

Walden to lead BMIC Human Resources Department

BAY MILLS — A familiar face will be taking the lead at the Bay Mills Human Resources Department. Stacey Walden began her new position as the HR director on Monday, April 21. Walden previously worked in the department as a recruiter and benefits administrator. She left in 2016 to become the HR director at Bay Mills Community College, a new position where she established the department from the ground up

“I had no plans to ever leave BMCC. I had planned to retire from the HR director position. Prior to arriving at BMCC each individual department was responsible for their own HR functions for the most part. I

pulled all the functions together under one department and I am extremely proud of the work I did there. I developed so many relationships, became a mentor and a mentee, and I was proud to advance the mission of providing education and development to tribal members,” said Walden. “I absolutely loved my experience there and am very sad to be leaving. However, I believe in our tribe, and I think I can better serve the tribe in this new role.”

Walden, a BMIC citizen, has strong ties to the community where she was raised, the daughter of Deb and Tim Walden, and raised her children, Delaney and Ceara. She has previously served on Bay Mills Executive Coun-



cil, Bay Mills Gaming Commission, and the Brimley School Board. She has also been teaching at BMCC as an adjunct instructor for the last eight years. She holds a master’s degree in administration with a concentration in

human resources, as well as a bachelor of science in psychology and is a certified Tribal Human Resources Professional.

“This is a huge job, and I know I’ll have my work cut out for me, but I’m very excited about the possibilities. I’ve never shied away from a challenge, and I think I have the opportunity to do some great and innovative things. I hope to move HR from a transactional function of the tribe into more of a strategic partner. I love a culture of growth and development, and our tribe is expanding and progressing at a pace we haven’t seen in many years. I’m excited to be a part of it,” said Walden.

Great Lakes fish consumption app improves Anishinaabe way of life, study shows

By DANIEL SCHOENHERR
Capital News Service

LANSING — A long history of Great Lakes pollution has discouraged the Anishinaabe practice of fish consumption, as eating what’s caught in Great Lakes waters means ingesting toxic chemicals.

But a mobile app — GigiigooApp — is safely bringing the tradition back.

A new study from the Medical University of Wisconsin shows hundreds of Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority tribe members in the Northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula are using information from the app to decide how much of what types of fish to eat.

It’s allowing Anishinaabe Native Americans to continue “living in a good way,” said study author Matthew Dellinger, an associate professor of epidemiology at the university.

The app recommends fewer monthly meals of the types of fish that tend to accumulate the most contaminants, like salmon and lake trout. It also adjusts the recommended maximum number of meals based on which lake the fish was caught in.

The negative health effects of eating local fish have discouraged tribe members from exercising their right to live off their land, Dellinger said.

Activities like fishing, farming and hunting are important parts of their identities, he said.

Being able to meaningfully engage in those activities, more than just occasionally, is a way of life that’s been enshrined in federal (court) decisions,” he said. “It’s a way to plant a cultural and political flag.”

The app is intended to improve users’ understanding of what advisories exist and why, Dellinger said. This helps inform their decisions about fish consumption.

The study evaluated feedback to the app from members of the Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Based on other recent studies, GigiigooApp has been improved in overall design and with simpler explanations for its recommendations, Dellinger said.

The new study reported that the app’s latest version is useful to the

vast majority of users: 95% said they would eat more fish if they could use it (up from 53.5% around launch in 2021) and 94.1% said they would use it regularly (up from 54.8%).

The study appeared in the Journal of Great Lakes Research.

Members of a focus group in March said the app was helpful to understand the hazards of wild fish consumption, said Beth Seiloff, a co-author and the health education program manager for the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan based in Sault Ste. Marie.

Dellinger said the success of GigiigooApp has opened the door to larger

projects with tribes in the U.S. and Canada.

“We’re putting our heads together to see how much we can leverage mobile technology and AI algorithms to scale up what can be done with this app,” he said.

Seiloff said that while the app’s foreseeable development will focus on its Indigenous audience, it can benefit other people who fish in those waters.

“It’s not only Native Americans that are harvesting fish from these waterways,” she said. “We want this interactive software to be used by everybody.”



BMRC UPDATE — Miron Construction Co., Inc. has made significant progress on the hotel expansion and throughout the Bay Mills Resort & Casino property. As of now, the employee break room is complete, administrative offices are completed, and west-end bathrooms are completed. The construction team is working on the bathrooms by the 300-400 level hotel entrance, the laundry room area, as well as the dry-wall and siding on the main expansion building. As the temperatures are warming up the staff hope this makes it easier on the construction team as they take it one day at a time. Expected completion date on the project is later this fall.

Executive Council discusses business at regular meeting

April 14 Regular Meeting
Reports

President Whitney Gravelle

- CORA meeting attended March 27. Some Line 5 discussions. Next meeting April 24.
 - Attended Indian Gaming Association meeting with DraftKings and their leadership committee in Indian Country. They partner with eight tribes. Will travel to Arizona to give presentation on Indian gaming and benefits in the future.
 - Materials management facility meetings being held. Trees were cut down for it on Plantation Hills. Will be able to utilize this for waste recycling.
 - Met with I-500 Committee about partnership and Destination Bay Mills. Race week brings in \$3-4 million in Sault Ste. Marie each year.
 - Met with Victory Cruise Lines about bringing cruise tours to Bay Mills. They have partnered with Birds Eye Outfitters to do this. Excursions likely to take place in 2026.
 - Dept. of Interior will keep the Tribal Advisory Committee. First meeting May 5. Tribes rallying about cuts to Indian Country.
 - Board of Regents meeting held on April 11. BMCC expansion waiting on financing. This could be in the fall or spring.
 - Conservation Committee discussed access site in Bay Mills Township. Land owners near site have obtained an attorney. Permit application has been submitted. There will be public comment.
 - Stabilizing mat to be installed at Jack’s Bay in the future.
 - Riverview Campground is set to be open Memorial Day Weekend. This will be done before pow wow. We have updated the design for the gathering grounds, this year the pow wow will be held on the open space for now.
 - Destination Bay Mills website is ongoing. Hope to launch before June.
 - Superior Whitefish Festival is also ongoing. An agenda will be released soon.
 - Cannabis Compact negotiations ongoing. Still working toward metric.
 - NLCC will have a location in Four Seasons, that is being worked on.
 - 2020 Consent Decree litigation: The appeal timeline is quite long since the U.S. government is involved.
 - Line 5: We left as a cooperating agency in the Army Corps review process. We expect they will announce the approval of the tunnel project tomorrow under the “emergency” declaration.
- Tribal Manager Rachel Lyons**
- Assessing FRF spending. All funds have been obligated as needed.
 - Attended various meetings.
 - Completed evaluations.
 - Ongoing projects: Admin reno & expansion, final furniture install. Painting almost complete. Flooring to still be installed. The end of May is the target for completion.
 - Kings Club redevelopment will go out

- to bid soon.
- Recovery Center & emergency housing is ongoing.
 - Silverdome demo to be done after asbestos abatement, likely next week.
 - Finalizing contract for professional townhomes.
 - Chippewa Landing is paused at this time.
- Health Director Lucy DeWildt**
- Working on long term care project.
 - Attended the MDHHS tribal summit.
 - New mental health therapist, Chase Bouschor, started his position.
 - 2025 is the 10 year anniversary of the farmer’s market.
- Bay Mills Gaming Authority Richard LeBlanc**
- Expansion: Meetings held frequently about details (furniture, etc.). Roof top deck being discussed. Grand opening committee is discussing how the day will be planned out. Possibly early December. Spa director will be part of the management team. Replacing old machines with new machines. Weekly construction team meetings are held, pool space being worked on.
 - Weather continues to impact revenue.
- Bay Mills Business Holdings Glenn Philpot, NLCC**
- HVAC has been repaired.
 - Harvesting rooms.
 - Looking at new testing facility.
 - Retail sales are slow when weather is bad.
 - Working on processes/layout at Four Seasons.
- Justin LeBlanc, Four Seasons & Bay Mart**
- Had issues with entering information to SAGE. IT assisted.
 - Yearly reports submitted to accounting.
 - Working on freezer quote.
 - Attended several meetings.
- New Business**
1. Resolution No. 25-04-14A: Amendment to Motor Vehicle Code for Ojibwe Stop Signs. Prior language would allow this, we want to make this absolutely clear. Four areas to be changed per legal. Approved.
 2. Resolution No. 25-04-14B: Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – Superior Canopy Corporation – Bay Mart Renovation Project. Approved.
 3. Resolution No. 25-04-14C: Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – Minneapolis Foundation for Clean Up of Superior Township Brownfield - \$350,000. No match. Construction of an access road, clean up dump site near Plantation Road. This will only start the cleanup process, it is extensive. Approved.
 4. Resolution No. 25-04-14D: Application Submission to the Indian Health Services, Tribal Management Grant Program - \$50,000. Approved.
 5. Resolution No. 25-04-14E: Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy - \$2,750. Approved.

6. Resolution No. 25-04-14F: Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – Dental Benefit Providers. United Healthcare Inc. Approved.
7. Grant Applications: Approved.
 - a. Acceptance of Funds – Tribal Justice Support Services - \$169,008.
 - b. Acceptance of Funds – Special Diabetes Program FY 25 - \$126,655.
 - c. Approval to Submit – Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Trail Improvement. Asking for \$70k, requires 100% match. Will remediate some erosion on the trail and keep snowmobiles off the road.
8. Approval of Elder Housing Phase 2 Construction Agreement – Whiskey River, Inc. Approved.
9. Approval of Contract for Services for Slipstream – Energy Code Development. Approved.
10. Matt Baragwanath Residential Lease Application. Approved.
11. Policy #1026 – Sliding Fee Scale Discount Program – Bay Mills Health Center. Approved.
12. Reaffirmation of Poll Votes: Approved.
 - a. Fishbeck Change Order
 - b. Emergency Medical Donation
 - c. Raffle Permit No. 25-005

Spring'n into work...

JOB FAIR





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• **ON-SITE INTERVIEWS**
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BOTH FOR POTENTIAL NEW EMPLOYEES & CURRENT EMPLOYEES

RANDOM DRAWINGS
THROUGHOUT THE EVENT FOR POTENTIAL NEW EMPLOYEES

MAY 1, 2025 • 12PM - 4PM

BMRC HORIZON'S CONFERENCE ROOM

EMPLOYEES THAT BRING A FRIEND WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING FOR A \$50 GAS CARD!

*FRIEND MUST NOT BE CURRENT EMPLOYEE OF ANY BMIC ENTITY

DEA NATIONAL TAKEBACK

Friday, April 25th
10:00 AM -1:00PM

Bay Mills Police Department
12449 W Lakeshore Drive
Brimley, MI 49715

Chippewa County Communities That Care and Intertribal Council of Michigan will be distributing:

- **Deterra Deactivation Bags**
- **Naloxone**
- **Medication Lockboxes**



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.

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OPINION

How to scam the sophisticated scammers

By Tom Purcell

A few years ago, my then 70-something mom was targeted by telephone scammers.

“Grandma,” said a young man pretending to be her grandson, Jerrod, “I’m in trouble.”

He said he was in Canada, unaware he had been fishing illegally. He said he was arrested and needed bail money.

My mother immediately became aware the caller was a fraudster. In her feeblest voice, she said, “What do you need, honey?”

“They assigned me a lawyer,” said the scammer. “Can I have him call you? Please don’t tell anyone.”

“I won’t even tell Grandpa!” she said. A moment later, “the lawyer” called.

“This is serious,” said a stern male voice. “We need to raise \$575 in two hours or the judge will send Jerrod to jail.”

He gave her instructions to wire money to Vancouver. She told him she’d do her best.

Ninety minutes later, the scammer called back.

“I have the cash,” said my mother, “but my car won’t start!”

“Can you take a cab?”

“I don’t know how,” she said. “Maybe my neighbors can help. Can you give me 15 minutes?”

He called back.

“My neighbor’s husband will be home soon. Can you give me a half-hour?”

He called again.

“I went to Western Union, but the lady said I didn’t have the right information. Can you give it to me again?”

Grumbling, he did.

“Can I talk to my grandson?”

“He’s with the judge,” said the scammer.

“May I have your number in case I forget something?”

“I can’t take calls while in court. How long to wire the money?”

“Maybe a half-hour,” said my mother.

He called back again and again — but my mother always made him wait.

“I gave the Western Union lady the money!” she said at last.

“Do you have the receipt?”

“Receipt?”

“When you give them the money, they give you a receipt,” he snapped.

“I didn’t get one!”

“Lady, how do you give someone \$575 and not get a receipt?!”

“I’m so worried about Jerrod! Can you give me another half-hour?”

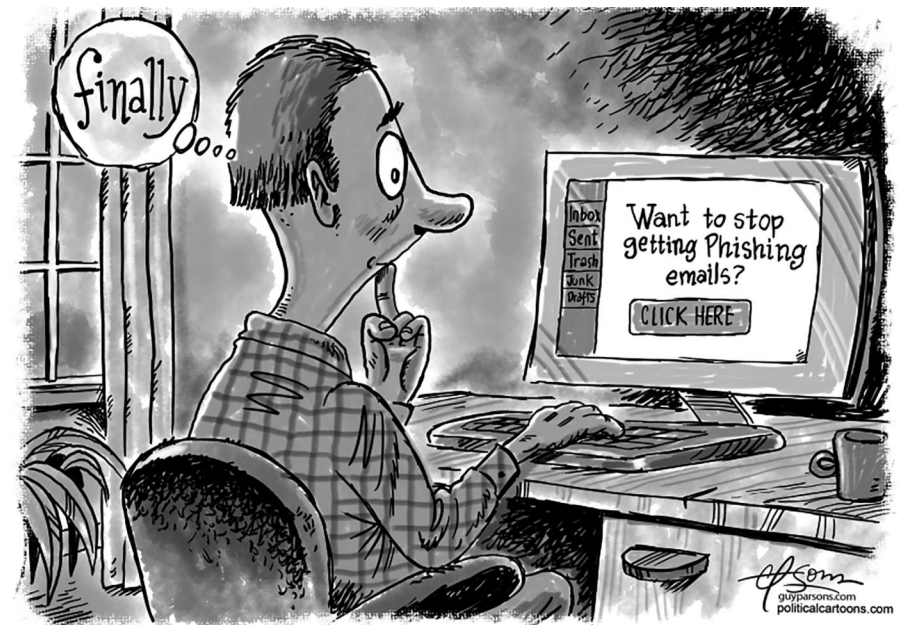
“For God’s sakes, lady. Get it right this time!”

She gave him a fake Western Union confirmation number. When he realized it was useless, he called every two minutes for over an hour.

My mother never answered.

She tied him up for over seven hours — and hopefully prevented someone else from being robbed.

But detecting such scams is not so



easy anymore, thanks to artificial intelligence. Scammers can now clone a loved one’s voice using just a short clip lifted from voicemail or social media.

These AI-generated scams are so sophisticated that elderly scams are growing rapidly.

According to the FBI, Americans aged 60 and older reported losses exceeding \$3.4 billion in 2023. Victims lost, on average, nearly \$34,000. More than 100,000 people filed complaints.

Elderly victims are currently being tricked by deepfake videos falsely claiming Elon Musk is backing a new DOGE cryptocurrency. Others fall for fake Medicare calls or IRS impersonations.

We must encourage our elderly loved ones to screen unknown calls, never give out personal information, and remember that real government agencies never demand money over the phone.

In our digital world, we have to assume every contact could be from a fraudster.

By teaching more people to detect scams, they’ll be able to outwit the scammers — just like my mother did.

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See Tom Purcell’s syndicated column, humor books and funny videos featuring his dog, Thurber, at TomPurcell.com

Do you spend 138 minutes a day worrying?

By Danny Tyree

Surely I’m not alone in the phenomenon of dutifully paying my credit card bill by the deadline and then, two weeks into the next billing period, abruptly freaking out with self-doubt. Did I pay it or not?

According to a Talker Research survey of 2,000 Americans across all generations, people on average spend two hours and 18 minutes each day wrestling with worrisome thoughts.

Undoubtedly, these thoughts include concerns such as “Will I be able to pay the rent?,” “Can I convince my ex to agree to joint custody?,” “Can I ever finish my ‘to-do’ list?” and “Should I have the doctor look at this irregularly shaped mole — or go with my original plan and have the exterminator get it out of the yard instead?”

These nagging doubts can impair sleep, hamper productivity and make you as jittery as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. (*Whew* I was worried that I would miss out on that Cracker Barrel product placement opportunity.)

Let’s face it: responding positively to platitudes is not as easy as it used to be. (According to the United States Code Annotated, “Ah, I wouldn’t lose any sleep over it” has now surpassed 99 percent of the permutations of “Yo’ momma...” in the “fighting words” category.)

For example, Louis Armstrong took some of the edge off of the Great Depression when he sang “On the Sunny Side of the Street.” But nowadays when you “grab your coat, grab your hat, leave your worries on the doorstep,” you have to agonize over whether a porch pirate will swipe your worries, bring them back and sue for damages.

And it used to be that children eventually listened to their parents’ reassurances and outgrew anxieties about monsters under the bed. Now we have twentysomethings with lingering fears that maybe they didn’t use the right pronouns for those monsters.

The Serenity Prayer used to bring solace to troubled individuals in AA and beyond. But I understand that it’s being updated to “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to...ah, it’s only Greenland! If we get buyer’s remorse, we can always put it in a national garage sale!”

Baby Boomers and Generation X survived uncertainties such as the military draft and the AIDS epidemic, but now they have profound doubts about the world their children and grandchildren will inherit, and whether those heirs will enjoy the same opportunities as in halcyon days of yore. I understand that an anonymous benefactor has sprung for every town to have (a) a ginormous garden hose for drinking and (b) enough unfiltered Marlboros for “smokin’ in the unisex bathroom.”

On a more positive note, the survey indicates one in 10 young Americans have taken a proactive approach to mental health by cramming all their worry into one dedicated time slot per day. I say that it’s a positive development, but I’m not sure I



“SEEMS I CAN NEVER ALLOW MYSELF TO BE HAPPY... JUST WHEN GAS PRICES START TO DROP, I BEGIN TO WORRY ABOUT THE STOCK MARKET.”

want to encounter any of these individuals during their hyper-carefree periods. (“I’m having to use the sun roof because I am 10 feet tall and bullet-proof! Yee-haa! Ramming speed!”)

Ahh Another column finished and another check dutifully mailed to Visa. Hold on! The check is still here, so what did I put in the envelope? The clothes iron? I hope I turned it off!

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

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, July 10 at 4 p.m.

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

IHS Model Agreement CY 2024 - 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.

In 2024, the health center opened a satellite clinic, Mitigoons, in Sault Ste Marie that houses a dental program and pharmacy. During the CY 2024, there was approximately a 16% staff turnover including key positions such as Pharmacist, Project Coordinator, Outreach & Enrollment Specialist and Billing & Coding Specialist. We also had three big retirements: Health & Human Director, Maternal Child Health Nurse, and an Advanced EMT. Together, these three worked approximately 70 years at the health center. With the departure of the Health Director, we had a cascade of changes in positions. We were able to hire internally for the HHS Director position, HHS Assistant Director, Clinic Coordinator and Community Health Supervisor. Additionally, we hired within the Lead Dental Assistant, and Billing & Coding Specialist. In 2024, we added quite a few positions that we did not formerly have. With the opening of Mitigoons, we added an additional staff dentist, two additional dental assistants, one additional dental hygienist, one additional pharmacist, and one additional pharmacy technician. We brought back a former position for our REACH grant as a project coordinator. We also added an additional Peer Recovery Coach and Community Health Representative, and a brand new position, Development Coordinator.

Overall, we had a no call/no show rate of 10.38% throughout all departments in 2024.

B. Primary Medical and Dental Services: In 2024, the Medical Clinic served 2,290 patients with 9,530 visits; staffed by 4.3 FTE medical providers (Medical Doctor, Nurse Practitioners). The Dental Clinic served 1,880 patients with 8,850 visits; staffed with 6.5 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 Patient Centered Medical Home. The Patient Centered Medical Home is both a designation through the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and The Joint Commission. Approximately 3.8 million dollars were generated from medical, dental, 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 savings & investment accounts are used for future planning.

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, and patient transportation. 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 \$1,470,478 was expended for PRC purchased services, including \$677,920.15 in prescription purchases for tribal members. Bay Mills Health Center has continued their efforts to sponsor tribal elders and purchase Medicare Part D prescription coverage.

D. Substance Abuse 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 77 clients, totaling 881 visits in 2024. 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 572 patients and had 6,105 visits. Sessions were conducted through in person service or telehealth service.

F. Community Health Services: Community Health Services operated many programs in 2024 including: Special Diabetes Program, farmer’s market, food sovereignty programs, patient health education, Tribal Home Visiting, Healthy Start, Healing for those Creating Life, patient transportation for medical appointments and medication delivery were active services all throughout the year.

G. 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 the Human Resources Department. The total of this contract is \$39,000 annually.

H. Emergency Medical Services: Twenty-four hour emergency medical services are available, including advanced life support.

I. Targeted Case Management for Direct Services: Case management is done across the various departments, especially in the case of more complex patient needs.

J. Optometry Services: Bay Mills Health Center opened their vision center in June of 2022. In 2024 we served 752 patients with 996 visits.

K. Radiology: In 2024, we were able to add Mammogram services. This is in addition to the x-ray services we were already offering.

L. 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 maintains a 340b program and discounted prescriptions.

M. School Based Services: During 2024, we finished our renovation construction project at the local public school to create a clinic space with two exam rooms, triage area, waiting space, bathroom, workroom with storage and desk area. Additionally, we renovated an additional office space for a mental health counseling room. A Family Nurse Practitioner provided medical care to school based children and adolescents aged 5 to 21 years old in our satellite clinic named: Zaagigi. A registered nurse provided nursing services to the school and a mental health therapist provided therapy starting with the 2024-2025 school year.

Base funding amounts available in Calendar Year 2024 was \$2,830,391 with \$231,791 spent on indirect costs. Overall, the funding pays for 16 FTE positions throughout the health center. Additionally money is used for supplies, training, travel, and professional fees. Bay Mills Health Center spent down all money allocated by Indian Health Service in 2024. We supplement this funding with Medical Revenue funds to ensure that patients received the care they needed.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Lucy P. DeWildt, Pharm D
Health & Human Services Director
Bay Mills Indian Community

Waishkey Bay Farm brings community together with regular activities

BAY MILLS — Waishkey Bay Farm is keeping locals busy and providing education in traditional foods and farming processes. In the last few weeks those in attendance learned about honey and corn. Interested in learning about upcoming events? Check out their Facebook page “Waishkey Bay Farm.”



We are springing into
GREAT FUTURES!

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12435 W. Industrial Drive
Brimley, Michigan 49715

The Brimley Club
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Brimley, Michigan 49715

CAMP Extension
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Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

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BMIC partners with Coast Guard to assist in dental care needs

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Indian Community will partner with the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Northern Great Lakes to provide space for dental services to enlisted local Coast Guard members.

In 2024, BMIC opened the Mitigoons Clinic in Sault Ste. Marie. Since that time, the tribe has been working to fully staff the facility, but has faced difficulties recruiting dentists to the area. This difficulty means two of the dental chairs in the clinic have sat vacant. As dental care faces a long waiting list in the U.P., the Coast Guard has faced issues acquiring dental care for their members as well.

“They will bring in their supplies, a dentist, hygienist and assistant to allow their service members to get dental care. There is no one in a large geographic area they can send them to for dental services so we are helping to fulfill a need,” said BMIC Health Director Lucy DeWildt. “We will still be able to allow



our staff to work in the same location, simultaneously. There are four operatories inside Mitigoons, so we will use two and they will use the other two.”

The two organizations held a signing ceremony earlier this month to recognize their partnership. “Bay Mills has always been commit-

ted to serving our community, and that includes those who serve us. By partnering with the U.S. Coast Guard, we’re ensuring their members have access to essential dental care while making good use of our clinic space. This is a win-win for both our community and the Coast Guard, and we’re proud to help fill this critical need,” said Whitney Gravelle, BMIC president.

Sector Northern Great Lakes has 150 members in the area. The services through Bay Mills’ clinic would only be to the local service members with the target of the local 150 annual exams and cleanings. The Coast Guard anticipates using the dental space approximately five weeks per year.

“Our clinic is working through an enormous waiting list of patients, due to both COVID and the retirement of local dentists. This agreement allows their members to get services in space we are not able to use at this time,” added DeWildt.


National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, April 26

The Michigan State Police is once again taking part in a national initiative that encourages residents to dispose of expired, unused and unwanted prescription pills. All of MSP’s 31 posts will participate in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 26. This event is one of two annual events held in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration and other police agencies. Bay Mills Police Department will take part in the event as well.

“It’s Springtime, which is the perfect time to clean-up your medicine cabinet of unneeded medications and safely dispose of them,” said Col. James F. Grady II, di-

rector of the MSP. “Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue. Proper disposal of unneeded drugs saves lives, protects the environment, and our overall community.”

All collected pills will be destroyed; no questions asked. Liquids, inhalers, patches and syringes will not be accepted. Anyone unable to participate in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day can anonymously surrender prescription drugs at any MSP post, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., excluding holidays. To search for a Take Back Day collection site by county, city or state, visit DEA.gov.



Bay Mills Health Center

Open to the Public at our new location!
12455 W Lakeshore Dr. Brimley, MI 49715

Services Provided: Medical, Dental, Behavioral Health, Community Health, Pharmacy, Laboratory, Radiology.
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Most insurances accepted. Sliding Fee, Fee-For-Service, and Insurance Assistance are available for patients on-site.

After-hours Services for Patients:

Medical: Call 911 for medical emergencies; after hours medical provider access: 906-203-4074.

Behavioral Health: Call 911 for emergencies; Hiawatha Behavioral Health crisis line: 906-632-2805.

Brimley recognizes students at annual Honors Banquet



BRIMLEY — On April 16 Brimley Area Schools held the 62nd Annual Honors Banquet, honoring students for their academic accomplishments. The following students were recognized:

12th Grade

- Morgan Barnes
- Addison Carrick~
- Memephis Courser
- *Addison Hill~
- Adrian Kunowski
- Wasaya LeBlanc
- Trey Lynn
- Evan Mills
- Mark Osborne
- *Benjamin Smart
- Paul Sweeten~
- Andrew Teeple
- Chendra Tremblay
- *Caden Veeneman~

11th Grade

- Garrett Albrough ~
- Aurora Baragwanath
- Scott Bowen
- Cameron Brown~
- Michael Butzin
- Sydney Carracio~
- Khloe Dumas~
- Eden Fleming
- *Hazel Garvon~
- Dalton Hoonstra
- Dylan Kabelman~
- *Shemida LeBlanc~
- Stephen LeBlanc
- Christian Merrell
- *Tallulah Slabosheski~
- Sixta Smart
- Harmony-Rain Warner

10th Grade

- Natalie Aikens
- Lillian Carrick
- Ana Healy

9th Grade

- Cooper Jones
- Sylvia Leclerc
- *Micah Morrison
- Avery Schlehuber
- Henry Sorquist
- Audrey Whealy
- *Sophia Bathe
- Hallie Bator
- Asher Fleming
- Jacob Gardner
- *Scarlette Garson
- *Hayden Hopper
- Haily Lawson
- Emmett Penix
- Norah Smart
- Sage Tellas
- Marie Willis
- *Sienna Baker
- Sophia Bosbous

8th Grade

- *Sienna Baker
- Sophia Bosbous

7th Grade

- Wyatt Case
- Mariah Donnay
- Sean Edwardson
- Lillian Garcia
- Juiliette Healy
- Emery Hill
- Hunter Hopper
- Clay King
- Carter Matheny
- Isaak Morrison
- *Dylan Malin
- Lily Passmore
- Ariyana Pennington
- Grady Schleuder
- Isabel Semasky
- Parker Stacy
- Emma Steele
- Noah Steele
- Amy Sweeten
- Adriana Tremblay
- Hadley Woods
- Cyrus Zoppa

7th Grade

- Phoebe Hascall-Reyes
- Aubree Hill
- *Hadley Hopper
- Sinder Kemp
- Reginald LeBlanc
- Noah Sounds
- Aubrey Marra
- Austin Murphy
- *Temperance Penix
- *Clara Pierce
- Addisyn Ranta
- Chablyn Sairls
- *Leah Sellick
- Walter Sorquist
- Julian Thornton
- Zaydn Tellas

*Denotes all A's
~ Denotes National Honor Society



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Be wary of toll road scam texts

LANSING — Following a recent phishing attempt mimicking the Michigan Department of Transportation’s website, State Transportation Director Bradley C. Wierich has issued a staunch reminder to all Michigan residents hoping to avoid falling victim to a scam. While Michigan does not operate toll roads, and will not solicit payment via text message, the most recent scam in circulation features a fraudulent state website with a different URL, creating additional concern for recipients.

"Please be assured this is a scam and the texts are not coming from the MDOT or another State of Michigan agency," said Wierich. "MDOT does not operate any toll roads. Some state-owned bridges are tolled but not through license plate capture. You would not receive a bill through text or email."

Recipients of fraudulent texts should not click on any links or share personal or financial information in response to those texts. The text should be reported as junk and deleted. Director Wierich encourages anyone who is concerned by fraudulent messages to reach out to MDOT for assurance that they do not owe any money for unpaid tolls. Calls can be made to 517-241-2400 or emails submitted to MDOT@Michigan.gov.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel has closely followed the recent rash of toll scams and has issued reminders to help all Michiganders avoid falling victim to these phishing attempts, along with how best to report a scam to officials.

Attorney General Nessel is also reminding consumers that government agencies:

- * Will not request personal information through email, over the phone or text.
- * Will never demand money through email, over the phone or text. They will mail you a notice and offer payment options.
- * Will not ask for nor accept payment by prepaid gift card, wire transfer, cryptocurrency or a payment app.

BMIC Language and Culture announces Poetry Contest winner

BAY MILLS — In February, Bay Mills Language and Culture hosted an Anishinaabemowin Poetry contest. The purpose of this contest was to encourage Bay Mills and surrounding Anishinaabe community members to express themselves creatively using our language. Participants could choose to write a poem about Anishinaabemowin or write a poem on any topic that included Anishinaabemowin words.

Netawn Kiogima (Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians citizen) won first place with her hand-stamped poem “Zaagidiwin” (pictured). Netawn is language director for the LTBB Gijigowi Anishinaabemowin Language Department. She said, simply, this poem is “an ode to my kids.”

Bay Mills citizen Christian Perron won second place with his poem “Miigwech (Thank You?)” which describes the true meaning of the word miigwech, and Leilani DeFoe (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians citizen) won third place with her poem “Miigwewin/A Gift” about learning the language. Check out the Bay Mills Language and Culture Facebook page (www.facebook.com/baymillslanguageculture) to read these other poems.

Bay Mills Language and Culture would like to say CHI MIIGWECH to everyone who submitted their beautiful work, and to award-winning poet and Bay Mills citizen Kateri Menominee for her assistance in judging the contest.

GZ AAGIN
AAPIJI,
ENSA
GIIZHIGAT
NISHINAABEMTOSHIN
DIZ
IGAYE
WIINDAMOSHIN
i
PANE

Love
I love you very much
EVERY day
Speak to me
LOVE YOURSELF
also
Tell me
Always

— Gashi

Lake Superior State University Arts Center to present *An Iliad*

SAULT STE. MARIE — New Canon Theatre Co. is proud to present *An Iliad*, a modern retelling of Homer’s epic, at the Arts Center at Lake Superior State University. The production, directed by LSSU Theatre Professor Noah Lucé, brings a contemporary flair to the ancient tale, engaging audiences with its powerful storytelling and timeless themes of war, heroism, and the human condition.

The performance stars Dr. Patty Gallagher as The Poet, a Professor of Theatre at the University of California, Santa Cruz, whose captivating narrative transports audiences to the world of the Trojan War. Dr.

Gallagher’s dynamic portrayal adds a deeply personal touch to the epic, reimagining Homer’s work for today’s world. Original music, composed and performed by Jake Sorgen as The Muse, enhances the experience, blending modern sensibilities with the ancient drama.

Dr. Gallagher and Jake Sorgen have toured this powerful production across the western United States and even took it to India over the last two and a half years, sharing this unique interpretation of *An Iliad* with audiences around the globe.

An Iliad runs for 90 minutes and will be performed twice, with shows on Friday,

April 25 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 26 at 2 p.m. at the Arts Center at LSSU. These performances are free to the public, with donations gladly accepted to support the Arts Center’s ongoing programming and future productions.

“We are thrilled to bring *An Iliad* to the Arts Center,” says Director Noah Lucé. “This production is a reimagining of one of the oldest and most influential stories in Western literature, told in a way that resonates deeply with contemporary audiences. With the talented Dr. Patty Gallagher and Jake Sorgen’s incredible music, this is a must-see performance for anyone interested

in the power of storytelling and the enduring relevance of Homer’s work.”

Content Warning: This production contains profanity and discussions of war, death, and dying. It is recommended for audiences aged 13 and up due to its mature themes and language.

An Iliad explores the enduring themes of war, rage, and the cost of human conflict, making it a powerful and timely experience for all. Whether you are familiar with Homer’s *Iliad* or encountering it for the first time, this version promises to engage and challenge audiences, offering a fresh perspective on an ancient story.

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Walking On

Tracey Lynn Suchey

Tracey Lynn Suchey, 54, of Rudyard, Michigan, died on April 11, 2025. She was born on Dec. 15, 1970, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to James and Gertrude “Trudy” (Douglas) Boileau.

Tracey was raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and graduated with the Sault High School Class of 1989. After high school, she attended Lake Superior State University, earning a bachelor’s degree in business. Early in her career, she worked for the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians as a police scribe, a role she held with care and dedication. Tracey’s path took a special turn when she met Ronald Suchey while bartending at Don Dee Lanes. The two were married on September 7, 2015, beginning a joyful chapter of their lives together. In 2014, Tracey began working at Copart Auto, where she quickly proved herself to be an invaluable leader. She served as manager for the past ten years, earning respect and admiration from coworkers and customers alike.

Outside of work, Tracey was full of life and love. She enjoyed cooking—especially for those she cared about—and spending time outdoors. She cherished riding side-by-side with her husband and their beloved dog, Bandit. Boating was another favorite pastime whenever the opportunity arose, but above all, nothing brought her more joy than being with her children and grandchildren.

Tracey is survived by her husband, Ronald; son, Kyle (Alexas Miller) Sangster; daughters, Sydney (Chase Malkah) Suchey and Sophie Suchey; grandchildren, Karter Sangster, Kamden Sangster, Elaina Malik and Everly Malik, Trevor Laway, Chelsea Laway & Elli Laway, Gunner Henning, Henry Henning, and Finn Henning; mother, Trudy (Richard) Campbell; brother, Todd Boileau; half-brother, Chris Boileau; and step-sisters, Cheryl (Eric) Terpsma, Patti (Jim Bob) Pearson, and Jennifer Pearson; as well as her beloved dog, Bandit!

Tracey was preceded in death by father, James Boileau; aunts, Bernice Douglas and Marion Mitchum; grandparents, Bernard and Gertrude Douglas and Rev. Kenneth and Loretta Boileau; and nephew, Trevor Boileau.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

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

Rebecca Sue (Stone) Moran

Rebecca Sue (Stone) Moran, 70, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, died on April 10, 2025. She was born on November 13, 1954, in Rogersville, Alabama, to Robert and Betty (Forsythe) Stone.

Rebecca’s warmth and generosity were most evident in her kitchen. An avid and passionate cook, she found true joy in preparing meals for others, nourishing both body and soul with every dish she served. Whether it was a favorite family recipe or a new creation, Rebecca delighted in sharing her love of food and passing on her knowledge to others.

Above all, she was deeply proud of her beloved granddaughter, Callie, whose presence brought her immense happiness and pride.

Rebecca's journey was not without challenges, and through it all, her life partner Thomas remained faithfully by her side. His unwavering support and care through her many illnesses was a testament to their deep bond and enduring love.

Rebecca's legacy of love, generosity, and resilience lives on in those who had the privilege of knowing her. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Rebecca is survived by her life partner, Thomas Moran; daughter, Christie (Eric) Quinn of Fredericksburg, Virginia; son, David Lang of Decatur, Alabama; sisters, Kathy King of Paducah, Kentucky, and Tammy Burris of Hartselle, Alabama; brother, Robert (Kathy) Stone; and granddaughter, Callie Quinn of Fredericksburg.

Rebecca was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Betty; son, Jason Hunter; daughter, Michelle Hunter; and brother, Gary Stone.

Per Rebecca’s wishes, no services will be held.

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

Priscilla Catherine Pine

A fierce warrior for her family and community, Priscilla Catherine Pine, has crossed over to the spirit world to join her father Alex Pine, grandmother Lucille Nertoli, Grandfather Germano Nertoli, Aunt, Barb Pine, Uncles Ed Pine and Anthony (Tony) Nertoli, and beloved father figures Jon Graney and Doc Bob Graham. A member of the Crane clan, Priscilla was known as Shaabiasing (two points that meet), Mom, Auntie, Little Sister, Pill, Prissy, and Boget-kwe.

The warmth of her family surrounded her till her last day, proving a true reflection on how Priscilla kept family in her heart her entire life. Priscilla is survived by her daughter, Aubrie Pine; mother, Jolene Nertoli; aunts, Catherine (Nertoli) DeVoy, Mary Pine Shipp, Princess Pine, and Keeta Pine Allred; siblings, Debra Ann (Christopher Hall) Pine and children Jada, Alexia, Justin, Nick, Steven (Carrie) Pine and children Hunter, Samantha, and Chance, Mariea (Dan) Pine-Mongene and chil-

dren Jolene, Joe, Melinda; cherished family, Luci Jo-Lillian DeVoy, Rita DeVoy and daughter Luna; Michael (Becky) Pine and children Dave, Doug, and Christopher; Phillip Nertoli Jr., Becky Nertoli, children Jennifer Cook, Nathan Nertoli, Brandon Nertoli, Samantha (Al) Cameron and children Carmen, Mason, Braden; Loretta McLeod, Becky Dekeyser, Scott Marble, Laura Aikens-McKay, Jen Day, Tom Day, Amy Ganga Sheets, Brian Clement, Jeani Reffruschinni, Ashly Erlichman, Bucko Teeple, and Michelle Teeple.

Priscilla’s compassion towards the tribal community was shown through her work contributing to the Youth Education Activities as a coordinator in the drug elimination program. Priscilla was a leader in the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians community offering instruction in culture and teaching dance to tribal children, inspiring others to embrace their culture with confidence as she did. She loved to dance like no one was watching. Her extravagance and charisma in her youth spread a light to those around her. Priscilla worked with her family at the Chippewa Animal Clinic for 21 years, providing a fun-loving environment in the workplace. A life with light Priscilla Catherine Pine, July 14, 1973 - March 28, 2025.

Leroy Arthur Barton

Leroy Arthur Barton, 81, of Brimley, Mich., died on Feb. 20, 2025. He was born on December 31, 1943, in Holton, Kansas, to Archie and Verna (Schied) Barton.

Leroy graduated from Horton High School and attended Kansas State University for one year. He worked as a lineman for Rural Cooperative in Horton, Kansas. Leroy met Floralee Shaw and they married on May 30, 1980, in Horton. They moved to Emporia, Kansas where he worked as an electrician and supervisor at a meat packing plant. Leroy then went to work at Shelly Electric and joined the IBEW226 union out of Topeka, Kansas. He retired in 2007 and wanting to spend more time with his family and watch his grandchildren grow up, him and Floralee moved to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in 2008.

Leroy enjoyed gardening, bowling, reading his science fiction books, and going to the casino. But above all, he enjoyed spending time with his family.

Leroy is survived by his wife, Floralee Barton; children, Kelly Barton, Michelle (Randy)Edwardson, Pete Shaw, Tracey (Paul Burns), Jim (Andrea) Shaw, and Melissa Shaw; grandchildren, Sean, Erica, Tanner, Andrew, Adam, Trista, Jacob, Amanda, Ray, Chelsea, Corey, Catherine, Haley, Ethan Sherri, Joseph, Sean, Adam, Christian and Jace; great-grandchildren, Lyandon, DeClan, Rayline, Ellis, Kassius, Braxton, Mahaelah, Trinity, Cameron, Leila, Drake, Wesley, Krysti, Jasper.

Leroy was preceded in death by parents, Archie and Verna; brother, Allen; and great-grandson, Kamien Edwardson.

Per Leroy’s wishes, cremation has taken place, and no services will be held at this time.

Memory Contributions may be made in Kamien’s memory to the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Ave. Dallas, TX 7523

Clinton Joseph Parish Sr.

Clinton Joseph Parish Sr., 75, of Bay Mills, Michigan, died Feb. 27, 2025, in his home after a short illness. He was born on Aug. 6, 1949, to Clayton “Bud” and Leila (Lufkins) Parish at home on Bay Mills Reservation, Michigan.

Clint was tied closely to his community and his absence will be profound to many. Being a Bay Mills Tribal member and bear (mukwa) clan, his occupations were always in the protection of his tribe and community members. He was a Great Lakes tribal fisherman throughout the years, a conservation officer, Tribal Chairman, shift manager, and Security Manager at Bay Mills Resort & Casino. He was a helper and a giver and would do what he could when asked.

Clint was proud of his children and loved his grandchildren and great grands immensely. He cared for his friends, and he stood up for what he believed in and for others. His most known quality was his humor and smile. So many people have been blessed with the memories of the laughs he provided, often at his own expense.

Clint will be missed by many but has taken his journey to meet his many predeceased family members: his parents; two sisters, Luella Raymond and Shirley Kincheloe; his brother-in-law, Don Kincheloe; three brothers, Alan, Gordon “Buster”, Phillip “Phoodah”. A large loss to him was his son’s mother and brother, Renee and Matthew Thebo and his granddaughter, Alexandra. He will be reunited with them all.

Clint leaves behind many to mourn his loss: his children, Laura Parish; CJ Jr. (DeeDee) Parish, Brittany Teeple, Destiney (Kevin) Aguilar; grandchildren, Gabriel, Daniel Jr., James, Novi, CJ III, Azariah, Alliyah, Parker, and Amiri; and many great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers, L. John Lufkins, Dennis, and Gary “Nav” Parish; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Clint was proud of his heritage and was also an attending member of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Church where he tried to be every Sunday.

Traditional burial in the Spring at Mission Hill Cemetery, to be announced.

Library of Michigan releases 2025 Notable Books list

LANSING – Twenty titles that reflect the rich stories and culture of the state are part of the 2025 Notable Book list, the Library of Michigan has announced.

The celebrated books encompass the entire Great Lakes basin, from the stormy seas of Lake Superior to the rural communities of small-town Michigan, the vibrant communities of Metro Detroit, and Detroit and its Lions.

Each year, the Michigan Notable Books list features 20 books published during the previous calendar year that are about the Great Lakes, set in Michigan or the Great Lakes, or written by a Michigan author. Selections include a variety of genres, both fiction and nonfiction, that appeal to many audiences and explore topics and issues close to the hearts of Michigan residents. This latest list continues that tradition by celebrating the creativity of Michigan artists across diverse mediums, examining the struggle for self-identity and acceptance, exploring our renewed hope in our gridiron heroes; and more.

“Our state continues to be an inspi-

ration for generations of writers,” said State Librarian Randy Riley. “Michigan’s beautiful landscape and diverse population offer endless opportunities for creative expression. Each Michigan Notable Books selection is a gateway to the voices and experiences of what it means to be a Michigander. Everyone will find something that broadens their understanding of our great state.”

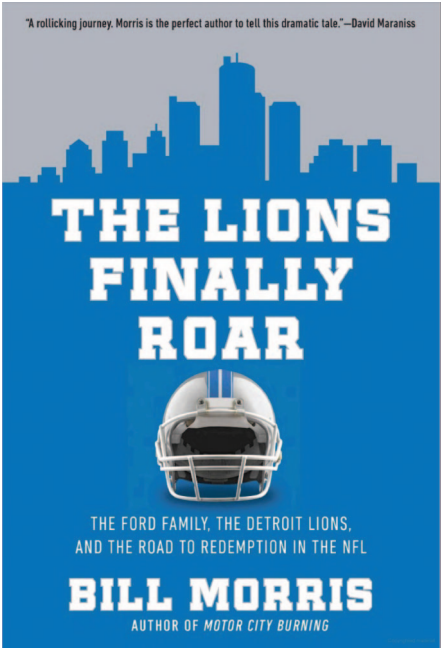
Michigan Notable Books began as part of the 1991 Michigan Week celebration, designed to pay tribute and draw attention to the many people, places, and things that identify Michigan life as unique and vibrant.

“Michigan is a wonderfully diverse state,” said State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice. “Our libraries—including the Library of Michigan and Michigan Notable books—give residents of all ages the opportunity to see themselves in what they read and learn more about others.”

Participating authors will travel to libraries across the state on the Michigan Notable Books authors tour to share their experiences and engage

with local communities. Many also engage in the Authors Conversations video series, in which viewers can explore the backgrounds of the authors, uncover their creative processes, and hear readings from book selections.

Locally, Bill Morris, author of "The Lions Finally Roar: The Ford Family, the Detroit Lions, and the Road to Redemption in the NFL" will be at Bayliss Public Library in Sault Ste. Marie on Tuesday, April 29. In his book, Morris looks at the history of the Lions. In 1963, William Clay Ford purchased the Detroit Lions for \$6 million, marking the start of a tumultuous era of mediocrity for the team. Despite a legacy of legendary players like Bobby Layne, Joe Schmidt, Calvin Johnson, and the iconic Barry Sanders, the Lions struggled with poor management and missed opportunities for decades. However, under the leadership of Bill Ford’s daughter, Sheila Ford Hamp, and key hires like GM Brad Holmes and coach Dan Campbell, the team has finally found success, a signal of a new chapter in



both their history and Detroit’s transformation.

Michigan Notable Books is sponsored in part by the Library of Michigan Foundation and Michigan Humanities.

For more information or questions about the Michigan Notable Books program, contact the Library of Michigan at 517-335-1477, visit www.Michigan.gov/NotableBooks, or email Michigan-Notable-Books@michigan.gov.

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FREE TUITION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

UP leads the Lower Peninsula in renewable energy

By DANIEL SCHOENHERR
Capital News Service

LANSING — The Upper Peninsula has seen a significant reduction in air emissions in large part because of its development of renewable energy projects, according to a recent Public Service Commission report.

The achievement comes as federal data shows last year was the biggest for solar and wind generation nationwide.

Tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act, combined with region-specific advantages, are fueling the growth, former UP Energy Task Force member and Michigan Technological University professor Roman Sidortsov said.

While energy bills are likely to rise over the next decade, in-state power generation is expected to dampen the price hike, according to Sidortsov and Doug Jester, the managing partner in clean energy consulting firm 5Lakes Energy.

The company, based in Northport, works with nonprofits, businesses and governments on clean energy issues.

The main incentive for renewable energy development in the UP is the high cost to deliver electricity, Sidortsov said.

Data shows that residents typically pay 30% more for electricity from UP utilities compared to those downstate.

Over half the cost of that power comes from the delivery fee, Sidortsov said.

“When you have such high rates, you can make a really great case for building local generation and essentially cutting a significant portion of the cost,” he said.

And solar is among the cheapest power sources, costing 18% to 60% of the price of coal-generated electricity, according to industry estimates.

Renewable energy development has additionally been boosted by the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, which reduces federal taxes on eligible projects by 30% — plus an additional 10% in historically fossil fuel-dependent areas.

According to the Public Service Commission’s December 2024 report, “siting difficulties” for a 500-acre solar project in Escanaba was a significant obstacle to renewable energy progress in the UP.

The Upper Peninsula Power Co.’s 2019 Chandler Solar Project, which would have produced enough power for about 16% of households north of the Mackinac Bridge, was cancelled after failing to acquire required permits.

“There’s still some strings that local communities can pull to slow, but not quash, the energy projects,” Sidortsov said.

The city’s planning commission meeting minutes still show a history of opposition from residents.

It took four years for a similar development further from the city, the Renegade

Solar Project, to get the necessary permits.

Construction of that project is now underway and is expected to be completed in 2026.

Sidortsov and Jester said getting permits is a challenging but important step in a renewable project’s process, and that community feedback is critical when developers are making decisions.

Sidortsov said most Escanaba residents who attended utility planning meetings weren’t opposed to small community solar projects, like one at the Delta County Airport.

Many of their concerns were about the use of agricultural land for the project, he said.

Two ongoing Upper Peninsula Power Co. projects on contaminated former mine sites — Groveland Mine Solar in Dickinson County and the Republic Solar Project in Marquette County — have been endorsed by multiple UP trade organizations.

All three solar projects are expected to be operational by 2028, according to the report. If completed on-time, they will increase renewable capacity in the UP by over 70%.

According to 2024 U.S. Energy Information Administration data, 11% of Michigan’s electricity comes from renewable sources — far short of the state’s goal in the MI Healthy Climate Plan to have 50% by 2030.

Achieving that goal is possible, Sidortsov

said, but whether it’s met is a “whole other story.”

On President Donald Trump’s first day back in office, he signed an executive order freezing federal clean energy initiative funding for 90 days to review whether the funding aligns with the new administration’s policies.

That move signals uncertainty for renewable energy growth, Sidortsov said, although there has yet to be significant opposition to the MI Healthy Climate Plan in the Legislature.

“Trump is in the White House,” he said. “He’s not in Michigan.”

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Michigan veterans worry about federal cuts and health care access

By KATIE FINKBEINER
Capital News Service

LANSING – “When I first filed a claim with the VA, it took years to go through because of staffing shortages,” said Tim Keenan, the president of the Northern Michigan Veterans for Peace chapter.

“That changed over the years. It’s a lot faster than what it used to be, but I’m worried that this will slow things down for veterans,” Keenan said, referring to staff cuts at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

In February, the department dismissed 2,400 probationary employees, with additional plans to dismiss more than 70,000 others.

The department will also terminate remote work by April 28.

In 1967, Keenan was drafted into the Army to join thousands of other young men to fight in the Vietnam War as a radio telephone operator.

Despite being 20 at the time, Keenan said he felt like a 15-year-old, emotionally, and had never left home, Grand Rapids.

“As a veteran that has experienced war firsthand, and seeing friends and the enemy die, they all have families. I really hope they just back off on cuts to veterans,” he said.

“It’s so important that our country takes care of us, because we try our best to take care of them,” he said.

Keenan, who now lives in Traverse City, said it took three years before he received benefits for his post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

Over 516,000 veterans live in Michigan, according to the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs 2024 Annual Report.

Some have been so frustrated with the “red tape and bureaucracy” when collecting benefits and didn’t follow through on the process, said Keenan.

“They’re deserving to be compensated.”

“They were wounded, emotionally and physically, and they deserve benefits from the government when they come home,” he said.

One concern is losing access to the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, commonly known as the PACT Act.

The legislation, signed into law in 2022, “expands VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic substances,” according to the department’s website.

Exposure to Agent Orange can cause diseases including bladder cancer, Parkin-

son’s, hyperthyroidism and prostate cancers, according to the VA’s public health website.

Burn pits were commonly used in Iraq, Afghanistan and other military operations to discard trash and other waste, exposing veterans to airborne toxins.

“Especially for new veterans coming in that are trying to get into the system, it seems like [staff cuts] will have an impact on people, both mentally and physically,” said Keenan.

After returning from Vietnam, Keenan said he was afraid to tell people that he was a veteran. He said he struggled to be around others, forcing him to drop out of college and run away to Colorado and Florida, immersing himself in drugs and alcohol.

Keenan also cited concern over the impact of staff cuts on mental health resources.

“When you’re involved in a frontline war and seeing your friends get killed, wounded, maimed, it’s really hard to shake,” he said.

“With the help of the VA and therapy, I was able to get way better.”

Before he came back home after traveling, Keenan worked odd jobs in construction and ran a Popsicle truck, which he rigged up to play Led Zeppelin instead of the “annoying music that tried to attract children,” he said.

Eventually, Keenan graduated from Grand Valley State University and began working in corrections and growing a family. He’s now retired.

Mark Spooner, the communications director for the Vietnam Veterans of America Detroit chapter, said it’s too early to know whether health care access and benefits will be damaged by the VA staff cuts.

Drafted into the Vietnam War in 1967, Spooner joined the Marine Corps as a forward observer for 81 mm mortars, which had him going into the field twice every day.

When he came back home to Detroit, Spooner saw how Agent Orange was injuring veterans.

“I have too many friends actually die of Agent Orange-related problems within our own organization,” he said.

“A lot of our Black brothers died early. I mean, 25-30 years old. We had about eight or nine die within a period of time,” he said.

As for whether access to benefits for veterans exposed to toxic chemicals will be affected, Spooner said he doesn’t think anyone will try to block care for them.

He also said he saw how veterans’ claims of being harmed by Agent Orange and PTSD were getting blown off.

Now retired from working in architecture and living in Harrison Township, Spooner said he put the effects of war on his mental health out of mind and didn’t think about it until he joined his former or-

ganization, Vietnam Veterans of Michigan.

“On more than one occasion, myself and a couple other guys have saved guys from shooting themselves and committing suicide right in front of us,” he said.

ooner said, “I didn’t like the idea that they were treated like crap.”

What to expect for the start of the 2025 fishing season

By DYLAN ENGELS
Capital News Service

LANSING – A new fishing season started this month, and that means Michigan’s Department of Natural Resources has plans for stocking sport fish in the state’s waters.

The DNR conducts a lot of research to make sure that the department isn’t overpopulating the Great Lakes with fish it releases.

“Based on our research – which not only includes what percent of the population is wild versus fish coming back into the stream to spawn naturally – we also look at the forage that is out in the lake available for the fish to eat,” said Aaron Switzer.

Switzer is the fish production program manager at the DNR’s Platte River State Fish Hatchery and Weir in Beulah.

“Based primarily on those two things, we can determine numbers to stock for natural reproduction,” Switzer said.

The hatchery along the Platte River is where the DNR started its salmon program that produces Atlantic, chinook, and coho salmon.

The plan is to release 100,000 Atlantic salmon, 450,000 chinook salmon and 1,650,000 coho salmon into the Great Lakes this spring.

“We started stocking salmon in the Great Lakes because of ecosystem balance, which is why we stock fish in general,” said Switzer.

DNR’s management techniques reflect the fact that “the Great Lakes are so dynamic,” he said.

DNR also has hatcheries in Oden, Marquette and Mattewan.

For anglers to keep salmon caught in streams and Lake Michigan, they must be at least 14 inches, and only five salmon can be kept in one day.

“I don’t think there’s an odd concern about overfishing,” said Justin Tomei, the policy and government affairs manager for Michigan United Conservation Clubs. “The DNR does pretty well with the data that they have.”

“We have a lot of protections in place based on the fishing regulation side, the equipment, methods of taking the fish and getting rid of things like snagging fish,” Tomei said.

Christian LeSage, a fisheries biologist for DNR, said that even if overfishing were to happen, the department doesn’t have authority to change the amount of recreational fishing licenses issued.

“The state legislature sets the fees, and if there was some type of emergency, we would have to draft a fisheries order to change the regulations to stop,” LeSage said.

Although the DNR can’t change the number of licenses, it can adjust the specific season for each fish, yet that isn’t a common occurrence, he said.

“There have been a few instances over the last 20 years where we’ve had low water in certain areas,” said LeSage.

“If the water is low and someone can see a bunch of fish congregating, that creates a lot of activity for anglers, and it also brings some unlawful activities,” he said.

This year, the DNR reduced the minimum size requirement for steelhead trout in some streams.

The department also imposed single pointed hook restrictions in the ports at Grand Haven, Muskegon and Whitehall beginning in November of this year.

A prohibition on spearfishing also takes effect in November.

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SALE!

Recycle your tires for free this spring at local events

By Jennifer Satchell
BMIC Biological Services

Bay Mills Indian Community Biological Services and partners are hosting free community scrap tire disposal and household hazardous waste collection events. They are available to residents of Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac counties this spring and summer. These projects are funded by EPA grants to help remove hazardous materials from homes and the environment to keep our community healthy and safe. These disposal opportunities are only available this spring and early summer.

The household hazardous waste collections will be held in Bay Mills, Cedarville, Newberry, and Rudyard in May and June. These collections are free and available to anyone living in the EUP. The Michigan Dept of Agriculture and Rural Development has assisted with a Clean Sweep grant supporting these HHW events. To register for a drop off time, visit www.baymills.org/wastecollections and click on the survey link for your chosen location. You will receive a reminder email before your chosen drop off time. The website also has a list of accepted and not accepted items.

The free scrap tire disposal program runs from now until July 31st, or until funds run out. To receive a voucher for free tire disposal, visit www.baymills.org/wastecollections and navigate to the scrap tire disposal button. Fill out the short survey, and your voucher will be emailed to you within 5 business days. Print out your voucher and take it with you, along with the tires, to one of the participating tire shops. Tires are accepted at UP Tire in Sault Ste. Marie, Mark’s Tire in Brimley, Bodi Auto and Tire in Newberry, and Kamper Tire in Pickford.

A special thank you to all of our

partners who helped make these projects possible: Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District, UP Tire, Mark’s Tire, Kamper Tire, Bodi Auto and Tire, Environmental Protection Agency, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program.

Those without internet access or email can call BMIC Environmental Coordinator, Jen Satchell at (906) 248-8655 for tire vouchers and to reserve a time to drop off for household hazardous waste.

Volunteers needed to protect Black River spawning sturgeon

Sturgeon For Tomorrow is seeking volunteers in Cheboygan County mid-April 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 illegal harvest during the six-week spawning season.

Sgt. Mike Mshar, who leads DNR Law Enforcement Division’s efforts on the river, said, “This program, which 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.”

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.

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.”

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.

“The experience of watching researchers capture, tag and release these amazing fish is, in itself, worth the effort of becoming involved,” said Jay Woider-ski, 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.”

Lake sturgeon, which can weigh up to 200 pounds and live to be 100 years old, is listed as a threatened species in Michigan, and sport fishing for the species is closely regulated. 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 stocking efforts in selected lakes, has 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 a range of volunteers, including families, church groups, scouting groups, students and photographers.

Individuals or groups interested in volunteering should contact Jim and Mary Paulson at Sturgeonschedules@gmail.com or 989-763-7568. Volunteers also can register online or visit sturgeonfortomorrow.org.



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HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

Keep toxic materials out of homes, landfills, and the environment!
Drop off your HHW for FREE at one of these local events!

Bay Mills Indian Community and partners are hosting free HHW collection events throughout Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac Counties.

To sign up for your drop off time, scan the QR code below, or visit www.baymills.org/wastecollections

COLLECTION EVENT LOCATIONS:

Newberry Wednesday, May 28	
Rudyard Thursday, May 29	
Cedarville Tuesday, June 24	
Bay Mills Wednesday, June 25	

Scan here to sign up for your time slot!

Contact the BMIC Environmental Coordinator, Jen Satchell at wastecollection@baymills.org or (906) 248-8655 for info, questions, or assistance.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Growing with our Relatives workshop to be held May 17

Learn about propagating and caring for four Indigenous plant relatives. We'll be getting to know bagesaantig (native wild plum), oginiywaatig (wild rose), baakwaanaatig (sumac) and aamoogaawanzhiig (bee balm) through tea, growing tips and teachings from Anishinaabe growers. Free and open to all. Lunch is provided. Participants will take Home propagation materials so they can continue building relationships with selected plant relatives at home. The workshop will be held at Waishkey Bay Farm, 11 a.m . - 2 p.m. on May 17. Please register with Connie at cwatson@baymills.org or (906) 248-836.

Bay Mills Abandoned Vehicle Program

The program is open to BMIC members residing on the reservation. Beginning May 1, you can earn \$500 cash for junk vehicle removal. You will be required to sign the vehicle over to the tribe and remove any personal property. Those without a title must apply for a lost title at the secretary of state. To learn more about the program, please contact jgraham@baymills.org or call 906-248-8124.

BMIC Members reminded about Purchased Referred Care

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

Have you moved? Update your address!

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

Walking path is closed to motorized vehicles

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



3rd Annual Spirit Walk

For Safe Communities

Let's show our community that we will stand together to raise awareness and prevent Sexual Assault & Child Abuse!

31ST MAY 2025

11:00 AM - 2:30 PM

OPENING CEREMONY AND WALK

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@BMIC Farmers Market Pavilion

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Watch Police from the tri-county area get a pie in the face!

TOGETHER WE ACT, UNITED WE CHANGE!

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#NoOneStandsAlone

SEASONAL MUSEUM JOBS

Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, Whitefish Point, Mich. is seeking staff for retail sales, museum custodial, and historical interpreter.

Positions begin late April or early May through Oct. 31.

Competitive wages and flexible schedules, full or part time positions available.

Please contact

Bruce Lynn, Executive Director, at 906-635-1742, or blynn@shipwreckmuseum.com



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Spring Clean Up

May 5-19, 2025

Monday—Monday

8 am—8 pm

Located near the trash compactor at the Maintenance Department.

Large appliances accepted

Electronic waste accepted all year

Weekends: Once dumpsters are full, the site shuts down. Please plan accordingly!

Tribal Members Only - ID Required

Dumping for non-tribal households is strictly prohibited. Please be advised that this service is provided by the community for the community.

Free tire and household hazardous waste disposal events happening this spring:
<https://www.baymills.org/wastecollections>
or call (906) 248-8655



Give Your Child a Good Start ...
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The Bay Mills Child Development Center
is currently accepting
applications for the upcoming school year.

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



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