Tribe selects Traverse City firm for new health center project

By Shannon Jones
Bay Mills News

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Indian Community recently contributed more than $60k in support funds to two local schools to assist in their response efforts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ojibwe Charter School received $33,320 and Brimley Area Schools received $30,800 from the BMIC COVID-19 Educational Response Fund. The monies from the tribe are part of an allocation received from the federal government under the CARES Act.

“We understand parents, students, and faculty are concerned about reopening schools this fall. We wanted to help our local school districts provide a safer learning environment for our kids, and reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 in our communities,” said Bay Mills Tribal Chairman Bryan Newland. “These funds will make it easier for kids to learn from home, and help make classrooms safer for teachers.”

School districts across the country have been struggling financially to meet the health guidelines for safety related to the pandemic.

Each school submitted a needs list that qualified them for the funds and both schools are considered BMIC’s “neighbors.” Brimley Area Schools are located near the reservation’s boundaries and OCS is located in the heart of the BMIC.

BAS plans to use the funds for air purifiers and cameras for virtual learning. OCS plans to purchase several items with the funds, including water bottle filling stations, a Clorox 360 machine, air purifiers, cameras for virtual learning, and plexiglass dividers for desks.

“We would like to thank Bay Mills Indian Community for their help and support throughout the pandemic. The tribe has offered to help out with specific COVID-related expenses our district has incurred, as well as offered COVID testing for our students and staff," said OCS Superintendent Stephanie Vittitow. "We truly appreciate their outreach in order to make our school year as safe as possible for our students, staff, and community members.”

BMIC was awarded just over $8 million in CARES Act funds earlier this summer. From that total, nearly half is being allocated to assist community members and employees get through the pandemic.

Two local schools receive support funds from BMIC

By Shannon Jones
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VA schedules free drive-up flu shot clinics for veterans

IRON MOUNTAIN – Flu vaccinations are now available for veterans enrolled in VA health care at their regularly scheduled VA appointments.

Veterans may also get vaccinated during free drive-up flu shot clinics at the Sault Ste. Marie VA Clinic on Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 21 and 22 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET. No appointment is necessary. The VA clinic is located at 509 Osborn Blvd, Suite 306.

Veterans enrolled in VA health care who received their flu shot elsewhere are requested to contact their VA primary care clinic and provide that information.

“The best way to protect against flu and its potentially serious complications is with a flu vaccine,” said Ann Mattson, RN, infection control nurse at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain. “Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, including those who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness, like babies and young children, older people, and people with certain chronic health conditions,” added Mattson.

For more information on flu vaccinations and prevention, go to https://www.prevention.va.gov/flu/
Wi-Fi hotspots available throughout the state for students learning online

The Michigan Public Service Commission is reminding Michigan families about the State of Michigan and Connected Nation Michigan’s statewide map of Wi-Fi hotspots for families who lack internet access at home.

For many Michigan schoolchildren, this is back-to-school week, with the COVID-19 pandemic leading many school districts to educate children remotely from home.

That’s particularly difficult for households that lack Internet access or sufficient broadband speeds because the services are unaffordable or unavailable in their area.

The hotspot map, launched earlier this summer, shows hundreds of locations where free Wi-Fi is available from the parking lots of public schools, libraries and other locations across the state. The map also contains details on how to access the Wi-Fi hotspots’ networks. While public Wi-Fi hot spots are not a replacement for home connectivity, these locations offer Michigan families the ability to access and download remote learning resources for free and without the risk of further transmission of the virus.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that much work remains to be done to expand high-speed internet access so that these services are accessible even in remote areas and affordable for households of limited means. According to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), more than 70% of the state’s students use internet-enabled devices at home for schoolwork, but more than 28% of students live in homes without internet access that can support virtual learning.

Federal grants and pandemic stimulus funds are helping the state move toward that goal. But in the meantime, the MPSC and Connected Nation Michigan, along with the MDE and the Department of Technology, Management and Budget, launched the Wi-Fi mapping resource as an interim step to spotlight publicly available broadband hotspots.

“We know that there’s a long way to go to ensure everyone is connected through broadband in Michigan,” said MPSC Commissioner Tremaine Phillips. “In the interim, we have to do all that we can to increase accessibility so that Michigan’s children don’t lose out on their education during this very challenging time.”

Residents who lack internet access at home are encouraged to follow the Centers for Disease Control and State of Michigan social distancing guidelines when utilizing these hotspots, including wearing masks in public facilities and keeping a distance of at least six feet from others not from the same household.

To find a Wi-Fi hotspot near you, visit https://connectednation.org/michigan/. Under the residents tab, click “Michigan Hot Spot Map.”

School buildings with virus outbreaks to be identified online

LANSING — On Sept. 14, in an effort to provide accurate and timely information about COVID-19 in Michigan schools, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service began reporting outbreak information by school building.

Data on COVID-19 outbreaks is being collected from the 45 local health departments across the state weekly. A COVID-19 outbreak is defined as two or more cases with a link by place and time indicating a shared exposure outside of a household.

“Parents and students should know that if their school is listed, their local health department and school are already investigating. Based on that investigation, people are contacted individually if they were possibly exposed to COVID-19 at school,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health. “Michigan schools are working hard to maintain a safe environment while also providing quality education.”

The information being posted on the website today and each Monday at 3 p.m., will include K-12, college and university school name, address, number of cases and if the cases involved staff, students or both. Students or staff exposed to COVID-19 outside the school building and are not thought to have spread the virus in the school due to quarantine or self-isolation are not included in the data.

Many factors, including the lack of ability to conduct effective contact tracing in certain settings, may result in underreporting of outbreaks. This information does not provide a complete picture of school outbreaks in Michigan and the absence of identified outbreaks in a school does not mean it is not experiencing an outbreak.

Wearing a mask that covers the mouth and nose, social distancing (maintaining a distance of 6 feet apart), frequent handwashing (using soap for 20 seconds or hand sanitizer) and following capacity restrictions of social gatherings are some of the most effective ways to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Michiganans who are sick or have symptoms can get tested at numerous testing sites across the state.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus. Data on schools can be found online at the state portal under the “Michigan Data” tab.
By Shannon Jones  

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Executive Council met virtually for meetings in August and September. The following reports were given:

Aug. 24

**BMIC Chairman, Bryan Newland**  
— Chippewa County has few cases of virus that are monitoring, which is very good.  
— Processing economic assistance applications.  
— Working with Briceley and OCS to provide safety equipment for back to school process.  
— In process of hiring new tribal manager: working with HR for interviews over the next two weeks.

— Health Center building closes this week. Council hopes to have a contractor in place soon. Going to look at the organizational side next.

— Economic Development: Press release went out for marijuana. Lots of feedback from potential investors/consultants, etc.

— Line 5 issue: There is a hearing today that legal will attend. We are now a formal party to the Enbridge application.

— Annual check in with U.S. Attorney this month. Met Joel Postma and talked about special law enforcement commissions. Submitted the work to the BIA. Civil code for domestic and sexual violence being looked into for non-Indians on the reservation.

**Interim Tribal Manager Justin Carrick**  
— Been busy with quarterly financial meetings.  
— Worked with Briceley on a full schedule through the rest of the year. They are also in the process of hiring two new employees (public works specialist and lead carpenter).

— Climate control needs a new van, fire crew/BIAC. Payment comes from BIA General funds.

— CRF funds: Money was set aside for vehicles (maintenance, public works). Working on paperwork. Vehicles are difficult to come by since shut down began. Once we can find them, I would like to move forward.

— Senior Center needs a new freezer and cooler. Quotes are proposed.

— Meeting held about clean up project at silver dome. It began last year, but there is still work to do. New facility should be signed.

— Testing for local students and staff planned to take place before college starts.

**BMIC General Manager Richard LeBlanc**  
— Still dealing with the slot panel issue to keep them from collapsing. The company is going to help them address this.

— Received quote for Black Bay roof project. Working to go through the CRF path on getting the roof funded.

— Dealing with vendors on new technologies.

**Old Business**

a. Child Welfare Committee Appointments: Committee sent a name over for appointment—Kayla Perron Approved.

b. Health Board Appointments: Post for all health board positions. Staggered terms will begin. This will be posted soon.

**New Business**

a. Temporary Member Adoption Procedure: Discussion took place at GTC informational. During pandemic can’t have meeting with 165+ meeting. Recommendation from the chairman is to develop a procedure where council adopts minor children of enrolled parents. Fill the enrollment advisory committee vacancies first, then adopt in October along regular GTC schedule. This is a temporary process.

b. Resolution No. 20-8-24A—Software License Subscription Agreement for Farmer’s Market. Waiver of sovereign immunity. Services will be provided by enrollm ent and needs to be approved. Likely to be done at end of month.


d. Aristocrat Technologies, Inc. (AT) system proposal: New system that updates other machines. New hardware and good marketing tools for team. Drink service at machines. Main purchase is gaming machines and some fun card kiosks with 14 machines the first year. Team has been trying to upgrade and update the system for quite some time — 74 games total and six kiosks over four years in the plan. Drink ordering system will give data to analyze ROI. If there were another closure, costs related to new machines would be suspended. CFO is supportive of measure based on the numbers and benefits of investment over time. Approved.  
e. 2020 governmental budget amendments: Approved.

f. Increase of $576K from Boys & Girls Club of America (anonymous donor) for BGCM program: A woman wanted to support youth academics and programs. Approved.

g. Submission of MDHHS Child Care Fund request for $393,822. Annual grant for social academics and program. Approved.

h. 2021 Sub-Contract for Biological and Agricultural Services: This is the annual contracts the tribe has been doing. This is so cable television can be provided to structures on the reservation. No money is obtained or exchanged over this, it is a provision of services. This is a five year contract with a five year renewal, for 10 years total.

i. Contract with BIA for fire crew/BIAC. Payment comes from BIA General funds.


k. Contract for Services: BMIC and Richard Roselle, D.P.M. He will consult and get paid for 8 hours a month. Independent contractor agreement.

**BMC Secretary Tricia Beineke**  
— Met with Place and Main over Economic Diversification plan. Meeting went well and the tribe is looking at a long term approach for economic well being.

— Been working on getting contracts signed and check requests. Trying to complete all current paperwork so new tribal manager will not have a lot of work behind when they step in.  
— Call for 2021 budgets was made from December minutes.  
— Public Works: They are working on maintenance building prep for site, going to pour concrete this week. The apartment utility expansion should be done by the end of the month. The new plow truck is in the build stage and it will be ready around February/March.

— Purchases: trying to locate vehicles, been difficult.

— Fire Crew: They just purchased two new trucks and accessories are being installed.

— Senior Center has received their new stove and freezer.

— Public Safety: Team to meet about handling crisis situations.

**Subdivision of Interest Albert Bertram**

— Continuing to work on CRF budgets. 401k meetings likely to be held online in the near future.

— Hazard Pay: August was first full month of hazard pay. Looking at how to adjust budgets for future use.

— Working on FFP forgiveness documents. Will work with CDR to get forgiveness.

— CRF funds: Money was set aside for vehicles, been difficult.

— Elder trust payments are scheduled to go out total. A approved.

— 401k meetings likely to be held online in the near future.

**Human Resource Director Ken Perron**

— Kronos still moving forward.

— Workshop program: following up with employees this week.

— Health insurance: Looking at renewals. Meeting planned to look at options.

— HR changing some rules and responsibilities.

**General Manager Richard LeBlanc**

— Working on lots of projects. Pushing forward with many.

— Accident at Four Seasons: We do not know the extent of the damage yet, but closed entry way.

— Side entrance is usable, will consider using the east entrance in the interim as issues are resolved. Plans to open the store this week are in the works. Will look at safety measures for the future, such as impact posts.

— Met with Draft Kings for phase one efforts of opening retail sports book.

— Working on roping of Sacy’s, including getting contractor and equipment in line. Time line being considered is early December.

**Old Business**

a. Health Board Appointments: Full range of appointments to be made. This will be an effort with FRC team, health board director, and council. This should be ready for action two weeks from now at regular meeting.

b. Adoption Ordinance Amendment: Good number of applicants for screening committee. Discussed amending ordnance that during state of emergency the council could approve, based on screening committee recommendations, could enroll minor children (under 18) and current children of Bay Mills tribal members. Look to take action on this item in two weeks, possibly adopt, if approved, in October.

**New Business**

a. Bay Mills Business Holdings Charter – Resolution No. 20-09-14A. Structured to that of the Gaming Authority. This will create a new entity that will handle the non-gaming activity of the tribe. This will separate funds and provide protection to business holdings. Approved.


d. Bay Mills Resort & Casino Generator Contract. Will place generator that would support electricity to the hotel. Approved.

e. 2021 Sub-Contract for Biological and Administrative Services between Bay Mills Indian Community and Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority. This is the annual contracts the tribes sign with ORA. Each of the five member tribes sign these. Approved.

f. Agreement between BMIC and Spectrum Mid-America, LLC (Charter Communications). This is a periodic franchise the tribe has been doing. This is so cable television can be provided to structures on the reservation.

BMC Executive Council discusses business
I’m Taking It with Me

By Sharon M. Kennedy

Mom often told me that with all the dental work in her mouth she was worth more dead than alive. I used to laugh when she said that, but now I understand. I’m nearing an age where I’m deciding what to do with my assets, and I’ve made a decision about my gold tooth. I’m taking it with me. It really isn’t a tooth. It’s just a cap a dentist in Colorado Springs put on one of my cracked molars. The gold is probably good stuff; though, because it’s from 1970. I’m sure it didn’t come from Russia, North Korea, China or any other country hostile to the U.S.

So when I’m gone, my gold will go with me. Whoever said you can’t take it with you must have forgotten about gold teeth. Unless, of course, some unscrupulous undertaker takes them out first. I’m sure most people operating funeral homes are honest beyond reproach, but every now and then someone slips up like the fellow who put my uncle in the wrong box. I’m pretty sure he left Uncle North Korea, China or any other country hostile to the U.S. of course, some unscrupulous undertaker – of course, some unscrupulous undertaker

I’m taking it with me. It’s not a seamless transition. Thus, I’ve had to endure some awkwardness wherever I go. The he said. “But, if it saves lives,” the refrain goes. “Well, if it saves lives,” the refrain goes. “It’s a cap a dentist in Colorado Springs put on one of my cracked molars. The gold is probably good stuff; though, because it’s from 1970. I’m sure it didn’t come from Russia, North Korea, China or any other country hostile to the U.S.

I’m really not a fan of gold tooth. Make arrangements to take it with you. Unless you’re politicians, you’ll out-smart all those rich people who will never have enough time or energy to spend all their money.

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.

Masks and other academic adjustments in the COVID-19 world

By Rich Manieri

Relax. This is not a column on the efficacy of wearing masks. Who has the energy anymore?

I’m wearing one in case it prevents me or someone else from getting sick. That’s pretty much it. If it turns out that it didn’t do any good, so be it. Unless my fogged up glasses cause me to misstep and fall down a mineshaft, I will have lost nothing.

I’m more interested in the implications of the acceptance of mask wearing in public places as a cultural norm.

I confess – sometimes I forget. In my 56 years on Earth, I’ve never worn a mask in public. Now I’m getting used to wearing a mask everywhere I go. It’s not a seamless transition. Thus, I’ve had to endure some sideways glances from pious neighbors and fellow shoppers who act as if I’ve just given Winnie the Pooh a wedge.

It’s not easy to find a mask that fits my head. The elastic straps pull on my ears, so I look like a house elf. I’ve tried the kind that tie in the back of my head but that seems like work. I finally settled on a black one with straps that would fit a hippo.

On the campus where I teach, virtually everyone is wearing a mask. I have a difficult time hearing students in class and the larger the room, the worse it is. The bigger problem is I can’t see faces. Wearing a mask obscures the features. I don’t like it. It’s as if we’re all partially anonymous, isolated, hiding in plain sight. There’s a reason why outlaw wore masks when they robbed the stagecoach.

“But, if it saves lives,” the refrain goes. “Who am I to argue?”

I am a little confused by the general lack of consistency. I was so desperate to watch a football game on Saturday I landed on the stagecoach.

I’ve given this a lot of serious thought and I’ve come to the conclusion that the super rich, like politicians, are a sorry lot because of accountability baked into remote instruction. I did notice the coaches were all wearing masks on the sidelines. The players, of course, were not.

In our school district in Kentucky, high school football practice continued unabated. But school itself remains closed. Classes are online-only until at least Oct. 12. I’m not picking on football. I love football. I’m just wondering why we’re playing football if our kids haven’t been in school since March.

I’ve been around enough teenagers in my life to know that online education is no substitute for in-person learning, though I wish I had purchased a few shares of Zoom stock last year. Of course, I hadn’t heard of Zoom before March so I was a little behind the curve.

Kids, teenagers in particular, need to get their rear ends out of bed, take a shower, put on clothes, show up on time and pay attention. It’s about developing good work habits. In high school, I had a history teacher who told us, “You might not remember much American history but, by jiminy, you’re going to learn how to be on time.”

He was right on both counts. I don’t remember much of what he taught but I can still see him, standing outside the door of the classroom, audibly counting down the seconds before the start of class.

I realize online learning has a place. It’s a valuable tool. But there is a perceived lack of accountability baked into remote instruction. I can’t tell you how many students during my Zoom sessions last spring woke up minutes before the beginning of class and “attended” the session supine, under a blanket, if they woke up at all. It’s difficult to engage in the middle of a REM cycle. I had one student who stayed on screen well after class ended, though he had turned off his camera. I stayed on too because I wanted to see if he had a question. Then I heard something that sounded like a lawn mower in the distance. He was snoring. I wanted to believe his nose had nothing to do with my lecture but I allowed for the possibility. It wouldn’t have been the first time. I didn’t have the heart to wake him.

I’d like to believe we’ll return to a time when masks, social distancing and distance learning will no longer be a requirement. If a student wants to sleep in class, then he can do it in person, just like I did.

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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 manieri20@gmail.com.
SAULT STE. MARIE — Lake Superior State University recently received a $14,850 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to host “NEA Big Read.” The NEA Big Read is a campus and community program that offers a range of titles to choose from for collective study. This year the LSSU family and neighbors will peruse Louise Erdrich’s 2012 prize-winning novel, The Round House, a suspense tale set on an Ojibwe reservation of North Dakota. It’s a mystery yarn, a coming-of-age chronicle, and a family saga set against a Native American backdrop—elements our students, staff, faculty, alumni, and the community can relate to.

Erdrich’s 14th novel won the National Book Award for fiction for its account of a 13-year-old Ojibwe boy’s quest for justice in 1988. His mother, a clerk of tribal records, is beaten and raped near a sacred round house on reservation land. She won’t name the attacker, and other murky circumstances prevent the pursuit of prosecution, despite efforts of the father/husband, a tribal judge.

LSSU’s NEA Big Read is comprised of multiple activities. All are free and open to the public.

Book discussions:
- Thursday, Oct. 15 at 7 PM at Bayliss Public Library, 541 Library Drive, Sault Ste. Marie.
- Wednesday, Nov. 11 at noon at the LSSU Native American Center.
- Thursday, Dec. 10 at 4 PM at Ojibwe Learning Center and Library, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie.
- Kickoff event on Thursday, Sept. 24 at 4 PM at the LSSU Library.

Keynote speaker — attorney Bryan Newland. He is the chairman of Bay Mills Indian Community and the first graduate of Michigan State University College of Law’s Indian Law Program. Newland previously served as public adviser on Indian affairs to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior during the Obama Administration from 2009 to 2012.

Screening of the 2016 documentary short, “This River,” Erika MacPherson and Katherena Vermette’s 19-minute firsthand examination from an Indigenous perspective of the search for a loved one who has disappeared


• Exhibit at LSSU Library’s Art Gallery, Monday, Nov. 2 – Saturday, Nov. 28. Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to midnight.

• “The Cultural Significance and History of the Jingle Dress,” a display about the origins, components, and traditions of a distinctive type of Native American women’s outfit—whose sound of its cones signals the spirits to carry healing prayers to the Creator—curated by Tomantha Sylvester, a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and a 2019 LSSU alumna and fine arts major.

“The NEA Big Read as a concept and our programming around Louise Erdrich’s celebrated novel, The Round House, embody many LSSU core values: diversity, opportunity, ethics and values in the pursuit of truth, and excellence and relevance in teaching and learning,” said LSSU President Dr. Rodney S. Hanley. “This literary and multidisciplinary event also promotes several pillars in our strategic plan, such as community partnerships and engagement, plus the aforementioned diversity, inclusion, and belonging; and student learning and development.”

Since 2006, the NEA has funded more than 1,600 NEA Big Read programs, allocating $22 plus million cumulatively. More than 5.7 million Americans have attended an NEA Big Read, approximately 91,000 volunteers have participated at the local level, and 39,000 community organizations have partnered to make the endeavors possible. For more information about the NEA Big Read, including book and author information, podcasts, and video, visit arts.gov/NEAbigread.

“Have we become even more aware this year of the important ways the arts help us connect with others, and how they bring meaning, joy, and comfort to our lives,” said NEA Chairman Mary Anne Carter. “By bringing the NEA Big Read to Lake Superior State University, we will provide opportunities for deep discussion and ways to help us better understand one another.”

Central Savings Bank is your full service hometown bank and has been since 1902!

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.
Virtual community service projects allow you to give back at a safe distance

BY JACKELEY MARTIN

MSU Extension

Engaging in community service helps youth achieve better outcomes. The Search Institute identifies service to the community as one of 40 key developmental assets in youth that “help young people grow up to be healthy, caring and responsible.” In the 2018 Update on Developmental Assets Among the U.S., the Search Institute found that 52% of youth reported serving in their community one hour or more per week.

The Michigan 4-H Youth Development Guiding Principles also highlight the importance of youth community service, with the expectation that 4-H programs provide a space where “youth grow and contribute as active citizens through service and leadership.” While the world grapples with a pandemic forcing people to keep their distance from each other, youth community service opportunities may look different but are still an important part of youth development.

The first step of any community service project is to understand the need and how best to address it. Making assumptions about community, agency or individual needs could result in wasted effort, limited impact or in some cases actually cause undue harm to intended recipients. When a young person or youth group identifies an area in which they would like to contribute, it’s important to do some research. Think about the organizations already affecting change in your community and ask how you can help. Many organizations publish wish lists on their websites or would be happy to discuss youth project ideas. Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, some organizations are not able to accept donations or are only accepting the most needed items during certain hours.

Michigan State University Extension suggests the following lists of ideas for youth to consider when planning a community service project during a pandemic. This is not an exhaustive list.

Projects that can be completed with materials at home are probably the most accessible for all youth. These project ideas require basic and minimal supplies.

- Baking homemade dog treats for animal shelters.
- Writing letters to seniors or essential workers.
- Creating artwork for seniors, nursing homes or hospitals.
- Creating and displaying artwork for your community through sidewalk chalk, murals or yard signs.

Projects requiring special supplies are also possible. Service project organizers could provide families with a supply list or make arrangements to conduct a non-contact supply drop off.

- Assembling no-sew fleece tie blankets for local hospitals, women and children’s shelters or nursing homes.
- Sewing, cutting or ironing homemade masks for local schools or daycares.
- Creating homemade dog or cat toys for shelters.
- Painting garden markers or signs for community gardens.
- Assembling learning or craft kits for youth that may be isolated at home.
- Planting flowers or houseplants in containers for a local nursing facility.

Projects that can be completed with materials at home or school are probably the most accessible for all youth. These project ideas require minimal supplies.

- Food drive for food banks.
- Hygiene drive for food banks or local service agencies.
- Diaper/wipes drive for local baby closet.
- Pet supplies drive for local animal shelter.
- Children’s clothing/toys/books/diapers drive for local foster closet.
- Hats/gloves/mittens/winter coat drive for local homeless shelters or schools.
- Pop can tab drive for Ronald McDonald House.

Some service projects can be conducted entirely over the internet. These often require a device and a reliable internet connection.

- Assisting a local nonprofit with social media awareness campaign or recording a video or testimonial to support their cause.
- Serving as a moderator or tech support for a virtual community meeting (even assisting your 4-H club or county 4-H council).
- Some service projects must be conducted as a family unit, as they require travel to a designated location or require parental involvement.

Be sure to remember to connect with existing service organizations or efforts to support and contribute to their work, and to make sure your efforts are meaningful. Every community is different and may not have the same types of agencies.

For even more ideas, explore these resources:

- Youth Service America: Service project ideas that can be done at home
- Youth Service America: How Youth Can Help Communities Respond to and Recover from the Coronavirus Pandemic
- Learning Ally: Virtual Volunteer Opportunities

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension.
TOURNEY WINNERS — Roger Vanhouten, Adam King and Dennis Carrick won the St. Mary’s Walleye Club Tournament on Sept. 12, coming in at 20.14 pounds. Aaron & Sam Marzean had a nice five fish basket for second place. Dan Storey and Charlie Gimple took third place. This year Carrick was also named Angler of the Year, part of a three-way tie with Shawn and Stan Bowserman.

Corps reports Great Lakes levels remain high as fall storms approach


The more than $7 million contract was awarded to Ryba Marine Construction Co. The contract (award number W911XK20C0020) was for $7,276,650.00 to replace the World War II-era tainter valves for the MacArthur Lock. Tainter valves are used to control the flow of water used for raising and lowering the water level in the lock during a lockage. The MacArthur Lock has two sets of tainter valves, one upstream set and one downstream set.

“The Corps takes pride in performing maintenance to keep its existing facilities operational for long durations, while simultaneously planning for replacement and renewal as required to ensure the locks remain a resilient link in the Great Lakes Navigation System,” said Kevin Sprague, area engineer, Soo Area Office.

Currently, two of the four locks at the Soo Locks complex are operational. The MacArthur Lock is 800 feet long and was opened in 1943. The Poe Lock, opened in 1969, is 1,200 feet long. Construction began earlier this year on a New Lock at the Soo, which will be built in the footprint of the Sabin and Davis Locks. Construction is expected to be operational by 2030. More than 4,500 vessels, carrying up to 80 million tons of cargo, maneuver through the locks annually. Iron ore, coal, wheat and limestone are among the most frequently carried commodities.

“The MacArthur lock will continue to be an important asset for many decades, even as we continue to build our new lock, and after that when we complete much needed repairs to our Poe Lock,” said Joanne Gray, chief of construction and technical support, Soo Area Office. “The Corps will continue to invest in maintenance of major components of the Soo Locks.”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, maintains a navigation system of 84 harbors, including the Great Lakes Connecting Channels that join lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, St. Clair and Erie.

Reminder issued about driver’s license expirations

The special appointments and extended hours for Michigan residents to renew driver’s licenses or state ID cards has expanded to include those licenses and IDs expiring in October, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has announced.

Last month, Benson announced branch offices would offer the special appointments and extended hours for licenses or IDs that expire between Jan. 1, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2020, and must be renewed in person. Customers can make appointments for between 4 and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday through Sept. 30. To make an appointment, visit Michigan.gov/SOS or call 888-SOS-MICH (767-6424).

“With that deadline less than three weeks away, drivers who haven’t completed their renewals are encouraged to make a plan to do so immediately,” Benson said.

Many driver’s license and ID renewals also can be completed online at ExpressSOS.com.

Give Your Child a Good Start ... with Head Start!

The Bay Mills Child Development Center is currently accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year.

For more information, please call Andrea Shaw or Christel LeBlanc at 248-8700.
Every October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, advocates and communities across Indian Country and the United States rally together to honor survivors of domestic violence and support abuse prevention. In 2020, StrongHearts Native Helpline once again calls on advocates, tribal lead - ers, reservation and urban Indian commu - nity members, service providers and Native organizations to support the movement to prevent and end domestic violence, which disproportionately a - ffects millions of Natives every year.

Violence against Indigenous peoples began with European contact and has continued to this day, adding up to more than 500 years of abuse. Domestic vio- lence, which continues as a tool of colo - nization, represents a lack of respect for Native peoples.

Native women and men in the United States experience domestic violence at alarming rates, with more than four in five Natives having experienced some form of violence in their lifetime and more than half experiencing physical vi- olence by an intimate partner in the past year.

Domestic violence has many faces: physical, sexual, emotional, cultural, fi - nancial and digital. It doesn’t discrimi- nate and includes violence against children, elders, LGBTQ2S individuals.

There is also a strong connection between domestic violence and thousands of miss- ing and murdered Indigenous women.

Native nations in the Lower 48 and Alaska Native Villages continually go un- derfunded for life saving domestic vio- lence services. Now in its fourth year of operation, StrongHearts has received more than 9,103 phone calls and online chats requesting critically-needed support to deal with intimate partner violence. Of the phone calls, 5,010 were received in 2019 — a 396.04% increase from 2018. This year during the COVID-19 pan- demic, conversations focused on domes- tic violence have attracted international media and public attention. Alarming in- creases in domestic violence have been documented worldwide, due to victims and their abusers being trapped in close quarters while sheltering in place during quarantines. In August, in an effort to help Natives affected by all forms of vio- lence during this uncertain and dangerous time, StrongHearts added sexual violence advocacy to its existing domestic and dat- ing violence outreach services.

“We must continue to heighten public awareness of the issues of violence in In- dian Country,” said StrongHearts Native Helpline Director Lori Jump (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians).

“StrongHearts Native Helpline urges all individuals not only during October but throughout the year to believe survivors, speak out and take action against abuse, and to share supportive resources with their loved ones and communities in a concentrated effort to put an end to do- mestic violence forever.”

StrongHearts Native Helpline is a safe, anonymous and confidential domestic, dating and sexual violence helpline that offers culturally-appropriate support and advocacy for American Indians and Alaska Natives. If you or someone you love is experiencing domestic, dating or sexual violence or if you have questions about your behavior, help is available. For one-on-one advocacy, click on the Chat Now icon at https://www.strong- heartshelpline.org/ or call 1-844-7NA- TIVE (762-8483). Advocates are available daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT.

Some school districts report that students are happy to be back in the classroom

By TASA BASS
Capital News Service

LANSING — Some school officials in Michigan report that students seem to be in a better mood returning to in-person classes after they were abruptly sent to virtual learning in March.

Having in-person schooling may seem stressful during a pandemic, but some school officials say students are in great spirits. Mental health in students during this time is im- portant and they are showing they are adaptable to be even more, said Mark Platt, the superintendent of Hart Public Schools.

“I find that the children are the most resilient,” Platt said. “It is the parents that struggle more with the change. But we do have a plan in place to check in on our kids, especially for that social and emotional piece.”

There are professionals in place to talk with the students if they are scared or anxious, Platt said. The district has a road map that it will keep tweaking as the school year pro- gresses.

Students are relieved about going back to school. Platt said. If the novelty wears off and students begin to feel stress, there are people in place to connect and speak with the students to help them to thread through their issues.

Some districts offer parents the choice to send their students to the classrooms or to continue with virtual learning. Other districts have decided to continue completely online until at least January.

A number of students changed their minds about being in at least the past month, Platt said.

“We had about 75 percent in person and 25 percent virtual right now,” said Platt. “We have folks doing home visits to make sure those students know that we still care and to let them know that if they ever want to come back, we are here.”

There’s a heightened anxiety for online students, said Erika Coates, the clinical director at Detroit Behavioral Institute, a residential treatment center for mental and behavioral health issues.

“Not having that face to face with peers and interactions with teachers can be over- whelming,” Coates said. The mental health impacts on children are greater when they are lacking those social interactions that school provides.

Other districts also found that social interactions during in-person school yield positive results for the students. Students are happy to be back with their friends after the school year abruptly went virtual last year, said Amber Kowatch, the Manistee Area Public Schools’ curriculum director.

“Early reports show that the students are excited to be back,” Kowatch said. “It is a positive thing for them to have social interactions with their peers.”

Still, schools know this may change over the year, especially if anyone tests positive and an entire class must self-isolate, Kowatch said.

One program that can help students who are stressed by the pandemic is called Care-Connect, she said. It increases prevention, early identification and treatment of mental health and substance use disorders.

The program also helps families struggling as a result of COVID-19, whether the stu- dents are in person or online.

“We meet the needs of students and families, whatever they may be,” Kowatch said. “This includes providing resources to families that might be in need of school supplies, housing and utilities.”

Though school officials say they are working to ease problems that students and their families may face during these uncertain times, they acknowledge not everyone will be perfect.

“Our goal this year is to be patient, understanding and display grace,” Platt said.

His district will do its best to make sure the students’ needs are met, he said. Going back in person was a difficult decision for some families, but he is glad to see the students back in the halls.
Reader submission: A little history, a little art

By Jean Mannesto

The Flanders family from Rudyard hauled eight Quonset huts from Camp Lucas to Monocle Lake after WWII and set them up as cottages. Three of those cottages remain today. George and William Mannesto purchased Quonset property on Oak Bluff overlooking the lake and Mission Hill in the 1950s. I, Jean Mannesto, the current owner, observe changes to the surrounding environment today. Some call these changes development.

Having grown up next door to a portion of the Hiawatha National Forest for six decades, I wanted to share this poem I wrote on the order of the Song of Hiawatha.

I wrote “Song of Monocle” for those who love to hear the loon call. The loon is a symbol of wilderness that still exists in the U.F. wonderland that I call home. I grew up running around the lake, my three sons spent summers here, and now the grand-children come up to visit. I call this Monocle Lake property their northern heritage. I want to preserve this natural place for these future generations to enjoy as much as I have.

Song of Monocle Lake

A later of Song of Hiawatha

For those who love to hear loon calls

By the shore of the Gitchee Gumee

By the shining big sea water

Stood the Quonset of Mannesto

Daughter of the lake Mannesto

Here this daughter of the lake

Patched the Quonset hut

Mended broken wooden floorboards

Scraped the flaking paint out doors

Safely hired and electrician

Who fixed the box with Cloverland

Lulled herself in the quietude

Hash! Listen to the quietude

Breezes rustle in the treetops

Aspen and birch leaves softly wave

Wabler wingbeats swiftly flutter

Watch a heron in long grasses

See large majestic bucks with racks

Once a bobcat ran through the bushes

Breathless moment of gratitude

Feel great in natural beauty

Embrace God’s creatures all aplenty

Even those pine, birch and oak trees

Give a desire to hug these trees

Wildlife thrives in this habitat

Makes me happy with their presence

Now see development happen

Cutting, detritus heaping limbs

Trees felled with big equipment

Heavy noisy earth moving gear

Keep on coming to deliver

These piles, big stumps and other stuff

This mess destroys the forest

No animals approach it here

Keep their distance for protection

This preserve can abound again

If left alone to heal itself

The forest floor will fill with plants

See raspberry fruit on the bushes

Stately oak acorns drop in fall

Wintergreen and spearmint flourish

All edible, life sustaining

Creatures will return if quiet

Please help this land retain nature

Retain nature for the future

Future generations of kids

Kids attuned to a natural world

Keep the wild northern heritage

Alive and pristine for others

Enjoy the natural forest

Come to enjoy this wonderful place

Order allows outdoor visits at residential facilities

People living in residential care facilities such as nursing homes can now see visitors outdoors under a new epidemic order signed by Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director Robert Gordon.

The directive permits additional exceptions to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s order that temporarily restricts visits during the pandemic for the health and safety of residents, visitors and staff at health care, residential care, congregate care and juvenile justice facilities. Based in part on recommendations from Gov. Whitmer’s Nursing Home Preparedness Task Force, the new order is effective as of Sept. 15.

In addition to the task force recommendations, other factors in the decision to expand visits include a flattening of the COVID-19 curve and feedback from families and advocates about how the burden of the current restrictions has grown over time. On June 30, when MDHHS last expanded visitation, the epidemic curve was on the upward. Viral spread has been stable for several weeks – and last week COVID-19 outbreaks in congregate facilities declined 19 percent from 83 to 67. To address areas with higher levels of risk, the order allows local health departments to stop visitation if necessary.

Prior to offering outdoor visits, facilities must assure that the visitation area allows for at least 6 feet separation between all people and provides adequate protection from weather elements. They must also assure someone trained in infection control will be within sight range to assure compliance with resident protection protocols.

Facilities must meet criteria specified in the order, including having had no new COVID-19 cases originate there within the previous 14 days.

To allow visitation, the facilities must, among other things:

— Permit visits by appointment only.
— Limit the number of visitors during each scheduled visit to two people or less.
— Exclude visitors who cannot or will not wear a face covering during the entire visit.
— Require visitors to maintain social distancing.
— Limit the number of overall visitors at the facility at any given time based upon space limitations, infection control capacity and other appropriate factors to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
— Prohibit visits to residents who are in isolation or under observation for symptoms of COVID-19.
Housing advocates say half a million Michiganders might be at risk of eviction by the end of the year

By ZHOLDAS ORISBAYEV
Capital News Service
LA NSING – A half a million Michigan families could risk eviction by the end of the year without financial help from the federal government, housing advocates say.

One in every five Michigan rental households has fallen behind on their payments because of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Michigan League for Public Policy. And 242,000 Michigan children are in families that haven’t been able to keep up with rent or get enough to eat.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently ordered a ban on evicting low-income tenants who cannot pay their rent because of COVID-19. The order is effective until the end of the year, but it doesn’t relieve tenants from paying back rent that they owe landlords.

“The action by the CDC is certainly necessary and a welcome measure to keep vulnerable families in their homes during the pandemic,” said Alex Rossmann, the Michigan League for Public Policy’s communications director. “If it’s not paired with some rent payment assistance or other policies, half a million renter family households in Michigan might be at the high risk of eviction.”

On May 18, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Heroes Act, which included $100 billion for nationwide rent payment assistance. Senate Republicans introduced a counterproposel called HEALS Act. Neither was signed into law.

“We are kind of in between federal relief packages,” Rossmann said. “We continue to urge Congress to enact some robust federal relief rent program that enables us to support renters and property owners.”

The federal moratorium doesn’t erase the rent that is due, Rossmann said. “It’s not currently due, but it’s still staying outstanding. When landlords seek evictions, renters will owe all the back rent that they haven’t paid,” Rossmann said.

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority administered in July the Eviction Diversion Program to help tenants avoid evictions and landlords keep up with their businesses amid the coronavirus pandemic. The state program was funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES, Act. Financial aid will be used to pay some or all back rent that tenants owe since March 1, 2020.

The Michigan Supreme Court has implemented a new way of connecting tenants to assistance through the courts.

“[Evictions] are a court is not a horrible thing. It connects landlords and tenants with the financial assistance that the state has,” said John Nevin, the court’s communications director. “The big problem is actually to make sure that people are aware of this assistance.”

“When they appear in a court, both sides will be connected to legal aid lawyers through the Zoom breakout rooms to get help on this financial assistance.”

Evictions are down compared with last year.

There were 15,000 eviction cases filed in August 2019 in the courts statewide, Nevin said. Last August only 7,000 cases appeared in courts.

John Knappmann, a landlord-tenant lawyer from Taylor, said that he hasn’t received any cases on landlord-tenant issues since March 2020 after a separate state moratorium on evictions.

But there was a gap in August between when the state eviction ban expired and the federal one started.

“I have just started working on several landlord cases as the statewide moratorium was lifted,” Knappmann said. “I have been receiving phone calls from both sides almost at the same rate compared with the previous year.”

Kenyon Cavender, a volunteer at the tenant rights organization called Lansing Tenant Union, said his organization has received two to three calls daily asking for help to avoid eviction.

“We assist tenants in anything that might be helpful to avoid eviction,” he said. “Some tenants need electronic devices or internet access to attend court hearings. We collaborate with various organizations, to help tenants find legal aid lawyers and to apply for rent relief programs.”

Another reason for the low number of landlord-tenant court cases this year is a long wait for the court hearings. Some times landlords have to wait for several weeks to present issues in courts, said Angela Tripp, a director of Michigan Legal Help, a nonprofit organization, funded by the Michigan Supreme Court, to assist people with legal issues in its self-help centers and through its website, by offering accurate and trustworthy information.

“Most of the tenant-landlord issues are being resolved with the help of the Eviction Diversion Program before the cases are filed to the court,” Tripp said. Another reason for fewer court filings is that local courts were authorized by the governor to only work with cases where the renters owe for 120 days, she said.

Michigan Legal Help advises that if a tenant proves that he or she earns less than an area median income, the landlord has to forgive 10% of rent and any late fees since March 1. The other 90% will be covered by a state eviction diversion program.

“If the tenant’s income goes up, the amount that is forgiven by the landlord has to be paid,” Tripp said.

The easiest way for people to be informed about state rental assistance aid programs is the Eviction Resource page in Michigan Legal Help’s website, where they can find phone numbers of the county legal aid offices, Tripp said.

“If even if tenants are not eligible and do not meet requirements by CDC, they still can get some aid by contacting local legal aid offices,” she said. “At least, legal aid offices will help tenants to fight evictions in court.”

Nominations being accepted for Michigan Teacher of the Year

LA NSING – Teachers across Michigan and the nation are proving their adaptability and resilience as they have worked to provide quality learning experiences for their students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Michigan Department of Education is requesting nominations of outstanding teachers for the Michigan Teacher of the Year, an annual program that recognizes teachers from throughout the state. Each year, 10 regional teachers of the year are selected, with one of those teachers named MTOY. Nominations can be submitted using the online form.

The MTOY program is about more than just finding “the best” teacher, said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice.

“Teachers are constantly finding new ways to assist their students and help their students achieve their dreams,” said Dr. Rice. “We are excited to hear about the many tremendous things that our teachers are doing around the state.

“The Michigan Teacher of the Year and regional teachers of the year are important advocates and allies for teachers and students in Michigan,” Dr. Rice added.

The 2020-21 MTOY is Owen Bendono, a 9th grade English language arts teacher at Oak Park High School’s 9th grade learning community at Oak Park Schools. B endono serves with his nine fellow regional teachers of the year on the Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council (MTLAC).

Program expenses for the MTOY, MTOY and MTLAC are offset through the generous support of the Meemic Foundation, now celebrating its 14th year as the program’s sponsor. The Meemic Foundation also presents each RTOY and their school with a plaque commemorating their accomplishment.

Nominations will be accepted through Sunday, Oct. 18. All eligible nominees will be invited to complete first phase of the application process, with the top applicants advancing to the second phase of the process. From there, the top applicant in each region will be named that region’s 2021-22 teacher of the year and will be interviewed for the 2021-22 MTOY. The application process scores candidates on several factors, including their approach to meeting students’ unique needs and their involvement in the education profession.

To learn more about the MTOY program, the MTLAC, and MDE’s other educator recognition efforts, visit MDE’s Educator Recognition webpage.
Child safety advocates push for new car seat rules

By MEGAN CASTLEBERRY

Capital News Service

LANSING—Safety advocates want to put more children in car seats under proposed legislation that has been stalled for years.

Last year, 4,544 children ages 14 and under were injured in Michigan traffic accidents, according to the Department of State Police. Of those, 43 died.

Car injuries are the second-highest preventable injuries in children, said Jared Burkhart, the executive director of the Michigan chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

His association has been pushing for new car seat regulations for about six years, he said.

Burkhart said hopes the bill moves through the Legislature this year.

A 2018 survey by Michigan State University’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, reported that restraints are used at a rate of 98.2% for ages up to 3, and at 54.5% for ages 4 to 7.

Drivers with children under 4 years old now must properly secure them in a child restraint system. The law also requires children between the ages 4 and 8 who are shorter than 4 feet, 9 inches, to be properly secured.

If the proposed legislation passes, children who weigh less than 30 pounds or are under 2 years old would be required to use a rear-facing car seat.

Children between 30 and 50 pounds or between the ages of 2 and 5 would have to sit in front-facing car seats. If children are less than 57 tall, weigh 50 pounds or more or are less than 11 years old, they must be seated in a booster seat, under the proposed legislation.

Rep. Julie Alexander (R-Hanover) and Rep. David LaGrand (D-Grand Rapids) are sponsors of the House bill that was referred to the Committee on Transportation.

Amy Zaagman, the executive director of the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health, said her organization supports the proposal.

Administrative and political roadblocks have kept the changes from being implemented, she said. A lot of resistance is because many people feel that parents should have the ultimate say in how to protect their children.

But it’s not about the state dictating to parents about what seats they need to buy, Zaagman said. The goal is to get children safely secured when they are in a vehicle, and to teach parents the proper way to keep them safe.

The way children are sitting and restrained in a car should be to help them properly withstand impact of a collision, and it doesn’t matter how old they are, Zaagman said.

“It’s not a magic thing that happens at a certain age,” she said. Children can be above the age where they are required to sit in a car seat, yet small enough to need one.

Children often look forward to growing up and moving onwards, she said. Not having to sit in a car seat is one of those moments they look forward to.

But car seats aren’t about confining kids and holding them back — it’s about safety, Zaagman said.

Stephanie Flohr, the trauma and injury prevention manager at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, said the Safe Kids Greater Grand Rapids, which is led by her hospital’s foundation, is part of a worldwide coalition that focuses on injury prevention in children.

Safe Kids Greater Grand Rapids checks car seats to make sure that they are used properly, Flohr said. But those appointments have been on hold during the pandemic.

In the past, the appointments were robust, she said.

“Parents want to do the right thing,” Flohr said.

There is about a 95% misuse rate with car seats, which ranges from minor to major misuses, she said. Usually wrongdoing is unintentional, and most parents are grateful for becoming educated in doing things correctly.
Remembering the birth of Isle Royale’s wolf-moose study

By ERIC FREEDMAN

Capital News Service

LANSDING — When L. David Mech ar-

rived at Isle Royale in 1959, he had no idea

he would pioneer the nation’s longest-run-

ning prey-predator study, one that would be-

come a model for wildlife biologists around

the world.

Nor did he likely expect to eat beaver

brai

or loon there.

Mech’s adviser had sent him to the re-

 mote national park in Lake Superior to study

the interaction between wolves and moose.

The beginning grad student from Purdue

University received these instructions:

“Learn the island. Hike the trails, cruise

the shore by boat, learn the topography, the

plants, the animals. Take note of where you

see moose, where you find fresh wolf

tracks,” Mech wrote in his new memoir,

“Wolf Island: Discovering the Secrets of a

Mythic Animal” (University of Minnesota

Press, $24.95). “Collect wolf scat to learn

about their diet, and moose bones, especially

jaw bones, to learn about their age and state

of health when they died.”

It proved a heady introduction to one of

America’s most isolated and least-visited na-

tional parks. Yellowstone National Park –

where Mech later helped reintroduce wolves

into the wild – hosts more visitors on a sin-

gle summer day than Isle Royale does in a

full season that runs from May through Oc-

tober. Isle Royale is closed in the winter.

Mech spent three summers and three

winters hiking, boating and flying around

the island tracking the elusive wolves and

the animals they fed upon.

He fought snowstorms and heavy winds,
apo
t

autopsied partly eaten moose corpses and

where generations of commercial anglers

fished beavers on Isle Royale for

research scientist for the U.S. Geological

Survey and an adjunct professor at the Uni-

versity of Minnesota. He’s the founder of

the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minnesota.

Growing up in northern New York, Mech

ate raccoons, possums, deer and pheasant.

As a bear researcher in college, he feasted on

meat from bears that had to be eutha-
nized.

In the interview, he spoke of trapping

and eating muskrat as a Boy Scout.

Then beaver brains and loon turned up for

dinner on Isle Royale.

Mech was working with a researcher

who was trapping beavers on Isle Royale for

a separate study.

“So I opened the skull, spread the brains

out on a piece of aluminum foil, baked them

and then spread them on toast,” he wrote. “I
don’t recall whether we salted and peppered

them, and maybe we should have used a bit

of ketchup, because it turned out the baked

beaver brains on bread really could have

used something.”

“Anything.”

As for the loon, it had gotten tangled in a

fishing net and drowned. His wife boiled it

for dinner — “a chance to try something new.

It was what you expect of a large, oily bird

that spent its life eating fish – but worse. It

I could not choke down,” he wrote.

He finished his three years of field re-

search at Isle Royale “with, perhaps, an il-

lusion of wolf-moose system stability,” where the wolf and moose populations re-
mained relatively steady.

However, as other scientists continued

the research over the next decades, it became

evident that the numbers of the animals rose

and crashed, largely due to changes in weather and climate.

“The imbalance got so dire that by 2016

there were only two wolves left on Isle

Royale. As a result, the number of moose

soared, threatening starvation as they over-
grazed their food sources.

In 2018, the National Park Service began

a multiyear program to relocate wolves from

the mainland United States and Canada to

Isle Royale. As of last December, there were

seven females and eight males living on the

island, the agency said.

Mech predicted that the island’s predator-

prey situation “will adjust itself pretty

quickly. Depending on how well the reintro-
duced wolves propagate, there’s every rea-

tion to believe that within a couple of years

they will repopulate the island,” he said in

the interview.

Public can comment on Enbridge applications

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy are reminding residents about the start of a series of informational sessions and public hearings on the Enbridge Energy Line 5 tunnel permit application to build a utility tunnel under the Straits of Mackinac. The tunnel is designed to relocate the portion of the Line 5 oil and natural gas liquids pipeline that currently rests on the bottom of the Straits.

Online events are scheduled between Sept. 8 and Oct. 8, 2020.

Public Information Session on Enbridge Line 5 Application for Proposed Tunnel Construction Involving Potential Wetlands Impacts:

— Sept. 21 at 6 p.m.

— Oct. 6 at 6 p.m.

Public Hearing on Enbridge Line 5 Application for Proposed Tunnel Construction Involving Potential Wetlands Impacts:

— Oct. 1 at 1 p.m.

— Oct. 8 at 6 p.m.

Pre-registration is not required to attend the meetings. All webinars will also be recorded for future viewing.

In addition to receiving public comment during the hearings, EGLE will also accept comments on the applications submitted to the EGLE website:

https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us/miwaters/external/publicnotice/search

Search for: National Pollutant Elimination System Wastewater Permit Application Part 303 and Part 325 Applications

— As part of the effort to keep the public informed, EGLE has also partnered with the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) and Michigan Department of Transportation’s (MDOT) Mackinac Straits Corridor Authority (MSCA) on the state’s Line 5 in Michigan website. Links to the virtual meetings can be found at https://www.michiga

Under Michigan law, EGLE is the regulatory agency responsible for environmental permitting for the tunnel project, while the MPSC has sitting authority for pipelines that carry crude oil and petroleum products. Housed within MDOT, the MSCA is responsible for overseeing construction and operation of the proposed tunnel. MSCA would own the tunnel after its construction and provide independent oversight throughout its life.
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has released its annual deer hunting preview just ahead of the 2020 season. Overall, conditions are looking excellent for the upcoming seasons, and hunters can expect conditions that meet or exceed 2019.

Hunters who have seen the 2020 Hunting Digest may have noticed quite a few regulation changes. These changes reflect the evolution of deer hunting in Michigan.

“The last 20 years have resulted in dramatic and sustained declines in hunter numbers,” said Chad Stewart, DNR deer and elk program leader. “When combined with an abundant and resilient deer herd that continues to grow, and the added challenge of managing deer diseases, that shifting dynamic required some significant changes.”

The updated regulations take those three factors into consideration and are aimed at giving hunters rules that are easier to understand, improved flexibility in how deer licenses can be used and more value for their time and money.

The 2020 regional deer hunting forecast includes:

UPPER PENINSULA

The Upper Peninsula deer herd seemed to fare well last winter. This, coupled with a good spring and excellent summer growing season, has most areas reporting more deer sightings than last year. Field staff is anticipating a slightly better hunting season.

While soft mast (berries, apples, etc.) appears spotty across the region (likely due to late frost conditions in spring), the hard mast (nuts, acorns, etc.), particularly acorns, appears to be excellent in those areas with oak trees. Hunters should be on the lookout for oak trees producing acorns and invest time determining if deer have trails near these areas.

During the archery season, hunters now can take an antlerless deer with either a deer or deer combo license. For the hunter education safety certificate, a Michigan hunting license. The traditional “classroom setting” hunter education program and is providing a temporary solution due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Field days – in which students must successfully demonstrate hunter safety skills to a certified instructor – are the required final step in earning a DNR hunter education safety certificate for online and take-home study students. A safety certificate is required to purchase a Michigan hunting license.

“The department recognizes that COVID-19 is preventing some students from attending the required field day,” said Chief Gary Hagler, DNR Law Enforcement Division. “We hope this extension will allow new hunters the time they need to attend a field day while still being able to safely enjoy the upcoming seasons.”

To be eligible for a temporary hunter education safety certificate, online students must meet one of the following criteria:

- Started the program on or after Sept. 10, 2019 and complete it by June 1, 2021.
- Already completed the online program but have yet to complete a field day.
- Eligible students will be able to print their temporary certificates from their online Kalkomey student portal. Kalkomey Enterprises, LLC is the DNR’s online recreation education provider.
- Students need to present their temporary certificates when purchasing licenses.
- Anyone who receives a temporary hunter education safety certificate will be required to complete a field day by June 1, 2021, or within 12 months of completing the course – whichever date comes later – to receive their permanent hunter education safety certificate.
- The temporary certificates from were posted in March due to COVID-19 public health and safety concerns. In May, the DNR announced temporary hunter education safety certificates for eligible students, allowing them to purchase a hunting license though Dec. 31, 2020.

According to executive orders, the DNR resumed field days in August. Search for available hunter safety field days and other recreation safety classes.

“Due to the demand for hunter education field days, we have worked with Kalkomey Enterprises to extend the temporary safety certificate,” said Lt. Tom Wanless, DNR hunter education administrator. “We still encourage all students to complete a field day as soon as they can.”

All first-time hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1960, are required to take and pass a hunter safety course to purchase a Michigan hunting license. The traditional “classroom setting” hunter education classes remain postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The DNR offers several recreational safety certificates online, including boater education and ORV and snowmobile safety. Get more information about these certifications and other safety resources at Michigan.gov/Recreational-Safety.

Learn more about earning an online hunter safety certificate at Michigan.gov/HunterEducation.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has released its annual deer hunting preview just ahead of the 2020 season. Overall, conditions are looking excellent for the upcoming seasons, and hunters can expect conditions that meet or exceed 2019.

Hunters who have seen the 2020 Hunting Digest may have noticed quite a few regulation changes. These changes reflect the evolution of deer hunting in Michigan.

“The last 20 years have resulted in dramatic and sustained declines in hunter numbers,” said Chad Stewart, DNR deer and elk program leader. “When combined with an abundant and resilient deer herd that continues to grow, and the added challenge of managing deer diseases, that shifting dynamic required some significant changes.”

The updated regulations take those three factors into consideration and are aimed at giving hunters rules that are easier to understand, improved flexibility in how deer licenses can be used and more value for their time and money.

The 2020 regional deer hunting forecast includes:

UPPER PENINSULA

The Upper Peninsula deer herd seemed to fare well last winter. This, coupled with a good spring and excellent summer growing season, has most areas reporting more deer sightings than last year. Field staff is anticipating a slightly better hunting season.

While soft mast (berries, apples, etc.) appears spotty across the region (likely due to late frost conditions in spring), the hard mast (nuts, acorns, etc.), particularly acorns, appears to be excellent in those areas with oak trees. Hunters should be on the lookout for oak trees producing acorns and invest time determining if deer have trails near these areas.

During the archery season, hunters now can take an antlerless deer with either a deer or deer combo license. For the hunter education safety certificate, a Michigan hunting license. The traditional “classroom setting” hunter education program and is providing a temporary solution due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Field days – in which students must successfully demonstrate hunter safety skills to a certified instructor – are the required final step in earning a DNR hunter education safety certificate for online and take-home study students. A safety certificate is required to purchase a Michigan hunting license.

“The department recognizes that COVID-19 is preventing some students from attending the required field day,” said Chief Gary Hagler, DNR Law Enforcement Division. “We hope this extension will allow new hunters the time they need to attend a field day while still being able to safely enjoy the upcoming seasons.”

To be eligible for a temporary hunter education safety certificate, online students must meet one of the following criteria:

- Started the program on or after Sept. 10, 2019 and complete it by June 1, 2021.
- Already completed the online program but have yet to complete a field day.
- Eligible students will be able to print their temporary certificates from their online Kalkomey student portal. Kalkomey Enterprises, LLC is the DNR’s online recreation education provider.
- Students need to present their temporary certificates when purchasing licenses.
- Anyone who receives a temporary hunter education safety certificate will be required to complete a field day by June 1, 2021, or within 12 months of completing the course – whichever date comes later – to receive their permanent hunter education safety certificate.
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Details about the upcoming week:

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Announcements**

- **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.

- **Enrollment Office Hours:** Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please call 906-248-8131 to schedule an office appointment or email phyllisd@baymills.org.

- **Land Office Hours:** 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.

- **Mobile mammography available:** Bay Mills Health Center will host the mobile mammography unit from Sept. 23 to Sept. 25. Free mammograms will be available for underinsured and uninsured women. Please call Betty Jahnke at 906-248-8364 to see if you qualify and to make an appointment.

- **Dairy distribution:** Ojibwe Charter School will be continuing the weekly dairy distributions until December. Since school is back in session the week of September 8th and staff have other responsibilities, you are asked that you come early (they start at 10 a.m. every week). This is a FREE service for ANYONE. Dairy boxes include 2 gallons of 2% milk, 8 oz. of cream cheese, 16 oz. of sour cream, 16 oz. of cottage cheese, 2 1/4 oz. of strawberry milk, 2 1/4 oz of chocolate milk and 12 oz. of onion dip.

- **Cultural events announced:** Anishinaabe Men's Support Group: Every Tuesday at the cultural building, 7 p.m. Anishinaabe Women's Support Group, every Thursday at the cultural building, 7 p.m.

**FIRST INFLUENZA CLINIC OF THE SEASON**

**Wednesday, September 23rd from 1-6 p.m.**

- **at the Bay Mills Farmers Market Pavilion**

  * This clinic is for Adults only.
  * Insurance will be billed. Cost for the vaccine is $55.

Please watch for signs that will be posted to guide the flow of foot traffic to the entrance.

**BAY MILLS HEALTH CENTER**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appointments or Cancellations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MEDICAL:</strong> 906.248.5527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DENTAL:</strong> 906.248.5578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHARMACY:</strong> 906.248.2031</td>
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**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH:** 906.248.3204

**Call for**

**Same Day Medical Appointments**

Phone lines open at 7:30 am

**AFTER HOURS ACCESS**

906-203-4974

Calls are covered by a BHAC medical provider for urgent medical needs. For medical emergencies, please call 9-1-1.

**EXTENDED MEDICAL CLINIC AND DENTAL HOURS:**

Monday-Friday, 7:30 am to 6 pm.

- With Medical Appointments Available Through Lunch
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, COMMUNITY HEALTH HOURS: 8 to 4:30 pm M-F

**EXTENDED PHARMACY HOURS**

8 am to 6 pm M-F

Closed 12:30 to 1 pm daily

- Most Insurances Accepted
- Sliding Fee Available
- Insurance Assistance Available
- Lab & X-Ray Services

**12124 WEST LAKESHORE DRIVE**

**BRIMLEY, MI 49715**

Medical, Dental, Behavioral Health, Community Health and Pharmacy Services

For more information visit www.baymillshealthcenter.com

For more information, contact Jeanette White at 906-248-1200.

**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. These hours may change due to staffing. Masks are required to enter and leave facility, but not while actively working out.

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