Gravelle wins special election for chairperson’s seat

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills tribal member Whitney Gravelle has been elected to serve in the chairperson’s seat. Ballots were cast on March 15 during a special election, a result of the resignation of former chairman Bryan Newland. Votes were tallied on March 18, allowing time for mail-in ballots to arrive. Gravelle defeated challengers Levi D. Carrick, Sr., and River Hascall, garnering more than 80 percent of the vote. A total of 463 ballots were cast, with 372 in favor of Gravelle.

The election marks the first time in the history of Bay Mills Indian Community that the elected five-member Executive Council has been entirely female.

And Gravelle is no stranger to BMIC or to serving the community.

She was elected chief judge in 2017, coming back home to BMIC after work with Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resource Division – Indian Resource Section, Native American Rights Fund, Michigan Supreme Court (Justice McCormack’s Chambers), Michigan Attorney General’s Office in the Indian Child Welfare Section, and Udall Congressional Washington DC Internship. In 2018, she began working as part of the tribe’s legal team as in-house counsel. Gravelle earned both her bachelor’s degree and Juris Doctor from Michigan State University.

Today, she will work with Bay Mills’ own “squad,” making history at a perfect time — during Women’s History Month. Gravelle will work alongside a team of women with vast experiences.

Vice-Chair Brenda Bjork, born and raised in Bay Mills, was elected to her position 3.5 years ago. She started working for Bay Mills in 1993 as a bookkeeper for Kings Club Casino. Her “regular” job is hospitality director for Bay Mills Resort & Casino. She has held numerous positions within the tribe, including bookkeeper, assistant to finance director, shift manager, and data analyst.

Gail Glezen, treasurer, has served in many positions in her career. She’s been a licensed realtor, EMT, and worked in numerous finance positions. She began her work with Bay Mills Housing Authority in 1999, becoming director in 2018. She has also served on the Michigan Women’s Commission and as Sugar Island Township clerk.

Beverly Carrick, secretary, began working at age 14 while growing up in Bay Mills. She took advantage Bay Mills Community College’s programs, earning her one-year certificate in office management in 1985 and in 1993 she received her associate of applied science-office technology. Today, she is currently assistant executive director of the Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority.

Tribal Manager and Executive Councilperson Rachel Burtt began working at Bay Mills Resort & Casinos in 2007 as a cocktail server. In 2019 she was elected as councilperson for BMIC, and in October 2020, she moved into her most recent role as tribal manager. She currently holds a MPA from Northern Michigan University and is working toward obtaining her education specialist degree.

Gravelle expressed her gratitude to the community upon hearing the election results.

“I promise to give my unwavering commitment to being tribal chairwoman, and I am honored to dedicate myself to our community, our culture, our tribe, and the betterment of Bay Mills Indian Community,” she said.

Gravelle was sworn in by Chief Judge Leah Parish on Friday, March 19. She will chair her first Executive Council meeting on Monday, March 22.
Reports from the March 8 meeting:
Chairperson Brenda Bjork
— Worked on vaccine program, did lots of research/reading.

Tribal Manager Rachel Burtt
— Updated budgeting for BIA monies.
— Provided accination program updates.
— Maintenance is nearly moved into new facility. Old facility will house Boys & Girls Club offices for staff and provide prep area. Their new building is not big enough for what they need. (IT will be moving out and go into admin.) In June they will be removed from the Waishkey so OCS can do renovations. They will utilize OCS kitchen facilities during the summer. Health Center employees (2) will have to be moved out as well.

Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram
— Meeting every week to get Kronos moving.
— IT is going to start updating credit card machines due to banking switch from PNC to CSB.
— PPP 2 transfer was made and will be applied to February bill for draw done.
— Finalizing future admin building plans (current med center).
— DraftKings: Numbers received for last month. Working on creating spreadsheet of data. Things went very well.
— Senior utility payments: should be able to make second quarter payment. When monies get flowing with DraftKings, as part of the General Fund, this will be restored.
— Budget amendments to be done in May.

Health Director Audrey Breakie
— Vaccinated to date: 1,686 prime, 674 fully vaccinated. At the end of the week there will be 1,190 fully vaccinated. Working with local partners to do mass vaccination on March 19 at LSSU. Second dose to be done in April.
— Some HRSA money spent “out of scope.” Have to repay it.
— Mock audits with staff will be done to prepare for HRSA site visit.
— Money to be given to BMIC for testing for new variant of COVID-19.
— New hires: Renee Johnson has been filling Native Connections positions. Filled Pharmacy Tech and Dental Assistant.
— March: Behavioral Health will come on site, but can also do Zoom from home.
— Dental will open to routine services in the p.m., emergency in the a.m. Not taking new patients at this time due to backlog. Sault clinics have closed causing backlog for new people.
— Asst. Health Director Joshua Hudson provided the following information on vaccinations to date:
— 56.6% of 65+ individuals in Chippewa County have initiated the vaccination;
— 36.3% of 65+ has completed the vaccination series

BMIC Executive Council discusses business

— Overall, 22.9% of Chippewa County (18+) has initiated the vaccination series; with 13.9% of the county has completed the vaccination series.

Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram
— Meeting every week to get Kronos moving.
— IT is going to start updating credit card machines due to banking switch from PNC to CSB.
— PPP 2 transfer was made and will be applied to February bill for draw done.
— Finalizing future admin building plans (current med center).
— DraftKings: Numbers received for last month. Working on creating spreadsheet of data. Things went very well.
— Senior utility payments: should be able to make second quarter payment. When monies get flowing with DraftKings, as part of the General Fund, this will be restored.
— Budget amendments to be done in May.

BMRC General Manager Richard LeBlanc
— Budget done for NIGC approval for retail sports book. Start for kiosks will take longer.
— Working with marketing for plans for the summer.
— Occupancy on weekends at hotel going well with snowmobilers. Will likely go down as the weather changes.
— Looking to development in Canadian market once the bridge reopens.
— Revamping job descriptions and addressing wage issues in certain departments.
—Sacys moving along. Water line break had an impact on Northwinds, some drywall issues. Not sure if opening date will be moved along.
— Putting together accurate reports on Kings Club.
— Compiling report for CRF 2 monies, just in case.

New Business
— Resolution No. 21-3-8A – Deputation Agreement with Chippewa County: Part of the law enforcement effort to update current agreements for BMPD. This gives BMPD their state certification. Approved.
— Resolution No. 21-3-8B – Good Neighbor Agreement with U.S. Forest Service: Allows the USFS to enter into contracts with the BM Fire Crew. This will generate revenue and keep them employed in the off-season. Gives BM priority instead of putting out to bid. Only the fourth agreement of this type with a tribe in the U.S. Approved.
— Approval to submit THPO (Tribal Historic Preservation Office): For funding Paula Carrick’s program. Approved.
— Resolution No. 21-3-8C - Approval of GLRI Tribal Capacity Funds: Biology (Paul Ripple) to accept $120k for BIA contract. Just accepting the funds based on previous work plan. Approved.
— Resolution No. 21-3-8D - Approval to submit CTAS (Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation): Two concentrations. BGC and BMHC. Funding is from DOJ. Seeking to approve the application to move forward. Approved.
— Resolution No. 21-3-8E - Rights Protection Initiative, Natural Resources, Biology, and Law Enforcement Program: Updated resolution to remove a name and just leave a title for signing purposes. Approved.
— Resolution No. 21-3-8F - Approval to Submit Rural Emergency Medical Services Grant from SAMSHA: This is looking for funding up to $200k and would at recruitment, training EMS staff, etc. No match required. Approved.
— Reaffirmation of Poll Votes: Approved.
— Acceptance of CRRSA Funds for $117,195.
— Approval to Submit to Wend Collective for $99,200.
Soo Locks to open at noon on March 24

SAULT STE. MARIE — The Detroit District’s Soo Area Office will open the Poe Lock noon, March 24, marking the 2021 Great Lakes shipping season start.

The shipping industry requested an early season opening to ensure safety of the vessels. “We believe a 1200 EST opening on 24 March 2021 provides a safer timeframe for vessels to transit Whitefish Bay and the St. Mary’s River. It facilitates U.S. Coast Guard icebreaking prior to and after the initial lock transits,” James Weakley, president of the Lake Carriers’ Association said.

“The efficiency of icebreaking for the first transits is the primary driver for this request.”

“The Detroit District was able to accommodate an early opening request due to being ahead of schedule and completing all required maintenance tasks during our annual winter season closure,” said District Commander Lt. Col. Scott Katalenich said.

The locks officially closed January 15 to undergo critical repairs and maintenance during the 10 week-long winter shutdown. Maintenance crews performed a variety of critical tasks on the Poe Lock, including drydocking and repairing a barge, performing upstream and downstream miter gate structural repair work, replacing ice flushing valves on the upstream miter gates, making repairs to a filling valve and an emptying valve, intermediate gate sill repairs, cleaning the Poe Lock’s underfloor drainage system, replacing fender timbers on the piers, and inspecting and performing preventative maintenance on electrical and mechanical systems for both the Poe and MacArthur Locks.

“We worked hard to accelerate work up-front during our annual closure, with crews working 10 hours for six days straight to optimize the short time available for critical maintenance and repairs,” Katalenich said. “Due to the hard work of our maintenance crews and some mild weather at the beginning of our closure period, we’ve been able to accomplish all required work ahead of schedule.”

Poe Lock rewatering began March 15, which will support U.S. Coast Guard ice breakers preparing the shipping channels for the opening of the navigation season.

The MacArthur Lock, located south of the Poe, will remain closed until mid-April.

“We welcome visitors into the park for the 2021 Soo Locks season opening. The park and viewing platform will be open, but we ask everyone entering the park follow CDC guidelines and DOD instructions to wear masks on federal property, including outdoor shared spaces when social distancing cannot be maintained,” Katalenich said.

The park will open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working on plans to open the Soo Locks Visitor Center May 9, depending on current health conditions, CDC, Federal and State requirements. “We’re excited about the possibility of opening the Visitor Center and have several new exhibits for visitors to enjoy,” Chief Park Ranger Michelle Briggs said.
Believe it or not, money isn’t the key to happiness

By Tom Purcell

Get this: A study by McGill University has found that more money does not necessarily make people in low-income countries happier.

I like more money as much as the next guy, but that does not surprise me.

People in developing countries like Bangladesh may not have high incomes and own lots of nice material things, but they do have an abundance of two key sources of happiness: More contact with family and nature.

McGill's study backs me up.

Sara Minarro, the lead author, says in Futurity.org that the people interviewed reported that what was responsible for making them happy was the greater proportion of time they spent with their families and in contact with nature (many of the people interviewed were fisherman).

As Chris Barrington-Leigh, a professor in McGill's Bieler School of the Environment, explained, "When people are comfortable, safe, and free to enjoy life within a strong community, they are happy - regardless of whether or not they are making any money."

A number of recent studies have come to a very similar conclusion.

A 2017 study by the University of British Columbia found that spending money to buy free time, such as paying others to cook or clean for you, does improve happiness, leave you feeling less stressed and generally more satisfied with life.

Beyond that, however, money does not necessarily make us happier.

According to Time magazine, Dan Gilbert, a Harvard University psychology professor and the author of "Stumbling on Happiness," believes that having money has some obvious benefits but also limitations.

"Once you get basic human needs met," Gilbert says, "a lot more money doesn't make a lot more happiness."

Research shows, reports Time, that "going from earning less than $20,000 a year to making more than $50,000 makes you twice as likely to be happy, yet the payoff for then surpassing $90,000 is slight."

In other words, once you have enough money to pay your bills and enjoy going out to dinner now and then, additional increases in wealth do not necessarily correspond with greater happiness - or, as one of the academic studies called it, "greater life satisfaction."

I remember talking with elderly family members, no longer with us, at a family gathering a few years ago. They told me stories about growing up in Pittsburgh during the Great Depression. They had no money at all - but had no idea they were poor.

Their neighborhood was rich with humanity - kindly old characters, people watching out for them and lots of friends to play with.

They said it took forever to walk to the store and back because so many people stopped them to say hello.

They told me they felt sorry for kids today who have so much material wealth but will never know the deep connections they had with so many neighbors and friends when they were growing up. But we know all this.

We all know that the happiest moments in our own lives involve friends and family.

These are the people who affect the deeper part of our nature, our spirits and souls, where true happiness resides.

These are the people who can make us laugh so hard our guts hurt - or who are there to help us when we're down and out and in need of advice or just someone to talk to.

Yet too many of us today spend most of our waking hours not nurturing our friends and families but chasing success and money and a bigger house.

Sadly, we don't experience the "life satisfaction" that people in some of the poorest countries on Earth enjoy every day - as the true happiness that is right under our noses eludes us.

Copyright 2021 Tom Purcell. Tom Purcell, author of "Misadventures of a 1970's Childhood," a humorous memoir available at amazon.com, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist and is nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc.
BMCC ranks among top colleges In Michigan

*Higher education resource guide releases the best institutions for 2021*

BY SHANNON JONES/BAY MILLS NEWS

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Community College has been awarded top ranking status for Best Colleges In Michigan by Intelligent.com. BMCC was listed among thousands of public institutions in the nation, and the comprehensive research guide is based on an assessment of 2,277 accredited colleges and universities. Each school is evaluated based on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation, and post-graduate employment.

Intelligent.com's 2021 rankings are calculated through a unique scoring system which includes student engagement, potential return on investment and leading third party evaluations. Intelligent.com analyzed 159 schools, on a scale of 0 to 100, with only 49 making it to the final list.

“BMCC takes pride in offering high quality education to prepare students to enter the workforce or to transfer to a four-year institution,” said BMCC President Duane Bedell. “The success of BMCC is a direct result of our team. Our faculty and staff strive to make sure students are able to achieve their goals.”

Bay Mills Community College was chartered by the Bay Mills Indian Community in 1984, to meet the training needs of the Tribe’s growing workforce. From very meager beginnings, BMCC received initial accreditation in 1995, and today is a fully operating Tribal College and Land Grant Institution with an open admissions policy for students of any race, creed, color, and national or ethnic origin.

As Michigan’s first fully accredited, tribally controlled college, BMCC meets the educational needs of a wide variety of students, from its remote, rural Main Campus, Mukwa Health and Fitness Education Center, Waishkey Bay Farm, off-campus sites, and online courses.

In addition to offering 16 associate degree programs, seven certificates of completion, and a bachelor’s degree program in early childhood education, BMCC has numerous articulation agreements in place. These transfer agreements allow students to move from BMCC into a 4-year program at another school, with ease. By following the transfer agreement plan, in most cases, students can take at least half of the required credits toward a bachelor's degree at BMCC and take those credits with them. Universities working with BMCC on this transfer program include Central Michigan University (general studies, psychology concentration), Davenport University (all BMCC associates included), Lake Superior State University (associate of applied science - computer information systems), and Indiana Wesleyan University (associate to bachelor's degree programs).

“Whatever educational goals our students have, our institution does its best to make sure students have the tools at their disposal to achieve those goals,” added Bedell.

To access the complete ranking, visit: https://www.intelligent.com/best-colleges-in-michigan/
To learn more about the college, visit www.bmcc.edu.

DNR urges residents use caution when burning this spring

The ground may look damp and muddy, but grass and brush are dry in spring even if the ground is wet. That means fire can spread fast.

Debris burning is the No. 1 cause of wildfires in Michigan, and some fires already have scorched Lower Michigan landscapes, including a 432-acre fire in the state's Thumb region.

Open burning is allowed where the ground is still snow-covered. Otherwise, a free burn permit is required. Burn permits in the southern Lower Peninsula are issued by local fire departments and government offices. In the northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula, residents can check the map at Michigan.gov/BurnPermit to see if debris/open burning is permitted in their counties.

Among the DNR’s recommendations:

• Place your charcoal grill on a hard surface such as a concrete driveway rather than on the lawn, where a spark or loose coal could ignite dry grass.
• Keep an eye out while using chainsaws and lawn mowers, because a spark from the blade could start a fire.
• Be careful when using all-terrain vehicles, lawn mowers or other outdoor machinery. Heat from a lawn mower or the exhaust pipe of an ATV can ignite dry grass. A trailer chain dragging on pavement also can create sparks that ignite grass.
• Never leave any fire unattended, even for a moment. Make sure all debris and campfires are fully extinguished before leaving the area.
BMCC partnership sends out "FARM Crates" to local educators

BY SHANNON JONES/BAY MILLS NEWS

BAY MILLS — In partnership with the MiSTEM Network, EUPISD, and the Foundation for Agriculture and Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom, Bay Mills Community College is happy to announce that 44 educators in the EUP will be recipients of "FARM (Food Agriculture Resources in Motion) Crates."

The crates provide insight into agricultural careers and Michigan agriculture through a variety of hands-on activities, books, and virtual farm tours. The overall goal is to increase agricultural literacy in today's youth, with crates providing the tools for empowering teachers and students. Crates will be provided to teachers on a monthly basis.

COVID-19 presented challenges for many educators this year, but that didn't stop progress on the project. "Although the FARM Science Labs have not been able to visit elementary schools this school year, we are happy to continue this unique learning opportunity with classrooms through the FARM Crate project," said Michelle Blodgett of Michigan Farm Bureau - noting more than 680 crates were being sent out to participating K-5 schools each month.

"This project has shown how collective impact partnerships can further the mission of providing high quality STEM experiences even in the case where change was necessary in response to COVID," added Kevin St. Onge, EUP STEM Region Director (EUPISD).

St. Onge noted at least three of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) pillars - empowering teachers and students, connecting education and industry, and providing high quality STEM experiences, are accomplished with FARM Crates.

BMCC was able to fund their contribution through the USDA-NIFA Special Emphasis Bay Mills Mino B Maadiziwin "the Good Life" Youth Initiative grant.

"The BMCC Land Grant Department is excited to partner with the EUPISD and Michigan Farm Bureau for a second year to ensure our EUP educators have the tools they need to promote agriculture in the classroom," said Brianna Gunka, BMCC Land Grant coordinator.

Local schools that are participating include Rudyard, Brimley and Bay Mills, Mackinac Island, Sault Middle school, Newberry, Whitefish Point - just to name a few.

Cloverland Electric announces board of director candidates

DAFTER — Cloverland Electric Cooperative announces the candidates eligible for election to its board of directors this May. One candidate may be elected in each membership district.

Candidates are presented by membership district in alphabetical order. Candidate biographies will be published on Cloverland.com and in the May/June issue of Cloverland Connections magazine. Ballots will be mailed in May, but co-op members also have the option to vote electronically this year.

**District A:**
- Kyle Brow, St. Ignace
- Mike Litzner, St. Ignace
- Donald Moore, Hessel
- Jerry Nettleton, DeTour Village

**District B – unopposed:**
- Jason Oberle, Sault Ste. Marie

**District C:**
- Ron Provo, Manistique
- Isaac Swisher, Manistique

Due to a bylaw change that does not require ballots to be mailed for unopposed candidates, ballots will be mailed to members in districts A and C only.

Cloverland members have until the date of record — Friday, March 26, 2021 – to update contact information on co-op membership records if there have been any changes over the past year. Ballots will be mailed April 26 and voting ends May 28.

Election results will be announced at the co-op’s annual meeting of the members on June 3 and shared with members through the local media, Connections magazine, Cloverland.com and social media channels.
Northern Light Cannabis Co. announces expansion plans

BY SHANNON JONES/BAY MILLS NEWS

BAY MILLS — Northern Light Cannabis Co. has announced plans to expand their business this spring.

The expansion plans include exterior renovations to be done in April, enhanced grow operations in May, product line expansions, and a “cannabis complex.”

“We recognize that smoking is not the only way to enjoy our products, so we intend to offer additional ways to enjoy the medicinal benefits of cannabis,” said Brenda Bjork, Bay Mills tribal chairperson. “We will begin focusing operations beyond retail to include grow and production so we can offer a wide variety of cannabis products to consumers – including butter, baked goods, hard candies, cannabis infused drinks, bath balms, lotions, or creams.”

According to NLCC’s Store Manager, Adam Damon, various plans for the 100+ acres surrounding NLCC have been discussed. Ideas include development of a disc golf course, amphitheater, outdoor barbecue, softball fields, and a possible cannabis consumption lounge.

“Here at NLCC, we are excited about the future expansions to our facility in Dafter. One of our main goals is to continue the community atmosphere by opening our property up to encourage social use. We look forward to the possibility of hosting cannabis friendly events,” said Damon. “We couldn’t be more excited to allow consumers to use cannabis in a safe setting while enjoying all the activities they love doing.”

Initial project estimates call for a million-dollar development, which will inspire job growth and tourism dollars to the EUP.

Expanding and investing in tribal businesses is part of BMIC’s long-term economic development plan. “Nothing is set in stone right now, but we want to make our cannabis destination an asset to Bay Mills and the surrounding communities,” said BMIC Executive Councilperson Rachel Burtt.

NLCC opened last November, working with consultants Soil to Smoke, LLC. Soil to Smoke provided the initial product to NLCC, but this May building grow operations will include five new flower strains unique to NLCC, which will be rotated regularly. NLCC aims to grow higher THC concentrated flower strains that test above 30 percent.

NLCC is owned and operated by Bay Mills Indian Community and currently employs 25 people. By 2022, BMIC estimates up to 50 employees will work at the facility throughout their grow, processing, retail, and consumption operations.

IRS postpones federal income tax deadline

Individual taxpayers can also postpone federal income tax payments for the 2020 tax year due on April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021, without penalties and interest, regardless of the amount owed. This postponement applies to individual taxpayers, including individuals who pay self-employment tax. Penalties, interest and additions to tax will begin to accrue on any remaining unpaid balances as of May 17, 2021. Individual taxpayers will automatically avoid interest and penalties on the taxes paid by May 17.

Individual taxpayers do not need to file any forms or call the IRS to qualify for this automatic federal tax filing and payment relief. Individual taxpayers who need additional time to file beyond the May 17 deadline can request a filing extension until Oct. 15 by filing Form 4868 through their tax professional, tax software or using the Free File link on IRS.gov. Filing Form 4868 gives taxpayers until October 15 to file their 2020 tax return but does not grant an extension of time to pay taxes due. Taxpayers should pay their federal income tax due by May 17, 2021, to avoid interest and penalties.

The IRS urges taxpayers who are due a refund to file as soon as possible. Most tax refunds associated with e-filed returns are issued within 21 days.

This relief does not apply to estimated tax payments that are due on April 15, 2021. These payments are still due on April 15. Taxes must be paid as taxpayers earn or receive income during the year, either through withholding or estimated tax payments. In general, estimated tax payments are made quarterly to the IRS by people whose income isn't subject to income tax withholding, including self-employment income, interest, dividends, alimony or rental income. Most taxpayers automatically have their taxes withheld from their paychecks and submitted to the IRS by their employer.
Cloverland offers scholarship to local students

DAFTER — Students seeking scholarships for schools in the Eastern Upper Peninsula have a new opportunity through Cloverland Cares, the non-profit foundation of Cloverland Electric Cooperative. One award recipient will be selected from each of the co-op’s three districts and announced in May. Cloverland Cares scholarship applications will be evaluated based on financial need, school involvement and achievements, community service and work experience, plus educational and career goals. An essay and supporting letters of recommendation are also required. Online applications can be completed on cloverland.com by the March 31, 2021 deadline.

“We’re proud to continue an 18-year tradition of awarding scholarships,” said Cloverland Electric’s President and CEO, Mike Heise. “We’ve simply shifted from the cooperative’s previous Power of Excellence scholarship program to award need-based scholarships from our new Cloverland Cares non-profit foundation.”

To support E.U.P. area schools, the scholarship must be used for educational purposes at Lake Superior State University, Bay Mills Community College or Les Cheneaux Culinary School. To support career paths like many at the cooperative, electric utility programs offered by Northern Michigan University, Alpena Community College or Lansing Community College are included in the Cloverland Cares scholarship opportunity. Applicants must be planning to enroll as a full-time student for the 2021 fall term.

“Our scholarship committee recognized the need for scholarships that award students whose financial need, community service and other strengths might be greater than academic standing,” said Allie Brawley, Cloverland Electric’s Director of Business Development & Communications, who also serves as the Cloverland Cares Board President.

Award amounts will be determined based on financial need and available funds. Applicant or applicant’s parent or legal guardian must be a member of Cloverland Electric Cooperative. There is no age limit so the scholarship accommodates those returning to school to complete a degree or those pursuing a new career path.

The spring 2021 grant cycle is also open to grant requests for food banks within Cloverland Electric’s service territory. Grant request forms and scholarship applications are available on Cloverland.com.

To support Cloverland Cares, Cloverland Electric members can opt-in to round up their monthly bill payments. 100 percent of all funds remain local and benefit food banks and scholarships that will be divided equally among Cloverland’s three districts across the E.U.P. Members can contribute in three ways: 1) round up monthly bill to nearest dollar; 2) designate a specific monthly donation; 3) designate a one-time donation. To enroll, contact member services (1-800-562-4953) or opt-in on cloverland.com or with the free SmartHub app.

MDOC to resume in-person visitation at state prisons

LANSING — The Michigan Department of Corrections will resume in-person visiting of prisoners effective March 26. This comes after the department ceased in-person visiting in March of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We recognize how important in-person visitation is to our prison population," said MDOC Director Heidi Washington. "Connections with family and the community lead to greater offender success. With the continuation of vaccines and cases within the MDOC on a steady decline the department is prepared to provide in-person visits without jeopardizing the safety and wellbeing of our inmates and staff."

The MDOC has taken a series of safety precautions to ensure in-person visits can resume safely. Prior to entering the facility, visitors will participate in the MDOC screening process which includes a temperature check and an antigen rapid test. Visitors will be asked to store their personal masks in the lockers provided and the MDOC will provide them with a new mask that must be worn during their visit. The prisoner taking part in the visit will also take an antigen rapid test prior to the visit as well.

During visits, interactions will be modified. Elevated health and safety protocols are in place and include hand sanitizer and plexiglass which serves as a divider between the prisoner and their visitor. Additionally, prisoners are prohibited from physical contact with their visitors until further notice.

Approved visitors must schedule their visits in advance and will have a two-hour time limit. Visitors are required to schedule their visit at least 72 hours in advance of their scheduled visit, but not more than 96 hours prior to the visit. Information about how to schedule visits will be available soon on the MDOC website www.michigan.gov/corrections.

Once visitors have scheduled their visits, they should monitor the MDOC website to ensure the facility is not in quarantine, or the housing unit of the prisoner they wish to visit is not in quarantine.

Following the suspension of in-person visits on March 13, 2020, the MDOC worked to ensure prisoners had access to several free calls and JPay messages per week after discussions with our communications providers. Also last year the department also began implementing video visitation for prisoners and their loved ones and soon it will be available at all prison facilities. This service has allowed those incarcerated and their families a safe way to stay connected during the pandemic. Video visitation will continue despite a return to in-person visitation.
Women underrepresented in Legislature, data shows

By SOPHIA LADA
Capital News Service

LANSING — Samantha Steckloff first ran for political office when she was 28 years old. Some constituents didn’t think she would know what was going on in the community because she was unmarried and had no children.

“You get to the point where you know you’re going to get ignored, you know you’re going to be asked these questions and it’s just frustrating,” she said.

Now, Steckloff, who can’t have children because of chemotherapy, is a state representative from Farmington. And she’s working on a women’s health bill about breast cancer screenings and reproductive rights.

However, with only 36.5% of the Legislature being women, she said she often finds herself lobbying male colleagues who are uncomfortable talking about these topics.

There is only one state legislature with a majority of women – Nevada, according to Rutgers University’s Center for American Women and Politics.

In Michigan, men make up 49% of the population and hold 63.5% of seats in the state House and Senate.

There are 10 female senators, seven Democrats and three Republicans, and 42 representatives, 27 Democrats and 15 Republicans.

Steckloff said she’s excited because this year is the first time women outnumber men in the House Democratic caucus.

And she said a huge voice is missing when one party moves toward equality and the other doesn’t.

When working on bills about women’s health, there often are not enough women on the other side of the aisle to get anything passed, she said.

Rep. Brenda Carter, D-Pontiac, agreed with Steckloff that women should be better represented in the Legislature.

Even though she is African American, she said she encountered more bias in her career based on her sex than on her race.

“We need a voice,” Carter said. “We need to be able to articulate to the people who represent us our values as women.”

Carter, who just began her second two-year term, said the Legislature has passed two of her bipartisan bills since the start of her tenure in the Capitol.

Carter said that one of the most influential programs for her legislative success was the Michigan Political Leadership Program that provides issue and policy education, professional development and advice on how to campaign and govern.

Matt Grossmann is the director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University, which runs the program.

Grossmann said women are more likely to have fundraising concerns, more likely to sponsor bipartisan bills and are more effective in passing legislation than men.

He said the program selects participants who are interested in state and local offices and has about 600 alumni, more than half of whom work in state or local offices.

This program is important because it empowers women and minorities to run for political office, he said.

There are also national groups that work to elect women specifically, such as EMILY’s List and the Susan B. Anthony List.

EMILY stands for “early money is like yeast” to explain how early donors to a campaign can help attract more donors later.

The organization was founded to elect pro-choice Democratic women and is now the largest national resource for women in politics, according to its website.

“It is important that the government looks like those that they govern,” said, Ben Ray, the senior director of campaign communications at EMILY’s List. And he says women legislators are more effective and productive than their male counterparts.

The Susan B. Anthony List is on the opposite end of the American politics ideological spectrum and raises money to elect pro-life women. Prudence Robertson, the organization’s communications associate, declined an interview.

Sometimes it’s a question of attitude, female lawmakers say.

Rep. Cynthia A. Johnson, D-Detroit, said male colleagues have told her to be “more like a lady.”

She said a big issue is that some women define their self-worth by what their husbands say.

Johnson said she wishes women would see their power and know that they can do anything.

“It hurts the whole of us when we see other women being browbeaten into believing that overall men have that superiority,” she said.
Great Lakes water levels lower than 2020 heading into spring rise

DETROIT — Great Lake water levels in 2021 are tracking below last year’s levels, though Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, St. Clair and Erie remain well above long-term average levels, according to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials who track and forecast Great Lakes water levels.

Lake Ontario recently fell slightly below long-term average levels. The February 2021 monthly mean water levels ranged from 7 to 23 inches below levels from this time last year.

Since November 2020, the Great Lakes basin experienced four consecutive months of below average precipitation. This combined with a cold air outbreak during February led to increased evaporation across the lakes and caused a St. Clair River ice jam to develop. When ice jams occur, water levels downstream of the restriction decline, while water levels upstream of the restriction rise.

“Drier conditions this winter aided in seasonal declines on all the lakes,” said Detroit District Watershed Hydrology Branch Chief Chris Warren. “However, as water levels begin their seasonal rise there is still potential for coastal impacts since water levels remain high.”

Late winter and early spring are typical Great Lakes seasonal rise periods because of increased rainfall and runoff. Water levels typically peak in the summer or early fall. Even with lower lake levels some lakes are still well above average and coastal flooding and shoreline erosion are possible, especially during periods of active weather and increased wave action.

The most recent six-month forecast of Great Lakes water levels predicts levels to remain below record high levels, but above average on all lakes, except Lake Ontario. Lake Ontario is forecast to remain near average levels: https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Information/.

Citizens or businesses in the Great Lakes region considering construction projects to alleviate erosion or flooding, may require a Corps of Engineer’s permit as they could impact rivers, streams, wetlands and other aquatic resources.
Walking On

Larry Bruce Yon

Larry Bruce Yon, 70, of Brimley, Mich. passed away Tuesday afternoon, March 2, 2021 at his home, surrounded by his family.

Larry was born on May 12, 1950 to the late Marvin and Lora Yon. Larry was raised in Sault Ste. Marie. On Oct. 9, 1976 Larry married the love of his life, Marilyn, at the Blessed Kateri Church in Bay Mills, Mich. Larry had a great love of music with thousands of records, family bonfires and sports cars. Larry met everyone with a smile on his face and a music track to share. His greatest joy was the arrival of his children, Chris, Shauna and Billy — all of Bay Mills. They were the greatest love of his life.

Along with his wife and children, Larry is survived by grandchildren: Josephine, Kaylee, Mikael, Kyanna, Carmen, Elijah, Xyler, Serenity, Evie, Jouri, Austin, Jessica and Jay. Also surviving Larry are sister-in -aws, Kathi (Mike) Carrick, Dawn (David) Terrell, Anita (Don) Charles, Melanie Lyons and Michele LeBlanc, as well as brother-in-laws, James Lyons, Jr and Walter (Bobbi) Lyons. Larry was also loved greatly by his many nieces and nephews that also survive him.

Preceding Larry in death along with his parents are his siblings: Marvin, BreezAnn, and Beverly along with his parents-in -aw, James and Audrey Lyons, brother-in-law, Lawrence and sisters-in-law, Denise and Gerri.

The family would like to say a special thank you to the Hospice of Sault Ste. Marie and to Kim of the CCHD and everything she did for Larry. Services took place at Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church in Brimley, Mich. on March 6 with Father Michael Chenier officiating. Final resting place will be Mission Hill Cemetery in the spring. The family requests in lieu of flowers donations in Larry's name be made to Hospice of the EUP, 308 W. 12th Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. 49783. Clark Funeral Cremation Burial Services assisted the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left at www.rgalerfueralhome.com

Christine F. LeBlanc

Christine F. LeBlanc, 72, of Brimley, Mich., passed away Monday March 8, 2021 at War Memorial Hospital after a year-long battle with cancer.


Christine is predeceased by her parents, Bernard and Catherine Shaw; sister, Pat Easton; and her brother Clifford Shaw. Christine graduated from St. Joseph Academy, Adrian, Mich., in 1967 and worked in the Detroit area until she moved back home. She worked at being a Community Health Representative for Bay Mills Indian Community and volunteered many years on the ambulance. She later worked as the dispatcher for the Bay Mills Tribal Police until she retired. Shrives took place on March 12 at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church in Brimley, Mich., with Father Michael Chenier officiating. Final resting place will be Mission Hill Cemetery in the spring. Clark Funeral Cremation Burial Services assisted the family with arrangements.
Virtual walleye fight new threats to real ones

By TAYLOR HAEelterman
Capital News Service

LANSING — Scientists are simulating Great Lakes walleye on computers to find out how contaminants harm the fish.

The new technique is important because it helps experts more efficiently discover how to clean up contaminants.

These contaminants of emerging concern come from agricultural and household cleaning products and medicines that end up in lakes and rivers, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Many are unregulated because of their common use and the lack of understanding of their toxicity and impacts on the ecosystem, said Stephanie Hummel, a fish and wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and an author of the study. It appeared recently in the journal Science of the Total Environment.

Researchers made a computer model of walleye in Lake Erie and the Maumee River based on lab data to see if contaminants would affect fish reproduction and how to best reduce the level of the chemicals in the water, said coauthor Maxime Vaugeois, who worked on the model.

Information on the fish’s growth, reproduction and life cycle simulated individual walleye. Data on walleye population density, size, migration and reproduction simulated the actual fish, said Vaugeois, a postdoctoral researcher in the University of Minnesota Department of Biology, Evolution and Behavior.

Data on the amount of chemicals along the river determined the level of exposure to the fish. The study focused on agricultural chemicals from herbicides used to kill unwanted plants and on urban chemicals from household products and medications.

The researchers chose the walleye because of its commercial and recreational importance to the Great Lakes region and the Maumee River and because of the amount activity near it that produces contaminants, Vaugeois said.

“The Maumee River is a really important river in the Great Lakes area,” he said. “It’s one of the major watersheds. It’s also a river that’s under stress. There are many agricultural activities, and there’s also urban activity on the river.”

The study compares the impact on walleye population for two clean-up strategies – completely cleaning a specific area or partially cleaning the entire body of water.

Both strategies can be effective. But what strategy will be most effective in a specific situation depends on the location, fish and types of contaminants, Vaugeois said.

Focusing on a single site is most effective where walleye lay their eggs.

But focusing on the entire body of water could be the more effective option, depending on the types of contaminants and information on the walleye population, like mortality rate and how quickly the chemicals are taken up by the fish, Vaugeois said.

Hummel said it’s important to start discussing these management practices soon because previous research shows that contaminants have affected fish reproduction.

A study of fathead minnows found that fish reproduction dropped when exposed to contaminants like those used in the walleye study. That can eventually lead to population decrease.

“We call them sublethal effects,” Hummel said. “We’re not seeing mass die-off and huge plummets in the population, but we are seeing these sublethal effects that can be additive when you’ve got poor habitat availability or food availability, changes in the food web, things like that.”

That’s a stressor that can further impact walleye and reduce their population levels, she said.

Contaminant cleanups are costly and take years to show results. But using simulations is a cheaper and faster way to test possible outcomes, Vaugeois said. The results can help guide fishery management.

“At the end what we all want is to be more efficient about how we protect the environment,” he said. “And this kind of research can help us understand where you need to focus more, where you need to spend most and be more efficient about how you gather information and how you will use it for a cleanup strategy.”

Vaugeois said the next step is more research on how these contaminants affect fish and how fast they’re eliminated by fish.

That will help scientists better understand the best strategy for cleaning the Great Lakes, he said.

Taylor Haelterman writes for Great Lakes Echo.
Coyote encounter season is upon us

By MARSHALL LEE WEIMER
Capital News Service

LANSING — Michigan residents who have witnessed a growth in the state’s coyote population in cities and suburbs – including Metro Detroit communities – as well as in rural areas, are being warned about encountering the animal.

The Eastern coyote is a hybrid between Great Lakes grey wolves and western coyotes that migrated east during the mid-1800s, according to the National Park Service.

“They are active day and night, but most active around sunrise and sunset,” says the Department of Natural Resources, which classifies them as “nuisance animals” on its website. “They are abundant in areas where adequate food, cover and water are available.

“Breeding takes place January – March and people are more likely to see and hear coyotes during this time,” the DNR says.

Michigan has hunting and trapping seasons for coyotes. Outside regular seasons, DNR says, landowners or their designees can kill them on private land without a fur harvester license if they are “doing or about to do damage to private property, pets, livestock or humans.”

Guidance aims to avoid negative interactions between humans and Eastern coyotes while teaching residents to respect coyotes’ space. It encourages people not to feed coyotes or leave food outside and to teach children to appreciate coyotes from a distance.

“Education and communication are essential,” said Shawn Riley, a professor of wildlife management at Michigan State University.

Any human-wildlife conflict should be framed as a tolerance level, not a constant battle, Riley said.

The more commonplace wildlife is, the higher people’s tolerance to its presence, he said, and negative interactions between people and animals lead to changes in that tolerance.

Coyotes are opportunistic carnivores and habitat generalists, able to take advantage of human encroachment into natural areas, Sharon Poessel, a wildlife biologist at the US Geological Survey reported in a 2013 study. The study published in the journal Wildlife Society analyzed the interactions between Denver residents and coyotes.

Generally, coyotes can live close to humans with little threat to people, the study said. However, conflicts, especially with pets, can make people less tolerant of the animal.

Poessel’s study found coyote observations and conflicts are highest during December–March and lowest during July–September.

The Urban Coyote Research Project in the Chicago area advises the public not to create conflict where no conflict exists.

“If a coyote is acting as a coyote should — avoiding humans and pets — do not seek out opportunities to haze or otherwise aggravate the animal. Embracing communal respect is key,” it says.

It also recommends that “when a coyote fails to exhibit fear of humans or acts aggressively, the animal should be reported as soon as possible to the appropriate officials.”

Riley said guidance is important to prevent conflicts. The burden of wildlife management is to prove humans and nature can coexist by mitigating negative interactions before they occur, he said.

“An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of treatment.”

Marshall Lee Weimer writes for Great Lakes Echo.
More convenient two-year auto registrations may be on the horizon
By ERIC FREEDMAN
Capital News Service

LANING – Motorists could get the option of two-year vehicle registrations rather than the traditional one year under a pending legislative proposal. The bill would give vehicle owners the convenience of a two-year renewal – but at the cost to the state of millions of dollars in lost revenue. Michigan currently has almost 7.2 million registered passenger vehicles. Their registrations expire each year on the owners’ birthdays. The House Transportation Committee has approved the measure, which now awaits action in the full House.

During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, motorists couldn’t register or renew their registrations in person because Secretary of State branch offices were closed.

The lead sponsor, Rep. Steven Johnson, R-Wayland, said the impetus was a constituent whose daughter lives in Missouri, which has a two-year registration period.

The cosponsors are Reps. Karen Whitsett, D-Detroit; Robert Bezotte, R-Marion; Beau LaFave, R-Iron Mountain; Joseph Bellino, R-Monroe; Andrew Fink, R-Hillsdale; Steve Carra, R-Three Rivers; John Damoose, R-Harbor Springs; Gary Eisen, R-St. Clair Township; and Jeff Yaroch, R-Richmond.

Johnson looked into the constituent’s suggestion and discovered that “a number of states have multi-year options, and Michigan has only the one year.”

It’s “sometimes a pain” to have to renew annually, he said. “It made sense to provide people with more convenience in dealing with government.”

The Secretary of State’s office supports the proposal and “is working with Rep. Johnson to make improvements due to potential costs and lack of demand,” department press officer Aneta Kiersnowski said.

The department’s legislative policy manager, Matt Levin, recently told the House Transportation Committee that implementing the change would mean additional expenses. They include money to reprogram 135 kiosks across the state and the computer registration system used by motor vehicle dealerships, as well as to adapt or replace the system used to sort mail-in renewals.

“We want to proceed and move forward with a little bit of caution,” Levin said at a committee hearing.

Motorists pay an $8 service fee when registering a vehicle or renewing the registration.

Of that amount, $2.25 goes to the Traffic Law Enforcement and Safety Fund for State Police traffic and safety operations and trooper recruit schools. The other $5.75 supports the Transportation Administration Collection Fund to operate the registration program.

A House Fiscal Agency analysis of the bill concluded that the change “could result in a significant decrease in registration service fee revenue,” although the actual amount would depend on how many owners take the two-year option.

In the 2017-18 fiscal year, the $8 service fee brought in $62.6 million, the House Fiscal Agency analysis said — $45 million to cover administrative costs and $17.6 million for the State Police programs. Service fee revenue the next year was $63.3 million.

If 2.5% of motorists choose the two-year option, the state would lose about $1.6 million, the agency estimated, but the hit would be about $12.7 million if 20% of motorists go that route.

Johnson’s bill would prorate the registration tax for the extended registration period but wouldn’t raise the service fees to cover the revenue lost during the second year, the analysis said.

It also said reduced administrative costs are unlikely to offset the lost revenue.

However, Johnson said there may be upfront costs to implement the change but he believes any extra costs will be minimal and will save the Secretary of State money in the long run.

The Michigan Farm Bureau has endorsed the proposal.

Its legislative counsel, Andrew Vermeesch, said, “This is even more significant for registering vehicles that cannot be renewed online such as farm plates in the case of farmers.

“Allowing individuals to register for two years would reduce the burden of going into a SOS branch for routine transactions, which may or may not take place during critical times for agriculture.”
Small airports suffer big hits amidst pandemic

By SAMUEL BLATCHFORD
Capital News Service

LANSING — Large airports in Michigan such as those in Detroit and Grand Rapids have seen a loss in revenue and passengers since the pandemic began.

Small airports in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula are confronting those same problems, but the negative effects are bigger.

However, operators of smaller airports say they’re looking forward to the future because there’s a projected increase in passengers this summer as COVID-19 vaccinations become more widespread.

For some smaller airports, day-to-day operations didn’t change much, officials said. For others, the changes were dramatic.

Manistee County Blacker Airport switched carriers on Oct. 1, after Cape Air won the bid to be the airline partner with the airport, according to airport director Barry Lind.

Blacker is doing better than most small airports in Northern Michigan, Lind said, and the airport’s two daily nonstop flights to Chicago were not impacted by COVID-19 restrictions due to the airport’s status as an essential air service.

Sawyer International Airport in Gwinn has not had its routes cut, according to Duane DuRay, the director of operations, but he said the pandemic had almost shut down rental car businesses in the airport.

MBS International Airport in Freeland has had a hard time during the pandemic, Director James Canders said. Canders said the airport has faced a significant drop in revenue since the pandemic started, as well as a cut in the number of flights and route cancellations.

Daily flights decreased from seven or nine, down to six, Canders said.

He said he also had to lay off staff for six months but they returned before winter.

Cherry Capital Airport, in Traverse City, reported a 95% drop in passengers in April compared to April 2019, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Airlines serving the airport cut the number of routes from 15 to three, Director Kevin Klein said.

Klein said the main focus now is on the American Airlines flight to Chicago, the United Airlines flight to Chicago and the Delta Airlines flight to Detroit.

Klein said the federal government gave Cherry Capital Airport $18.4 million for support under the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES, Act. The grant went to cover operational costs of the airport.

The money came from $10 billion in federal economic relief to airports affected by the pandemic.

Manistee County Blacker Airport received $30,000. MBS International Airport received $1.9 million, and Sawyer International Airport received $18 million.

A CARES Act grant also helped Chippewa County International Airport in Sault Ste. Marie, which lost most of its revenue due to the closing of the U.S-Canada border, said airport manager Tami Besseau. The airport received a $1.09 million grant.

The airport relies heavily on Canadian travelers, she said, adding, “The Canadian traffic and the borders not being open really affect us.”

She said that when the border opens and summer comes, aviation is going to come back.

LSSU names veteran fundraiser Scott Smith as inaugural vice president of advancement

Lake Superior State University has named nationally recognized philanthropic strategist and former LSSU Foundation executive director Scott Smith as its inaugural vice president of advancement. Smith, with more than two decades of experience as a fundraiser in the higher education and not-for-profit sectors over a 35-year career, started at LSSU on March 15, 2021. He joins a university advancement team made up of Associate Vice President Tom Coates (’86), Director of Donor Relations Sharon Dorrity (’87), Director of Annual Fund and Athletic Development Andrew Rubinstein, and Development Coordinator Ryan Sigmon (’15).

Smith’s other relevant previous jobs include major gift officer at Michigan State University (2001-06), for which he secured several multimillion-dollar donations. Smith served as vice president of development and external relations at HELP USA (2006-08), a New York City-based outreach organization that fights homelessness. He was east region chief development officer (2008-16) and—after seven consecutive years of record-setting fundraising and two commendations from the healthcare best-practices firm Advisory Board Company for cutting-edge approaches in development— president (2016-18) of the Detroit-located Ascension and St. John Providence Foundations, which support area hospitals and healthcare systems. The past few years, Smith was a philanthropic consultant for numerous Michigan nonprofits, ranging from military to sports to academics.

He began his career as a senior computer analyst in the Office of the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives from 1986 to 1997. Smith earned a B.S. in data processing from Saginaw Valley State University and a master’s degree in marketing from Aquinas College.
Black Lake Sturgeon Harvest applications
Bay Mills Indian Community will be issuing one sturgeon permit for Black Lake (Cheboygan County). Interest tribal member can apply at the Bay Mills Conservation office. Apply through April 6th @ 4 pm. The sturgeon season will likely begin in early May (Subject to Conservation Committee). The drawing will take place on April 7th at the Conservation Committee meeting.

Commodities seeks recipe submissions
BMIC Commodities is looking for family recipes to create a community cookbook featuring the USDA (commodity) Foods. Over the last ten years the food package has changed and increased its variety of options to pick from. The department has a nutritional education grant from Walmart, and the goal is to help promote healthy meal preparation and eating habits. Clients can take this opportunity reach out to the community and make a positive change. This cookbook will be available for everyone in the community. Deadline for recipe submissions is April 5. Please send your recipes to kschwiderson@hotmail.com.

Mukwa Fitness Center has reopened
Hours will change weekly due to staffing, please see their Facebook page for current hours.
From the staff, here are the requirements:
1. You are required to wear a mask while entering the building
2. STOP and get your temperature taken by staff. You will have a few questions asked as well.
3. Grab your own spray bottle and towel
4. You can use lockers to store your belongings while working out/can't use showers
5. You DO NOT need to wear a mask while working out, but you can if it makes you feel safe/comfortable
6. WIPE DOWN EVERYTHING YOU TOUCH!
7. While leaving you are required to wear your mask in the main hallway.
You can help Kimarie by becoming a living donor!

The first step is to fill out the health questionnaire at mayoclininc.org/livingdonor

[Kimarie is Ojibwe (Bay Mills Indian Community) and Filipino with O blood type]
livingdonororganpt@mayo.edu

Contact Information: Rachel Burtt 906.248.8132
Mayo Clinic Living Donor Hotline 1.866.277.1569