BMIC issues statement regarding Vanderbilt litigation

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Indian Community has reached an agreement with the State of Michigan to resolve a decade-long court battle over tribal gaming on a parcel of land in Vanderbilt, Michigan. BMIC and the State of Michigan had each sued one another to determine whether the Tribe could engage in gaming on the parcel of land.

Under the agreement, both the Tribe and the State of Michigan will dismiss their lawsuits against one another and the Tribe agreed to not attempt to operate a gaming facility on the parcel for at least five years. The agreement to dismiss the cases simply ends the litigation, and does not include any other terms regarding whether the land is eligible for gaming.

The lawsuits between the Tribe and the State began in 2010. The dispute reached the United States Supreme Court in 2016, where BMIC won a ruling that affirmed that Indian tribes have sovereign immunity from lawsuits. The case was sent back to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan, where the parties remained in a dispute until today’s dismissal.

BMIC acquired the parcel of land in Vanderbilt under the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act, which allows the Tribe to use certain trust funds to acquire additional tribal lands. Bay Mills’ goal in developing a gaming facility on the Vanderbilt parcel was to provide new economic opportunities for the Tribe, its citizens, and partner communities.

Prior to this agreement, the case was set to go to trial and lead to more litigation between the parties. With BMIC soon to become one of the first tribes in the United States to engage in statewide internet gaming, the Tribe made the decision that continuing the litigation would not be an effective use of its resources. The Tribe has achieved its goal of creating new economic opportunities through its internet gaming partnership with DraftKings, along with other ventures.

Ending this litigation will help end a long-running dispute between BMIC, the State of Michigan, and other tribes; and, it will help improve cooperation on economic development between Michigan tribes. The dismissal also preserves the tribe’s ability to restore and enhance our tribal homelands to better serve its people.

Bay Mills Resort & Casinos closed for a three-week period in response to virus

BAY MILLS — Effective at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 18, Bay Mills Resort & Casinos will close for three weeks. The closure is in partnership with the State of Michigan’s efforts to reduce the numbers of cases of COVID-19 throughout the state.

BMRC employees will be paid during the three-week closure.

“This pandemic is unpredictable,” said BMIC Tribal Chairman Bryan Newland. “Fortunately, we budgeted CARES Act funds in anticipation another shut down might occur. We believe in protecting our community as well as our employees.”

Last week the state reported the highest numbers since the pandemic began, recording 44,019 new cases in a seven-day period. Michigan has a total of 264,576 cases to date, which resulted in 8,049 deaths.

BMRC plans to reopen on Dec. 8. Back Bay Grill & Games is also closed at this time.

BMIC remains at a level 4 restriction in their Pandemic Response Plan. Additional information about level 4 operations, which are in place until Dec. 11 at 12:01 a.m., can be found online at www.baymills.org.

UIA Update:
Tips on reopening unemployment claims

• Do not create a new account. Use the same MiLogin and MiWAM username and password used previously.
• Reopen a claim on the first day of unemployment or reduced work hours and wages.
• Have the Employer Account Number (EAN) or Federal Identification Number (FEIN) available. (Check your W-2s for this)
• Payments will be made using the same payment method previously selected.
• Claimants should read and respond to all requests for information to avoid payment delays.
• When certifying for benefits, be sure to report your gross earnings (amount before taxes and other deductions) in the week in which they were earned, not when you were paid.
• After you have completed your claim, a confirmation page will display the date of your next certification, please take note.

More information on filing or reopening an unemployment claim, including FAQs, tutorial videos and other resources are available at Michigan.gov/UIA.
Oct. 26 Meeting

Reports

Chairman Bryan Newland
— Not much new with COVID response, there are increasing numbers in the U.P., particularly Marquette and Delta counties. Hospital systems are feeling the impact for beds. We must continue to be vigilant.
— Considering changes to the COVID response plan. We have learned a lot about the virus at this point and time. One of the items being looked at is more precise guidelines in the event we need more restrictions. Looking to ratify new/revised plan at next council meeting.
— Health Center construction is under way.
— Working on job posting for assistant health director position.
— Changes with the Affordable Care Act, which is being heard by Supreme Court next month, it will have a direct impact on health center revenues.
— Grand Opening date for Northern Light Cannabis is set. Draft Kings contract is finalized. This will be a large expansion of the tribe’s economic holdings in the next 6-8 weeks.
— Consent Decree negotiations still ongoing, but time is running out as the current decree expires Dec. 31.
— COVID testing is ongoing.
  Tribal Manager Rachel Burtt
— Tribal Administration has extended job offers for open positions.
— Social Services: Response to local family fire was able to acquire donations and the outpouring of community support has been great.
— Met with various departments about budgets, snow plowing schedule.
— Red Pine water main has been completed.
— Met with DSGW to kick off for Boys & Girls Club project.
— Project on elder’s housing- plan is 95% complete.
— Processing applicants for CRF funds. Approximately a three-week turnaround with application.
  Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram
— Accepted Blue Cross proposal.
— IT is still working on major projects, more update next meeting.
— Working on casino budget to reflect closures, border closures, etc.
— Medical Center finances in good shape. Dental revenues down, but good overall.
— Draft Kings: Meetings being held as we move forward.
  Health Director Audrey Breakie
— 1,570 tests conducted to date for COVID.
— Pickford schools is interested in coordinating testing as well.
— Medical unit is on its way, it should arrive in the next day or so.
— Excited about assistant health director position and it is much needed.
  BMRC General Manager Richard LeBlanc
— Vendors on property for sound system and other projects.
— Working on budgets for 2021 and next few months. Will refine to hit targets in some area.

New Business

b. Resolution No. 20-10-26B – Amendment to Authorized Signers on Tribal Court Bank Account. Approved.
c. Resolution 20-10-26C - Support of 6 Mile Bridge Funding Request by Chippewa County Road Commission: They reached out for support resolution to submit with their funding application. They want to put a bridge in at one of the dips at Six Mile due to culvert issues. Approved.
d. Resolution 20-10-26D - Marijuana Commission & Regulation Ordinance: Marijuana Commission will investigate and monitor Northern Light Cannabis. Executive Council will post for director and marijuana commissioners. They will review and approve licenses on a yearly basis. Approved.
e. Resolution 20-10-26E - Grant of Licenses to Northern Light Cannabis. This is the Executive Council granting licenses. This is the actual license. Approved.
f. Resolution 20-10-26F - Adoption of Policies & Procedures for Northern Light Cannabis. This will be treated the same as enterprise employees in many aspects. Some policies are unique to NLCC, such as their own points policy and attendance policy. Approved.
g. Resolution 20-10-26G - Tribal Prosecutor Attorney Contract. This contract is for the new tribal prosecutor, as Carol Andary is stepping down. Approved.
h. Resolution 20-10-26H- Influenza Award Agreement. Approved.
i. Acceptance of State Opioid Response 2 Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome FY 21 subcontract for $96,500. Efforts of Stephanie Phipps should be commended.
j. Acceptance of SOR 2 Medication Assisted Treatment Initiative funding from ITC for $320k. Approved.
l. Reaffirmation of Poll Vote:
  -Approve Influenza Award Notification and Reporting.

Nov. 9 Meeting

Reports

Chairman Newland
— COVID response: 7200 cases in UP, 130 deaths as of Friday. Number is probably higher now. Daily records being set. More than 150 active cases in Chippewa County, two positive cases on reservation. Five cases at Brimley Area Schools, unknown number of residents in quarantine due to exposure. Critical point for Bay Mills over the next few weeks with the virus.
— Meeting soon over when possible vaccination is available and how it will be distributed in the future.
— Northern Light is getting a positive response, grand opening went well.
— Line 5 consultation held last week, went well. State and federal agencies attended.
— Discussion about wolves and their status as feds delist.
  Tribal Manager Rachel Burtt
— Hired Tara Parrish as new tribal grants coordinator.
November 2020

Bay Mills News

— Transportation program being pushed back due to level changes, tentative to Nov. 23.— Met with solid waste committee, had discussions about expanding services to community, such as freon removal from appliances for proper disposal.
— A lot of purchases made from CRF funds, must be expended by year end. Working to make sure we stay in compliance with changes, processes, etc.
— With with fire program to reassess their process, game plan about proceeding in the future about compliance regarding billing/funding, etc.
— CRF: May reallocate some funds that we are not able to spend. Will roll those into PPE program likely.
— Met with public safety and legal over agenda policies, discussion in meeting.
— Level change correspondence done with departments.
— Projects: Maintenance building going up and should be done by year end.
— Economic Relief funds processed and sent to membership.
— NLCC grand opening went well.

Human Resource Director Ken Perron
— Still working on tech issues with Kronos. Data extraction has issues. Shooting to have it all done by the end of the year.
— Open enrollment working on- possibly to be done by Zoom.
— Busy with COVID policies and changes, providing guidance to departments.

BMRC General Manager Richard LeBlanc
— Restrictions made to services due to move to Level 4. Reduction in customers. Look at staffing levels.
— Some people will be laid off as there will be no work for certain departments. For examples, no bar services means no staffing.
— Projects going on- some issues with getting equipment delivered. Back Bay and Sacy’s won’t be done until after the new year is what contractors are saying.

Old Business

New Business
— Approval of Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan and Resolution No. 20-11-9A: annual BIA plan requirement. This is for three years. Approved.
— Approval of Bay Mills Public Safety Use of Force and No-Knock Policy: This is a warrant policy. This is policy of BMPD, not a tribal law. This does not guide how warrants are given, they must be done by tribal judge. Ron Carrick put together the policy that is required for accreditation for Michigan Police Chiefs. No knock warrants are not common place. Under the place BMPD would only seek this in the event there is information that the subject poses immediate danger to BMPD. In Carrick’s past police experience of 30+ years, he has done only a handful in his career at other areas. Approved.
— Acceptance of $822,730 from IHS for Medical Equipment: Grant funding Approved.
— Acceptance of DOJ Victim Set Aside Grant- $694,698 Approved.
— Resolution 20-11-09B Waiver of Sovereign Immunity First Nations Contract: Contract with health center. They will help health center provide Telehealth services. Approved.
— Resolution 20-11-09C Waiver of Sovereign Immunity DSGW Contract: They are going to design the new Boys & Girls Club facility. Approved.
— Resolution 20-11-09D Waiver of Sovereign Immunity Cooperative Agreement Trails: For Farmer’s Market program, agreement with Sault EDC to get money for program.
— Policy Exception: Northern Light Security Guard Position (tribal member with extensive security experience) They interviewed for one position but fits much better for unposted position of security supervisor. They will help write the security policy and procedures. Time is of the essence for the NLCC operation.
— Reaffirmation of Poll Votes: Approved.

Tribal Member Request
— Member would like to address tribal code that pertains to ORV operation on the road. Nothing about adults and driver’s license in the code. Lakeshore Drive is under county jurisdiction for road rules. Minors need to have a safety certificate. On trails you do not have to have a license to run the trails, but you cannot have a license suspended. Matter to be discussed further.

The next meeting of the Bay Mills Executive Council will take place on Monday, Nov. 23 at 3 p.m.

Bay Mills Executive Council members were on hand to cut the ribbon at Northern Light Cannabis Co., the first tribally-owned dispensary in the state. Grand opening took place on Nov. 6.
By Rich Manieri


The media needs Donald Trump and vice versa. What will they do without each other? We can only speculate.

CNN will have to radically change its entire programming schedule and return to actually covering the news. Remember that? Those were the days, before the 24/7 “10-reasons-why-we-hate-Donald-Trump” format.

What will become of CNN? What of Jim Acosta, Brian Stelter, Chris Cuomo and friends? For goodness sake, Jake Tapper and Van Jones cried on live TV when the network announced Biden had won the election. Aside from demonstrating a shocking absence of objectivity on what is supposed to be a news program, this outpouring of emotion shows me that these folks are in for some serious withdrawal.

It’s fine to be part of the anti-Trump resistance, but what happens after your nemesis rides off into the Mar-a-Lago sunset? The French resistance faced the same problem with the German army after World War II. “Good. They’re finally gone. Now what?”

Fact checkers for TV and social media will be hard-pressed to justify their existence. For that matter, the fact checking industry as a whole is going to take quite a hit. Remember, fact checking wasn’t really a job until Trump became president.

The media will have to get out of the polling business, if it was ever seriously in it in the first place. I’m pretty sure I could come up with a more accurate poll in Wisconsin than did the Washington Post, which had Biden winning the state by 17 points. Either that’s an epic miscalculation or the poll was intentionally weighted and a not-so-transparent attempt to suppress the vote. Neither choice is comforting.

The Boston Globe, a week prior to the election, offered a dire prophesy on its opinion page.

“Without Trumpstalement, cable news will largely die.” The end? Oh, the irony.

Let’s face it. Trump was the best thing that ever happened to cable news outlets and once he’s gone they’re not going to know what to do without him.

Trump was a nonstop story. The media chronicled everything he did, said and tweeted. Trump didn’t make news – he was news. The president and the media took turns baiting each other and neither could ever resist the chum in the water. Sweet, sweet chum.

I can already tell reporters are having a hard time letting go. President-elect Biden has had a couple of press conferences and the questions were mostly about Trump. In Biden’s first presser after election night, one reporter asked him, “If President Trump is watching, what would you say to him?”

Obsessions never end well. Ask Glenn Close’s character in “Fatal Attraction,” though she didn’t go down – or under, as was the case – without a fight.

For Trump’s part, he clearly doesn’t want to leave the White House. I’m not sure what he plans on doing Jan. 20, short of hiding in an armoire. Maybe Dr. Jill should do a quick sweep for former presidents before the new one makes himself at home. I know Joe jogged to the podium before his victory speech but the man is pushing 80. We don’t need Trump popping out of a wardrobe in the middle of the night to surprise him.

And what about Trump? Maybe no one else has noticed, but he seems to have a resigned, forlorn look on his face these days, almost as if he’s staring out the window in an Ingmar Bergman film. What will there be to tweet about without fake news? “Got 18 holes in today. Melania made grilled cheese for lunch.” Sad.

I suppose if we’re all honest with ourselves, we’ll miss the daily Trump/media cabaret. We’ll miss the back and forth, the bi-play, the tug of war. We like a fight, whether we’re willing to admit it or not. I can remember, years ago, there was talk of banning boxing. And here we are. Not only was traditional prizefighting not banned, we came up with something even more violent – cage fighting.

The reason men and women beat each other to a pulp in cages and, more important, the reason people will pay to watch them do it, is because it appeals to our base nature. Sure, the combatants are getting something out of it – money, adrenaline rush, notoriety. But the rest of us can’t look away. It’s brutal and violent and relatively pointless but we’re all getting something out of it. Otherwise, it wouldn’t exist.

Can the media and Trump really live without each other? Can we live without them both? I’m not sure but it might be worth a try. Copyright 2020 Rich Manieri, distributed by Cagle Cartoons newspaper syndicate.

Rich Manieri is a Philadelphia-born journalist and author. He is currently a professor of journalism at Asbury University in Kentucky. You can reach him at manieri2@gmail.com.
Sheriff’s Dept. Annual Food Drive to be held on Dec. 5

SAULT STE. MARIE — Chippewa County Commissioner Scott Shackleton and Sheriff Michael Bitnar have set Saturday, Dec. 5, as the date for the annual food drive.

“We live in a very generous community;” said Bitnar, “and this year there are a lot of people in a difficult situation because of COVID.”

The annual event runs from 9am-5pm in the parking lot at Pat’s Foods and the Walmart parking lot. People need only look for the Sheriff vehicles as many deputies from the Sheriff’s Office also donate their time to help collect donations.

“Not only is food welcome,” Shackleton said; “but new toys as well. We will be taking precautions to do it properly with COVID in mind.”

People donating are urged to stay in their vehicle and just pop their trunk. Volunteers will collect the donations.

The annual event has collected tons of food over the years all of which stays in the area. Donations are distributed locally to the needy through the Salvation Army.

This will be the 22nd year of the event which has become an annual tradition.

Anyone wishing to contribute can drop off frozen turkeys or hams, non-perishable foods, new toys, or checks made out to the Salvation Army. If you would like your donation picked up, call 906-635-6390.

If you have any questions please contact: Scott Shackleton - 635-1232 or Mike Bitnar - 635-6390.

Community embraces new project— The Spirit Stone Trail

BAY MILLS — The Spirit Stone Trail is now painted and includes signage with a representation of the local Ojibwe culture. This project, made possible with support from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, includes a mural designed by local artist Jalyn LeBlanc and trail signs created by local artist Tamie Munz. Next time you are walking or biking on the trail, be sure to keep an eye out for the new artwork.

This artwork is based on the, The Legend of the Lady Slipper, as told by a local tribal citizen:

“Long ago, when a small village was suffering from disease in the heart of winter, a young woman ran out into the night to find medicine for her people. Dashing through the forest, with starlight at her heels, the snow and ice cut her feet which bled with every step until she found the medicine she needed and returned home. The next spring, beautiful lady slippers bloomed from every spot her injured feet touched the ground. With guidance from the Creator, lady slippers took on the shape of moccasins as an eternal symbol of her sacrifice and bravery.”
LANSING — On Nov. 13, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Department of Natural Resources Director Dan Eichinger notified Enbridge that the 1953 easement allowing it to operate dual pipelines in the Straits of Mackinac to transport petroleum and other products is being revoked and terminated. They also filed a lawsuit asking the Ingham County Circuit Court to recognize the validity of this action. The state is revoking the easement for violation of the public trust doctrine, given the unreasonable risk that continued operation of the dual pipelines poses to the Great Lakes.

Moreover, the state is terminating the easement based on Enbridge’s persistent and incurable violations of the easement’s terms and conditions.

The notice requires Enbridge to cease operations of the dual pipelines in the Straits by May of 2021, allowing for an orderly transition that protects Michigan’s energy needs over the coming months.

“Here in Michigan, the Great Lakes define our borders, but they also define who we are as people. Enbridge has routinely refused to take action to protect our Great Lakes and the millions of Americans who depend on them for clean drinking water and good jobs. They have repeatedly violated the terms of the 1953 easement by ignoring structural problems that put our Great Lakes and our families at risk,” said Governor Whitmer. “Most importantly, Enbridge has imposed on the people of Michigan an unacceptable risk of a catastrophic oil spill in the Great Lakes that could devastate our economy and way of life. That’s why we’re taking action now, and why I will continue to hold accountable anyone who threatens our Great Lakes and fresh water.”

The Great Lakes are home to 21% of the world’s fresh surface water. They supply drinking water for 48 million people, including 5 million here in Michigan, and support 1.3 million jobs that generate $82 billion in wages annually across the US. In Michigan, the Great Lakes support over 350,000 jobs. An oil spill in the Great Lakes would put families and small businesses across the region at risk.

“After spending more than 15 months reviewing Enbridge’s record over the last 67 years, it is abundantly clear that today’s action is necessary. Enbridge’s historic failures and current non-compliance present too great a risk to our Great Lakes and the people who depend upon them,” said DNR Director Dan Eichinger. “Our number one priority is protecting the Great Lakes and we will continue to work with our partners across Michigan in pursuit of that objective.”

The state’s action to revoke and terminate the 1953 easement for the dual pipelines through the Straits of Mackinac does not prevent Enbridge from continuing to seek the necessary legal approvals to construct a tunnel.

The state is revoking the 1953 easement for violation of the public trust doctrine. This body of law recognizes the State of Michigan as the “trustee” of the public’s rights in the Great Lakes and lays upon the state legal obligations to protect those rights from any impairment. The state found that the 1953 easement violated the public trust doctrine from its inception because the easement does not make the necessary public trust findings. Moreover, the state also found that the continued use of the dual pipelines cannot be reconciled with the public’s rights in the Great Lakes and the State’s duty to protect them. Transporting millions of gallons of petroleum products each day through two 67-year old pipelines that lie exposed along the entire span of a busy shipping channel presents an extraordinary and unacceptable risk. The dual pipelines are vulnerable to anchor strikes, similar dangerous impacts, and the inherent risks of pipeline operations.

As recent events have confirmed, this threat is very real. For example, in April 2018, the pipelines were struck and dented in three different locations by an anchor inadvertently dropped and dragged by a commercial vessel. Then, in June 2020, Enbridge disclosed that the pipelines had again been struck sometime in 2019 by anchors or cables deployed by nearby vessels, damaging pipeline coatings and severely damaging a pipeline support. Four of the five vessels potentially responsible for the impacts were operated by Enbridge’s own contractors.

In addition, the state is terminating the 1953 easement because Enbridge has repeatedly and incurably violated its terms. The easement requires Enbridge to exercise due care in operating the pipelines, and also requires Enbridge to satisfy numerous specific conditions, such as ensuring that the pipelines are physically supported at least every 75 feet, are covered by a multi-layer coating to prevent corrosion and other physical damage, and are within certain curvature limitations. Enbridge, however, has failed for decades to meet these obligations under the easement, and these failures persist and cannot be cured. For these and other reasons, the state is revoking and terminating the 1953 easement.

This action to revoke and terminate the 1953 easement is the culmination of a careful review of Enbridge’s compliance with the easement, the threats posed by the continued operation of the dual pipelines, and the state’s energy supply. On June 7, 2019, the governor issued Executive Order 2019-14, creating the UP Energy Task Force to assess the region’s energy needs and alternative sources of supply. The Task Force issued a report on April 17, 2020. Moreover, on June 27, 2019, the governor directed the DNR to undertake a comprehensive review of Enbridge’s compliance with the 1953 easement. That review is now complete and supports this action.
Iron Mountain VA encourages veterans to leave smoking

IRON MOUNTAIN — The VA is encouraging Veterans to take the first step this month to stop smoking as part of the annual Great American Smokeout to improve their physical and mental health by combining cessation counseling with other VA clinical resources and support.

Research shows behavioral counseling can significantly improve one’s chances of quitting and combining counseling and medication works better than medication or counseling alone.

“The Great American Smokeout is a starting point on a journey to a smoke free life,” said Jim Rice, Director at the Iron Mountain VA Medical Center. “The VA has excellent, proven resources to help you quit smoking.”

VA’s smoking counseling programs are one of the most effective tools available for Veterans who want to permanently stop smoking. VA health care providers can help Veterans explore the role tobacco plays in their daily routine, including the activities or situations that trigger someone to use tobacco products. These triggers can include talking on the phone, drinking coffee or alcohol or feeling bored or stressed. VA providers work with Veterans to develop strategies for coping with those triggers and to tailor plans for quitting that will fit into each Veteran’s everyday life.

In addition to counseling, VA provides other services designed to help Veterans stop smoking, including prescription medications, nicotine-replacement products like gum and patches and resources such as Quit VET and SmokefreeVET.

For more information about tobacco cessation, visit www.mentalhealth.va.gov/quit-tobacco and/or contact Dr. Brenda Reed, a certified tobacco treatment specialist at the Iron Mountain VA, at (906) 774-3300, toll free (800) 215-8262, extension 32774.

LSSU seeks nominations for banished words list

SAULT STE. MARIE—Listen up! Memo in the public interest: wordsmiths, eschew yadda, yadda, yadda.

Adults over 21, baby boomers, yuppies, Generation X, dawgs, divas, dudes, females, new kids on the block, Mr. Moms, non-essential government workers, mavericks: take it to the next level. Conceptualize viable alternatives; prioritize doable sea changes; tweet teachable moments. Join the conversation! Curate thought leaders. Revisit all except impactful factoids, world-class talking points, breaking news—literally. Drill down on apparent fake news, clearly ambiguous truthiness, dead serious conventional wisdom, emotional trickeration, fuzzy math, false pretenses, and more! Double down on skill sets. Embrace user-friendly mandates, big time. Now, more than ever, disenfranchise angst. Terminal cuteness? Don’t even go there. Bling? Walk it back. Blowback by and large serves no useful purpose. Wrap your head around optics. Bottom line, leverage epic takeaways. More importantly, at the end of the day, empower classic, awesome a-ha moments. Get with the program! Git-er-done!

Simply stated, all of the above words and phrases—along with the two-word expression that begins this sentence, plus the first line of the headline of this press release—have been banished by Lake Superior State University at some point since the mid-1970s. (Even “vis-à-vis” in the parenthetical portion of the top of this presser and that latter informal noun are LSSU phraseological no-nos.)

Why? Because LSSU has compiled an annual Banished Words List since 1976 to uphold, protect, and support excellence in language by encouraging everyone to avoid words and terms that are overused, redundant, oxymoronic, clichéd, illogical, nonsensical—and otherwise ineffective, baffling, or irritating.

The deadline to submit entries for consideration for banishment for 2021 is 8 a.m. Eastern Standard Time on Monday, Nov. 30 @ lssu.edu/banishedwords2021.

For more information about LSSU’s Banished Words List, go online to lssu.edu/traditions/banishedwords/.
LANSING — The Sault Ste. Marie Commercial District, settled in 1668 by European immigrants but occupied by Native Americans thousands of years earlier, is worthy of recognition for its commercial history, ethnic culture and architecture, according to the National Park Service.


The Soo Commercial District is in the heart of the city, in Chippewa County in the eastern Upper Peninsula. Sault Ste. Marie is the oldest city in Michigan, and one of the oldest in the United States. Throughout its history, flags of several nations have flown over the city, according to the Sault Ste. Marie Pure Michigan website.

There is still debate on the exact meaning of “Sault,” but scholars believe it’s from early French dialect that translates into jump, referring to the place where one needs to “jump” into the St. Marys River due to the location of the city.

The commercial district “is significant for its commercial history and its architecture. It has a significant role in ethnic heritage, entertainment, and recreation and is the center of the local county government,” said Todd Walsh, the National Register coordinator in Michigan’s State Historic Preservation Office.

The district contains 151 buildings and structures that represent the social and economic trends, culture and architectural significance prevalent in the U.P in the late 1800s and early 1900s, according to the letter nominating the site for recognition.

“In the downtown commercial district and adjacent buildings that make up the Soo, there were 104 buildings that contributed to the historic significance of the district and 42 that didn’t contribute. Five of those buildings were already placed on the list,” Walsh said.

The National Register is an official list of the nation’s historic places that are worthy of preservation. It’s part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify and evaluate history.

“The nation’s official list are places important to history. The architecture, connection to a person, the way they tell information about the past and history are what makes places able to be nominated to the National Register,” Walsh said.

To be considered for the list, sites must be remarkable in “American history, architecture, culture and archaeology, while being connected to events that have made contribution to trends in history or linked with persons in the past,” according to the National Park Service.

“After the National Register nominates a place, a federal form is filled out and sent to the National Park Service,” which decides whether the place or building goes on the pending list,” Walsh said.

Sometimes a community nominates its district or individual buildings for the National Register.

“The National Register of Historic Places is a bottom-up program. In some cases, the town participates in a certified local program, a program where communities wish to emphasize preservation in their residential and commercial area,” said Jim Gabbert, an historian at the National Register.

The Soo has a rich history. Over 2,000 years ago, Native Americans arrived, and the city has been occupied by Euro-Americans for 352 years.

The Soo has a rich history. Over 2,000 years ago, Native Americans arrived, and the city has been occupied by Euro-Americans for 352 years.

The strategic location and natural resources along the Saint Marys River made it a highly valued spot and resulted in conflict among groups.

The French and British fought over the area and trading rights with Native Americans in the 1700s.

After the War of 1812, settlement in the area increased when the border disagreement between Canada and the U.S. was resolved at the St. Marys River.

The city grew due to the location by the river, and copper boomed in the 1840s. The boom in the 1880s and 1890s led to more buildings being constructed.

The newly recognized district encompasses early homes, as well as the historic business area. There are commercial blocks, church buildings and residences that have been converted to commercial use.

A substantial number of buildings are associated with different ethnic groups, such as Italians and Greeks, according to the Sault Ste. Marie history website.

Approved properties may be eligible for federal grants and tax credits, according to the National Park Service. That allows listed sites to be taken into consideration in planning federally funded projects, while receiving historic preservation grants.

Gabbert said, “In order to achieve the historic tax credit, the rehabilitation has to follow the secretary of Interior’s standards which allows the building to be brought into a new use while preserving its essential historic character.”

Owners are allowed to make changes to their properties without being removed from the list, as long as they don’t take away the historic meaning, he said.

“If an owner wants the federal credit, they have to follow the guidelines. If they don’t follow the rules, they don’t get the credit, but they are allowed to do whatever they want to their buildings while remaining on the list,” Gabbert said.

Many communities use their National Register listing for historic districts as part of their overall marketing strategy.

“There have been many studies in numerous states where they look at the economic impact of historic preservation, and it has a positive impact and heritage tourism is a major part of that,” Gabbert said.

Walsh said, “Places on the National Register hold a sense of pride and integrity, and listings are often used to promote tourism as honoring their heritage that resides there.”

“The National Register doesn’t offer any protection, but it’s an honorific program,” Walsh said.
Michigan universities lose $1.2 billion to the pandemic

By ZHOLDAS ORISBAYEV
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

LANSING — Enrollment is down in almost every public university in Michigan, causing senior administrators to cut payroll to hold the line on tuition increases and meet new costs caused by the pandemic.

“We expect $1.2 billion in financial hits to the budgets of (Michigan’s) 15 state universities for the fiscal year as a result of the pandemic,” said Bob Murphy, the chief policy officer of the Michigan Association of State Universities.

On average, 22% of the universities’ budgets comes from state funding and the other 78% comes from student tuition, according to the group that represents the state’s public universities.

“This is a national trend,” Murphy said. “For several decades, states are providing less and less funding for public universities, and university budgets rely enormously on tuition payments.”

The unexpected pandemic has university administrators cutting pay, laying off employees and deferring construction to meet new budget limits.

“The state universities are taking measures like the elimination of nonessential expenditures, hiring and salary freeze, voluntary staff furloughs and reduced hours, postponement of construction projects, reserve funds freeze, and reallocation of a portion of college/unit budgets to meet financial challenges brought by the pandemic,” Murphy said.

The state government kept flat funding to public universities of $1.47 billion in the fiscal year of 2021, according to the association. But enrollment declines represent new funding struggles.

The state universities in northern Michigan experienced a slide in enrollment due to closed borders with Canada as the majority of international students at those institutions are Canadians. And other major institutions, such as the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University, received fewer international students due to the difficulties of arriving in the U.S.

Fourteen of Michigan’s 15 public universities report enrollment drops from 2% to 7%, according to data gathered by Capital News Service.

Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie has experienced a slight decline of 2.8%, which is 55 fewer students in overall enrollment compared with fall 2019.

University President Rodney S. Hanley said his school’s enrollment increased in two areas: 5.6% for first-time full-time students and 30% for transfer students, despite an overall enrollment decline.

“We switched to online-only teaching for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester and the summer 2020 term and we, unfortunately, had to lay off 72 staff members,” Hanley said. “The overwhelming majority were called back to work by the end of summer as we began to transition to face-to-face teaching again for the fall 2020 semester.”

Saginaw Valley State University has 119 fewer international students this year, which accounted for more than half of the school’s total revenue decline.

“We project a deficit of $8.7 million in the general fund for the current fiscal year,” said J.J. Boehm, the interim executive director of university communications.

Housing, dining and other auxiliary operations are projected to see a $6 million revenue drop, he said. At the same time, costs increase for personal protection equipment, technology and other items are needed to respond to the pandemic.

The university froze tuition, recognizing the financial challenges facing many students and families, he said. And it postponed some construction projects and deferred some maintenance. About 36 faculty and staff positions were eliminated, most of which were vacant and senior administrators agreed to pay cuts of 5% to 10%.

Grand Valley State University expects to spend approximately $16 million in COVID-related costs despite the revenue lost from enrollment, and that figure doesn’t include federal CARES Act funding, according to Dottie Barnes, the associate director of news at the university.

The university president donated 10% of her salary and all vice-presidents and deans donated 5% of their salaries to the Student Support Fund to help students with tuition.

Eastern Michigan University froze salaries for all administrative employees and implemented a voluntary employee retirement incentive program.

The University of Michigan made early estimates of financial impacts of COVID-19 and losses of up to $100 million, and the impact varied across different parts of the institution, according to the office of the Vice President for Communications.

In April, Mark S. Schlissel, the president of the university, predicted that it might face losses of $400 million to $1 billion through the end of the calendar year.

Michigan Medicine, the academic medical center at the U-M, lost around $230 million in the past fiscal year due to the pandemic, according to Rick Fitzgerald, director of public affairs and internal communications.

Only a few universities decided to avoid wage reduction, including the U-M.

“Wage freezes for this year were implemented across the board, except for bargained-for employees who have contractual pay increases,” Fitzgerald said.

Michigan State University experienced close to a 900-student enrollment decline, which impacted the university’s budget and contributing to a $54 million decline compared to last year’s revenue.

Samuel L. Stanley, the MSU president, wrote in a letter to the university community in mid-October that the first-year student enrollment decreased to 8,228, down 342 students from last year.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, Wayne State University admitted more students than in fall 2019.

Fall undergraduate enrollment increased 2.3% compared with fall 2019, and Black undergraduate enrollment for first-time college students went up for 58.7%, according to an Aug. 19 statement by the university administration.

Matthew Lockwood, the associate vice president of university communications at Wayne State, said that the university hasn’t approved the budget and couldn’t share any details on it yet.

Murphy said, “All state universities are doing their best to encourage students to continue their study and attract more prospective students to keep enrollment high in winter 2021 and, at the same time, they have prepared for the worst case scenario of revenue decline from enrollment.”.
Walking On ___________________________________

Arbutus A. Whitworth


Arbutus was born on January 2, 1938, in Wawa, Ontario, Canada. As a young high schooler, Arbutus worked at Bay Cliff Health Camp and learned that she wanted a career helping disadvantaged people. She attended Michigan College of Mining and Technology (LSSU), University of Michigan, and attended the Mayo Clinic graduate program to complete her studies.

Following graduation, she went to work at War Memorial Hospital heading up the Physical Therapy Department, followed by years of work for the Chippewa County Health Department. In retirement, she helped the Salvation Army food pantry and in other areas.

Arbutus loved music (especially band) and played in the Salvation band, and Soo High Band and Orchestra. She ensured her boy's ability to compete in hockey and baseball and was very vocal in doing so. She loved flower gardening, ceramics, and crafting, the Redwings, baseball, and especially hockey. Arbutus was very compassionate in helping anybody and everybody.

Arbutus is survived by sons and daughters-in-law: Herbert (Bridget) Turley of Mishawaka, IN and Robert (Wanita) Turley of Brimley. Grandchildren: Herbert, Jr., Shauna, and Courtney and great-grandchildren: Braelynn, Liam, and Isiah, with one more expected soon. Also surviving are siblings: William (Geraldine) Ball of Sault Ste. Marie, MI, Norman (Judy) Ball of lower Michigan, Richard (Edna) Ball of Pensacola, FL, Patricia (George) Randall of Oberlin, Ohio, and Carol Stout of Sioux City, Iowa.

Arbutus was preceded in death by her parents and her husband: John Whitworth.

The family will receive friends and guests at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020, from 10 a.m. until time of services. Services will be conducted at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home at 11 a.m. with Major Gail and Bob Miga, of the Salvation Army officiating. A graveside committal will follow at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens.

Condolences may be left at www.csmulder.com.

Theresa Ann (Swailes) DenBeste

Theresa Ann (Swailes) DenBeste, 90, and longtime Marquette resident passed away on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020 at the Marquette County Medical Care Facility where she had resided for the last four years.

Theresa was born in Brimley, Michigan on July 30, 1930 to Charles and Mary Frances Swailes. She graduated from Brimley High School. On Sept. 5, 1953, she married Wayne DenBeste and together they raised five children. In the mid 70s Theresa was one of the first people in the Upper Peninsula to have open-heart surgery and she was one of the founding members of the Open Heart Club. The medical team certainly did an awesome job!

Theresa spent her life caring for her loved ones and getting together with family and friends. The majority of the gatherings at the DenBeste home involved a large meal, which seemed to effortlessly appear. Theresa never figured out how to cook for just herself and Wayne. Theresa enjoyed walking with her friends at Presque Isle, the Park Cemetery and in inclement weather the Superior Dome. She also enjoyed all of her children's and grandchildren's activities. As a hockey sister, mother and grandmother she was particularly tied to the sport. She spent countless hours at the Pular, Palestra and Lakeview Arenas. She continuously had a child or grandchild in Marquette Junior Hockey for over 50 years. Theresa could be found watching games well into her 80's.

Survivors include her husband, Wayne DenBeste, daughter, Deann (Al) O'Dell, son, David DenBeste, daughter, Patti (Mike) Rizzio, son, Dirk (Michelle) DenBeste, nine-grandchildren; Krista (Andrew) Schupp, Kari (Bill) Wiesner, Jenna O'Dell, Andrew Contois, Adam Contois, Katie (Andrew) Chernivchan, Lindsey (Nathan) Lee, Eric Rizzio, Spencer DenBeste, and six great-great children; Sawyer Schupp, Quinn Schupp, Ian Wiesner, Bode Wiesner, Weston Lee, and Madalyn Lee.

Preceding Theresa in death were her parents, brother, Charlie Swailes, sister, Katherine Hopper and her beloved daughter, Mary DenBeste Contois.

Due to COVID-19, no service will take place at this time. A celebration of life will take place at a later date. Theresa will be laid to rest at Park Cemetery in Marquette.

The family would like to express their appreciation for the staff at the Marquette County Medical Care Facility for their exceptional care of Theresa over the last four years.

Please share a memory with Theresa's family by visiting her webpage at www.fassbenderswansonhansen.com

The Fassbender Swanson Hansen Funeral and Cremation Services is serving the family.
**LTC offers nature preserve options for both hunters and non-hunters**

Little Traverse Conservancy provides opportunities to get out in the woods on lands that are open and lands that are closed to hunting.

Interactive maps of Conservancy-owned nature preserves can be found at www.landtrust.org or on the free nature preserve app, LTC Explorer (Google or Apple app stores). A printed preserve map was updated this October and is also available online or at our office near Harbor Springs.

Dogs are allowed on most Conservancy preserves but they must be kept on a leash. Please respect that there may be children or people who are afraid of dogs on the trails and obey this statewide law. Please note that dogs that are legally engaged in hunting on lands enrolled in the Commercial Forestry Act are not required to be on a leash. In addition, the majority of hunting occurs at dawn and dusk.

For more information about hunting on preserves (including a list of preserves where hunting is permitted), visit www.landtrust.org and click on “Explore” > “Hunting.” This page will walk you through a downloadable permission slip that is required when hunting on a Conservancy preserve. You may print this page or save it to your phone, but must have it with you while hunting on an LTC nature preserve.

**Recommended preserves (and assist projects) across the Conservancy’s five-county service area that are closed to hunting are listed below.**

### Charlevoix County
- Nathan “Barry” Driggers
- The Hill
- North Point Natural Area
- Charles A. Ransom
- Raven Ridge
- Rogers Family Homestead
- Portions of St. Clair Lake/Six Mile Lake Natural Area
- Wisser-Saworski

### Cheboygan County
- Agnes S. Andreae (*hunting is allowed on adjacent Boyd B. Banwell*)
- Chaboiganing (*hunting is allowed on adjacent Indian Point*)
- Duncan Bay
- Adolph and Margaret Gauthier
- Hildner-Beare/Waubun
- Seven Springs
- Sturgeon Bay
- Vivian VanCampen

### Beaver Island
- Barney’s Lake
- Little Sand Bay
- George and Althea Petritz

### Chippewa County
- DeTour Peninsula
- Vermilion Point

### Mackinac County
- William B. Derby
- Mackinac Bay

### Emmet County
- Philip J. Braun North
- Bubbling Springs
- Sally & Art Hailand, Jr./Helstrom Family
- The Headlands (*owned by Emmet County*)
- Ray Johnston
- Allan and Virginia McCune
- Naas, Mauger, Raunecker, & Leslie
- Oden Island
- Round Lake
- Offield Family Viewlands
- Waldron Fen
- Woollam Family

*A free nature preserve and trail app – LTC Explorer – is available for download. For more information, visit [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org) or call 231.347.0991.*
Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society works to protect structure from Mother Nature

With waters rising, Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society moved into action to protect the historical site. The group began working North Shore Marine Terminal out of Escanaba to perform the emergency winter ice protection project. After USFS Hiawatha and state approval, and with $250,000 in funds in hand from an anonymous donor, work began immediately on the project to shore up the lighthouse. The rock, brought over by barge, will protect the structure from winter ice and spring storms. Round Island Lighthouse was constructed in 1895 and sits along the edge of the Straits of Mackinac, across from Mackinac Island. Although the lighthouse is no longer used for navigational purposes, it is considered a landmark to those who reside and visit the U.P.

Photos courtesy of Round Island Lighthouse Preservation Society.
Project begins testing sewage for COVID-19 across Michigan

By TAYLOR HAEelterman
Capital News Service

LANSING — Michigan is searching the state’s sewers for the virus that causes COVID-19.

The $10 million pilot project could serve as an early alarm of spikes in the disease. And it represents the first time a coordinated statewide network of testing labs will be used to detect the virus in wastewater.

“When people become infected with the virus one of the first things that happens is they excrete the virus in feces in fairly large amounts,” said Shannon Briggs, a toxicologist with the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy and a coordinator of the program. “This happens before any other symptoms typically are present.”

The results will be shared with local health departments so that they know where to keep an eye out for outbreaks.

The network consists of labs at universities, health agencies and wastewater treatment facilities, said Erin Dreelin, the associate director at the Michigan State University Center for Water Sciences who coordinates the program with Briggs.

Since Oct. 1 some labs have completed training and begun analyzing samples. Others have just completed training and will start analyzing samples soon.

Researchers learn the same equipment and testing methods so that they can compare results, Briggs said. Even slight variations can be problems for comparing results across the state.

“It’s kind of like making chocolate chip cookies,” Briggs said. “We could all have our own recipe on how to make a chocolate chip cookie and in the end, you’re going to get a chocolate chip cookie.

“But they’re going to be a little bit different.”

That’s where Joan Rose comes in. She leads the Michigan State University lab that does the training.

The wastewater is collected in a gallon jug, Rose said. At the lab, the protein from the virus particles is extracted from the sample. Researchers use a process that copies the protein so they can count it. That helps them understand how much of the virus was in the sample.

Rose’s lab in April began testing wastewater from the MSU campus and surrounding community. Researchers found the virus and could correlate its presence with the number of cases of COVID-19 reported nearby.

“We’re gaining more confidence about how we sample and get the results out quickly,” she said. “And now we’re trying to learn more about how to translate the virus signal back to what’s going on with the infection in the community.”

The virus in wastewater is no longer contagious. When it passes through the colon the virus comes out appearing to be damaged in some way so that it is no longer infectious, Rose said.

“There could still be some small percentages of virus that are alive in feces and wastewater, but it must be so low that we can’t detect it at this stage,” she said. “So that was good news because that means the virus is there, but it’s dead for the most part.”

Other labs elsewhere have begun monitoring wastewater to track the virus, but what is unique to Michigan is the connected approach to the problem, Briggs said. Wastewater testing in Michigan has been sporadic. It’s based on funding and access to equipment.

But this program brings local health departments, labs and partners in the wastewater industry into one collaborative statewide network.

The researchers could take this connected approach because many of the labs are part of a preexisting network focused on monitoring fecal contamination at beaches, Dreelin said.

The equipment and training can monitor anything that has DNA or RNA, two molecules present in nearly all living things, Briggs said. There is an unlimited ability for the labs to monitor wastewater for other diseases and substances after the project’s completion.
LSSU campus dealing with water infrastructure issues

SAULT STE. MARIE — While other universities were forced to close due to a state mandate regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, Lake Superior State University had already closed campus for another issue. Earlier this month, two water infrastructure issues forced LSSU to transition to virtual learning for the final two weeks of the fall 2020 semester. The change went into effect early evening on Nov. 9, upon discovery of the problems.

“We are experiencing two water infrastructure issues: one in an academic building, Crawford Hall, and one in a residence building, Osborn Hall. Although our Physical Plant staff is working diligently on repairs, the Osborn Hall issue does not have a definitive resolution date yet, leaving it with only cold water service in the interim,” said LSSU President Dr. Rodney S. Hanley. “Given the totality of our current situation—that is, our proximity to the completion of the semester and the ongoing health and safety considerations related to COVID-19—we have made the difficult decision to transition to virtual delivery for the balance of the fall 2020 semester, including exams.”

Residence halls and dining services will remain open until semester’s end on Nov. 21, maintaining previously published dates. LSSU is providing temporary relocation support for Osborn Hall occupants who need to stay on-campus.

“As previously demonstrated, LSSU is fully prepared for online instruction,” added Hanley. “Last March, when we switched to virtual classes for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester and the summer terms, we had purchased additional laptops, added online bandwidth, bought video software, and conducted training on how to teach remotely. Things turned out as well as could be expected.”

That said, because students and their families overwhelmingly prefer an on-campus experience, and because the Upper Peninsula has not been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as much as other parts of the U.S., LSSU intends to return to face-to-face instruction for the spring 2021 semester.

In one preventative measure adopted earlier, LSSU will delay the start of instruction until Jan. 19, with spring break occurring the week prior. As had happened in the fall 2020 semester, LSSU again will stagger move-in processes for new and returning students in spring 2021 to minimize the number of people on campus at any one time as well as limit the number of people in each family allowed to unpack. LSSU will request that all students, faculty, and staff participate in voluntary testing clinics during move-in week as well as in ongoing testing of asymptomatic individuals for community monitoring.

LSSU upholds its Four Pillars of Laker Safety—social distancing, mask/face covering, sanitization, and personal/social responsibility—and promotes its “Get Here, Stay Here” social bubble. These protocols, plus related tactics such as free drive-thru rapid COVID-19 testing and free masks for everyone on campus, follow guidelines and recommendations of the Michigan governor’s office, the Chippewa County Health Department, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Throughout the pandemic, LSSU has partnered with the Michigan Army National Guard, the Chippewa County Health Department, War Memorial Hospital, and the Bay Mills Health Center to supplement regular on-campus rapid COVID-19 testing for campus and neighbors.

Kewadin Casinos announces closure due to pandemic

SAULT STE. MARIE — In a continued effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 throughout Michigan, and with regard to the recent announcement by Gov. Whitmer, Kewadin Casinos will be voluntarily closing all five Kewadin Casinos for three weeks. The closures took effect at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 18; all casinos will reopen on Wednesday, Dec. 9.

Kewadin Casinos will continue to follow all health and sanitation guidelines in place as well as the current phase chart which outlines restrictions based on positivity rates in each county.

LEVEL 4

Isolated cases in Bay Mills & increasing positive test rate and new case rate in surrounding communities

Public Safety Measures

- No curfew
- Masks required for all person-to-person interactions in public
- Outdoor gatherings permitted up to 10 people (any structure with three or more enclosed walls is considered “indoors” – including garages, tents, and canopies).
- Indoor gatherings of any size prohibited involving members of more than 2 households.
- Family visitation discouraged (except for medical caregivers).

Essential Operations Open

- Bay Mart
- Bay Mills EMS (staff only)
- AOT (curb-side only)
- Four Seasons Market and Deli
- Northern Light Cannabis Co.
- Bay Mills Health Center
  - Open to medical and dental patients with restrictions based upon public health guidelines.
  - Behavioral Health open to patients, with appropriate restrictions in place to allow for distancing (including use of telehealth or large meeting spaces).
  - Traditional healing available with appropriate restrictions in place to allow for distancing (including use of other meeting spaces).
  - Dental services available with best practices restrictions.
- Bay Mills Housing Authority – maintenance staff for snow removal and emergency work orders, no person-to-person contact. Office staff limited to one person at a time to take rent payments.
- Masks required on-site
- Emergency home repairs permitted to maintain safe living conditions.
- Elders Meal Preparation (pickup and delivery only; congregate meals prohibited)
- Public Safety (staff only)
- Privately-owned establishments for curbside/drive-thru services
- Tribal Court may conduct proceedings online with essential staff on-site.
- Childcare Centers may be open with best practice restrictions.
- Education/Boys & Girls Club
  - In-person education permitted
  - Special events prohibited
  - School athletics permitted with a capacity of 40 people total (coaches, players, officials and fans) or participants, whichever is greater.
  - Special restrictions for meals
  - Facilities must be closed to public during hours of operation
  - Regular surveillance testing of adult faculty/staff required.
  - Mandatory reporting of positive cases of COVID-19 to Bay Mills Health Center within 12 hours of knowledge.
- Public Works, Maintenance, and Utility Authority
  - Masks required, as well as adherence to social distancing policies
  - Construction activities (including Public Works)
    - Outdoor construction permitted w/no person-to-person contact
    - Indoor construction permitted in unoccupied homes and tribal facilities w/no person-to-person contact

Travel Guidelines

- Travel outside of Chippewa County for official tribal business prohibited (except for public safety and emergency medical services); travel to Bay Mills Indian Community from outside of Chippewa County prohibited for official business of any entity operating on Bay Mills Indian Reservation.
- Individual travel outside of Chippewa County not recommended; 10-day quarantine advised upon return.
- Individual travel to Bay Mills from outside of Chippewa County not recommended; 10-day quarantine advised upon arrival.

CLOSURES

- Mukwa Health & Fitness Center EXCEPT:
  - Educational programming for BMCC and WMH Physical Rehabilitation.
- Public Transportation not available.
- Commodities (by appointment only)
- Tribal Administration facilities closed to public, except for appointments for treaty rights licenses, license plate renewals, tax exempt forms, and tribal enrollment services.
- Indoor dining and drinking establishments closed, except for curbside food pickup and delivery.

Bay Mills Resort & Casinos/Northern Light Cannabis Co. may open at 30% capacity

- In-restaurant drinking & dining prohibited (carry-out only; room service and in-room drinking & dining permitted)
- Drinking & smoking on gaming/retail floor prohibited
- Masks required for patrons and staff at all times
- No special events or gatherings
- In-person staff meetings of up to 8 people permitted in Horizon’s conference center, with appropriate distancing.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alberta House open by appointment
Due to the pandemic, Alberta House Arts Center is now closed except by appointment, but there is still a great show there with a lot of unique items in place. To make an appointment to see and shop, please e-mail the gallery director--olivecraig@gmail.com, or give her a call at 906-748-7574.

Bay Mart hours of operation change as of Nov. 18
Sunday - Thursday 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Only 3 customers can be in the building at once.

Four Seasons Market & Deli will have no adjustments to our operating hours. Only 6 customers can be in the building at once. Please remember masks (properly worn) are required at both facilities. And we ask you practice safe social distancing while at our facilities.

Tribal Enrollment Services hours by appointment
The Bay Mills Enrollment office will be remote at this time. The office is open Monday thru Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm. If assistance or an appointment is needed, please call Phyllis at 906.248.8131 or email her at phyllism@baymills.org..

Land Office information
The Bay Mills Land Office will be remote at this time. The office is open Monday thru Friday from 8 am to 3 p.m. If assistance or an appointment is needed, please call Della at 906.248.8124 or email her at dkeenan@baymills.org

PLEASE NOTE: Most BMIC offices are closed to the public at this time, including Tribal Administration, Accounting, Compliance, and Human Resources. Please contact the various offices for assistance and appointments.

Mukwa Health and Fitness Center provides update
The staff at the Mukwa Health and Fitness Center would like to take some time to update everyone on the standing of the gym and some of the happenings.
1st: The gym will remained closed indefinitely until we hear otherwise by the Bay Mills tribal health team or the Bay Mills Community College administration team. All parties are continuing to monitor the counties COVID-19 cases and making decisions that are for the safety of the whole community. During this time, the staff is taking the opportunity to do a deep clean and other projects.
2nd announcement: The staff is currently going through all of the membership packets that we have on file and updating our software and shredding others that are older. We are also going to ask that any member that hasn't filled out a membership packet, since we reopened in September 2020, to fill out a new membership packet. This is to ensure that the gym has the current health history and an up-to-date signed address and phone number. As well as a signed waiver form.
This will ensure that the gym and its members are up to date and ready for the new year.
Last announcement: In December, the staff will be working on getting all membership accounts straightened out during this COVID closure. We will be extending memberships and looking at ways to make sure all members are happy and do not lose out on the money they paid for the membership. We may be contacting you with options.

Bayliss Public Library announcement
Bayliss Public Library will be open for curbside services and by appointment only. They are asking that anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or anyone exposed to someone with COVID-19 to utilize their curbside services.
Call 906-632-9331 to schedule an appointment with the library. Library staff will meet you at the front entrance at your scheduled time. You will need to wear a mask securely covering your nose and mouth for the duration of your visit and asked to use hand sanitizer upon your entry.
For curbside requests please call or visit Baylisslibrary.org to search our card catalog and place a hold for your requested items or submit a curbside form request. Once you have been notified your items are available for pick up you can call the library when you are in the parking lot and staff will bring your items out to you.

Biology testing deer heads for CWD
This BMIC Biological Services Dept. will again be testing deer for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), though samples will now be collected through the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians instead of the Michigan DNR.
In exchange for turning in a deer head, you will be given a free box of copper ammunition.
Samples may be dropped either to the Sault tribe Natural Resources office (Sault- Shunk Road) or to the BMIC Conservation Office (Plantation Road), during regular hours. Both locations are listed below.
Please feel free to reach out to Gail Sanchez in Biology with any questions at 906-248-8651 or email gsanchez@baymills.org.