BMIC legalizes marijuana on the reservation

By Shannon Jones
Bay Mills News

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Indian Community continues to be a leader in Indian Country. The tribe that launched the first tribally-owned gaming establishment in Michigan is now the first tribe in the State of Michigan to legalize the recreational use of marijuana on the reservation.

On April 8, the Bay Mills Executive Council formally adopted an ordinance allowing individuals to cultivate, possess, and use marijuana. The move comes at the direction of the General Tribal Council, the governing body of the tribe. In January, the GTC voted in favor of legalization, authorizing the Executive Council to create an ordinance within 90 days.

BMIC’s ordinance mirrors state law in regards to personal possession, cultivation and use. Michigan voters approved recreational marijuana use last November. By mirroring state law, tribal members are now on equal footing with state residents.

Commercial marijuana businesses are not being authorized on the reservation at this time, as marijuana use is not permitted in public. Under the Tribe’s new law, only those age 21 and older are permitted to use and possess marijuana. Individuals who have previous convictions in tribal court for marijuana-based offenses can move to have those convictions vacated. BMIC will no longer criminalize marijuana offenses, as long as the guidelines of the ordinance are followed.

“Our tribal government does not necessarily promote the use of marijuana, but we believe that criminalizing it is bad policy,” said BMIC Tribal Chairman Bryan Newland. “Our new tribal law ensures that people on our lands are no longer at risk of prosecution for actions that are lawful everywhere else in Michigan.”

Across the country, several tribes have asserted their sovereign power to legalize recreational marijuana use, but of Michigan’s 12 federally recognized tribes, Bay Mills is the first to act.

The National Congress of American Indians also supports these actions, citing, “Indian tribes are sovereign governments with the inherent right to set local laws addressing marijuana, including its medical and industrial uses, according to the public health and economic needs of their unique communities.”

Tribe releases 2018 Annual Economic Impact Report

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Indian Community released their 2018 Economic Impact Report on Monday, April 15. The report, issued annually, contains information about the tribe’s impact on the local economy and residents. Some highlights from the 2018 publication include:

— BMIC tribal government and enterprise operations currently employ 658 people, both tribal and non-tribal members;
— The tribe paid $1.52 million in federal taxes and $445k in state taxes for 2018;
— The 2% distribution of net win to local governments (from the state gaming compact) provided a total of $447k that was divided equally amongst Superior Township, Bay Mills Township, Chippewa County, and the ambulance services;
— Charitable contributions increased over last year by 44 percent;
— Bay Mills Health Center saw an increase in medical patients overall and four percent increase in patient visits;
— Bay Mills Boys & Girls Club, which has sites in Brimley, Bay Mills and Sault Ste. Marie, had a 14 percent increase in membership. The club currently serves 413 youth from age 5 to 19 with after school programming, tutoring and club activities.

To view the full report, visit www.baymills.org.
LSSU to offer culinary arts certificate

Open House planned for May

SAULT STE. MARIE — Lake Superior State University is teaming up with the Les Cheneaux Culinary School to deliver a culinary arts certificate beginning in September. The certificate will offer students a focused, one-year training and internship experience to learn the art of cooking under the auspices of master chefs. It also combines instruction in chef, kitchen, and restaurant management, along with specialized studies in canning and fermentation. All are welcome to attend an open house at Les Cheneaux Culinary School in Hessel, Michigan on Friday, May 10th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to learn more about the program and enjoy a delicious meal. Register online at LSSU.edu/culinary.

“The importance of programs like this culinary arts certificate cannot be overstated in the university’s strategic direction,” said LSSU President Rodney Hanley. “Adding technical and skills-based program options appeal to a wider student demographic range.”

LSSU joins the Hessel, Michigan-based school, which was started in 2014 and features a 5,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art kitchen. The on-site restaurant can accommodate eighty-plus guests, and is open mid-May through early September. The entire menu is drawn up and prepared fresh daily as part of the training. The school lives by an industry trend towards farm-to-table and sustainability that seeks locally-sourced food.

“My favorite part of the program is the freedom to become creative, experimenting with more flavors and products than you could imagine,” said Matthew Nelson, Les Cheneaux Culinary School alum, and Executive Chef at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island. “The ability to make everything from scratch is absolutely, hands down, the best method of culinary training you can possibly have.”

The culinary program joins other certificate programs created in E-Marketing, International Business, and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Certificates are specifically tailored for working adults as well as LSSU students regardless of major. They are a quick way to expand skill sets and marketability. Visit LSSU.edu/culinary to read even more about the new culinary arts certificate.
By Shannon Jones
Bay Mills News

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Executive Council met for regularly scheduled meetings on March 25 and April 8.

March 25

After approving the agenda and meeting minutes from the prior meeting, council reports were given.

In the Chairman’s report, Chairman Bryan Newland’s report was given by Vice Chair Brenda Bjork, as Newland was out of town at the time of the meeting.

Items he noted that are continuing to be worked on are:
— Health Center funding for the new building;
— Recreational marijuana ordinance;
— Negotiations with fellow tribes for the 2020 Consent Decree;
— Plantation Hills water and sewer; and
— The IRS Tip Agreement.

Health Center Director Audrey Breakie gave an overview of her submitted written report, which discussed the hiring of new staff and purchased referred care claims with War Memorial Hospital.

In Tribal Manager Duane Bedell’s report, he noted work is continuing on the strategic plan.

Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram updated council on the Kronos purchase and possible internet changes in the future on the reservation.

Bay Mills Resort & Casino General Manager Richard LeBlanc discussed upcoming travel plans, removal of the remaining credit union ATMs from BMRC, and the impact weather is having on gaming overall.

In business items, the following were approved by council:
— 2019 Gaming Commission Budget;
— AOT policy exception;
— BMRC policy exception;
— Wild Bluff liquor license;
— Organizational chart;
— Donation to the Endangered Language Alliance;
— Violence Against Women Act training opportunity; and
— Approval to submit for new grants.

April 8

In the Chairman’s report, Chairman Newland discussed the following items:
— Health Center Development: The tribe is continuing efforts to secure financing for the new Health Center. CEO Bertram is working with a consulting firm on attempting to secure “New Market Tax Credits,” a financing tool that can result in savings of nearly $2 million on the project.
— The Michigan Legislature is once again considering the legalization of internet gaming and sports betting. BMIC supports this and is providing feedback regarding the issue.
— Tribal fishing negotiations are continuing in preparation for 2020.
— U.P. Engineers has submitted plans to the USDA for the design of the water and sewer system at Plantation Hills, and anticipate approval by May.

In business items, the following were approved:
— Marijuana Ordinance
— Addition of Chapter XXII to Tribal Code
— Robotics Team – donation of $1,000
— Amendments: Game Rule 7 – Key Employees, Game Rule 14 – Tribal Internal Control Standards, Game Rule 19 – Sensitive Area Access Controls
— Donation: Kali Perron - $500 to attend Art Camp UCLA
— Approve for Submission of USDA Community Facilities Grant by the Health Center (for health equipment)
— Approve to submit funding request to IHS for medical equipment
— Resolution No. 19-4-8B – Support for submission of OJJDOP Opioid Affected Youth Initiative Grant
— Residential Land Lease for Brian Kinney
— Reaffirm Poll Votes:
   ° Support for submission of Rural Economic Development Innovative Grant (REDI)
   ° Emergency Travel Donation - $500
   ° Emergency Travel Donation - $200

The following items were tabled:
— Support for Submission of Small Ambulatory Grant
— Residential Land Lease – Jayln LeBlanc
— MILCSA Land Trust Fund Transfer request
— MILCSA Land Trust Investment Policy change
— Membership Screening Committee vacancy

The next meeting of the Bay Mills Executive Council will take place on Monday, April 22 at 4:30 p.m. in the Tribal Administration Building.
By Sharon M. Kennedy

Okay, it’s official. Mueller’s report told us what we already knew. The president’s hands are innocent of any fishy business concerning his connections to the Russians and the 2016 election. Big surprise. Only someone who’s been living under a rock would have expected the president to say anything other than he received a full and complete exoneration. After all, look and listen to what Trump’s been spewing for years. Nobody but a well-heeled con man could walk away with a grin as wide as Texas, knowing he made his accusers look foolish.

Well, I don’t know. My common sense tells me nothing is remotely “normal” about this presidency, but when I talk with Trump loyalists I understand why they stand by their man. He says things they want to hear. They lap up his words like cats lap a bowl of warm cream. He “tells it like it is.” He uses vulgar language, insults everyone, says crazy things, and yet his “base” continues to grow until it’s not really just a base but a misinformed populist movement.

The regular Joe has been forgotten by politicians for so long it’s no wonder Trump is president. I still maintain he’s a caricature of a president, but I’ll give the devil his due. He doesn’t hesitate to admire, respect, and meet with murderous dictators or take unnecessary potshots at our allies. He publicly thumbs his nose at proper security clearance protocol for his family members working at the White House. He openly conducts government affairs while having dinner with an assortment of buddies.

Occasionally I force myself to listen to him on YouTube. After all, if I’m going to criticize our leader I should know what he’s saying instead of hearing a cherry picked sentence or two rehashed on CNN. When I watch Trump in action, I get it. He handles the crowd like a snake charmer or a Pied Piper. His swagger diminishes his critics. The crowd doesn’t want to hear the same old promises they’ve been hearing for years from both parties. They want an entertainer who will say anything, do anything, and lie about anything just to get a laugh and send them away with a catchy phrase or slogan.

But back to Mueller and his report. Anyone with an ounce of sense knew it would discover nothing because imagine if it had. We might have a president looking at serving jail time when his term was up, and his children would have immediately been given the boot like naughty brats. His followers never would have allowed that. The pitchforks would have come out, and Mueller’s head would be on a pike in the Oval Office.

So forget about all the money it cost to produce a useless report. Forget about all the time spent getting indictments. Forget about the president’s pals sitting in jail cells. Forget about everything except what our leader said: No collusion, no obstruction, no problem. Nobody cares if Trump bent a few rules or lied. He’s Teflon.

My ex-husband recently told me he doesn’t care about Mueller’s report or Trump’s tax returns. What he wants to see is a wall built and the tax returns of every member of the Democratic Party in Congress. He wants to know why most of them end up millionaires even if they only serve one term. “Leave our president alone,” Chuck said. “He’s the best man for the job. That’s why the Democrats hate him.”

After I hung up the phone, I breathed a sigh of relief. Could I have stayed married to a man who thinks Trump is a champion? Not a chance. If I thought all men were like him, I’d throw up my hands and admit defeat. As it is, I have faith common sense will return to the masses, a statesman will step forward in 2020, and the curtain will finally come down on Don Trump and his presidential charade.

Kennedy is a freelance writer who resides in Brimley.
Echo Parish is a polite, helpful young lady who shows model behavior in all school settings. She has matured into a responsible student who works hard. I can always count on her to be on task and following classroom rules. She listens during lessons and always tries hard to do what is asked of her. Echo strives to improve in order to be ready for success in first grade. She is a very kind friend that will go out of her way to help others. Echo will say kind things to her classmates and myself or even give out hugs. This often makes our days brighter and puts a smile on our faces. She is often like a ray of sunshine in our room. It is wonderful to have such a sweet, caring girl in our class! Way to go, Echo! — Mrs. Hill

Grayson Cameron is a polite, helpful boy who is always eager to learn. He has matured into a very responsible student who is always on task. When he comes into the classroom, he immediately gets his things put away and starts his work. He has learned to manage his time wisely and finish his work always putting forth his best effort. He listens during lessons and always knows what to do. Grayson shows his desire to learn by always being enthusiastic and excited to learn. He is a joy to teach! His dedication to work hard is appreciated and will help him continue to succeed. Grayson will even clean up a mess that he didn’t make in order to be extra responsible and keep our classroom organized. It is wonderful to have such a hard working boy in our class! Way to go, Grayson! — Mrs. Hill

Emma Haines has always followed Bays Ways during the school day. She is a great friend and good example to her classmates. Emma has really done a great job in her school work lately and is always ready to learn. She is happy to participate in class and loves making projects. She always has a great smile and wonderful attitude at school. We are so happy to have Emma in our class. Great job this month Emma! You are a shining star! — Mrs. Leep

Kenzie Johnson was voted by her classmates as the March Student of the Month in Ms. McPherson’s first grade class! She is a wonderful learner in our classroom and works hard every day. Kenzie is respectful in school and on the playground where she waits her turn, raises her hand when she wants to be heard, and has a level 0 voice in the classroom, hall, and bathroom. Kenzie follows Bays’ Ways every day. She is a kind, and helpful member of our classroom family. Kenzie is a responsible learner and loves to do well. She also makes good decisions when it comes to safety. We are thrilled to have Kenzie in our classroom and look forward to her smile and kindness every day! — Ms. McPherson

Diem Bowen is an exemplar example of a student who consistently follows our school’s Bays’ Ways Expectations! She is enthusiastic about school and takes her work very seriously. She is a very respectful girl who is a great friend to everyone. I can always count on her cooperative attitude and efforts for helping others. Great job, Diem! — Mrs. Castagne

Brimley Area Schools announces Students of the Month
**Emma Steele** is a student with a caring heart who treats her classmates with respect and kindness. She is one of the first to give a compliment or lend a helping hand to her classmates. She has a positive attitude and is an excellent example to peers. Emma has great work habits and always does her work. Keep up the great work. — Mrs. Gross

**Jaxon Franklin** has been very busy reading this month and trying to earn tickets for the big camping prize. When Jaxon finishes his assignments in the classroom, he can be found with his nose in a book. He comes into the classroom every morning and begins his morning routine without any delay. He is a very hard worker and is a good friend to his classmates. As the year progresses, Jaxon has only continued to improve his classroom participation. Jaxon also does a great job following the Bays’ Ways in all of the different areas of the school. For these reasons (along with many others) is why I have selected Jaxon as the March Student of the Month. — Mrs. Schaedler

**Marie Willis** is an excellent student and is very dedicated to her schoolwork. She consistently gets her work turned in on time while also putting forth a lot of effort. She leads the class with her quiet presence as she can always be counted on to follow the Bays’ Ways and meet our classroom expectations. Marie adds a lot to our classroom community with her sense of humor, her calm personality, and her great work effort. Congratulations, Marie! We are fortunate to have you in our classroom! — Ms. Peller

The students had the following to say about **Shaylee LaPonsie**

Shaylee is nice, polite, kind, and helps others. She is a good friend and always includes other people in games. Shaylee listens and does what she is told to do. She also helps people who are hurt. Shaylee is a great person and is very helpful to everyone. She is a good student and fast at sports. Shaylee follows the Bays’ Ways. These are all good reasons for Shaylee to be Student of the Month this month. Congratulations Shaylee!! We are so proud of you. Keep up the good work. — Mrs. VerStrate

**Destinie McGuire** is the student of the month for the month of March in Mrs. Jarvi’s 4th grade homeroom. Dest has been following the Bays’ Ways anywhere in the school and always has a smile to share. Dest comes to class ready to participate and always works hard to improve. I’m so proud of her and how far she has come in 4th grade. Keep up the outstanding work, Dest! Congratulations! — Mrs. Jarvi

**Shaylah Elliot** is super conscientious about her work. Anytime she misses a day, she works hard to get caught back up. She works hard in class and is always paying attention. Shaylah makes good contributions to our class discussions and is a wonderful partner and group member. She is kind and respectful and I know I can count on her to make the right choices in any situation. Congratulations Shaylah on earning SOTM. — Mrs. Rogers

**Dalton Hoornstra** is an excellent student who tries his hardest on his studies and receives excellent grades. Dalton is also a student athlete and is goalie for his Soo Greyhounds team. Dalton can be found following the Bays’ Ways by being safe, respectful, responsible, and ready to learn. We are very proud of you, Dalton! Keep up the great work! — Mrs. Rutledge

**Sydney Caraccio** has consistently had a great work ethic since September. She cares about the quality of her work and wants to learn. Her efforts have paid off because she has made Honor Roll the first two marking periods. She is kind to others and willing to help out when needed in the classroom. We are grateful that she is in our class! — Mrs. Hope

**Maddox Ranta** is a friendly student who has worked very hard this year to become a better student. He is thoughtful and systematic in his work ethic - sometimes a little too thoughtful. He is so conscientious that he will often overthink things. Maddox has a dry sense of humor, and is quick to use it when it is appropriate to do so. Maddox’s hard work this year has paid off. He has already made honor roll once this year. Keep up the good work, Maddox! We are proud of you and your accomplishments! — Mrs. Hutchins

**Sault Summer Arts Festival to take place on Aug. 6**

SAULT STE. MARIE — The Sault Summer Arts Festival is an annual juried show and sale of original fine arts and crafts that are exhibited by the artists who created them. The site is Portage Street, between Osborn and Ashmun, in the block east of the Soo Locks—the street is blocked off for the festival. The date is Tuesday, August 6, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. with set up time between 6 and 10 a.m. the day of. The festival is held rain or shine.

Jury is by photograph, three per category for all categories but jewelry, which requires five. Photographs may be digital, e-mailed to saac@saultarts.org., or print included with application. Area artists may bring examples of their work to Alberta House to be juried there, if they prefer. Food vendors are welcome to apply as well. No dealers or agents are allowed, nor is work employing commercial patterns or molds.

Vendor spaces are 10’ x 10’. The festival space fee is $100. Sault Area Arts Council members of a year or more pay $50. Some double spaces are available for $200.

Applications for the 2019 Sault Summer Arts Festival are available online at www.saultareaartscouncil.org (or www.saultarts.org)—just click on the festival notice on the top of the home page. You may also email: saac@saultarts.org for a hard copy.

For more information, e-mail saac@saultarts.org or call Jean Jones at 906-437-5463. The Sault Summer Arts Festival is produced as a public service by the Sault Area Arts Council, based in Alberta House Arts Center in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. The mission of the Arts Council is to promote the arts in the Sault Area. The festival workers and entertainers are, and have always been all volunteer. Admission to the festival for the general public is free of charge.

For m ore inform ation, e-m ail saac@ saultarts.org or call Jean Jones at 906-437-5463. The Sault Summer Arts Festival is pro-duced as a public service by the Sault Area Arts Council, based in Alberta House Arts Center in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. The mis-sion of the Arts Council is to promote the arts in the Sault Area. The festival workers and entertainers are, and have always been all volunteer. Admission to the festival for the general public is free of charge.

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BAY MILLS — The Ojibwe Charter School recently chose their March Students of the Month. Ojibwe Charter School uses the Seven Grandfather Teachings for their Student of the Month program along with TRIBE. TRIBE is a positive system of following school wide rules. TRIBE stands for; Treat others kindly, Ready to learn, I need to listen, Be safe, and Everyone tries their best.

The Grandfather teaching for March is Respect or Mnaadendimowin. Respect is represented by the buffalo. The buffalo gives every part of his being to sustain the human way living, not because he is of less value, but because he respects the balance and needs of others. To honour all creation is to have respect.

Aiden Adkins - Kindergarten: Ms. Heikinen

Our SOTM for March is Aiden because he is always respectful of staff and other students. His positive attitude and great dance moves bring smiles to the class. Aiden is a wonderful student in our classroom. Great job Aiden!

Chloe Duran Causley - 1st/2nd Grade: Mrs. Dell

Chloe is our March student of the month. She is always showing respect to her classmates and is always willing to lend a helping hand to those around her. Keep up the good work Chloe!

Krysti Edwardson - 3rd/4th Grade: Mrs. Bowen

The third and fourth grade student of the month for March is Krysti Edwardson. Krysti is an amazing student and is one of the hardest workers in our class. She never gives up and always hands in quality work. If there is something that Krysti doesn't understand, she will work at it until she does. Not only is she a great student, Krysti is also a great friend. Krysti is always willing to help out her fellow classmates, whether it's with their school work or picking up a mess. Krysti is an excellent addition to our classroom this year and we are glad she is here! Way to go Krysti!

Dane Semasky - 5th/6th Grade: Mrs. Ennes

5/6 SOTM is Dale Semasky. Dale is respectful to his classmates and staff. He is mannerly and hard working. I am really impressed with his strong work ethic and willingness to help others. Keep up the good work Dale!

OCS hosting sub sale fundraiser this month

BAY MILLS — Ojibwe Charter School students will be hosting a sub sale this month. Orders are due by April 26, with sandwiches made and available for pickup on May 2. Pick up will be at OCS from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Loaded subs are $6 and include salami, bologna, ham, lettuce, tomato, cheese, pickle and onion. One meat subs are available for $5 and include ham or turkey, lettuce, tomato, cheese, pickle and onion. Proceeds from the sale will go to the OCS Junior/Senior Prom. To place an order, please call the school at 906-248-2530.
BMCC’s Student Worker Spotlight: Kristina Nichols

BAY MILLS — Kristina Nichols is Bay Mills Community College’s student worker spotlight for the month of April 2019.

Nichols is involved in the work-study program through the Boys & Girls Club. Her position title is Power-Hour-Plus tutor, and she has been a student worker since January 19.

Nichols’ program study is in early childhood education, and she will be graduating May 2020 with an associate’s degree. Her job duties include helping after school children grades kindergarten through sixth with all academic needs in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. She also cleans up rooms and assists any other duties that need to be done.

“This job has given me the opportunity to have job experience in the field I like as well as giving me extra income to go to school,” said Nichols.

Her favorite part about being a student worker is the experience of learning to work as a team with an organization that she is proud of.

“I enjoy meeting new people and seeking what options are available to me as a student here a BMCC.”

One of her future goals after graduating is to work with early childhood children, and she would like to open a non-profit for traumatized children and advocate for children and families.

“I am very thankful for all the opportunities that have been given to me as a student at BMCC and all the friendships I have made.”

OCS announces March Spotlight Readers

Kindergarten
Larry has been chosen for Kindergarten’s spotlight reader. He is always ready to go during reading groups and excited to learn new words and read new books. Larry loves to help other students practice new words and help with letter sounds. — Ms. Heikkinen

First/Second Grade
Brayden Atchison has been chosen for our spotlight reader. He has been showing great growth in his reading and is learning to challenge himself more to improve each day. — Mrs. Dell

Third Grade
Calob Simmons works hard everyday to improve his reading skills. He loves sharing the stories he is reading with others and is always willing to try a new book. Calob often volunteers to read in class and always tries his best. Great work Calob! — Mrs. Bowen

Fourth Grade
Carter Yiirs is an excellent reader but at the same time he is always eager to improve and work on his reading skills. I can always count on Carter to volunteer to read aloud in class. Carter also seems to really enjoy DEAR time and sharing what he is reading with others. Keep it up Carter! — Mrs. Bowen

Fifth/Sixth Grade
Nathaniel has been chosen for March’s spotlight reader. He is a voracious reader; he chooses thought provoking novels and often shares them with classmates, igniting their interest in reading as well. — Mrs. Ennes
Earlier this month, Jesse Bowen of the Bay Mills Cultural Center took youth from the Boys & Girls Club over to the sugar bush to participate and learn about the whole process of tapping trees. Spring is coming!

On Friday, April 12, OCS hosted a spring pow wow in the gymnasium. The Drum 'OCS Singers' made their debut appearance. Spot dances, round dances, inter-tribals, specials, and a raffle were held. Parents, family members, and community members all took part in the festivities.
Work begins next week on the South Tower

ST. IGNACE — Now that repainting of the Mackinac Bridge’s north tower is complete, a two-year project to do the same to the south tower is set to begin next week.

Contractor Seaway Painting of Livonia, which completed the 2017-18 project to strip the north tower down to bare metal and repaint it, was awarded the latest low-bid contract to repaint the bridge’s south tower. As with the north tower, this will be the first time the south tower has been completely stripped and repainted the iconic ivory color.

“Right now, we expect the repainting to begin sometime the week of April 22, as weather allows,” said Mackinac Bridge Authority Executive Secretary Bob Sweeney. “As with the north tower repainting, this work will require lane closures on the bridge near the tower, and some intermittent closures while Seaway stages equipment, so we ask that customers use extra caution when crossing.”

Closures on the northbound lanes will be lifted on Fridays and on southbound lanes on Sundays during peak traffic weekends. Lane closures also will be removed as needed for other high-traffic volume times, such as holidays.

The project will begin with stripping and painting on some of the tower’s interior “cells,” and installation of an enclosure for painting the outside of the tower. The portions of the tower below the bridge deck are expected to be painted in 2020.

The original paint is lead-based and Seaway is required to contain 100 percent of the paint as it is removed and ship it to an appropriate landfill facility. The new paint, which is zinc-based, is expected to last at least 35 years, with periodic maintenance.

The south tower contract is for just less than $6.5 million, and Seaway is required to complete the project by Dec. 31, 2020. The contract to repaint the north tower was just less than $6.3 million.

Sweeney said that until the 1970s, the bridge authority hired contractors to spot paint the bridge towers as needed. Since the late ’70s, MBA employees have handled that task.

Construction on the Mackinac Bridge began in May 1954 and the completed structure was opened to traffic on Nov. 1, 1957. The MBA’s sole source of funding is from tolls and fees collected, with all revenue used to maintain, operate and protect the bridge.

Walking On

Ted Milligan

Ted Milligan, 86, of Brimley, Mich. passed away Saturday, April 13, 2019, in his home, as he wished.

Ted was born on Dec. 30, 1932, to William and May (Charles) Milligan. Ted served his country in the United States Air Force. He worked as a commercial fisherman and as a dredge man on the Great Lakes. In retirement, he enjoyed watching the freighters pass by his home and feeding the birds and deer.

Ted was predeceased by his wife: Margaret (Love) Milligan; brothers: Ralph, Bob, and Jay Milligan; sisters: Arbutus Paulsen, Jessie Atkinson, and Pat Milligan; and Nephews: Donnie, Larry, and Terry Paulsen.

He is survived by his nieces: Dorothy Mills, Jeanette Missigman, Sharon France, and Judy Ball; nephews Brian Perrier, and Bill Milligan; and a special caregiver: Glenda Guerra.

According to Ted’s wishes, there will be no services.

Donald Francis Forrest

Donald Francis Forrest, 82, of Brimley, Mich. passed away Friday afternoon, March 22, 2019, at the Hospice of the EUP - Hospice House.

Donald was born on May 11, 1936, in Brimley, Michigan to the late Lyle and Dorothy (Wenman) Forrest. He attended St Mary’s Catholic School and later he served his country in the United States Army. On January 13, 1962, Donald married Sharon Lawson in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Donald’s life was devoted to his family and church. He loved spending time outdoors in God’s creation. He was a member of St. Vincent De Paul.

Donald is survived by his wife: Sharon Forrest; three daughters: Michele Forrest of Clawson, MI, Carla (Coty) McFarland of Cleveland, TN, and Renea Forrest of Detroit, MI; a son: Corey Forrest of Clawson, MI; and two grandchildren: Anna McFarland and Forrest McFarland.

We give thanks for Fr. Edward Baffi, for his spiritual blessings, visits and communion for Don, War Memorial Hospital, especially the staff on the second floor, for their compassion and help in every detail of Don’s care, Dr. Ockenfels and his staff for their excellent care and understanding, our families, friends, and our church family for embracing us with their love and prayers, and the Hospice House staff and volunteers for helping us with love and compassion to celebrate Don’s passing into eternal life.

A Mass of Christian Burial took place on March 26, 2019, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Burial will be on a later date at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to the St. Francis Memorial Fund or Hospice of the EUP.
Former Michigan conservation director tells “spectacular” fish story

By WILL GRIMM
Capital News Service

LANSING — It’s hard to imagine the Great Lakes not having any large sport fish — yet it was once that way.

Before the introduction of Pacific salmon, the Great Lakes had a small sports fishery with few anglers. While small game fish like largemouth bass, walleye, and yellow perch were common, few large game fish were present.

Howard Tanner made a revolutionary decision more than 50 years ago that changed that. At the time he was the head of the Department of Conservation’s Fish Division. A trip to Colorado exposed Tanner to salmon introduction programs. Officials there had successfully introduced salmon into freshwater.

Tanner realized then that there could be a similar opportunity in Michigan.

More than 50 years after the revolutionary decision, Tanner has written “Something Spectacular – My Great Lakes Salmon Story” to explain that decision and its impact.

At the time of Tanner’s Colorado visit, the Great Lakes faced a new threat. The construction of the Welland Canal in southern Ontario was a commercial success, opening up the lakes to ocean-going cargo ships. But it also provided a route for non-native fish to avoid Niagara Falls and deeply invade the region.

This led to a large-scale invasion of alewives into the Great Lakes, especially Lake Michigan. The small fish is native to the North Atlantic and Lake Ontario. The natural barrier in the Niagara River prevented the fish from getting any further into the Great Lakes system, but once the canal opened, the small fish burst into Lake Huron and Lake Michigan.

With few large predators, and a relatively short life cycle, the population exploded. Mass die-offs became the norm and huge piles of the dead fish washed ashore.

With mass die-offs occurring every summer, Tanner sought an effective way to eradicate the fish. The smell of alewives rotting on recreational beaches offended many, and it was killing tourism in the Great Lakes system.

Tanner figured that salmon imported from Oregon could help control the alewives’ wildly fluctuating population.

But the idea didn’t come without a challenge. Competing interests from other agencies to restore fisheries lead to stand-offs for the introduction of salmon.

“The biggest challenge was the federal government, the bureau of fisheries,” he said. “They wanted to rebuild the [native lake] trout, not introduce another species.”

After winning over then Gov. George Romney to the plan, a surplus of salmon eggs in Oregon resulted in some fish being brought to hatcheries in 1964. The plan failed. The fish did not survive. A second attempt in 1965 brought more success, and they were ready for an April 1966 release.

On April 2, 1966, Tanner’s team introduced coho salmon into the Platte River. The fish survived, and by the next year large salmon were caught all over Lake Michigan.

Tanner had considered writing a book in the 1960s but his career got in the way. One of the many people urging him to try again was former Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

She told Tanner in 2004 that “you need to write this book!” he said. He took the advice, but it wasn’t easy.

“I had never written a book before,” said Tanner, who lives in Haslett. “We were enjoying retirement, we were living comfortably, but it was a moment in history that had to be recorded.”

The first draft was more like a personal memoir, he said. So he enlisted Carol Swinehart, a former communications manager at Michigan State University, to help him get it right.

Tanner sees a strong future for Great Lakes salmon, even though there have been challenges over time.

One of the biggest is bacterial kidney disease. Bacterial kidney disease generally affects salmon in the spring, causing high death rates for young fish. Programs have been set in place to isolate infected fish, but it remains an issue for researchers.

“I know there will be ups and downs,” Tanner said. “People forget bacterial kidney disease. Quagga mussels affect the food levels. But the system has found a way to adjust to a level that can move to the foreseeable future.”
Isle Royale wolf rescue faces long term genetic challenges

LANSING — Relocating wolves to Isle Royale may only be a temporary solution to the island’s diminishing wolf population, according to a recent study.

The population has declined rapidly in recent years. In 2010, 19 wolves lived on the island. By 2016, that number had dropped to two.

The researchers used blood samples collected over the past 30 years to analyze the wolf’s DNA.

“We thought it was time for full genome analyses for as many of these wolves as possible to try and figure out some of the genetic details of the genetic collapse,” said Rolf Peterson, a research professor at Michigan Technological University and a member of the study’s research team.

The researchers found that genetic rescue — the introduction of new genes into a population to increase genetic diversity — can reduce problems associated with inbreeding. But those positive effects may only be temporary.

They also discovered that genetic rescue created problems that led to the rapid decline of the island’s wolf population.

Here’s what happened:

In the late 1990s, a male wolf migrated from the mainland across an ice bridge to Isle Royale. He dominated the island’s native wolves and mated with a female from the island, according to the study.

Through the genetic work, the researchers found that the descendants of these wolves rapidly dominated the genetic ancestry of the population. The wolf from the mainland won out.

“At one point, almost 60 percent of the genes on the island were from him,” said Philip Hedrick, a population geneticist and conservation biologist at Arizona State University and a researcher on the study. “That’s astonishing. I’ve never heard of a situation quite like that.”

Eventually, the descendants began to breed with one another because no new wolves migrated to the island. That led to something called “inbreeding depression,” or the tendency for small, inbred populations to decline.

“All inbred populations tend to collapse,” Peterson said.

The introduction of a single wolf increased the population’s genetic diversity initially, but ultimately resulted in descendants that were extremely similar genetically and unable to produce viable offspring, which led to the population’s drastic reduction in size.

“I think this was kind of an extreme case where the positive effect was so strong that it ended up resulting in a negative effect,” Hedrick said.

Genetic rescue will likely only have relatively short-lived effects, Peterson said.

“It might be 20 years,” he said. “But it’s all temporary.”

The researchers think that the same thing may happen but at a slower rate with the current effort to restore wolves to control the exploding moose population.

“The island is almost totally isolated from the mainland,” said Jacqueline Robinson, an evolutionary geneticist at the University of California, San Francisco, and a researcher on the study. “It’s highly likely that over time, inbreeding will once again set in. It’s kind of inevitable.”

The National Park Service has begun relocating new wolves to Isle Royale to keep the island’s population from becoming extinct. They plan to relocate between 20 and 30 wolves to the island over the next few years.

Although 30 sounds like a lot, it would not be enough in the long run, Robinson said.

The wolves are from different source populations, which is a good thing, Peterson said.

“Instead of trying to copy nature and relocating a pair, this is a better founding population,” he said. “Then you start right away with a real mixed bag of genes.

“That’s better because you won’t see that inbreeding showing up quite as fast.”

If ice forms across Lake Superior and new wolves travel to the island, that will counteract the effects of inbreeding, Hedrick said.

However, without the formation of ice bridges and the movement of new wolves to the island, eventually all of the wolves would be inbred again.

With warmer, more windy winters as a result of climate change, ice bridges do not form as often as they used to, Peterson said.

Human intervention may once again be necessary to save the population.

“There may be a reason to periodically introduce wolves to the island to mimic what would have happened in the past,” Hedrick said.

A more regular introduction of new wolves to the island by humans would help prevent inbreeding, Robinson said.

Even if the effects are only temporary, Peterson said he believes it’s a good thing that humans have stepped in to save the population.

The wolves are the only natural predator for the island’s moose population, which has exploded in recent years due to the wolf population’s decline, Peterson said.

Without wolves to hunt them, the moose will ravage the island’s forest and eventually begin to die of starvation.

“The National Park Service has taken it upon themselves to direct nature in what I consider to be a very positive direction,” he said.

It’s crucial to save the island’s ecosystem, he said.

“The real value of Isle Royale, in my mind, is not that it’s some kind of untouched wilderness because that’s a myth,” Peterson said. “The value today is that it’s a system with a top carnivore, a large herbivore and a forest, none of which is being exploited by people.”
State Treasury warns of tax fraud scam making the rounds

Michigan taxpayers with past-due tax debts should be aware of an aggressive scam making the rounds through the U.S. Postal Service, according to the Michigan Department of Treasury (Treasury).

In the scheme, taxpayers receive what appears to be a government-looking letter about an overdue tax bill, asking individuals to immediately contact a toll-free number to resolve a state tax debt. The letter aggressively threatens to seize a taxpayer’s assets including property and Social Security benefits if the state tax debt is not settled.

“Scammers are going back to the basics to trick taxpayers,” State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks said. “Taxpayers have rights. If you have questions about an outstanding state debt, please don’t hesitate to contact us through the number listed on our website so we can talk about options.”

The piece of correspondence appears credible to the taxpayer because it uses specific personal facts about the outstanding tax debt pulled directly from publicly available information. The scammer’s letter attempts to lure the taxpayer into a situation where they could make a payment to a criminal.

The state Treasury Department corresponds with taxpayers through official letters sent through the U.S. Postal Service, providing several options to resolve an outstanding debt and information outlining taxpayer rights.

Taxpayers who receive a letter from a scammer or have questions about their state debts should call Treasury’s Collections Service Center at 517-636-5265. A customer service representative can log the scam, verify outstanding state debts and provide flexible payment options.

Registration open for summer BOW program

Registration is open for this summer’s “Becoming an Outdoors Woman” program, which is set for May 31 to June 2, in Marquette County.

This will mark the 22nd annual summer BOW gathering for women, 18 and older, who are seeking an opportunity to improve their outdoor skills in a relaxed, noncompetitive atmosphere.

“Becoming an Outdoors Woman is a program where each individual is encouraged to learn at her own pace,” said Michelle Zellar, BOW program coordinator in Newberry. “The emphasis is on the enjoyment, fun and camaraderie of outdoor activities and sharing in the success of one another.”

The summer BOW program is sponsored by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and offers instruction in more than 30 different types of activities, including kayaking, wilderness first aid and survival, lake and fly fishing, field birding, geocaching, shooting sports, boating, basic land navigation and introduction to bird hunting with dogs.

“Volunteer BOW instructors provide basic and advanced teaching that is tailored to each participant's individual ability, helping participants learn the basics in a short amount of time,” Zellar said.

BOW participants stay and take their classes at the Bay Cliff Health Camp, a universally accessible facility overlooking Lake Superior, which is situated about 30 miles north of Marquette near Big Bay.

Participants will be housed in a dorm-style facility with amenities including a sauna, tennis courts, hiking and biking trails, along with easy access to northern hardwood forests and Lake Superior.

“The summer program typically fills quickly, so early registration is encouraged,” Zellar said.

The $200 registration fee includes all food and lodging, as well as most equipment and supplies. The deadline for registration is May 4. A limited number of partial BOW Scholarships are available to help low-income participants with the cost of registration. The scholarship application deadline is April 17.

Class information and registration materials are available online at Michigan.gov/BOW. Registrations must be mailed with payment to the DNR Newberry Customer Service Center, Attn: BOW, 5100 State Highway M-123, Newberry, MI 49868.

For more information on the summer BOW program, contact Michelle Zellar at the DNR Customer Service Center in Newberry at 906-293-5131 ext. 4004, or by e-mail at DNRBOW@michigan.gov.
April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual Assault is a horrifying reality for Native American women and girls

Submitted by Anna Rogers-Stott
Bay Mills Journey to Healing Program

Imagine growing up in an environment where it is only a matter of time before you experience some sort of sexual assault or violence. For most of us, that would seem absolutely unthinkable. Yet for Native American girls growing up, this is their reality. It is a horrific fact that Native American women are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault than any other ethnic group in the U.S. This is simply not okay. In a recent article published by The Guardian, Charon Asetoyer, CEO of the Native American Women’s Health Education Resource Center, was confronted with an inconceivable question by a young mother on the Yankton Sioux Reservation in Lake Andes, South Dakota. The question was: “What do I tell my daughter when she is raped?” Recalling the incident, Asetoyer, a member of the Comanche tribe, said, “Not if she’s raped, but when she’s raped. We’re aware of how bad the problem is in our reservation community, but when somebody puts it to you that way, you realize it’s even worse than you thought it was.”

How can I help a survivor of sexual assault? When someone you care about tells you they’ve been sexually assaulted or abused, it can be a lot to handle. A supportive reaction can make all the difference, but that doesn’t mean it comes easy. Encouraging words and phrases can avoid judgment and show support for the survivor. Consider these phrases:

- “I’m sorry this happened.” Acknowledge that the experience has affected their life. Phrases like “This must be really tough for you,” and, “I’m so glad you are sharing this with me,” help to communicate empathy.
- “It’s not your fault.” Survivors may blame themselves, especially if they know the perpetrator personally. Remind the survivor, maybe even more than once, that they are not to blame.
- “I believe you.” It can be extremely difficult for survivors to come forward and share their story. They may feel ashamed, concerned that they won’t be believed, or worried they’ll be blamed. Leave any “why” questions or investigations to the experts — your job is to support this person. Be careful not to interpret calmness as a sign that the event did not occur — everyone responds differently. The best thing you can do is to believe them.
- “You are not alone.” Remind the survivor that you are there for them and willing to listen to their story. Remind them there are other people in their life who care and that there are service providers who will be able to support them as they recover from the experience.
- “Are you open to seeking medical attention?” The survivor might need medical attention, even if the event happened a while ago. You can support the survivor by offering to accompany them or find more information. It’s okay to ask directly, “Are you open to seeking medical care?”
- “You can trust me.” If a survivor opens up to you, it means they trust you. Remind them that you can be trusted and will respect their privacy. Always ask the survivor before you share their story with others. If a minor discloses a situation of sexual abuse, you are required in most situations to report the crime. Let the minor know that you have to tell another adult, and ask them if they’d like to be involved.
- “This doesn’t change how I think of you.” Some survivors are concerned that sharing what happened will change the way other people see them, especially a partner. Reassure the survivor that surviving sexual violence doesn’t change the way you think or feel about them.
- Avoid judgment. It can be difficult to watch a survivor struggle with the effects of sexual assault for an extended period of time. Avoid phrases that suggest they’re taking too long to recover such as, “You’ve been acting like this for a while now,” or “How much longer will you feel this way?”
- Check in periodically. The event may have happened a long time ago, but that doesn’t mean the pain is gone. Check in with the survivor to remind them you still care about their well-being and believe their story.
- Remember that the healing process is fluid. Everyone has bad days. Don’t interpret flashbacks, bad days, or silent spells as “setbacks.” It’s all part of the process.
Announcements

BMCC Summer/Fall Scheduling now open
Interested in taking courses at Bay Mills Community College? Registration is now open for summer and fall terms. See the course schedules online at www.bmcc.edu.

Pow Wow Raffle being held
The Bay Mills Pow Wow Committee will be raffling off a gorgeous star quilt to support the 28th Annual Honoring Our Veterans Pow Wow. Chi miigwetch to Laura LaPlante and her family for donating this blanket. Tickets are $25 each, and you must pay by check or cash before a ticket will be issued to you. They are selling a limited amount of tickets, so find someone on the Pow Wow Committee (Josh, Kimmarie, Sarah, or Whitney) to snag your ticket before they’re all gone. The drawing will be on May 31 in the Tribal Administration Building at 12 p.m. You can contact the Bay Mills Pow Wow Committee at bmcipowwow@gmail.com, via facebook messenger, or at 906-322-8773 for any questions or concerns.

Report water issues online or via phone
Bay Mills water customers can now report if they are experiencing issues via phone or online. The number to report issues is 906-248-8179. You can also utilize the online reporting form available at www.baymills.org on the upper left side of the page.

Mobile Mammography Unit coming to the Health Center in May
The Bay Mills Health Center will be hosting a Mobile Mammography event on Thursday, May 9 and Friday, May 10. This opportunity is available to all tribal members, casino employees, and other residents of the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Mammograms take 20 minutes. By making an appointment with the clinic it will ensure that this screening is done at no cost to the patient. Women over the age of 40, and due or overdue for an annual mammogram, are welcome to contact the Bay Mills Health Center to make an appointment for May 9 or May 10. For more information, please contact Betty Jahnke, BSN, RN, Supervisory Case Manager, Bay Mills Indian Community at 906-248-8364 or at bjahnke@baymills.org.

Cardboard now being accepted
Have you heard the news? Recycling cardboard just got a whole lot easier! Bay Mills Maintenance Department is now accepting all corrugated cardboard from both tribal and non-tribal folks free of charge! You can feel twice as good about recycling with Bay Mills because your cardboard supports other maintenance and waste management efforts at BMIC! Drop off your cardboard in the white garage behind the BMIC trash compactor. Open same hours as the trash compactor. For more information contact 906-248-8154.

Have a community announcement?
Email us at newspaper@baymills.org