Northern Light Cannabis announces Nov. 6 opening

By Shannon Jones
Bay Mills News

BAY MILLS — Marijuana enthusiasts will have a new place to indulge next month, as Northern Light Cannabis Co. has announced a grand opening date of Friday, Nov. 6.

As the first tribal cannabis operation in Michigan, owned and operated by Bay Mills Indian Community, NLCC will provide residents the opportunity to purchase a variety of marijuana products at much lower prices than competitors. Products available will include flower, edibles, tinctures, and CBD oils.

NLCC is located directly off of I-75 on M-28 at exit 384 in Dafter, Michigan, just south of Sault Ste. Marie, and is an all-in-one operation.

BMIC will cultivate, produce, research, and sell marijuana products from one central location.

In 2019, BMIC’s tribal citizens enacted tribal laws and regulations to authorize personal and commercial marijuana use on tribal lands. NLCC will be licensed and regulated under the laws of Bay Mills Indian Community.

“Bay Mills Indian Community takes a lot of pride in leading the way for the advancement of tribal rights, and being ‘first.’ We are proud to develop the first tribally-owned and operated cannabis business in Michigan,” said Bryan Newland, tribal chairman. “Northern Light Cannabis Co. will provide our community with a diverse new field for employment, and generate new revenues for our tribal government and community. This is yet another exciting step forward for Bay Mills — and for Indian Country.”

As the community-owned business grows, Bay Mills intends to add new locations on its tribal lands throughout Michigan and promote individual and community empowerment. Ultimately, Bay Mills will work to develop an intertribal cooperative, where marijuana product(s) produced by Bay Mills are sold by other tribes at tribally-owned retail establishments throughout the state of Michigan to benefit their tribal members and community residents.

You can learn more about Northern Light through their newly-established website — https://www.northernlightcannabis.com/.

BMCC now offers bachelor's degree program in early childhood education

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Community College continues to shape their educational programs to meet the needs of the job market and local students. With a shortage of teachers throughout the state of Michigan, the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in early childhood education is now being offered fully online through BMCC.

Students can attend BMCC virtually to earn their bachelor of arts in early childhood education. ECE is for students who are interested in working with young children, birth to eight years of age, and their families. Students will acquire an understanding of developmental patterns in such areas as appropriate to learning, social and emotional development, language and literacy, cognition, perceptual, motor, and physical development. They will also acquire knowledge in parent engagement and the necessary skills required to administer an early childhood program. Preparing teachers, family service personnel, education managers, and administrators of Indian Head Start facilities nationwide is the primary focus of this program, but the program gives students the adequate preparation and credit requirements to work as substitute teachers in Michigan as well. A secondary focus is imparting an understanding of Native American culture as it applies to children in early childhood programs.

In August, the first cohort of five graduates took center stage and earned their degrees. In May 2021, 15 students are on track to receive their degrees.

Continued on page 10
Chairman’s Report

Stressing the importance of staying healthy and safe

By Bryan Newland, Bay Mills Tribal Chairman

We all have “pandemic fatigue” at this point. You want it to be over. I want it to be over. We are tired of thinking about it. We are tired of talking about it. We are tired of hearing about it. We are tired of taking care and avoiding the extra things – gatherings, dinners out, trips – that make our lives fun in order to keep our loved ones safe.

I feel this sense of fatigue and frustration, too.

But, this is not over. There will be no magical moment when the coronavirus disappears from our lives. We are in a long slog, and there is no silver bullet that will bring this to an end.

The Spanish Flu pandemic lasted for more than two years, and slowly faded away. That is the type of timeframe we should expect here as well. We are settling in for a slog against this virus. But, it is a slog that we can win.

We cannot give in to our pandemic fatigue.

I do not share this message with you to incite pessimism, or to make you feel helpless. In fact, we have reason to feel empowered and optimistic about what we can accomplish.

Across the United States, we have data showing that COVID-19 has a disproportionate impact on Native American communities. Native Americans have nearly three-times the case incidence of non-Natives, and are five times more likely to be hospitalized by COVID-19. Native Americans are also more likely to die from COVID-19.

Here at Bay Mills, our tribal members and community members had a clear-eyed vision of the threat of COVID-19 from day one and took action to keep people safe. We have been successful (so far) in preventing this virus from spreading within our community. While you may feel fatigued today, it is important that you know that your actions and your sacrifices so far have saved the lives of people you know. Your quiet and unseen sacrifices and actions have been working.

I have heard from visitors and business owners outside of our tribal community about how the people of Bay Mills have taken this pandemic seriously, and are doing the work to keep it at bay. We owe each of you a debt of gratitude for the sacrifices you’ve made.

But, this is not over. And you have the power to keep our people safe, healthy, and alive. So, I am asking you to stay in this fight, to continue your work, and to not give in to pandemic fatigue. Our strategy is simple, and it is working:

Wear your mask when out in public – the data is clear that wearing masks reduces the risk of transmitting COVID-19. I know that it is uncomfortable (and even anxiety-inducing for some). But, it is one of our best tools. This tool becomes even more effective with hand-washing.

Avoid indoor gatherings of people – COVID-19 can be transmitted from person-to-person in any setting. But, large gatherings of people allow the virus to spread rapidly and widely before health officials have an opportunity to try to contain it. Indoor gatherings without masks pose the greatest risk. This is true at both restaurants and at Grandma’s house. Indoors + More people + Fewer masks = More Risk.

Get tested – Bay Mills has been fortunate to have the ability to test a lot of people with rapid results. It has bought us valuable time, and allowed us a chance to stay ahead of the virus. If you’ve been exposed to someone who has been infected, or if you have been at a large indoor gathering (or live with someone who has), please get tested.

Isolate if sick or exposed – If you’ve been in close contact with someone who has been infected with COVID-19, or if you’ve been infected yourself, please be disciplined in following quarantine protocols.

Your discipline in sticking to this simple strategy is working and saving lives. By doing these things, we are still able to carry-on with most of the things we enjoy in our daily lives.

Lastly, with the holidays coming up, many of us will be confronted with choices about whether to go to large family dinners, church services, and traditional holiday events. Please do not wait until the last minute to make these decisions, and please do not put your friends and elderly family members in the position of “making it awkward” by choosing to not attend. Please choose smaller dinners and gatherings with your household members, or shorter and smaller outdoor visits to say hi to family on those holidays.

Mitigwetch for everything you are doing, even through your pandemic fatigue. You are saving lives.

You can reach me at 906-248-8100 or bnewland@baymills.org. My official Facebook Page is “Bay Mills Indian Community Tribal Chairman.”
Bay Mills Executive Council discusses business

October 15 Meeting

Chairman Bryan Newland
— Covering pandemic related items this meeting. The number of COVID cases in the UP is on the rise. The last three weeks alone the number cases in the U.P. has doubled. The number of deaths has also doubled. CCHD is at 24 active cases of COVID-19, 5x what it was a few weeks ago. Positive test rate is still less than 1 percent.
 — Luce County has several new cases of the virus. It is on our doorstep, we are watching it very closely.
 — All departments are prepared to transition to level 4 restrictions if required.
 — Working closely with our legal team to start igaming and Northern Light Cannabis in order to have other revenue sources.
 — Travel advisory was issued.
 — Goals are still the same- making sure we can get to zero COVID-19 cases and that we protect the tribal members, physically and financially.
 — The health team continues to monitor the situation as it moves forward.
 — Health Center project is moving forward.

Tribal Manager Rachel Burtt
— Getting acclimated to the new role.
 — Touching base with various departments about their needs and any issues they may currently have.
 — Working on CRF reports.

Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram
— IT: Closed our ordering out. Then it will have to be broken down enterprise vs government side for CRF reporting.
 — Internet connection moving forward for Northern Light Cannabis Co.
 — Audit for 401k plan still needs to be reviewed.
 — Met with advisors about CRF funds.
 — Medical Center: Communicated with Central Savings Bank about processes.
 — Equipment needs and costs should be updated and aligned with construction schedule.
 — Finalizing details with DraftKings for banking operations.
 — Northern Light banking moving forward as well.
 — Working on budgets.

Human Resources Director Ken Perron
— Kronos to the point with data imports are done.
 — Meeting to be held and look over what is not working.
 — Online training with staff will take place in the next 2-3 weeks.
 — Health Benefits needs a decision by Oct. 31.
 — Recruiting has been a challenge to say the least. Many employees for Northern Light will likely come from other positions in the organization, so we will have to fill those roles.

BMRC General Manager Richard LeBlanc
— Working on budgets, 2021 will be a challenge with the pandemic.
 — Been meeting with contractors on project list. They should be done before the end of the year.
 — Closure of RV park will be at the end of the week and it will be winterized.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Resolution No. 20-10-12A – Waiver of Sovereign Immunity and Waiver of Tribal Court Jurisdiction for CESF Grant: Health Center grant from the State of Michigan. No way to change language or waiver. This is money for the public safety department. CARES money sent to Michigan State Police and they are distributing to tribal governments. Allocated approximately $41k for law enforcement. Approved.

b. Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Grant Award Letter: This is money for the public safety department. CARES money sent to Michigan State Police and they are distributing to tribal governments. Allocated approximately $41k for law enforcement. Approved.

c. Resolution 20-10-12B– Civil Domestic Violence Code: Been working on this for several months. This means that non-Indians on the reservation that commit acts against tribal members can be held for civil jurisdiction and allows people to sue them in tribal court. Restitution, PPO, fines, banishment are all actions that can take place under this code. Gives tribal members some tools to deal with domestic and sexual violence on the reservation. Approved. Next step is submission to the BIA for approval.


e. Acceptance of EPA Tribal Response grant for $60k: Brownfield money and educational components. Some monies will pay for clean up at the old public works building. Approved

f. Acceptance of GLITC Good Health and Wellness grant for $1,240,625: Connie Watson’s program, outreach and educational components. Approved.

g. Acceptance of the yearly NYCP Award: Boys & Girls Club program continuation. Approved.

h. Acceptance Tribal Home Visiting from ITC for $73,640: Comes through ITC. Approved.

i. Acceptance of MDHHS 2020-21 Subcontract: Long standing through ITC, supports one position. Approved.

j. Acceptance of MDHHS Tribal Behavioral Health Implementation Funds: Two year reward for support of psychiatrist and traditional medicine, support services for mental health. Approved.

Full meeting minutes can be found online at the tribal member only section of baymills.org. Please call BMIC tribal administration for an access code. You will be required to verify your tribal member identity.
OPINION
Two More Weeks of Indoctrination

By Sharon M. Kennedy

Well, it’s almost over. The endless campaigns are coming to a close and what the country will look like on November 4 is something nobody can predict. Will there be a smooth transfer of power in the weeks prior to the inauguration or will there simply be a continuation of the Trump dynasty? I’m writing this on Oct. 8. By the time you read it, the president might be in complete COVID recovery or on his way to a morgue.

Meeting an “Opinion” deadline is not like reacting to the news of one minute ago. Whatever I write will be outdated when it’s published so I’m not making any predictions about anything. I’ve had my fill of that. I’ve said Joe Biden is an old, outdated, washed-up grandpa who should be playing with his grandkids instead of fiddling with the idea of becoming president of our country. I’ve said he’s a lame horse candidate who doesn’t have a ghost of a chance in crossing the finish line first. However, when I listened to his bulldog performance during the first debate, I changed my mind. I have to admit, Old Dobbin still has plenty of kick left in him.

I’ve said Donald Trump is a shyster, an imposter, a liar, and a nuisance. He’s a gross imitation of a statesman. He’s a fraud, a jerk, and a poor incarnation of George Wallace. I’ve said he’ll win another four years and cause more division among friends, family, co-workers, and peers. His base will rejoice and become more bold as they march our streets and attempt to overthrow any semblance of democracy. Billionaires will rejoice as their bank accounts fatten. Poor people will despair as their wallets flatten.

I didn’t know much about Donald Trump when he decided to run for office in 2016. The little I did know was gleaned from newspaper headlines and his daily incoherent rants when he spoke to cable network commentators. Each week he called in and talked about himself. He boasted he could run our country better than anyone. After all, he said, his credentials were impeccable because he was a master of the “art of the deal.” He said the very fact that he wasn’t a politician qualified him for the job because he knew how to get things done. He said he was financing his run and didn’t owe allegiance to anyone. He would be a free man, unfettered by generous donors and K Street lobbyists. His smear campaign against his opponent made him look like a hero.

He was outspoken about everything that was wrong with the Democratic Party especially President Obama and Hillary Clinton. He made no attempt to be anything other than what he was—a womanizer, a loudmouth, a bully, a bankrupt, and a borderline fascist who loved Putin. He probably didn’t even know what the word “fascist” meant or the power it held until he took office. Nobody, not even Trump, considered him a serious candidate. He was a novelty, an oddity in a stodgy race. He used colorful language heard only in locker rooms and made no apology for offending the ears of good, honest Christian people who adored him.

Although his dress and grooming were meticulous and gave him an air of dignity, his speech and antics were deplorable. Each day it became more obvious he didn’t have the temperament the job demanded. His lack of experience and interest in learning his duties and responsibilities was appalling. His firing of anyone who opposed him worked well on “The Apprentice” but not in the Oval Office. He wouldn’t listen to advice from experts or read daily briefs that bored him, and he still takes his cue from Fox News.

The election is only days away. The victorious candidate will give us four more years of angst or four years of what used to be called “normalcy.” Think long and hard before you put your X beside your choice. It will decide our country’s future.

Kennedy is a freelance writer who resides in Brimley. She is also the author of Life in a Tin Can, available on Amazon. Kennedy can be contacted at sharonkennedy1947@gmail.com.
MDHHS issues Emergency Order updating requirements for residential care facilities to allow for indoor visitation

LANSING — Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon has issued an Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253 that updates and further expands requirements for residential care facilities, while also permitting indoor visitation in residential care facilities in certain circumstances. Throughout the pandemic, MDHHS has used a range of public health tools and guidance to contain the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public health, including emergency orders.

“As we grapple with both colder weather and rising cases, our task is to increase access to visitation in ways that do not increase the spread of the virus,” Gordon said. “Visitation is a substantial source of risk. This order provides a plan for visitation that mitigates risk and continues necessary protections in facilities across the state.”

The residential care order continues to limit communal dining and internal and external group activities consistent with Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services guidance and it requires quick notification in the event an employee or resident is confirmed as positive for COVID-19.

Under the order, visitation rules are linked to the risk level of the county. A list of county risk levels is available on the MI Safe Start Map.

Indoor visitation is now allowed in areas where the current risk level is A, B, C, or D, so long as the facilities have had no new cases, including those involving residents or staff, originating within the prior 14 days. Indoor visitation is not allowed when the county is at risk level E, which means there is an elevated incidence growth rate with average daily cases/million greater than 150 or a positivity rate greater than 20%. It is also not allowed if the local health department has made a determination that it would be unsafe. Outdoor visitation is allowed throughout the state so long as the facility assures that the outdoor visitation area allows for at least six feet between all persons and adequate protection from weather elements is provided.

Based on county risk levels and the type of visit, some visitors will be required to receive COVID testing prior to entry. Most nursing homes now are able to conduct point-of-care testing with a rapid turnaround.

Visitors will be required to wear face masks (or other PPE when required by the facility) at all times. In general, visitors will need to maintain six feet from residents. However, visitors who are providing support for Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), medical services or non-medical services requiring physical contact are not expected to abide by social distance requirements between the visitor and the resident while providing services. Visitors participating in visits at the end of life may have physical contact with a resident if that resident is not COVID-19 positive, the visitors are wearing appropriate PPE and the time spent within six feet of the resident is no longer than 15 minutes.

This is a delicate balance of trying to prevent the further spread of the virus while still allowing for family members and friends to visit their loved ones in residential care facilities,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at MDHHS. “I remain concerned about the increase in case levels across the state, so it will be vitally important that the order be followed closely in order to keep the facilities safe and prevent the spread of the virus.”

Visits will be allowed by appointment only and facilities may impose reasonable time limits on visits, with requirements that visitors log arrival and departure times, provide their contact information and attest, in writing, that they will notify the facility if they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within 14 days after visiting. The number of visitors per scheduled visit will be limited to two persons or fewer and will exclude visitors who are unwilling or unable to wear a face covering. A health evaluation of all visitors will be required to enter the facility, including tests for fever, and facilities must restrict anyone with fever, symptoms or known exposure from entering the facility.

Consistent with MCL 333.2261, violation of this order is punishable by a civil fine of up to $1,000, and may also be treated as a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than six months, or a fine of not more than $200, or both. This order is effective Oct. 26, 2020 and remains in effect until lifted. Persons with suggestions and concerns are invited to submit their comments via email to COVID19@michigan.gov.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

**BMIC members: Application for COVID-19 Economic Assistance now available at baymills.org**

The second round application can be downloaded and completed on your computer. Once you complete the application, send it, along with any required documentation to covidsupport@baymills.org.

Completed applications may also be dropped at the Bay Mills Tribal Administration Building or mailed to 12140 W. Lakeshore Drive, Brimley, MI 49715

Checks will be mailed. Please make sure to provide all required documentation in order to ensure prompt processing. Elders are eligible for utility assistance AND general economic relief, and should select both boxes, and include the proper documentation.
Top Row L-R: Wyatt Kinney, Jaxson Stacy, Mason Belk, Leah Sellick, Dylan Malin, Joshua Wilson and Brendon Johnson
Bottom Row L-R: Danika Beseau, Michael Gregg, Louise DuVall, Joseph Gregg, Brendon Johnson, Nickole Tadgerson, and Daniel Tadgerson

Brimley honors September Students of the Month

Wyatt Kinney is a very hardworking student who is always showing Bays Ways in the classroom. He is ready to learn and always completes his work in a timely and neat manner. Wyatt is a good friend to the other students in the classroom and always has fun making up games for the kids to play at recess time. We are so glad to have Wyatt in our class! Congrats Wyatt! — Mrs. Leep

Danika Beseau always comes to school prepared and ready to learn with a smile on her face. She is a very respectful student and is always kind to those around her. Danika is a responsible learner as she completes her assignments with her best work, follows directions, and makes good decisions. She follows all of our Bays’ Ways rules in every setting, making her a top-notch role model for her peers. She is always willing to help and is a pleasure to have in class. Keep up the great work, Danika! I am so proud of you! — Miss Grandfield

Jaxson Stacy has impeccable manners and is always very respectful to everyone in our school family. From the minute he walks into our classroom and until the end of the day, I can always count on Jaxson to set positive examples of following Bays' Ways for his peers. He is also very helpful, kind, and considerate to his classmates. Keep up the great work, Jaxson! We are very proud of you. Mrs. Castagne

Michael Gregg is happy, helpful and is a good friend to many classmates. He gives empathy to others. Michael waits his turn, raises his hand when he wants to be heard, and has a level 0 voice most of the time in the classroom, hall, and bathroom. He has been working on calming and breathing strategies which are helpful for everyone. We are thrilled to have Michael in our classroom and look forward to his kindness and hard work every day. — Ms. McPherson
Louise Duvall is a wonderful second grade student. She comes walking into school ready to begin her day with a positive attitude. Louise works extra hard to make sure she does her work to the best of her ability. She is friendly, has good manners, is compassionate, and extremely helpful to both her friends and teachers. I am proud of Louise’s hard work ethic and am so happy to have her in our classroom. Keep up the great work, Louise. — Mrs. Sellick

Mason Belk is very excited to be back in school and it shows in all that he does. He enters the classroom and quickly gets to work. He has a positive attitude and always treats his classmates with kindness and compassion. Mason has an excellent work ethic and can be counted on to do quality work. Mason does a great job following directions and is an excellent example for his classmates. Keep up the great work! — Mrs. Gross

Leah Sellick has had a great start to the school year. She is always doing what is expected of her, and she can be counted on to be a role model for her classmates. Leah is a great friend to her classmates and is always finding a way to safely help her peers as well as adults. I love the way that Leah comes into the classroom each morning with a smile on her face and eager to start the day. Congratulations, Leah! — Ms. Peller

Joe Gregg has had an outstanding beginning of the school year and has been a perfect example of how to follow the Bays' Ways in school. Joe has been kind to others and has been helpful in every socially distanced way available. I am so glad to have him in our classroom and in our school. Keep up the great work, Joe! — Mrs. Jarvi

Brendon Johnson is friendly and thoughtful. Coming into this school year we’ve had to pay extra special attention to our “Be Safe” Bays' Ways and Brendon has gone above and beyond to make sure that he is being safe. He does an excellent job at washing his hands and wearing his mask properly. Brendon’s classmates can always count on him to be on task and to lead by example. His classmates and teachers notice his dedication to following the Bays’ Ways. Thank you for positively representing our class! We are proud of you! — Mrs. Detloff

Dylan Malin does a great job of listening and doing his best in class. His favorite subject is Math and he loves to help out in class. He treats everyone with respect and kindness. — Mrs. Rogers

Josh Wilson has been practicing the Bays' Ways by being safe, responsible, respectful, and ready to learn. Josh has been a huge helper to his teachers and is always willing to lend a helping hand. He is a great friend to his classmates and has been working hard on his assignments. Keep up the good work, Josh!

Nickole Tadgerson has been working hard following the Bays' Ways by being safe, respectful, responsible, and ready to learn! Nickole is always busy at work on her assignments. She comes into class in the mornings ready to go and keeps the same great attitude about her learning all day long! Congratulations, Nickole and keep up the good work! — Mrs. Rutledge

Daniel Tadgerson comes in prepared everyday to learn. He is asking questions and coming up to the board and fixing problems. He is diligently working hard to keep up with his work. His behavior has been stellar with no disruptions. Keep up the good work, Daniel. — Mrs. Stacy

Micah Morrison is a hard worker, willing to extend academic discussions, and always respectful. I am excited to see where Micah goes in life as he will no doubt do great things! — Mr. Conley
Bay Mills Boys & Girls Club celebrates Halloween with several projects
Recommendations for Halloween

The decision to take the kids out or to hand out treats will be up to individual households. If you do decide to take part in the evening’s event, there are measures you can take to increase everyone’s safety. As a precaution, no costume parades will take place at workplaces this year.

**Trick-or-Treaters:**
- Stay in your group.
- Maintain social distancing from others as you go door to door.
- Wait for others on a porch to leave before you approach the house.
- When possible, wear a cloth mouth and nose covering. This may be incorporated into the costume (i.e. a doctor or nurse, a cowboy, etc.). Do not use a costume mask with the cloth mask. It may make breathing very difficult. The children will be excited and may run around. Adults need to keep an eye on them to make sure they can breathe through the face covering. If necessary, have the kids take a break every now and then.
- Keep hand sanitizer with you and use it periodically.
- Eat only commercially wrapped treats.

**Residents:**
- No self-serve containers. Don’t let the trick-or-treaters take candy from a bowl or other container. This avoids the treats in the bowl from being touched by many hands.
- Select one person in the home to hand out the candy to the children.
- Drop the treat into the child’s container instead of handing it directly to him/her.
- Whoever hands out the treats should sanitize their hands before and after putting them in the children’s bags.
- If anyone in the home shows flu or COVID like symptoms (as listed by the CDC), has been identified as positive through COVID testing, or is under quarantine; please DO NOT hand out treats this year. Keep your porch light off so the children know not to stop at your home.

**ADDITIONAL SAFETY REMINDERS:**
- Make sure the children can see and can be seen in their costumes.
- Have the children carry a flashlight or glow stick.
- Dress for the weather.
- Be careful crossing all streets and alleys.
- Only go to homes with an outside light on.
- Homeowners make sure turn your porch light on so they know where to stop. Turn the light off when done.
- Drivers should be extra careful backing out of driveways.
State offers guidance on celebrating the holidays safely

LANSING — The holiday season will be different for Michiganders this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure families do not miss out on being together during the holidays, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has issued guidance on how to travel and gather safely during the holidays.

“Celebrating the holiday season with family and friends is one of our most cherished traditions,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health. “Even though the way we celebrate may have to be different, the guidance issued shows there are still many ways to spend quality time with family and friends safely during this festive season.”

Traveling and in-person gatherings increase the chances of getting and spreading COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others. However, if you decide to travel for the holidays, follow these safety measures to protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

- Wear a mask and keep your nose and mouth covered when in public places.

In addition to the MDHHS guidance, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has the following resources to help determine if you should travel during the holidays:

- Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Know Your Travel Risk
- Know When to Delay Your Travel to Avoid Spreading COVID-19

If an in-person gathering is hosted, it should be held outdoors if possible. Indoor festivities should avoid crowded, poorly ventilated or fully enclosed indoor spaces, and should be limited to 10 people or less per MDHHS Oct. 9 Emergency Epidemic Order. In addition, attendees of indoor or outdoor festivities should:

- Social distance.
- Wear cloth masks.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Keep safe around food drinks, including following good hygiene and limiting the amount of people in areas where food is prepared.
- Bring food and drinks for themselves and members of their household. Avoid potluck gatherings.
- Have one person serve all shareable food and consider using single-use items for condiments, plates and utensils.

Read the full “Celebrating the Holidays During COVID-19” guidance for additional tips to consider before, during and after a gathering to stay safe this holiday season.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

BMCC offers new degree program continued from page 1

BMCC previously only offered an associate of arts and a certificate of completion in early childhood education completely online.

Faith Gaubault was a member of the inaugural class of graduates. She found the online platform a convenient and positive experience, especially as a working single mother.

"I feel that my education is helping me in my current work in the EUP as a quality improvement specialist with Great Start to Quality (UP Resource Center)," said Gaubault. "I learned current theories and best practice recommendations, which specifically apply to my scope of work supporting childcare providers and programs in extending high quality experiences for children."

Anyone interested in the program, can find out more online at www.bmcc.edu. Registration for the spring semester is now open.

The bachelor's program was developed after BMCC received a grant from the Administration for Native Americans to support development of the completely online program.

"Bay Mills Community College thanks the Administration for Native Americans for assisting in the development of the early childhood education online bachelor's degree to educate students who will embrace and look out for our young children's futures and the next seven generations to come," said Sheryl Hammock, early childhood education department chair/faculty member.

BMCC is one of three tribally controlled colleges in the state of Michigan and the only community college in Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula. As a 1994 Land Grant Institution, BMCC works closely with land grant partners, such as Michigan State University to provide service and expertise to the Bay Mills Indian Community and the surrounding region. BMCC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium.
Bay Mills Indian Community submits formal comments urging the state to reject pipeline tunnel permits

BAY MILLS—On Monday, Oct. 19, Bay Mills Indian Community and others submitted formal comments to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, in opposition to Enbridge’s permit applications for its Line 5 pipeline tunnel project.

BMIC is expressing grave concerns over the lack of information Enbridge has provided to the state —information required to determine whether or not the tunnel project satisfies the state’s legal requirements.

“We have said all along that this pipeline poses an existential threat to our rights under treaties we have signed with the United States,” said Bryan Newland, BMIC tribal chairman. “This pipeline also poses a grave danger to the watersheds of three of the five Great Lakes. We are going to make sure that the state has a clear picture of these risks, and of their responsibility to protect our waters and our rights.”

The information provided already exposes the very real threats the project would have including unnecessary harm to fisheries, wetlands, and threatened and endangered species.

In an effort to safeguard their treaty-protected fishing rights which are critical to preserving their food supply and source of income and important archaeological sites, BMIC is urging the state to reject Enbridge’s applications for permits in accordance with the Clean Water Act and Michigan’s Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.

“Enbridge’s Line 5 tunnel project is nothing more than an attempt to keep an outdated and dangerous pipeline in operation for another century,” said Earthjustice attorney Adam Ratchenski. “Considering the threat this project poses to Bay Mills’ Treaty-protected rights and resources located in the Straits of Mackinac, the state should reject these permits.”

“At the end of the day, Bay Mills’ treaty rights are put at risk by the Line 5 tunneling project. These risks must be acknowledged, evaluated and resolved,” noted Native American Rights Fund attorney David Gover. It’s imperative that EGLE recognize what’s at stake for the Bay Mills people and not disregard the treaty and laws that protect their lifeways and cultural heritage.

BMIC is being represented by Earthjustice and the Native American Rights Fund in the legal proceedings against Enbridge’s Line 5 pipeline and tunnel project. Earthjustice partnered with NARF, BMIC, and Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, to prepare and submit these comments.
Michigan real estate booms as builders struggle to meet demand

By ZHOLDAS ORISBAYEV
Capital News Service

LANSING — Michigan builders are prioritizing the construction of higher value homes to gain more profit, a market driven in part by the pandemic.

But the state lacks housing for moderate-income buyers, such as the workers who build the high-end homes, experts say.

“Some homebuilders in resort areas of Michigan, such as Emmet, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Otsego and Grand Traverse (counties), are booked for two years ahead and they are not talking with new clients to create projects,” said Janet Chambers, executive officer of the Home Builders Association of Northern Michigan.

Through July 2020, the average price for homes statewide was about $210,000, according to the Michigan Association of Realtors. That’s up nearly 10% from July 2019.

But the average price is quite different in resort areas in Northern Michigan.

In August 2020, the average selling price for homes in northwest Michigan’s Emmet County, home to Petoskey and Harbor Springs, was $428,581. That was up from $344,120 reported the previous August, according to the Realtors association. In the same month, 51 more houses were sold in the county compared with August 2019.

“House inventory is extremely low as homebuilders are behind in their projects while the trend in moving from urban areas is rising,” said Bernie Schaffer, a chief real estate agent of the Harbor Springs’ office of Harbor Sotheby’s International Realty agency. “Harbor Springs schools have received 100 new students this year, which is unusual.”

The coronavirus pandemic and statewide lockdown created a reverse trend of moving people from urban areas to rural areas as they adapted to work remotely, Schaffer said.

“Some homebuyers, especially from California and Texas, are offering more than the asking price as there are not many houses for sale,” Schaffer said. “I have never seen such a rate of booming real estate in 30 years of my professional career.”

Schaffer said that most of his clients are looking for houses in the price range of $400,000 and $900,000.

“Houses were not staying more than two days in a market as demand is extremely high,” he said. “Some of my clients wanted to buy houses, which are below $200,000, but there are almost no offers in the affordable housing market in Emmet now.”

About 25% more houses were sold in Emmet, Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties this August compared with August 2019, according to the Realtors association. But the number of houses listed as for sale decreased by 44% in the period.

“The coronavirus pandemic has been affecting home builders, but we haven’t seen a decline in home sales as more interests are coming from out of state and, even, out of the country,” said Kimberly Pontius, the Traverse Area Association of Realtors’ chief executive officer. Pontius said that there is a high level of demand for homebuilders in Grand Traverse County and they are well beyond their capacity.

“If you want to build a home today, most of the homebuilders in the region can start it in two years,” he said.

“Cost of construction materials has gone up rapidly due to supply chain difficulties in the pandemic, and wildfires in California are among the reasons for the increase in prices, too,” Pontius said. “All these affect home prices in our market, and the cost per square feet of land is following the same trend.”

“Homebuilders in Northern Michigan are swamped with work as their projects were shut down for several months due to the coronavirus lockdown,” said Janet Chambers, the chief executive officer of the Home Builders Association of Northern Michigan.

People spending more time at home are paying more attention to home improvements, she said.

“The money they might spend on a trip to Europe is being used for remodeling the kitchen, bathroom, or living room,” she said.

At the same time builders are struggling to find construction workers, Chambers said.

A shrinking population under the age of 35 and a lack of affordable housing for them are among the reasons for that.

Average lumber prices have increased by more than 170% since mid-April. That added more than $16,000 to the typical cost of a new single-family home, according to data from the National Association of Home Builders. The increase has priced more than 2.1 million U.S. households out of the market for a median-priced new home.

“Homebuilders are prioritizing to build higher value properties to gain more profit margins, but the state has had a lack of workforce housing for moderate-income buyers,” said Katie Bach, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority’s communications director.

Housing for workers and other moderate-income buyers is not a priority because builders “cannot make enough money due to rising construction costs,” she said.

The authority is designed to help low-income residents buy houses. The program, which started as a pilot, facilitates and encourages the construction of modular housing units at an attainable price point, which is typically below $200,000.

In September, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority Board permanently established the MSHDA MOD Program with a funding allocation of $2 million for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Those interested in learning more about what the state offers, including up to $7,500 in down payment assistance for first-time buyers, should visit here.
Arnold “Hawk” Cameron Sr.

On the evening of Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020, Arnold “Hawk” Cameron Sr., walked on at the age of 66 at McLaren Flint Hospital while surrounded by his family.

Hawk was born on Jan. 21, 1954 in Bay Mills, Mich. to Harold and Marie Cameron, the fifth of ten children. He graduated from the class of 1974 from Brimley High School. A few years later, on Nov. 4, 1978, Hawk married the love of his life, Jessie (Chartrand). They raised three sons, Arnold “Dean,” Robert “Bob,” and Colton, and one daughter, Courtney. Throughout his life, Hawk had worked as a commercial fisherman, a carpenter, but he found infamy as a shift manager at Bay Mills Resort & Casinos, where he was loved far and wide by his coworkers and customers alike. In his younger years, Hawk loved playing softball and was known for his strong arm. Legend has it, Hawk could throw a player out at home from the deep outfield. After he had hung up his cleats, Hawk would continue his love for the game by watching his sons, Bob and Colton. Life also blessed Hawk with his four grandchildren, Landon, Caylie, Charlotte, and Alanah, who he loved dearly.

Lover of birds and hater of squirrels, you could find Hawk every morning watching his feathered friends while enjoying his coffee. He always kept busy with any of his many hobbies which included carpentry, fishing, camping, cooking, and baking. But much of his time was spent working in his yard, ensuring he could contend if there ever was a “Best Yard” championship. Creative and talented, Hawk had a gift at making things beautiful. It was always a treat for all to see the unique gifts he would make for his mother, Marie, which usually ended with fits of laughter and happy tears. For the many, many people who were able to know Hawk, they will know how extraordinarily kind he was despite his strong and stoic features. The moment his face turned up into a smile, you could instantly feel the love behind it and be at ease of in his presence. Hawk’s family was usually saved one of his Uncle Hawk “looks” followed by a “pft” and a smile. Husband, Son, Brother, Dad, Grandpa, Uncle, Friend, we will all forever adore and remember you, your infectious smile, and cherish the memories of your time with us.

Hawk was preceded in death by his father and mother, Harold and Marie Cameron, his brothers Harold Cameron Jr and William “Bill” Cameron, and his sisters, Leola Calder and Carrie Cameron. He is survived by his wife Jessie Cameron, his sons, Arnold Cameron Jr., Robert Cameron, and Colton Cameron, his daughter Courtney Cameron, his mother-in-law, Dottie Mills, his brothers, Darryl & Edith Cameron, Joel Cameron, and Norman & Eileen Cameron, his sisters, Penny & Chuck Leapley, Carol & Chris Carrick, his brothers-in-law, Bob & Christine Chartrand, Russ & Christine Chartrand, Ted Chartrand, his sister-in-law, Kathi Chartrand, his grandchildren Landon, Caylie, Charlotte, and Alanah, and his many nieces and nephews.

Visitiation for immediate family took place at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church Father Dominic Yamoah officiating. Burial was held at Mission Hill Cemetery.

Bay Mills Indian Community issues travel advisory

BAY MILLS —Due to an increased risk of contracting COVID-19, Bay Mills Indian Community is advising all tribal citizens, residents, and employees to avoid traveling to the following locations:

**MICHIGAN**

**Delta County (Escanaba area)**
- Positive test rate of 11.4%
- Averaging 19.7 new cases per day

**Dickinson County (Iron Mountain area)**
- Positive test rate of 7.5%
- Averaging 7.1 new cases per day

**Houghton County (Houghton-Hancock area)**
- Positive test rate of 9.8%
- Averaging 15.1 new cases per day

**Iron County (Iron River-Crystal Falls area)**
- Positive test rate of 9.6%
- Averaging 3.9 new cases per day

**Menominee County (Menominee area)**
- Positive test rate of 5.1%
- Averaging 7.4 new cases per day

**WISCONSIN:**
- Brown County (Green Bay area)
- Marinette County (Marinette area)
- Oconto County
- Outagamie County (Appleton area)

Individuals who have traveled to these areas should quarantine themselves immediately upon return, monitor for symptoms, and wait at least four days to be tested for COVID-19.

Individuals should also exercise caution when traveling to Mackinac County, which has seen an increase in cases over the past two weeks, as well as an increase in its positive test rate for COVID-19. BMIC remains at Level 3 restrictions as part of the COVID-19 Response Plan, and has prohibited official business travel outside of Chippewa County, with the exception of law enforcement and medical personnel.
Clean Water Action names Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority 2020 Great Lakes Protector

Recognizing tribal advocacy and actions to protect the Great Lakes, the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority was awarded the 2020 Great Lakes Protector Award from Clean Water Action.

The five tribes that make up CORA – Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay band of Odawa Indians and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians – have been leaders in building awareness and fighting to prevent an oil spill from the 67-year-old Enbridge Line 5 pipeline across the Upper Peninsula and along the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac.

Board member Bryan Newland accepted the award in recognition of the Indigenous Tribes of Michigan. The five CORA member tribes received extensive fishing rights in the Great Lakes as part of their Treaty of 1836 with the United States.

“We thank Clean Water Action for this recognition,” said Newland. “Michigan’s tribes have been stewards and protectors of the Great Lakes for the past 1,000 years. For generations, our culture has ensured that we protect the waters for ourselves and the people today, but for all future generations.” “Our work is also focused on protecting the rights our ancestors reserved in our 1836 Treaty with the United States that allowed the State of Michigan to form. As state and federal governments have benefited from the Treaty, we are fighting to ensure that our rights to hunt and fish are protected.”

Line 5 was installed in 1953 in the Straits of Mackinac, with an engineered lifespan of 50 years (2003). The line and its managing company, Enbridge, has caused controversy in Michigan over the lack of transparency, pipeline corrosion, dents, violations, broken supports and more.

CORA tribes have long advocated for the decommissioning and removal of the pipeline with no replacement structure, as advancements in infrastructure and energy needs allow our state to rely less on the aging pipeline, where a pipeline rupture would compromise the regional environment, decimate several area industries, and destroy one of the core promises of the 1836 Treaty.

“We are grateful for the partnership of Senator Peters, Clean Water Action, Oil and Water Don’t Mix, and all of Michigan’s citizens who are protecting our Great Lakes. We are also thankful for support from Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and Lac Vieux Desert Tribe,” Newland said. “We may come at this responsibility from different perspectives, but together, we are going to succeed at what matters: protecting the Great Lakes for future generations.”

Additional award recipients from the Sept. 17 event include Senator Gary Peters, Rep. Laurie Pohutsky and Sylvia Orduño of the People’s Water Board Coalition.

GROUNDBREAKING HELD — After years of planning, Bay Mills Indian Community finally broke ground on the new Ellen Marshall Health Center on Oct. 1. Full construction has begun and is scheduled to be completed in January 2022. It will be a $14 million, 33,000 square foot state-of-the-art health care center. Photos by Whitney Gravelle
New Lock moves forward with Phase 2 contract award

DETROIT — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials announce the New Lock at the Soo second phase construction contract is awarded to Kokosing Alberici LLC of Westerville, Ohio.

The much-anticipated mega-project will take three phases to construct. Kokosing Alberici will receive more than $111 million to complete phase two. This contract will stabilize the existing approach walls, allowing modern vessels to tie up and wait their turn to pass through the new lock. Construction will begin in spring 2021 and take about two years to complete.

"The Corps looks forward to beginning construction on the upstream approach walls next spring, and we continue to work hard to maintain the pace and meet all milestones in bringing our nation's New Lock at the Soo to fruition," said Detroit District Commander Lt. Col. Scott Katalenich.

The project’s first phase to deepen the upstream channel began this summer with expected completion by November 2021. First phase contractor, Trade West Construction’s, focus began with deepening the eastern area of the decommissioned Sabin Lock’s north channel so Kokosing Alberici can begin work immediately in that area during the spring 2021 construction season.

“It is so important that we stay on track as work areas for the three phases do overlap and construction needs to be accomplished in a certain order,” said New Lock Project Manager Mollie Mahoney. “Awarding the phase two contract right on schedule sets the clock for phase three work to begin on time in 2022.”

The project’s third phase is actually constructing the new lock chamber. It is still in the design phase and expected to be advertised for bid in spring 2021.

The Soo Locks are situated on the St. Mary’s River at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and allow vessels to transit the 21-foot elevation change at the St. Mary’s Falls Canal. Over 85 percent of commodity tonnage through the Soo Locks is restricted by vessel size to the Poe Lock. This new lock project will construct a second Poe-sized lock (110' by 1,200') on the existing decommissioned Davis and Sabin locks site. A 2015 Department of Homeland Security study on impacts of an unexpected Soo Locks closure show the Soo Locks are nationally critical infrastructure. This Great Lakes Navigation System critical node is essential to U.S. manufacturing and National Security according to the study.

For more information about the New Soo Lock project, visit their website: https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/About/Highlighted-Projects/New_Soo_Lock/
Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE: Bay Mills Indian Community is proposing to conduct a cleanup of a brownfield site located on Lakeshore Drive. This project will entail the removal of impacted soil, concrete, and liquids. This action is necessary to prevent additional soil and concrete from being impacted. Written comments should be sent to Brianna Gunka at bgunka@baymills.org, or 12140 W. Lakeshore Drive, Brimley, MI 49715, and should be received by Oct. 30. Oral and written comments may be offered at the following public hearing: BMIC Executive Council Meeting, 10:30 a.m. Monday Oct. 27 via Zoom. Contact Rachel Burtt atrlburtt@baymills.org or 906-248-8132 to receive the meeting Zoom link.

Enrollment Services announces office hours
Enrollment will be open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call 906-248-8131 to schedule an office appointment or email phyllism@baymills.org.

Land Office information
The Bay Mills Land Office will be open to assist members with leases on Tuesdays and Thursdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., please call the office phone: 906.248.8124, if you have any questions. Remote Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., please call 906.248.8124 if you have questions.

Cultural events announced
Anishnaabe Men’s Support Group: Every Tuesday at the cultural building, 7 p.m.
Anishnaabe Women’s Support Group, every Thursday at the cultural building, 7 p.m.
For more information, contact Jeanette White at 906-248-1200.

Deer Harvest Survey
Bay Mills tribal members are encouraged to take part in the deer harvest survey this season. A link can be found on the homepage of the tribal website at baymills.org.

Fitness Center open
The Mukwa Health and Fitness Center is now open. The fitness facility will be open hourly now and NOT 24/7 as in the past. This will ensure they have staff there while people are working out and staff is able to clean the fitness center appropriately. The hours will be 9 a.m. to (tentatively) 6 p.m, Mon- Friday, closed on the weekends. This hours may change due to staffing. Masks are required to enter and leave facility, but not while actively working out.