemical Society (ACS)-endorsed degree.

LSSU aims to be a premier training center for the next generation of quantitative chemists for the cannabis industry, ready to start work as soon as they graduate. More than 500,000 jobs will be created in the cannabis industry by 2022, outpacing technology and healthcare.

"LSSU's core mission is to equip graduates with knowledge and practical skills for meaningful employment so that they can enhance not only the quality of life in Michigan, but throughout North America as well," says LSSU President Dr. Rodney Hanley. "Our cannabis chemistry graduates will lead the cannabis agricultural and pharmaceutical sectors by developing standards for production, regulation, and safety, just as chemists develop and qualify processes and products that form the backbone of any modern society."

An LSSU cannabis chemistry degree goes beyond just meeting an expanding market demand in cannabis. The program incorporates a solid foundation in organic chemistry, instrumental analysis, and biochemistry. Graduates will gain skills — often to develop new techniques — that set benchmarks for cannabis production, and quality control, including safety and testing.

"Laboratory chemists develop and implement techniques using highly sensitive



tests to detect and measure specific chemical compounds that are critical to law enforcement, regulatory affairs, and to ensure the public's health and safety," says Barbara Keller, professor and past chair of the School of Science and Medicine.

Lake Superior State University brings to bear a solid track record in training analytical chemists who have gone on to careers in industry, government, and academics. LSSU chemistry grads enjoy placement in public and private-sector jobs or admission into graduate school within one year of graduation.

The same knowledge and lab expertise mastered by all LSSU chemistry students —cannabis track included —are in demand by employers who look for crucial natural and physical science skills.

What makes LSSU's cannabis chemistry tract unique to North America?

LSSU's cannabis chemistry degree devotes 14 credits of specialized cannabis coursework, starting in the first year, on top of all the other coursework a conventional analytical chemistry degree provides. At the degree's core are 50 credits of chemistry content, along with courses in fundamental biology and horticulture.

The degree also offers 24 free electives that lets students focus on other areas such as business, marketing, and criminal justice.

LSSU is also in the early stages of developing a cannabis emphasis for a bachelor's and associate degree in business administration. Aside from a standard business core, the degrees will include cannabis-specific coursework in economics, law and policy, entrepreneurship, business policy, with attention to cultivation and dispensary operations. Details will be announced later in the spring.

"The cannabis industry is expected to experience tremendous growth in the near future," says LSSU Provost Lynn Gillette. "Our Cannabis Business degree will prepare our graduates for jobs in this emerging industry."

These cannabis initiatives join an array of other Lake Superior State University programs unique to North America, if not the world. A new Center for Freshwater Research and Education opens in 2021. The Center will be a major research and teaching resource in environmental science, aquatic wildlife biology, and fisheries management.

# Michigan's trash imports surge while low fees discourage recycling by residents

By KALEY FECH  
Capital News Service

LANSING – Almost 24 percent of the waste disposed in Michigan landfills came from other states and Canada in 2018, according to a recent state report.

Waste imported from Canada decreased by 7.6 percent, but that wasn't enough to offset a 19 percent surge in discards from other states.

Low disposal fees are a major reason so much waste is imported, said Christina Miller, a solid waste planning specialist with the Department of Environmental Quality.

"We have properly planned our disposal capacity for many years," she said. "By doing that, we have an increased amount of disposal capacity in the state. With a lot of capacity, landfills don't charge as much to dispose of the material going into the landfill."

The state's solid waste laws encourage landfilling over recycling, said Sean Hammond, the deputy policy director for the Michigan Environmental Council.

"They were designed to make sure we had enough landfill capacity for all of our trash, and it did a very good job of that," he said. "So good that our costs to landfill are very low. It makes it hard to compete for recycling."

In the short term, landfilling may seem cheaper, but long term it's cheaper to recycle, Miller said.

Taking into account the costs associated with monitoring and closing landfills, it will cost a lot more in the long run than it would have had the materials been recycled or reused, she said.

Michigan's 27 years of landfill capacity is based on the current rate of disposal, Miller said.

That could change if landfills expand, more waste is generated or recycling increases or decreases.

Eleven states and Canada exported waste to Michigan in 2018. Ohio sent the most of any state, but Canada exported even more. The trash that traveled the farthest came from Kansas.

More than 52 million cubic yards of waste were dumped into Michigan's 66 landfills in 2018, according to the report. That's a 3.6 percent increase since 2017.

Three cubic yards is about one ton of waste.

Waste generated in Michigan increased by almost 6 percent. Blame the economy.

"We don't know 100 percent what the increase is from, but if people have more disposable money, they buy more things, which creates more waste," Miller said.

"If more people come into Michigan, they generate more waste," she said.

There is a direct correlation between economic improvement and waste generation, Hammond said. "We think that's always going to happen in some way."

The state's lack of investment in recycling is a problem too, Hammond said.

"The states that do well are investing a lot of money on a year-to-year basis from the state to grow recycling," he said. "They're doing that because what you see is a huge return on investment from raising the recycling rate."

As long as disposal costs in Michigan remain low, it will be difficult to achieve a desirable recycling rate, she said.

Michigan has a long way to go, Hammond said.

"We should be looking at how are we doing more recycling, not just how are we making sure we have enough landfill space," he said.

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# Walking On

## Clarence John Ojala

Clarence John Ojala was a devoted husband to his wife of almost 52 years, loving father to two daughters, proud father-in-law, super grandpa, son, brother and most importantly, a man of deep faith who went home to his father's house in Heaven on Feb. 17, 2019.

Clarence is survived by his wife Mary (Fegan) Ojala of Grayling, daughter Jennifer (Jerry) Andrejack of Durand, daughter Melanie (Loren) Starr of Dryden, three grandsons: Garrett Andrejack, Braden Andrejack and Carter Starr, as well as his brother, Stanley Ojala of Portage, three sisters: Gladys (Jim) McKiddie of Brimley, Margaret Mathews of Sault Ste. Marie and Mildred Upchurch of Leesburg, Fla., several nieces and nephews, and many friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, Reuben and Alma Ojala, siblings Reuben Jr., Cecil, Gloria, and Eleanor, as well as other extended family members.

Clarence was born on Feb. 21, 1940, in Brimley, Michigan. He graduated from Brimley High School where he was a member of the basketball and baseball teams. He was a veteran of the United States Army. After his time of service was complete he married his one true love, Mary Fegan, on April 29, 1967, and moved to Grayling. They raised their two daughters in Grayling and made their home there. Though he was a man of few words, he held many titles. He was a coach to many kids in Jr. Pro Basketball and teacher to many kids in Sunday School and church youth groups. He held a variety of jobs over the years but ultimately retired from Michigan Consolidated Gas Company after 32 years of service. He loved to hunt, fish, watch sports and spend time outdoors, but he was happiest when he was spending time with his family. He particularly loved to listen to his grandsons tell stories about their adventures.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Feb. 22, 2019, at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home in Sault Ste. Marie. Viewing from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. followed by the service at 1 p.m. Interment will be at a later date at Oak Lawn Chapel Gardens. A Memorial Service is also planned at Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home in Grayling on March



1 at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be left to Brimley Congregational Church Building Fund, Calvary Baptist Church Haitian Fund, and the Munson Hospice.

## Lindsey Waite

Lindsey Waite, 'Che Odae Winini, of the Bay Mills Indian Community, passed away the night of Feb. 8, in Holland, Mich. Lindsey was born in Sault Ste. Marie, on April 1, 1985, and grew up in Bay Mills, Hawaii, Colorado, and Vermont. He was the son of David Waite and the late Cathy Teeple of Bay Mills.

He is survived by father David Waite, step-mother and aunt Dulcia Waite, son Dru, sisters Aneen, Jacqueline, and Angela, brothers David, Gabriel, Quinten, and Alex, grandmother Theresa Teeple, aunts Gail, Sharon, Terry, and Tia, and uncles David, Vincent, Kai, Kelvin, Wayne, and Ted. He leaves behind many, many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his brother Nathan, his uncles Emerson and Kenneth, and his mother.

Lindsey suffered from early adult onset schizophrenia, and this caused him to have a difficult time. Prior to his becoming ill, however, he led a full and happy life. He was an excellent woodworker, enjoyed working in the woods with his uncles, and was a commercial fisherman. He was an avid basketball player, playing in school and tournament teams throughout his youth. He was a lifelong follower of Anishinaabe tradition, and was always eager to go to ceremonies. He truly lived up to his name, the "Big Hearted Man," by exhibiting extraordinary generosity and kindness to his many friends and relations.

Traditional funeral rites were held at the Bay

Mills Indian Community Cultural Center, with a fire in the lodge. Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left at [www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com](http://www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com).

## Donald C. Kincheloe

Donald C. Kincheloe of Dollar Settlement, Michigan passed away Jan. 21, 2019 at the Cheboygan Hospice House.

Don was born December 13, 1951 in Redfield, South Dakota. He entered the United States Air Force in 1970 and while stationed at Kincheloe Air Force Base he met his wife Shirley from Brimley. In November 1972, Don and Shirley married and shortly thereafter moved to Miller, SD where Don managed his parents bowling alley. In 1975, Don and Shirley had their first son Donald Jr. In 1976, they moved to Southern California where their second son Clayton was born in 1979. Don was employed at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard and continued a career working for the Department of Defense in Quality Assurance until he retired in 2003. He took great pride in the support he provided to the U.S. Military during his career. After retiring, Don spent the majority of his time taking care of Shirley, a two-time kidney transplant patient, until she finally succumbed to her ailments in 2008. Don enjoyed the solitude of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and that is where he met his second love, Kathi Chartrand. Don and Kathi enjoyed rustic camping along with many adventures on his side-by-side ATV.

He is survived by his loving girlfriend, Kathi Chartrand, along with his two sons; Donald Kincheloe Jr. (Jill Slater) of Brimley and Clayton Kincheloe (Melissa Colby) of Charlevoix. Don cherished the time he was able to spend with his three grandchildren: Kayla, Shane and Wyatt. They will miss him considerably. He is also survived by his two sisters Diana (Ed) Hancock of Ocala, Florida and Bonnie Gamber of Medicine Lodge, Kansas. Don's parents, Don and Evelyn, along with his wife Shirley have preceded him in death.

Burial will planned for a later date in the spring at Mission Hill Cemetery.

Online condolences may be left at [www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com](http://www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com).

### **Carrie Frances Cameron**

Carrie Frances Cameron, a Bay Mills Indian Community tribal member, died unexpectedly at her home on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019. Carrie was born in Sault Ste. Marie on Aug. 22, 1959 to the late Harold Sr. and Marie (Teepie) Cameron. Carrie is survived by her children; William "Corky" and Elaine Parish, Cori Parish and Maqwanibwit "Bucky" Deuman, and Derek Ackerman; her grandchildren, Malorie, Lily, and Billy Parish, Gavin Burtscher, Charles and Gabrielle Lyons.

She is also survived by brothers; Harold Jr. and Corrine Cameron, Darryl Sr. and Edith Cameron, Arnold "Hawk" and Jessie Cameron, Joel Cameron, Norman and Eileen Cameron; sisters, Penny and Chuck Leapley, Carol and Chris Carrick; and many nieces and nephews.

Carrie is preceded in death by her parents; Harold Sr. and Marie Cameron; her partner and love, John Hanover; brother, Aaron "Bill" Cameron Sr.; sister, Leola Calder; nephews, Aaron "Billy" Cameron Jr., Dennis Cameron, Nicolas Cameron; and niece, Jackie Leapley.

Carrie loved being around people and loved to laugh. She had a long memory and would always share stories about her life. Along with being a storyteller, Carrie was a great pool player and helped her team of six years earn four championships. She liked to frequent the local casinos, where she would greet everyone with a smile. But Carrie found the most joy on the back of a Harley riding either near or far with her beloved John Henry.

Online condolences may be left at [www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com](http://www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com).

### **William "Bun" Alfred LeBlanc**

William Alfred LeBlanc, 96, of Brimley, passed away peacefully with his son Jim at his side on Jan. 16, 2019. Born Nov. 5, 1922 in Sault Ste. Marie, he was delivered by medicine woman Sarah Marshal, who is said to have walked to the Soo from Brimley for the occasion.

He had a long life filled with adven-

ture and opportunity. Bill studied at the Indian school, a one-room schoolhouse, because there were no Indians at the public school in Brimley. He was an eager student, who quickly finished his lessons, then went on to work on the other classes' assignments. His teacher was impressed with him and recommended he travel to Kansas to attend the Indian school at Haskell. He loved going there, because he hated the work on the farm. He came back to Brimley when the school opened for Indian students and finished his senior year at Brimley High School, graduating in 1940.

He always wanted to be busy, and to make a difference. He joined the Civilian Conservation Corps at Eckerman, where he tended the trees that had been planted. From there, he went to Cadillac Lumber in the Soo, where he was a tram mule, running cars full of lumber along an elevated track. He always said the job requirements were that you be fast and dumb.

Bill soon went to Detroit to look for work. He worked at a car plant, studying automotive body work at night. The call to arms came and he joined the US Marine Corps in 1943. He served on the battleship New Mexico in the Pacific theater. He operated an anti-aircraft gun, and was at Iwo Jima before the battle.

When the War was over, he returned to Detroit, where he met and married Aimee Cote. They had three children, Elaine Schuster (James), James LeBlanc (Cathy) and Judith LeBlanc (Tony Ragusa). He worked at Highland Nash, then for Glenn Pontiac in collision repair. In 1956, the family moved to the Soo, where Bill worked at Ted Caffey in collision repair. He became shop foreman. He later sold double wide homes and life insurance. He served as Chippewa County Republican Chairman.

In 1964, the family moved back to Detroit, where Bill became a collision adjuster for Allstate. He also ran for GOP State Representative. in 1966, but lost in the primary. His service earned

him some opportunities. He was appointed by Governor Bill Milliken to the Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs, where he served for many years, from Commissioner, to staff member to Executive Director. He initiated studies into the education conditions for Indian students in Michigan, and into health conditions. His work resulted in the Michigan Tuition Waiver. He was one of many who worked on it, but he was a spearhead.

Bill worked for the Michigan Department of Public Health, where he obtained Michigan's advances on Community Health Representatives (CHRs). He brought that program to Bay Mills. He also worked on a similar program at the Michigan Department of Social Services. His goal was always to improve the quality of life for Native Americans.

Bill met and married Drusilla Burns and moved to Perry, Michigan. She had three sons, Karl, Keith and Ken, who lived with them. Bill became their Dad, and they are part of the family. Bill was ordained a non-denominational Christian minister, and opened a church in Perry, My Father's House.

Bill also served at the Michigan Commission on Veteran's Affairs and returned to the Indian Commission where he served as Executive Director until the Commission closed. He retired at that time.

Bill and Dru moved to Brimley and built a house in the Bay Mills Indian Community, where he lived until he died, among his family and friends. He was predeceased by his wives Aimee and Dru, his brothers Alphonse, Lawrence and James, his sisters, Armella, Agnes and Audrey. He is survived by his brother Walter George LeBlanc, six children, five grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren and 4 great great grandchildren. Burial will be at Mission Hill Cemetery in the Spring. Online condolences may be left at [www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com](http://www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com)

# Cloverland Electric cancels 2019 Hydro Plant Open House

DAFTER – Cloverland Electric Cooperative announced on Feb. 4 that it will not host its hydroelectric plant open house this year. During the annual event held in conjunction with Engineer’s Day at the Soo Locks on the last Friday in June, the public previously was permitted to tour the historic generation facility in Sault Ste. Marie.

Public access to the generation plant will be restricted this year, as construction of Lake Superior State University’s \$13.2 million Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE) gets underway later this spring on the grounds east of the plant. Public safety concerns due to the heavy construction equipment traffic and activity as well as the elimination of the area previously used for informal parking factored into this decision.

“The hydro plant is a major asset to our community – it’s impact on reliability and energy costs has been part of the lives of our

members for years and the ability to see this historical and architecturally significant facility up close and personal is a unique experience,” said Aaron Wallin, interim president and CEO, Cloverland Electric Cooperative. “Unfortunately, several other considerations have come into play in the feasibility of future public access to the facility.”

During the construction of the CFRE, this precaution will be necessary for both employee and public safety. “For Cloverland one of the most important parts of construction zone safety is ensuring adequate distance between the public and the work area,” said Jim Wilson, director of safety.

As a critical element of Cloverland’s energy infrastructure, the plant’s renewable hydroelectric power accounts for nearly half of the cooperative’s annual power supply for more than 42,000 residences and businesses in five counties of the Upper Peninsula.

Looking into the future, changes in na-

tionwide threat levels to the industry’s utility infrastructure require that the cooperative carry out a serious review of plant safety and security protocols.

“Since the hydro plant is the cornerstone to Cloverland’s ability to maintaining low rates and area energy reliability, security of this infrastructure is paramount considering changes in the industry,” explained Brian Lavey, director of engineering. “It is essential that we maintain a forward leaning posture towards the safety, security and protection of our area’s energy resources by continuously auditing, analyzing, and implementing appropriate practices to achieve that objective. This decision is the best approach to ensure the safety of the public and protection of this historic and vital asset long term.”

For security reasons, Cloverland indicated that its safety and security review process and results would not be disclosed.

## Michigan issuing March and April food assistance benefits early

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will issue March and April food assistance benefits early to reduce the gap between benefits payments that resulted from the partial federal government shutdown.

Food assistance recipients can expect to receive next month’s benefits on March 3, 4 or 5. April benefits will be issued from April 3-12 and May payments will be issued as regularly scheduled.

MDHHS made changes to the schedule so that families do not have to go more than 45 days without receiving food assistance. The department issued February benefits early beginning on Jan. 17 at the direction of the federal government, which said there were questions about whether the funds would be available to issue in February because of the government shutdown that has since ended.

In Michigan, food assistance benefits are usually issued to clients according to a nu-

meric schedule over a 21-day period throughout the month. About 1.2 million Michiganders receive food assistance through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program administered by MDHHS.

“MDHHS wants to make sure that families and individuals can put food on their tables,” said Terrence Beurer, MDHHS deputy director of Field Operations Administration. “We were concerned about families having to go 45 to 60 days or more without benefits as a result of the early issuance of February benefits. Gradually returning to the regular schedule cushions the impact of the federal government shutdown.”

People who receive food assistance can check their benefits balance via the telephone number or website address on the back of their Bridge Card, or by accessing their account at [www.michigan.gov/mibridges](http://www.michigan.gov/mibridges).

### Updates from Bay Mills Conservation Dept.

#### Sturgeon harvest application period announced

Bay Mills Indian Community will be issuing one sturgeon tag for the 2019 season on Black Lake. Interested tribal members can apply at the Bay Mills Conservation office. The application period will end at 4 p.m., on March 5th. The drawing will be held on March 6th, at the regularly scheduled Conservation Committee meeting.

#### Whitefish Point Harbor Dock Permit sign-up sheet available

Commercial fishers that are interested in docking at Whitefish Point, must put their name on the sign-up sheet. There are limited spots available and a drawing will be held on March 6th at the conservation committee meeting to assign the permits. Sign-up sheets are located at the tribal office and the conservation office.

# Auto insurance premiums also burdensome in rural Michigan

By MAXWELL EVANS

Capital News Service

LANSING — During a seemingly endless legislative battle over how to rein in the nation's highest auto insurance premiums, some experts worry about rural Michiganders fleeing the state for cheaper rates.

Premiums in urban centers like Detroit are disproportionately high due to non-driving factors, said Wayne Miller, an adjunct professor with the Wayne State University Law School and chair of Miller and Tischler, a law firm specializing in no-fault insurance. Some of these factors disproportionately affect residents based on race or gender, he said.

But that's not to say more sparsely populated areas aren't burdened with steep costs. An average of premiums in rural and suburban areas across Michigan would still equate to the "eighth- to 10th-highest" in the nation, Miller estimated.

The state's poor-quality roads create plenty of pothole damage, and rural residents must drive longer distances on "country roads" for their employment and other needs. Both factors drive up premiums in sparsely populated areas, Miller said.

Michigan's uncompetitive rates are a particular problem for Sen. Dale Zorn, R-Ida, whose district borders Ohio. Combined with Ohio's looser business regulations, drastically cheaper insurance means population loss to his district's southern neighbor is a serious concern, he said.

Moving from Blissfield to the border town of Metamora, Ohio, for example — a 20-minute drive — could mean paying nearly two-and-a-half times less for auto insurance, according to the independent consumer insurance website Insure.com.

Ohioans paid an average of \$944 annually, the second-lowest premiums in the nation. Michiganders spent more than \$2,200, topping Insure.com's list for the fifth year in a row with premiums nearly \$900 above the national average.

It's not a straightforward comparison. Michigan's comprehensive no-fault coverage is "probably the best insurance in the country," Zorn said. Miller called it the "best insurance on the planet."

Accident victims are guaranteed lifetime medical benefits, of which insurers are on the hook for the first \$555,000. The private, nonprofit Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association then reimburses insurers for any further medical costs, funded by a \$192 annual assessment per vehicle — an additional cost to insurers that the organization says is typically passed on to policyholders.

Ohio's tort-based system requires motorists responsible for an accident to carry only enough coverage to provide a maximum of \$25,000 for one injured person, \$50,000 for all injuries stemming

from the accident and \$25,000 for property damage. The at-fault driver may then be responsible for additional costs if the victim sues.

But for some, Michigan's high premiums are unjustified by the benefits, Miller said, pushing a few residents close to state borders to commit fraud and apply for insurance in Ohio, Indiana or Wisconsin, all of which rank in the top 10 of Insure's cheapest rates.

Residents often seriously consider moving across the border to save money on auto insurance, Miller said. He cautioned against that because of the state's unique insurance benefits.

No-fault coverage, which is mandatory, covers medical bills and lost wages. Collision and comprehensive coverage, which handles areas like vehicle damage and theft, is optional. The latter is typically the main driver of high costs, Miller said.

The common narrative is that it's the no-fault system alone that causes Michigan to have the nation's highest rates, he said. But take away the unlimited medical benefits and you'd likely only save on the \$192 catastrophic claims assessment.

Outside of Detroit and its unreasonably high rates driven by non-driving factors, Michiganders receive "tremendous coverage" that justifies paying a higher premium than others nationwide, Miller said.

"Every one of us can become a catastrophic loss victim at any time, and you want to have insurance that covers you," Miller said.

Zorn said the state could decide to return to a tort-based system, which hasn't been in place since 1973, as a potential solution to out-of-control premiums. But he also says the lifetime medical benefits under the current no-fault system are popular, high rates notwithstanding.

The new Legislature has taken a first step to address high premiums. Sen. Aric Nesbitt, R-Lawton, recently introduced a bill with no specifics, stating that the Legislature intends to address topics like seniors opting out of unlimited personal injury protection, fraud prevention and reduction of auto insurance-driven medical cost inflation.

Until some comprehensive premium-lowering solution is reached, Miller said smaller steps can be taken to reduce costs for rural residents.

He supports legislative efforts to combat insurance fraud and said insurers should be required to offer no-fault personal injury protection with deductibles of up to \$50,000 rather than the now-common \$300 deductible.

For individuals, Miller said there's perhaps one answer to maintaining lower rates — shop around. Regularly.

"Insurance companies do not reward long term loyalty, they punish it — they'll jack up rates after initially offering good rates," he said. "Shop frequently and you'll be truly amazed at the savings you get."

# Grants available for UP deer habitat improvements

Over the last decade, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has invested over \$630,000 of hunting license sales revenue to enhance deer habitat on private lands in the Upper Peninsula.

That significant investment has been made through the Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative, a competitive grant program offered through the DNR's Wildlife Division.

"Over 80 projects in nearly all of the U.P.'s 15 counties have benefited thousands of acres of deer habitat," said Bill Scullon, DNR field operations manager in Norway and administrator for the grant initiative. "Partners have contributed over \$450,000 in matching funds, which have contributed to expanding the impact of projects."

For this year, the DNR has announced a March 1 deadline to apply for a total of \$100,000 in deer habitat improvement grant funding.

Groups eligible for these grants include organizations with a formal mission to promote wildlife conservation and/or hunting, such as sportsmen's clubs, conservation districts, land conservancies, industrial landowners with more than 10,000 acres, or private land affiliations where two or more unrelated persons jointly own 400 or more acres.

"There are three primary goals applicants should strive to meet," Scullon said. "The projects should produce tangible deer habitat improvements, build long-term partnerships between the DNR and outside organizations and showcase the benefits to the public."

Scullon said the total amount of grant funding available is \$100,000. The maximum amount of individual grants is \$15,000 and the minimum is \$2,000.

Now in its eleventh year, the initiative is supported by the state's Deer Range Improvement Program, which is funded by a portion of deer hunting license revenue.

Previous projects funded under the ini-

tiative include planting of red oak, conifers and wildlife orchards; rehabilitation of historic wildlife openings; native prairie restoration, and scarification for conifer regeneration. Some past grant recipients have also facilitated youth hunting opportunities on improved private lands.

Project applications must be postmarked

by Friday, March 1, and successful applicants will be notified by Monday, March 18. The complete grant application package is available on the DNR website at [michigan.gov/dnr-grants](http://michigan.gov/dnr-grants). For more information or questions regarding eligibility, please contact Bill Scullon at 906-563-9247 or [scullonh@michigan.gov](mailto:scullonh@michigan.gov).

## Sheriff offers tips to avoid home fires

CHIPPEWA COUNTY — With a recent rise in home fires, the Chippewa County Sheriff's Dept. has issued the following tips:

- Install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms in every level of your residence.
- Test alarms and replace batteries as needed.
- Make an escape plan with multiple exit strategies and practice at least twice a year with your family.
- When using candles, make sure to use candle holders to collect the wax. Place candles out of reach of children and pets. Never leave candles unattended.
- When cooking, avoid loose clothing and

keep flammable objects away from the stove/oven. Clean cooking surfaces to remove grease.

- Keep space heaters out of high traffic areas and always plug directly into the wall. Never leave heaters unattended.
- Frequently check exhaust and vents for proper ventilation and remove snow/ice build up.
- Always have your main heating source professionally checked annually.
- When heating with wood/pellets, burn dry, cured woods. Only burn wood, not paper or cardboard. Clean your chimney twice each year.



Invasive Plant Workshop

## HIMALAYAN BALSAM & GARLIC MUSTARD MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The Brimley and Bay Mills area has two newly discovered enemies, an attractive pink flower called Himalayan Balsam and an herb called Garlic Mustard. Join us for this educational workshop to learn how you can help us fight these fiends! Learn how to identify, prevent, and combat the spread of priority invasive species found in YOUR own backyard!

February 28, 2019

- **Bay Mills Community College 2:00pm -4:00pm**  
Lower Level Auditorium 1  
12214 Lakeshore Dr. Brimley, MI



Garlic Mustard



Himalayan Balsam



Native Jewelweed

For more information contact Nick Cassel, Three Shores Cisma 906-632-9611 x121 or Aubrey Maccoux-LeDuc, BMIC Biology 906-248-8652.

# Announcements

## Get a free smoke alarm

Superior Township Fire and Bay Mills Fire are teaming up with the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign. This is available to all residents of Superior Township, Bay Mills Township and Bay Mills Indian Community free of charge. The group will be doing smoke alarm installation on March 30. Please contact Superior Township Hall at 906-248-5218 or Squeak from the Red Cross at 906-293-1676 to get on the list.

## Native Food Safety Training planned

Bay Mills is hosting a Native Food Safety Training on Thursday, Feb. 28, 8:30 to 5 p.m. at the Bay Mills Resort and Casino. The training is free. Please follow the link below for more information and to register. <https://www.nativefoodsafety.org/training-signup>

Training Sign-Up — Native Food Safety

[www.nativefoodsafety.org](http://www.nativefoodsafety.org) Upcoming events, select the Bay Mills training site. The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative's Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule resource, training, and technical assistance site for Indian Country farmers, ranchers, and food businesses.

## Report water issues online or via phone

Bay Mills water customers can now report if they are experiencing issues via phone or online. The number to report issues is 906-248-8179. You can also utilize the online reporting form available at [www.baymills.org](http://www.baymills.org) on the upper left side of the page.

## Journey to Healing programs held each week

- Teen Empowerment Group held at the cultural building for teenagers 11 to 17 every Tuesday, 5 to 7 p.m.
- Women's Support Group, every Monday, 5:30 p.m. at the cultural building.

## Computer portal available to assist those in applying for assistance

There is now a portal at the Commodity Food building for people that do not have internet access or need help to apply for State Emergency Assistance through the Department of Health & Human Services.

**REMEMBER THIS PROGRAM IS INCOME BASED**

We ask that you call for an appointment since we only have one computer available for this program. We will let you know what you need to bring with you for the appointment when you call, 248-2527 or 248-2528.

## Cardboard now being accepted

Have you heard the news? Recycling cardboard just got a whole lot easier! Bay Mills Maintenance Department is now accepting all corrugated cardboard from both tribal and non-tribal folks free of charge! You can feel twice as good about recycling with Bay Mills because your cardboard supports other maintenance and waste management efforts at BMIC! Drop off your cardboard in the white garage behind the BMIC trash compactor. Open same hours as the trash compactor. For more information contact 906-248-8154.



**Tuesday, February 26th from 10am—2pm**

**Horizons Conference Center, Bay Mills  
Resort & Casino**

*Guests Including:*

*9-1-1 Emergency Coordinator*

*Heather Lyons, HR - BC/BS help*

*National Weather Service*

*Gina White—Public Health Coordinator*

*HR— Risk Management*

**Open to the Community and Employees**

**\*\* Free Food \*Drinks \* Door Prizes \*\***



Have a community announcement?

Email us at [newspaper@baymills.org](mailto:newspaper@baymills.org)

*Help us with the Spirit Stone Trail*



***Design a sign for the Spirit Stone Trail***

A new bicycle and pedestrian trail will connect Bay Mills from one end of the 55 stretch to the other. Help the Solid Waste Committee design signs for the trail! These signs will be placed on the recycling bins at each trailhead.

Designs should express the importance of caring for the Earth, a love of nature, and/or what makes Bay Mills special.

Submit your designs to Aubrey at Biological Services by email [amaccoux-educ@baymills.org](mailto:amaccoux-educ@baymills.org),

or mail/drop off at 11801 Plantation Rd, Brimley MI 49715. Deadline March 1, 2019.

