

BAY MILLS NEWS

Serving the Eastern Upper Peninsula

“Gnoozhekaaning Bidajimowin”

October 2021

Bay Mills General Election takes place on Nov. 3

BAY MILLS—Every two years, Bay Mills Indian Community citizens elect leadership to the Executive Council seats. This year, the general election will take place on Nov. 3 at the Armella Parker Senior Center. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. that day.

Any member of the Bay Mills Indian Community who is eighteen (18) years or older may vote in the General Election.

Any registered voter who will not be able to cast their ballot in person may request the Election Committee to issue them an absentee ballot. Such request may be made in person, by email - Elections@baymills.org, by Fax – 248-3283 or by mail and signed by the person requesting the ballot. In any case, the request must be made thirty-six (36) hours before the Election. Reason for requesting absentee ballot must be given, as absentee ballots are for individuals unable to vote in person. Direct your request to the Bay Mills Tribal Office at 12140 W. Lakeshore Dr., Brimley, MI 49715 Attn: Election Committee

If there are any questions, please call the Tribal Office for more information. The telephone number is (906) 248-8100. Ask for Diane Teeple or Kimmi Walden.

Candidates were given the opportunity to submit a profile. Here are their submissions:

Candidate for Tribal Chairperson

Whitney Gravelle (incumbent, unopposed)

Family and friends from Bay Mills, aanii my name is Whitney Gravelle and I am running for Tribal Chairwoman in the 2021 Bay Mills Indian Community General Election. I am the granddaughter of Albert “Big Abe” and Amelia LeBlanc on my mother’s side, and Grace Gravelle on my father’s side. I am the daughter of Evelyene LeBlancMcPherson and Robert Gravelle.

I was born and raised on the Bay Mills Reservation. I graduated from Brimley High School and went on to Michigan State University where I graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. Afterwards, I continued my education at Michigan State University College of Law where I graduated cum laude with a Juris Doctorate. I also obtained a certificate in Indigenous Law by taking classes focusing on Federal Indian Law; the Indian Child Welfare Act; Tribal Law and Regulation; and Global Perspectives on Indigenous People.

While in law school, I worked for the Udall Congressional Washington DC Internship, Native American Rights Fund, Michigan Supreme Court in Justice McCormack’s Chambers, Michigan Attorney General’s Office in the Indian Child Welfare Section, and in Michigan State University’s Indian Law Clinic.

Upon graduation from law school, I worked in

Washington, DC for the United States Department of Justice in the Indian Resource Section. After returning, I served our community as Chief Judge of Bay Mills Tribal Court, and again as the Tribal Attorney for Bay Mills Indian Community. I have handled cases related to the scope of tribal land and jurisdiction, treaty hunting and fishing rights, child welfare advocacy, and the protection of lands held in trust for tribes and individual Indian lands.

I am running for Tribal Chairperson, because I want to give Bay Mills love, safety, protection, opportunity, and support. When I think of the Bay Mills that will exist in the next five years, or even ten years, I am so excited for our people and proud to be part of everything we will accomplish! In the last seven months we have already accomplished several large priorities such as: stabilizing our finances across government and enterprise operations, supporting our employees with an hourly wage increase, resolving issues on tribal citizenship and enrollment, expanding employee benefits, repairing recreation areas, investing in infrastructure that provides critical services, as well as paying off historic debts and other financial burdens.

We live in a beautiful place, filled with a long and strong history as a Tribal Nation. I would be honored to continue to serve Bay Mills as we work together to build a brighter and better future for the next seven generations.

Please visit my Facebook page to learn more about my campaign, and also to let me know what you’re worried about or would like to see done around Bay Mills. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me if you have a question or want to talk on the phone! Miigwetch, and remember together we can “Win with Whitney!”

Candidates for Vice Chairperson

Brenda Bjork (incumbent)

My name is Brenda Bjork and I am running for the position of Vice Chairperson. Born and raised in Bay Mills, I have had a life long connection to the Tribe.

Four years ago I was elected as Vice Chairperson and less than a year ago, I was sworn in as the Acting Chairwoman until the role could be filled. We went on to make history in Bay Mills as the first elected council of all women.

These past two years have been filled with a lot of ups and downs for our Tribe. Moments of uncertainty when the pandemic hit, followed by triumphs when our dreams for the Tribe became realities. The list of what we have been through and achieved as a Tribe over the past two years is very long. Each set back made us dig deeper and each triumph made us celebrate.

In the coming years the work to move our Tribe forward must continue. Long term care, hotel expansion, marina developments are just a few of the goals I would like to attain.

I have the experience to succeed. Thank you for your continued support.

Jacques A. LeBlanc, Jr.

Aanii! The Executive Council has the duty and responsibility of service to and for the people of Gnoozhekaaning. I, Jacques LeBlanc Jr., am asking for your vote to serve as Vice Chairman for you and our community. I

I am a lifelong community member and proud supporter of our deep and rich history. My wife Candice and I are the proud parents of 4 beautiful children. I am a 3rd generation fisherman, US Army Veteran, and a Varsity Basketball Coach. I currently work for BMIC as the Tribal Action Plan Director and moonlight as a Commercial Fisherman. For several years I have actively served on the Bay Mills Conservation Committee, Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills Advisory Council, the Healing to Wellness Court Advisory Committee, and Tribal Advisory Board. I have been drug and alcohol free for almost 20 years and am very proud of my sobriety. As a younger man I heard a quote that continues to inspire me, "Be the change you wish to see in the world" - Ghandi. Tribal rights, treaties, compacts, and agreements are always being tested and scrutinized. As your Vice Chairman, I will always work to ensure that the benefit of our TRIBE as a whole is the forefront of any and all negotiations. The 2020 Consent Decree negotiations have been a brutal and painstaking process. The impacts of this important work could potentially change the face of Treaty Fishing as we know it. As a lifelong fisherman, I have a deep personal interest in protecting our rights, waters, and resources. I want to sit at those tables and negotiations and be the voice of our past, present, and future fisherman.

As your Vice Chairman, I would support and push for continued growth and expansion throughout our entities and infrastructure. As our community grows, so do our needs. We need to think outside the box and develop new resources to further assist with these needs as well as ways to improve and grow our current supports, services, and businesses.

I am a huge advocate for youth and would encourage Council to prioritize child and youth services across the board. I can't think of a better investment for all of our futures than by supporting, teaching, and guiding our future generations to be the best versions of themselves. As Anishnaabe, we thrive when we connect with our identity. We were given medicines, ceremonies, and teachings on how to live a good life "MinoBimaadzawiiin". Cultural growth and support is vital to our people and has proven to be effective in mitigating Substance Use Disorders and Mental Illness. On Council I would work to ensure that we build on our cultural competency and traditional values so we can all grow and flourish together.

Miigwetch for your consideration.





Candidates for Secretary

Beverly Carrick (incumbent)

Hello/Anii, my name is Beverly Carrick and I am seeking re-election as Secretary in the Bay Mills Indian Community General Election to be held November 3, 2021.

I am the oldest of five born to Donald and Ellen Carrick, granddaughter to Agnes LeBlanc Carrick and Levi "Bill" Carrick and great Granddaughter to Lucy Smith LeBlanc and William LeBlanc. I am very proud to be Crane Clan and follow in the footsteps of my Grandma Aggie and Great Grandma Lucy as they too were on the Bay Mills Executive Council.

I am proud to be the mother of seven amazing children; all of which live in Bay Mills and surrounding area and all are either currently working for the Bay Mills Indian Community or have recently worked for Bay Mills in some capacity. The best part of being a mother is carrying on into the next generation of which I am overjoyed to be blessed to be called Grandma, Bamma, or Grammy to seven wonderful grandchildren.

Throughout high school I worked the summers on the Bay Mills Youth Programs beautifying Bay Mills and helping elders with "chores" they had to keep their yards beautiful and homes ready for their loved ones to visit. I graduated high school from Brimley Area Schools and went on to further my education at the Bay Mills Community College. Upon graduating from BMCC with a certificate in Secretarial Management in 1985, I began my first adult job working at the college as its Secretary and eventually moved up to the Executive Secretary to the President while I continued my education to obtain my Associates in Office Technology in 1993. After almost 10 years with BMCC, I left for other employment of which I have been for the past 27 years with the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, currently as the Interim Executive Director.

I hope my work history shows my commitment to the community by helping others further their education or ensuring our treaty rights are upheld for fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering within our 1836 Treaty area. I intend to stay passionate & committed to the work for our Tribe and Membership as your elected Secretary on the Executive Council. With your support and reelection vote, I will continue to do my best for our Tribe to see that our current projects such as the Health Center, Senior Housing, Plantation Road housing development are completed and that we can begin other projects which will benefit our Community and Members now and for future generations and keep our children, adults and elders safe.

Get out and exercise your right to vote during the October Primaries and the General Election and don't stop at that, our Tribe is unique in that our Membership has the vote, not just a Council or Board, make certain you get out to the General Tribal Council meetings and exercise your right as a Member of the Bay Mills Indian Community

Good luck to all Candidates! Miigwetch/Thank You

Betty Jahnke

I am excited to announce that I am seeking election for the position of Secretary of the Bay Mills Indian Community in the 2021 Tribal elections, and humbly ask for your support.

My parents are Darryl and Edith Cameron and my grandparents are Harold and Marie Cameron. I live and work in Bay Mills and have raised a family here with my husband, Simon Jahnke, who works as Lead Slot Technician at Bay Mills Resort and Casino. We have three children: Chelsey, Malikahi, and Savannah, and three gorgeous grandchildren: Blake, Adria, and Susie.

My career in Bay Mills started working on "Hank's Crew" during the summers. I began working at Kings Club Casino in June of 1993 and stayed for 20 years. I began as a Change Person, and transitioned into the bar as a Cocktail Waitress, Bartender, and ultimately Food and Beverage Manager. I also worked as a fill-in Shift Supervisor. After obtaining my nursing degree, I worked as a Registered Nurse at War Memorial Hospital within their Behavioral Health unit and their Medical/Surgical unit. I am currently a Supervisor Case Manager at the Bay Mills Medical Center.

I also serve as Vice-President on the Ojibwe Charter School board.

I graduated from Bay Mills Community College in 2008 with an Associate's Degree of Applied Science in General Studies. I obtained Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Lake Superior State University in 2013. Most recently, I obtained a Master's of Nursing degree in Administration and Certificate of Nursing Education from Ferris University in 2020.

I am dedicated to doing my part to help Bay Mills thrive as a community. These last two years in the time of COVID have been difficult on everyone, and through it all our community has continued to progress. I want to see this progression continue.

Regardless of the election outcomes, Miigwetch for your support.

I want to wish the best of luck to all the candidates.

NOTICE:

BMIC GENERAL ELECTION

The Bay Mills Indian Community's General Election will be held on November 3, 2021. Please Note: The Election will be held at the Armella B. Parker Senior Citizen Building from the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Any member of the Bay Mills Indian Community who is eighteen (18) years or older may vote in the General Election.

The following procedures will be followed during the elections.

- Must wear mask
- Must social distance
- Only three people will be allowed in the center at a time.
- Each location will be sanitized after use along with pens.

The following seats will be voted on:

President: Whitney Gravelle	Councilperson: Joshua Hudson Stephanie Walden
Vice President: Brenda Bjork Jacques A. LeBlanc, Jr.	Appellate Judge: Kayla Perron Tamara Munz
Treasurer: Gail Glezen Anthony Teeple	Conservation Committee (5 seats open): Tim Kinney Lindsey Hatfield Terry E. Carrick Shawn Robert Hascall Jonah Hascall River Hascall
Secretary: Beverly Carrick Betty Jahnke	

Candidates for Treasurer

Gail Glezen (incumbent)



Aaniin, My name is Gail Glezen and I am asking for your support to re-elect me as Treasurer for Bay Mills Indian Community.

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve this wonderful community for the last two years. To say these years have been challenging is an understatement. Our worlds were turned upside down in many ways.

Yet, we survived and have grown. Difficult decisions had to be made in the last two years. Covid-19 hit the

world hard and every decision made by the Executive Council was done with great thought in what was best to protect our community. My heart breaks knowing that even with the precautions put in place we still endured loss.

We ushered in some positive changes and growth. Through our partnership with DraftKings for online gaming and sports betting we no longer rely on transfers from our casino to our general fund to keep our programs going. Now our casino can reinvest profits back into their facility. To compete in today's market, more rooms and expanded amenities are needed. We entered into a market that is growing in leaps and bounds with the opening of Northern Light Cannabis Company. Our goal is to not only have a successful dispensary but also establish a successful grow operation. This is where our profits will come from.

With the influx of money over the next few years, the Executive Council deemed it prudent to develop a long-term revenue investment plan. It's imperative that the money coming in today is here to benefit generations to come. Major components of the plan are long-term stabilization of tribal government, increased wages, establishment of a long-term investment fund and reinvest in economic development. Thus far we have been able to increase our tribal employee's wages, stabilize tribal government funding, and are currently working with to establish our longterm investment fund.

On the construction front, the new Health Center is going up with a target of opening Spring 2022. Credit needs to be given to the previous Executive Councils and Health Center staff for all their hard work on this project. Our Elder Housing Development will have two homes completed by the end of 2021 and 6 more by the end of 2022. Miigwetch to Bay Mills Public Works for building these beautiful homes for our tribal elders. The Boys & Girls club has a new building going up as you read this. Club has been such a vital part of our children's and community's lives for years. We are blessed to have such dedicated individuals so invested in our children.

I am very proud that I have been able to be help our Tribes over these past two years. Every decision is to made with the best interest of the entire Bay Mills Indian Community in mind. I respectfully ask for your vote to re-elect me as Treasurer on election day. As always, I promise to be honest and fair. Thank you for your consideration.

Bay Mills election profiles continued.....

Anthony Teeple

Hello, my name is Anthony Teeple and I am hoping to be elected to the position of Treasurer in the upcoming Bay Mills Indian Community Council election. I would appreciate any support you wish to send my way. I have worked in the Native American gaming industry in various positions since its inception. So, as you can imagine, I have seen and been through many changes throughout my gaming career.

Being as I want to be elected to a position of leadership and decision making; I would like to acknowledge the leadership and decisions the past few councils have taken. If you look around the Rez, you will notice a lot of construction going on, i.e.: the new Health Center, Ojibwe Charter School, and the Boys and Girls Club of Bay Mills. Quite a bit of planning and work had to go into these projects before they could even break ground. Besides the Councils, there are numerous people who deserve credit for these projects. Bay Mills is experiencing a tremendous amount of growth. A lot of good things are happening and that is great for the community. Let's keep up the good work!

I would like to say a few things about the enterprise side of things here in Bay Mills. Bay Mills Resort and Casino, Bay Mart, Four Seasons Market and Deli, Northern Lights Cannabis Company, The Corner Store and Chippewa Landing and Campground are all a part of the expanding enterprise portion of Bay Mills. Kudos to the past few Councils for looking to diversify and acquiring these properties. I believe it is vitally important that we look after these properties and make sure that they are well run and profitable before we decide to acquire any more businesses with the Draft Kings windfall we have recently come into. To borrow a ski jumping term, we do not want to get out over our skis—so to speak. We are in a good position right now and if we concentrate on what we have, and put our energies into what we have now; we can come out of this much stronger and better off financially than ever before.

While on the subject of Draft Kings, I would be remiss if I did not mention what a great opportunity Draft Kings has been for Bay Mills. Our general fund no longer has to rely on the casino to fund all of our other Tribal programs and ventures. This is fantastic! If we are sensible going forward, and make wise decisions with the Draft Kings windfall; and make sure all of our businesses are running properly and profitably I see big things happening in the near future for Bay Mills. But I also believe we should be fiscally responsible with this influx of cash. We should wait for the right opportunities and investments down the road.

So, if you see fit to support me in the upcoming election; I can tell you that I will make decisions that I believe are always in the best interest of the Tribe.

You may contact me at Anthonyteeple@gmail.com.

Candidates for Council Person

Joshua Hudson



Aanii, Joshua Hudson nd'zhinkaaz. Makwa ndoodem. Gnoozhekaaning Anishinaabe nd'aaw. Baawaating nda'endaa.

My name is Joshua Hudson, and I am the grandson of Regina Hudson (of the Teeple family). For the past 4 years, I've served as an Appellate Judge for Bay Mills Tribal Court - I've recently stepped down to run for BMIC Councilperson. I currently work for the Tribe as the Assistant Health Director. I have a Bachelors Degree from CMU focused in Public Administration and Leadership. I am a recent graduate of the WK Kellogg

Foundation's Community Leadership Network, where I was 1 of 80 Fellows chosen out of 800 applicants from across the United States.

I've lived in Bay Mills for the past 5 years, and alongside my time with the Court, I've been honored and privileged to serve on our Pow Wow Committee, as a Youth Council Advisor, a member of the newly-established Lighthouse Museum Committee, and I was recently elected Chair of the History Committee.

I grew up downstate in the Saginaw Chippewa community. Before returning home to Bay Mills, I worked for the Muckleshoot Tribe in Washington State and served a brief stint as a case manager at Native American Lifelines in Baltimore, Maryland. Immediately prior to working for our tribe, I directed a national public health program at the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan centering my work around traditional tobacco and cancer prevention.

I have decided to run for Councilperson, to put my skills to use for the betterment of the Tribe. In the time I've spent in other Tribal communities, I was able to be immersed in various cultural programming - and it is my sincere mission to increase our cultural revitalization efforts for the next seven generations. Our Tribe is laying the groundwork for a stronger future, and I want to serve as a responsible steward for all of our futures.

My primary focuses that I carry with me in my daily work, and that I pledge to bring to the Executive Council is to prioritize cultural revitalization programs and resources, center substance abuse prevention and treatment, and to proactively engage our resources for a stronger and healthier Tribe.



Stephanie Walden

Hello, my name is Stephanie Walden and asking for your vote for Councilperson for Bay Mills Indian Community. I am excited and proud to throw my hat in the ring and officially announce my candidacy!

I am the daughter of Albert and Deborah Walden, the granddaughter of Donna and Frank Lyons, and the great granddaughter of Francis "Pontie" Xavier LeBlanc and Emily "Gladys" Foster. I have the honor of serving on the Boys and Girls Club Advisory Council and I volunteer as often as they need me. I'm a Bay Mills Health Board representative, and I'm over the moon that all the dreams of a new facility are coming true!

Currently, I am the Executive Assistant of Bay Mills Resort & Casinos. My 27 year career has been in service to Bay Mills Resort & Casinos and Bay Mills Indian Community. I have worked in the Food & Beverage area for Bay Mills Resort & Casinos for 23 years, 18 of which were in supervisory or managerial position. I worked at our Human Resources department for 2 years as well, but I realized I wanted to go back home to the enterprise side and I have never been happier. I attended Bay Mills Community College throughout my years and I'm a few credits shy of an Associates Degree in Business Management. However, what I might lack in education, I more than make up for in experience and hard work. I have 3 beautiful children and 1 fantastic grandson. All my children are grown, thriving, and moved out of Momma bear's home, which gives me more time to dedicate myself to my community.

I believe our leaders have put us on the path toward success, but we still have a long journey in front of us. While I am very thankful to our current and past council, along with our department directors for their dedication to BMIC, I would like to continue to advocate for childcare, youth & young adult activities beyond the B&G Club, mental health support, housing, and community events. I would be honored with the privilege to serve my community and I will do so by listening openly to the concerns of all our community members, with the ultimate goal of growth for Bay Mills.

Bay Mills is a beautiful place! Let's work together to make it an even better place to live, work and play!

Walden selected to manage Bay Mills Business Holdings

BAY MILLS — As Bay Mills Indian Community continues to expand their business endeavors, there was a need to diversify tribal business holdings (non-gaming) from gaming interests. As a result, Bay Mart Gas Station, Four Seasons Market, and Northern Light Cannabis Company were all moved under a new structure known as Bay Mills Business Holdings.

After an extensive search, Kimmi Walden was selected to manage BMBH and began her position on Aug. 9.

Walden, a BMIC citizen, has held many positions in her career. She started at the casino in 1996, transferred to human resources, and in 1998 went to the Gaming Commission Compliance Department, where she held various roles. In 2018 she transferred to director of security and surveillance at Bay Mills Resort & Casino. In February of this year she started as the Marijuana Commission Director, before moving into her current position at BMBH.

In her new role she has been tasked to help increase profits, oversee budgets, create an organizational structure, and work with the Marijuana Com-

mission to maintain compliance with the Marijuana Ordinance. She decided to apply for the position because she thought she would enjoy the challenge of the work ahead.

"Slot machine and cannabis/retail, in theory, have a similar regulations structure, but they totally different from gaming," she said.

Some changes already taking place is a breakfast offering at the market, plans for new fuel tanks at the gas station, and helping NLCC move towards their own grow operation.

But Walden doesn't take credit for the hard work.

"Bay Mills has a lot of great individuals working for them and I have been very lucky to work with the best in my former positions and now," she said.

She also attributes her success to her family and their support. "I have a family that supports my long days and hours. Without them I wouldn't be where I am. I have a perfect husband, four amazing children, and one awesome grandchild."

OPINION

Moving forward on priorities for Indian Country

BY DEB HAALAND, U.S. Secretary of the Interior,

When President Joe Biden nominated me to be the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, I felt the profound importance of what that moment meant for Indigenous peoples in our country. I knew then, as I still feel now, that we're at the beginning of a new era where Indigenous knowledge in our work to combat systemic inequities and craft policies to ensure fairness and a bright future for everyone is valued and prioritized.

Representation matters. When people whose communities have long been under-represented and oppressed are at the decision-making table, we can develop solutions that benefit all of us.

I'm proud to be part of an administration that recognizes and trusts that my life experiences can inform policy-making in an effort to correct the mistakes of the past and help to create a future our ancestors would be proud of. With humility and gratitude, part of my role at the department is to be a megaphone for tribal issues and bring Indigenous representation to the highest levels of government. Native Americans, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians have pushed for this kind of representation for hundreds of years.

There is much work ahead.

During my time in the U.S. Congress and in response to what I heard from Indian Country, I made the missing and murdered Indigenous people's crisis a priority and passed the Not Invisible Act and Savanna's Act. Now, with the formation of a new Missing and Murdered Unit and the launch of the Not Invisible Act Commission, the Interior Department is leading the way to implement these landmark laws. Working with the Department of Justice, we are ensuring that resources across the federal government bring justice to our families.

I am a daughter, a mother, a sister and an "auntie." I understand what loss of a loved one to this kind of violence would mean.

As we continue to work on the crises that face Indian Country, one priority is to make sure the federal government recognizes that the long history of forced assimilation has contributed to the trauma and disparities that exist in our communities today.

Sharing the truth of this dark chapter in our nation's history in order to begin to heal is why, in June, I launched a Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative. It includes identifying boarding school facilities and sites; the location of known and possible child burial sites located at or near school facilities; and the identities and tribal affiliations of children interred at such locations.

Currently, the department is compiling decades of records that will help us understand and share the full picture of this tragedy. It is not the only focus, but is an important part of our work to bring the truth to light. The department is also building a framework for how we engage with tribes, boarding school survivors, families, and

outside organizations. Later this year, we will hold tribal consultations to discuss ways to protect and share information and how to protect grave sites.

The traumas of the past and the inequities of today intersect and compound the dynamics of power and oppression.

Thankfully, we have an ally in President Biden who recognizes that addressing systemic oppression is central to building back better. The president's pandemic recovery plan has made historic and unprecedented investments in tribal communities, including billions in funding for infrastructure development, public safety, social services and important governmental programs.

The Biden-Harris administration also robustly includes Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities as we build a clean energy economy that creates good-paying jobs and conserves our natural resources. Like many communities of color, Indigenous communities have borne the burden of climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately. Many communities must make tough decisions of whether to leave their ancestral homelands or stay and manage sea level rise, extreme heat, catastrophic storms and water shortages brought on by climate change.

The President's Build Back Better agenda will enable the Interior Department to help clean up legacy pollution on and near tribal lands and accelerate solar and wind energy projects on our public lands, which will help power Indigenous communities. Additional investments in broadband internet, clean water infrastructure, transportation and climate resilience will ensure better health outcomes, increase opportunity and promote self-governance.

Across the administration, we are ensuring that tribal governments, organizations and advocates are consulted in policies that impact all of Indian Country.

As we enter this new era, I feel the profound weight and opportunity of this moment. I feel the responsibility to carry on the legacy of the many Native leaders who came before me. Their charge — and mine — is one in which equity, access and science can and will guide the department's decision-making.

As we move forward together, we will never forget the past. Native American history is American history, and as a country we must know that history so that we can grieve together, heal, and build a better future for our children and our children's children.

These first months have shown me and the country that we can accomplish more if we work together. I know that by acknowledging the past and valuing Indigenous knowledge, we can build a brighter future for everyone.

Haaland is the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary and is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Laguna.

I'm optimistic about the future

By LEE HAMILTON

One of the great privileges of teaching and working on a university campus is the chance to be in touch with young people. Over the past few years, I've watched the upcoming generation of citizens and leaders, and what I've seen heartens me.

The young people I've met are, for the most part, deeply concerned about the future of the country. They can be sharply critical, but it's clear that most of them take a fundamental pride in what this nation stands for and how far it's traveled over the centuries.

This shows up in a fundamental respect for the country's diversity and an overall respect for many of the institutions of representative democracy: the military, the courts, law enforcement, the health care system — though Congress often comes in for some sharp words. To be sure, they can also be critical of these institutions' flaws, but I haven't encountered anyone who wants to tear them up and start over again. Instead, they want to fix what's in front of them.

There are several key issues that dominate our conversations: climate change, COVID-19, student loans and college debt. If you ask what problems they're most concerned about, racial issues also loom large: they see racial inequity and repairing historic wrongs as a huge and important challenge to our representative democracy.

As for their own participation, I often ask if anyone wants to run for public office. I'm always pleasantly surprised at the number of hands that go up. More than a few want to pursue jobs in government, arguing they can make a greater contribution there than they might otherwise. Perhaps most heartening, even those who have no desire to serve in government want to serve their communities and im-

prove their corner of the world. I always come away stirred by their desire to be of service.

Their discussions about where the country's headed are often robust, with sharp differences of opinion. But underlying these conversations is a general optimism about the future — and, quite notably in this political climate, a wide tolerance for the viewpoints of others and a willingness to listen to one another.

The one other thing I'll note is that fairly regularly, I come across students — of all races, ethnicity, and description — who are talented, engaged, and impressive. They are, I believe, marked for leadership. And if I'm right, we're going to be in good hands.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Bay Mills News

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Opinions expressed on this page are those of the relevant contributors.

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Submissions may be emailed to: newspaper@baymills.org.

Social Security announces 5.9 % benefit increase in 2022

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for approximately 70 million Americans will increase 5.9 percent in 2022, the Social Security Administration announced on Oct. 13.

The 5.9 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 64 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2022. Increased payments to approximately 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 30, 2021. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits). The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$147,000 from \$142,800.

Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail starting in early December about their new benefit amount. Most people who receive Social Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their personal my Social Security account. People may create or access their my Social Security account online at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Information about Medicare changes for 2022, when announced, will be available at www.medicare.gov. For Social Security beneficiaries receiving Medicare, Social Security will not be able to compute their new benefit amount until after the Medicare premium amounts for 2022 are announced. Final 2022 benefit amounts will be communicated to beneficiaries in December through the mailed COLA notice and my Social Security’s Message Center.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

Michigan bus driver shortage spurs new solutions

By CAMERYN CASS
Capital News Service

LANSING — Driver shortages are hurting Michigan transportation companies and schools, forcing creative solutions.

During the pandemic, when people were in lockdown, transportation demand plummeted. Many drivers lost their jobs and got work elsewhere, said Chad Cushman, the president of Indian Trails Inc.

His Owosso-based bus company lost 95% of its statewide business when the pandemic hit, Cushman said. Now, people are starting to travel more and demanding services, but there’s a shortage of drivers.

It’s unfortunate because we have the equipment sitting. We just don’t have the drivers to drive the equipment,” Cushman said.

The same is happening in schools.

“We already were seeing this shortage coming pre-pandemic,” said Jennifer Smith, the government relations director at the Michigan Association of School Boards. “But now, it’s crazy.”

Schools are using COVID relief funds to distribute gas cards to parents who now drive their kids to school, said Tina Kerr, the executive director of Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators.

At some schools the large volume of cars is causing traffic jams, Smith said.

That’s not good for public safety.

School buses are 70 times safer than automobiles, said Dave Meeuwsen, the executive director of the Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation. Yet, some parents have no other choice but to drive their children when bus routes get cut.

The Lansing School District not only offers parents gas cards, it provides unlimited city bus passes to students through the Capital Area Transportation Authority.

“There’s some real advantages to working with the CATA system,” said Robert Kolt, a publicist for Lansing School District.

Students can use these free passes anytime, and not just to go to school, Kolt said. COVID relief money helped pay for a lot of this, but so did school funds.

The money they would have otherwise spent on Dean Transportation, a Lansing school bus service forced to cut routes, was instead used on these passes.

Though a partnership like this would be unlikely before COVID, both CATA and the Lansing School District agree it addresses the bus driver shortage.

“We were and continue to be thrilled to partner with the school district to help resolve its transportation concerns,” Lolo Robison, the director of marketing and customer experience at CATA, wrote in an email.

Superintendents have even stepped up around the state by getting their commercial driver’s licenses to drive buses or vans of children to school, Kerr said. Driver shortages persist, but communities are coming together in creative ways

to get people where they need to be.

But challenges remain.

“We’re no different right now than the restaurant industry, the hotel industry, the retail industry,” Cushman said. “Everyone is struggling.”

LSSU receives \$1.67 million grant from Strengthening Institutions Program

SAULT STE. MARIE — Lake Superior State University received a \$1.67 million Title III Grant from the U.S. Department of Education through its Strengthening Institutions Program. The five-year grant, called “Supported and Integrated Learning,” focuses on initiatives to improve student success, student retention, and student support services for first-generation and other at-risk populations at LSSU.

“This grant is designed to help Lake State fulfill its vision statement all the more to provide innovation-driven, transformative education and to identify potential, enable success, and drive social mobility for our students,” said LSSU Dr. Rodney S. Hanley. “The grant adds more tools to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and fortitude to craft a life of meaningful employment and personal fulfillment within an inclusive atmosphere, as indicated in our mission statement.”

The grant, whose basis stemmed from a strategic plan devised by a committee of faculty and staff, will allow LSSU to expand tutoring, supplemental instruction, counseling, and coaching. The grant further will underwrite the hiring of several additional staff positions and supplemental faculty positions, the latter to bolster undergraduate research and internship opportunities.

“Through this grant, we will increase mightily our many ways to reinforce for these students our first priority and utmost core value: excellence in teaching and learning,” said Provost Dr. Lynn Gillette.

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NEW LOCK CONSTRUCTION— Work is continuing on the new Lock at the Soo, as upstream approach walls contractor Kokosing/Alberici works on coffer cells placed along the North approach wall of the current Sabin Lock.

The coffer cells will help guide the ships into the New Lock at the Soo Chamber. Kokosing/Alberici also worked on completing forms around rebar for a concrete cap to be placed on the coffer.

Photo courtesy of US Army Corps of Engineers



Popular “Virtual Visitor Center” series monthly programs planned through next April

SAULT STE. MARIE – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District Park Rangers are continuing their popular Virtual Visitor Center series with monthly programs planned through April 2022.

“We created the Virtual Visitor Center in May 2020 when our facilities closed due to COVID-19 so we could continue our mission to inform, educate and hopefully entertain the public,” said Chief Park Ranger at the Soo Locks, Michelle Briggs. “These programs helped us reach people who may not be able to visit our sites in person and proved so popular that we have continued offering them.”

Briggs notes this year Detroit District Park Ranger workloads increased when Visitor Centers reopened to the public causing them to reassess the previous schedule. “In order to keep up with our daily work and provide high quality educational programming we are offering programs the first Thursday of each month at 12:30 p.m. EST during our off season, October-April.”

Speakers will be a mix of park rangers and special guests focusing on topics related to Great Lakes shipping and history. The schedule for the Virtual Visitor Center series is:

Nov. 4, 2021 – Guest Fred Stonehouse “Sailing into Legend - the Most Baffling Shipwreck(s) in the Great Lakes”

Dec. 2, 2021 – Ranger Jeanette Johnson “Cruising the Great Lakes: The Golden Age of Passenger Vessels”

Jan. 6, 2022 – “Digging holes in the Harbor: Where does the dirt go?”

Feb. 3, 2022 – “Great Lakes Gallies”

Mar. 3, 2022 – Ranger Michelle Briggs “Winter Work at the Soo Locks”

Apr. 7, 2022 – Ranger Sara Summers Luedtke “Vessel Namesakes”

The Virtual Visitor Center is a cooperative endeavor made possible by the support of the Soo Locks Visitor Center Association, Lake Superior Marine Museum Association and the park rangers of the Detroit District. All programs take place on our Detroit District Facebook page and are recorded and posted on social media and on the Detroit District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqtbMFyAaYYO9TIAaaK2HTLr0Ph4A5FRF>

Virtual Visitor Center links can be found on our Detroit District Facebook page approximately one week in advance: <https://www.facebook.com/US-ACEDetroitDistrict>

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Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission announces statewide public hearings for public input

LANSING – The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) has announced details for the second round of public hearings that – for the first time in state history – give Michiganders a voice in helping shape the state’s political boundaries for the next 10 years based on its new Federal and State legislative district maps.

At each public hearing, the MICRC established an onsite Public Portal Station with volunteers to increase public participation, added monitors to enhance viewing of draft proposed maps, and will provide technical assistance in displaying information available on the Public Comment Portal or Mapping Portal for Michigan residents to reference during their public comments.

“These public hearings in October are critical to ensure mapping fairness and citizen input,” MICRC Chairperson Rebecca Szetela said. “Our goal from these hearings is for the Commission to gain knowledge and insights from the public to enable us to continue to refine and improve our draft maps to satisfy the seven-ranked redistricting criteria as outlined in Michigan’s Constitution.”

Szetela’s comments came during a virtual press conference on Oct.18 where MICRC members discussed the public hearing and map-making process moving forward. A recording of the press conference can be viewed on the MICRC YouTube channel and Facebook page.

The next public hearings are scheduled for:

- Monday, Oct. 25, from 1-8:00 p.m., recess from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Treetops Resort, 3962 Wilkinson Road, Gaylord 49735

- Tuesday, Oct. 26, from 1-8:00 p.m., recess from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Dort Financial Center, 3501 Lapeer Road, Flint 48503

All public hearings also are available online to view virtually via the MICRC YouTube Channel. Details are at michigan.gov/MICRC under “Meeting Notices & Materials.”

Michiganders can also make their voices heard by connecting with MICRC via:

Comments: There are two ways to provide comments on proposed maps through the Commission’s Online Public Comment Portal at michigan.gov/MICRC.

To comment on proposed maps

To submit general comments or draw your own map

Call: Individuals can call 833-YOU-DRAW (833-968-3729) for more information.

For Help: Individuals can call 2-1-1 for assistance in registering to provide public comment. This service is available in over 200 languages and is ideal for individuals without internet access.

Mail: MICRC, P.O. Box 30318, Lansing, MI 48909

Warning issued about fraudulent phone scam using legitimate numbers

The Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services is alerting consumers to an increasingly common scam in which victims receive a phone call or text from someone claiming to be from their financial institution in an attempt to gain access to financial accounts to steal funds.

"The criminals perpetrating these fraudulent schemes are becoming increasingly cunning, and victims can lose thousands of dollars if they aren't careful," said DIFS Director Anita Fox. "It is up to every one of us to take the necessary precautions to protect our personal information, even when it appears that a phone call or text message is coming from a legitimate source."

In this scam, the victim receives a phone call or text message that appears to be from the financial institution's legitimate phone number with a technique known as "spoofing." In the call or text, the scammer lies to the victim about an issue with their account, such as an unauthorized purchase or overdraft, and then assures the victim that they can resolve the issue during that call or texting session. The scammer asks the victim to verify account credentials or personal information and then uses that information to log in and initiate transfers and transactions to steal money from the victim's account.

These scams use psychological manipulation to trick their victims into giving away sensitive information. Under no circumstances should consumers provide a person calling them with information about their financial accounts.

Here are the most important steps that consumers can take to avoid falling prey to these scams:

NEVER give personal or account information to anyone calling YOU, even if the caller says that it is for "verification purposes." Personal information or identity verifying information should be provided only to organizations or companies that you have called or initiated contact with.

If the person contacting you says that there is a problem that must be resolved immediately, hang up and call the phone number that you know will get you to someone who can be trusted with personal or account information. This could be the phone number on your debit or credit card, account statement, or on mailed correspondence from the company. Do not call phone numbers provided in text messages or voicemails by the person contacting you.

Use multifactor authentication measures in addition to a password to log into accounts, such as a security code sent via text message or email. Do NOT provide this security code to anyone under any circumstances. Other multifactor authentication measures can include a scan of your fingerprint, retina, or face on a mobile device, or a passcode via an authentication app.

Individuals who believe they are a victim of fraud should first contact their financial institution or the company that the compromised account is with to attempt to resolve the issue. If you feel the company did not appropriately handle your complaint, contact DIFS by calling 877-999-6442, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by completing an online complaint form.

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CRADLEBOARD WORKSHOP WRAPS UP — Bay Mills Indian Community wrapped up the second annual Cradleboard / Dikinaagan workshop on Sept. 25. After a morning of good thoughts, medicine, and prayer, more than 20 cradleboards are being distributed throughout the tribal nation to various families.

These cradleboards are made of cedar to provide medicine and protection for the young spirits they will carry. Historically, cradleboards have been used by the Anishinaabe to protect, carry, or entertain our babies, and most importantly allow them to learn from their community as they were carried around to observe families and friends in their day to day activities.

This event took place thanks to the efforts of the Bay Mills Healthy Start Program and Dr. Casey Church.

Every month cultural events are taking place throughout the community. Regular events include: Tuesday craft night at the Cultural Lodge, monthly drumming for men, and monthly singing for women, just to name a few. A full listing of events can be found online at www.baymills.org. There you can view the community calendar information to see what is happening in Bay Mills Indian Community. Additional event postings are also made on Facebook as the events get closer.

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Historical markers placed at the site of old Methodist Mission



Thanks to National Parks Service, Tribal Historic Preservation Office Grant, Bay Mills History Department was able to mark two historical locations in the Bay Mills Indian Community. One being in the Old Indian Burial Ground, (will be attached in front of the Big Pine Tree by RJ's Enterprise, LLC) and the other marking the spot where the Methodist Mission (top left) was located. Thanks to Matt Bathey of Superior Steelworks (middle photo) for creating the two steel signs and the Bay Mills Maintenance crew for under brushing and exposing the foundation from the Church that is still there. At far right is Charlotte Hugo, with the church in the background.

Teeples earns 2nd Degree Black Belt

Barbara Teeples recently promoted to the rank of 2nd degree Black Belt (Kyo Sa Nim) in the Korean martial art style of Kuk Sool Won. Kyo Sa Nim Barbara was presented with a promotion certificate and a new ID card that shows her new rank.

Kyo Sa Nim Barbara's journey to 2nd degree began 4 years ago when she promoted to a 1st degree Kuk Sool Won Black Belt. She trained for two years to become more proficient in the material she learned to become a 1st degree and started to learn the material for 2nd degree.

She then tested quarterly for two years while learning the rest of the material for her promotion to 2nd degree. It is an accomplishment of that she is very proud of.



Left to right: Ben Forejt, Kim Miller, Madison Lee, Cynthia Gardner, Rachel Martell, Barbara Teeples, Michael Bernier, Zayan Mahmud, Lynn Wicks, and Karl Stolt.



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

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Mackinac Bridge Authority reinstates driver assistance program

ST. IGNACE — The Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA) has voted to reinstate its suspended driver assistance program on Nov. 1, along with the pedestrian, bicyclist, and snowmobile transportation programs.

Based on recommendations from staff and the authority's Fees, Fares and Classifications Committee, reinstatement of those programs will include an increase in fees for services, as well as revised liability waivers and hold harmless agreements. The four programs have been suspended since March 13, 2020, as a proactive step to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 between customers of the bridge and staff.

"Suspending these popular programs was a difficult decision, but one that was necessary based on what we knew then about this ongoing pandemic," said Authority Chairman Patrick "Shorty" Gleason. "As our committee and staff have examined these programs, it became clear that reinstatement should come with changes to address staff concerns and costs of the services provided, as the programs have been provided at a net loss for the Authority."

The MBA previously evaluated the costs of these services in 2005; the latest review included updated costs for staff wages and equipment.

The driver assistance program, in which an MBA employee drives a customer's passenger vehicle, motorcycle, or commercial vehicle across the bridge, has been offered since the 1980s. Users of the program often have concerns or fears of driving across the bridge, particularly during windy conditions, but many have said they used the service so they could take photos while crossing or take a break from driving. In 2019, 2,559 customers used the service, which previously was offered for no charge aside from the usual bridge toll for the vehicle type driven.

To help defray the average cost of roughly \$33 per trip for the program, the MBA will begin charging \$10 per trip when the program resumes, and \$15 per trip starting Jan. 1, 2025. The required liability waiver form has been updated, and staff will complete a checklist of several items the customer must agree to, including allowing for adjustments of mirrors and the driver's seat, using a dash camera to record the inside of the vehicle during the crossing, keeping any animals in the vehicle restrained, having all occupants wear a mask covering their nose and mouth, and allowing the vehicle to be cleaned before crossing.

"We understand that some customers need this assistance to cross the bridge, but we must insist that they comply with several conditions for the safety and comfort of our staff," Gleason said.

Pedestrians and bicyclists must cross the Mackinac Bridge in a vehicle, so the

MBA has provided transport services for them since the bridge opened to traffic Nov. 1, 1957. Prior to the program's suspension, pedestrians were charged \$3.50 each to be driven across the bridge; bicyclists were charged \$5 for them to be transported with their bicycle. The new fee will be \$5 for pedestrians, and \$15 for bicyclists.

An average of 793 pedestrians and 375 bicyclists have used the program annually in recent years. The average cost to the MBA to provide the service is \$23.21 per pedestrian, and \$32.50 per bicyclist.

Since the early 1990s, the MBA has provided a snowmobile transport service, as snowmobilers are not allowed to ride across the bridge. Prior to suspension, the fee for the service was \$15 per snowmobile and rider, with additional riders charged \$3.50. The new fee will be \$20, with additional riders charged \$5.

An average of just more than 1,000 snowmobiles have been transported through the service annually in recent years, with roughly four snowmobiles transported per trip. The average cost to the MBA for each trip is \$61.30.

Walking On

Thomas "Tom" Allan Payment

Thomas "Tom" Allan Payment, 75, of Brimley, Mich. passed away Saturday morning, Oct. 9, 2021, at his home.

Tom was born on Dec. 9, 1945, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., the son of the late Thomas and Lois (Jones) Payment. He graduated from Sault High School with the class of 1964 and later attended LSSC earning an associate degree. On Sept. 16, 1967, he married Phyllis Jean Kokko at the Nativity of our Lord Catholic Church. Tom worked at Algoma Tube for 15 years before it closed down. He then became a corrections officer and worked for 20 years at Chippewa Correctional Facility until his retirement in 2006. Tom enjoyed camping, cutting firewood, and deer hunting with bow and arrow, rifle, or muzzleloader. He also enjoyed hunting geese and ducks and looked forward to an annual fishing trip to Canada.

Tom is survived by his wife: Phyllis Jean Payment; two children: John (Connie) Payment of Brimley, MI and Ann Marie (Ted) Crandell-Williams of Marquette; eight grandchildren: Matthew, Emma, Trevor, Rose, Scott, Wayne, Jenna, and Jade; and six great-grandchildren. He is also survived by several special aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, a sister: Mavis De Vere; and a brother: Raymond Payment.

A funeral will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home with Pastor Matt Lamb officiating. Friends may call at the funeral home that day from 11:00 a.m. until the time of the service. Burial will be at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to Hospice of the EUP.

Catherine (Cathy) M. McKenzie

Catherine (Cathy) M. McKenzie, 73, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on Oct. 5, 2021.

Cathy was born on April 13, 1948, in Sault Ste. Marie to the late Edward and Helen (Watson) Brown. She graduated from Loretto High School with the class of 1966.

On June 28, 1969 she married Harold McKenzie at the St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Cathy enjoyed going to church, her time with friends at ceramics and card club, she also enjoyed her cats, watching hockey, knitting, crossword puzzles, and car rides with Harold.

Cathy is survived by her husband Harold, two daughters Liz (Shawn) Bowerman, Julie (Chandler) French. Three grandchildren Tyler, Taylor, and Alexander all of the Sault. Step brother Lee (Debbie) Freedman of Brimley, MI. Brother-in-law Lyle (Kathy) McKenzie of Gladstone MI, Sister-in-laws Dolores McKenzie of Sault, MI, Georgine McKenzie of Escanaba, MI, Sue McKenzie-DuRoy of Columbus, KS, and Gene's companion Colleen Bower of Sault, MI. Numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Barb (Bill) Clark, and half brother Edward "John" Brown. Brother-in-laws Lawrence McKenzie of Sault, MI, and Gene McKenzie of Gladstone, MI.

Mass of Christian Burial took place, with Father Dominic Afrifa Yamoah officiating. Burial will be at Pine Grove Cemetery. A celebration of life will be planned for summer of 2022.

In lieu of flowers memorials/donations may be left to St. Isaac Jogues Church or the Chippewa County Animal Shelter.

Mary Ann Greengtski Schwiderson

Mary Ann Greengtski Schwiderson, 67, of Brimley, passed away Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021, after battling COVID pneumonia. She is survived by the love of her life, best friend, and husband of 47 years, Melvin Schwiderson, her children, son Mark (Michelle) and daughter Sara (Jeff), as well as three grandchildren Mathew (Schwiderson) and Connor and Caitryn (Clos).

Mary was a caretaker to the entire community, first as the school nurse for Brimley Area School for 23 years then as a community health nurse at Bay Mills Health Center for an additional 11 years. All will remember Mary as an outdoor lover. She would often be spotted walking, collecting sea glass, or picking rocks. She will be fondly remembered for the creative and thoughtful curation of her home and barn. She was thoroughly proud of both and quick to give a tour to anyone who showed the slightest interest. Many of us have been a part of her frequent excursion planning; she insisted that trips and experiences were best shared. The trophied "Show Car" was also a great source of pride and fun. As an avid thrift shopper, she knew every shop within a hundred-mile radius anywhere in Michigan. Her creativity allowed her to reimagine, recreate, reuse, and repurpose items. She never hesitated to tackle any power tool or project necessary to create her vision.

As the oldest of nine, she fiercely loved her large family. Mary was preceded in death by brother Joe (Carrie DeWeese) Greengtski, sister Joanie (Chris) Parish, and twin sisters Leona and Irene Greengtski. She is survived by sisters Patty (Mark) Candell, Annie (Russ) Edmonds, Janie (Bill) Scheid, and Lori (Chris) Whealy, and brothers David (Nancy) Greengtski, John (Gina) Greengtski. In addition to the brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, and cousins on the Greengtski side of the family, she will also be greatly missed by the many brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, and cousins on the Schwiderson side of the family.

To protect all the people traveling to honor Mary, we will be having a "Celebration of Life" in the Spring when hopefully transmission rates for Covid have dropped significantly.

Instead of flowers, we ask that a donation be made in Mary's name to the Sault Ste. Marie Salvation Army. The money will remain local and help those who are in the most need.

Gerald M. Thackham (Buzz)

Gerald M. Thackham (Buzz), 89, of Brooksville, FL, Brimley, Mich., and most recently a resident of Spring Hill, FL, died peacefully on Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021.

He was born on April 10, 1932 in Newberry, to the late William Ross and Dorothy Nell (Bodi) Thackham. He was their sixth child. He was the great grandson of Mike Bodi who homesteaded Bodi Lake – seated in Luce County of Michigan's Upper Peninsula near the coast of Lake Superior.

Following Buzz's graduation in 1950 from Newberry High School, he attended Albion College before enlisting in the Navy, where he was Quartermaster (signal man) on a destroyer during the Korean War. After discharge, he briefly attended University of Michigan and then transferred to Eastern Michigan University where he earned his undergraduate degree. In the late 1950s, he began working at Starr Commonwealth in Albion and later left this non-profit residential youth rehabilitation facility to attend US Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York where he earned both Bachelor's of Science and Master's degrees in Marine Transportation. Gerald continued to work with struggling young people and later gave instrumental help to several individuals, providing means to facilitate their educations.

From 1966 to 1993 Gerald worked for the International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots Maritime Union, achieving First Officer/Chief Mate rank with a Licensed Master Mariner status. In the early 1990's Gerald received commendation and recognition from the British Parliament for an heroic rescue at sea. His cargo ship was heading to the port of Charleston, South Carolina when he received a midnight SOS call from six British subjects aboard a small pleasure sail boat floundering in high seas about 300 miles east of Charleston. Gerald was the officer on board responsible for organizing the crew and equipment to safely rescue all six persons. However, the sail boat was lost. The "Award of Plate" was presented to Gerald by Parliament member and actress Glenda Jackson.

Gerald's adventurous maritime career took him around the world many times. Always a scholar, wherever he sailed, Buzz relished learning about every culture. Never forgetting his roots, he tried to enrich people's lives and make a difference. Quietly and humbly, he was proud to have buoyed three college graduates, Claudio, Boris and Shu Sum.

Gerald was also a fastidious, master craftsman. When ashore, he built custom, original cabinets and furniture pieces just to help people and humanitarian organizations, including all the shelves for Florida's Howey (Brownlee) Library. He liked to figure out how to utilize unusual materials in his designs, and he applied his techniques and discoveries in all of his creations.

Gerald is survived by his loving sisters Carol Thackham of Bradenton, FL and Laura Nebel of Philadelphia, PA; seven nieces: Elaine, Lisa, Lori, Brigitte, Amy, Kathy, and Laura; three nephews: William, Kevin and Richard; eleven great nephews; five great nieces; many great-grand nieces and nephews; cousins and close friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents; his eldest niece and nephew Dorothy Lee Thackham and David Thackham; his brothers Ernest, William and Richard and his dear baby sister, Lois (Thackham) Santer.

A memorial celebration will be held by family at a later date. Memorial contributions can be sent to Hospice of the Eastern Upper Peninsula, 308 W. 12th Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.



Executive Council discusses business at regular meetings

September 27, 2021

Reports

Chairperson Whitney Gravelle

- Working on Consent Decree negotiations, moved to virtual again due to COVID cases on the rise.
- BMIC was at 4 active cases on Friday, 1 or 0 as of today. Mask mandate is working as well as high rate of vaccination.
- Sept. 22, CCHD had 196 active cases (132 case jump from prior week).
- Sept. 20 participated in Brimley School Board meeting. They voted to continue use of masks for children. Other schools have closed, but not Brimley.
- Cultural Programming in BAS on Sept. 20 meeting. Pot of money under Family Violence and Prevention Services Grant is being used for workshops, but this can also include curriculum for children.
- Meetings held with DEA for combatting substance abuse on the reservation. Meth is becoming an issue. Working on creating youth programs. They will do a programming special that interviews people from BMIC about substance abuse and prevention.
- Line 5 continues on. Earth Justice and NARF continue to work on this. Preparing for the briefing in the contested case petition against EGLE. Submitted testimony to the Michigan Public Service Commission.
- Draft Kings is on a small hold with Internet gaming. Some edits being done for retail sports book with NIGC.
- Bay Mills Business Holdings: Looking at establishing the grow operation for Northern Lights.
- Elder's checks will come out \$712.29 each share. They will come out Oct. 1. Slightly down from the last couple of years. 325 elders will receive a check.

Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram

- Working on insurance.
- IT tax system is still being worked on, but under budget from estimate.
- Met with medical staff to go over medical information and billings. That went well.
- Approved for garage grant for new medical center (storage).
- Hoping audits will be done soon.
- Elder's payment: This is the value that it will likely be moving forward.
- New medical center is getting drywall.

Health Report: Abby Kaunisto

- Completed 9 third (booster) doses. Doing a clinic of third dose for employees. At the end of the day, no longer monitoring any cases. Third doses to 65 and older (Six months from last dose) 18-64 high risk. This is the Pfizer vaccine.
 - Mammogram truck was on site, 79 people screened.
- BMGA General Manager Richard LeBlanc**
- Working on budgets, will submit this week. Using 2021 as the template for 2022, especially due to closure of border. Being conservative.
 - Progress on projects continues.
 - Keeping a close eye on business trends. This will determine staffing needs.
 - Weather will determine when to close golf course and RV park.

BBMH General Manager Kimmi Walden

- Submitted written report.

Old Business

1. Resolution No. 21-09-130: Acceptance of Policy and Planning 2022 Award Primary Care Services - \$85,993. Waiver of sovereign immunity in this. Approved.

New Business

1. Resolution No. 21-09-27A: Special Recognition – Arlen Kuzmik. Recognizing his retirement. He began in 1995. Moved to a different department, no longer law enforcement. Honoring his 26 years of service to the community. Will be presenting him a plaque for his service as well. Approved.
2. Resolution No. 21-09-27B: Special Recognition – Mike Perron. Mike ended his service on Jan. 1, 2021. He served the BMPD as a dispatcher in 2001. He will also receive a plaque for his service. Approved.
3. Resolution No. 21-09-27C: Cultural Programming Brimley Area Schools. Partnership to offer cultural programming. Grant provides for outreach activities. 60 percent of the student population is Native in the school district. Integrate into everyday curriculum. Approved.
4. Resolution No. 21-09-27D: Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – Pronton-PACS. For health center service agreement. Approved.
5. Resolution No. 21-09-27E: Budget Modifications for Fiscal Recovery Funds. BMIC has received two distributions. The first was 12 million, second was 14 million. Money was set aside immediately for tribal citizens, employees, tribal youth. We have consulted with various departments. This final budget modification

will allow departments to spend funds to meet their needs. We have until 2024 to use funds. Money set aside (\$6 million total) for the next three years to pay payroll and insurance if another COVID shutdown occurs. Approved.

6. Memorandum of Understanding – Ojibwe Charter School & State of Michigan. OCS is undergoing renovations at the Waishkey Building. State of Michigan will inspect to make sure it is following state code and will make recommendations based on the inspection. This allows them to enter the premises for such inspection. Approved.

7. Approval of Submission and Acceptance of Michigan SFCI Program – Energy Foundation \$50,000. Nonprofit group to leverage digital storytelling and combatting climate change. Shannon Jones will be working with the group on the digital media campaign. No match required. Approved.

8. Approval of Subcontract with Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority – Equation Campaign. No match required. Funds \$75,000. Approved.

Oct. 11, 2021 Meeting

Reports

Chairperson Whitney Gravelle

- COVID-19 Efforts: 3 on and 3 off reservation. As of Oct. 6, 268 active in Chippewa County. Council has continued the mask mandate until Nov. 1. We expect to see a rise in the transmission rate in Chippewa County. More breakthrough cases are occurring, more Moderna as well. But symptoms are less. Most of BMIC vaccines have been with Moderna. Council will continue to monitor data and convey information to the public.
- Since last meeting, been working on Consent Decree negotiations almost daily with legal team. Confidentiality does not allow for public sharing of information.
- Met last week over guardianship assistance with State of Michigan.
- Attended IHS update call about vaccine mandate and when it would be implemented. Language from Biden Administration is still being drafted. Information will be shared when received.
- Line 5 work has continued on. We have entered into agreement with NARF, pro-bono, on Section 106. Continue to work on designating Straits and culturally preserving it. Canada attempted to invoke 1977 treaty.
- GTC will get information about Northern Light projects at next meeting.

Tribal Manager Rachel (Burt) Lyons

- Met with History for monthly check in. Trying to do monthly meetings with everyone under her supervision. Learning more about programs.
- Grant application to HUD for BGC Build addition to current build. Will be submitted at end of month.
- Monthly financial meetings being held to make sure we are on point with our budgets and expenditures.
- BIA Recreation funds meeting held. This is for trails, playgrounds, etc. We are talking about plans and what is needed on trail system. Looking at forming an advisory board for playgrounds. We are just starting the process.
- BMPD interviews were held, an offer will likely be made this week.
- Boys & Girls Club build progress is moving quickly.

Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram

- IT: meeting planned about tax issue to get to completion. Changes to interface being made.
- CRF is close to spend out.
- Looking at projects moving forward.
- Audits are not complete yet. Meeting this week to discuss draft.
- If grant approved, we can do addition off current admin building. Concerns about timeline on bidding out.
- Accounting can operate out of top of Wild Bluff building as transition plans move forward.
- Will work on budgets once September financials are done.

Health Director Audrey Breakie

- Monitoring four tribal members for COVID. 3,185 fully vaccinated. Third doses: 68. Boosters and vaccines are on schedule with providers. No approval for Moderna booster yet. Testing is still available. 4,514 tests done.
- Portage Street Property: Waiting on information about pharmacy drive-thru. Survey took place. Some construction costs
- Brimley Facility: Tile up and bathrooms ready.
- Foster Care worker offer extended, will be filled soon.
- Policy exception done for change of duties and title change.
- Conversation started about assisted living/long term facility for tribal members. Chairperson Gravelle is excited about the opportunity to help elders.
- Interviewed for dental position. This would put four dentists on staff, with one in the Sault.

(continued on next page)

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For more information, please call Andrea Shaw or Christel LeBlanc at 248-8700.



Human Resources Director Ken Perron

— Kronos still in process. Some issues not working correctly with accruals, being done manually. Reviews will be done automatically, managers will get notifications. Other features are being worked on.

— Recruitment is going better. Positions are getting filled. Filling position for Health and Human Services recruiter, interviews in the coming week.

BMGA General Manager Richard LeBlanc

— Working on budgets that were submitted by management team.

— Seasonal decline in business has begun. Wild Bluff has closed. RV park will close. Staffing levels to be evaluated, as normally done each season.

— Hotel occupancy has been “healthy.”

— Siding project is coming to a close for the season, likely by the end of the week. This will begin again in the spring.

— Smoking room will be painted. Will be open to guests in next 7-10 days.

BMBH General Manager Kimmi Walden

— Using funds for FRF to make purchases.

— Vicki Newland has been appointed to Marijuana Commission.

— Bay Mart and Four Seasons have submitted budgets. NLCC not done yet.

— Looking for inventory processing system for Bay Mart and Four Seasons.

— Breakfast to go to be offered by Four Seasons this week.

— NLCC looking at company for grow operation.

— Preparing for one-year anniversary. Two plans in the works, COVID-dependent.

New Business

1. Resolution No. 21-10-11A: BIA CTGP Annual Funding Agreement. Authorizes annual funding agreement for governmental programs. This is done every year, it is primary base funding to operate programs. Approved.

2. Resolution No. 21-10-11B: Authorizing Authority for Trust Accounts. Acknowledges management decision for elder’s fund and long term investment fund. Bank required. Approved.

3. Resolution No. 21-10-11C: Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – Alpha Coding Experts. This is a purchase agreement of services for electronic coding and billing of services for health care center. Disputes would be held in courts of Florida. Approved.

4. Resolution No. 21-10-11D: FRF Budget Amendments. Approved.

5. Resolution No. 21-10-11E: Public Comment – ICDBG Boys and Girls Club Expansion. We completed it online, this just certifies we did that for the grant process. It was posted on the website. Approved.

6. Resolution No. 21-10-11F: Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – SDoc, Inc. This is for the Boys & Girls Club. This is a software license agreement for MyClub-Hub system/software. Approved.

7. Approval to Accept Family Violence Prevention and Services/Domestic Violence Shelter and Supportive Services FVPSA - \$56,397. Exempt from match requirement as a tribe. Approved.

8. Approval to Submit – Capital Funds Project \$167,504. Application submission. Approved.

9. Inter-Tribal Council Behavioral Health Implementation- \$200,000. No legal concerns. Pays for traditional healer, some other services. Approved.

10. Blue Cross Renewal - Brown & Brown Presentation. Council has had a comprehensive review of the presentation. Plan options discussed. Change to Simply Blue Plan as recommended, dental and vision renewal.

Most savings will come from dental renewal without changes. Approved.

11. Indian Health Service Budget Modification – Health Center. Construction costs & indirect costs. Approved.

12. Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Subcontract – Health Center. Approved.

13. Policy Exception – Health Center. Has to do with title changes. (Red flagging is not being done. Audit of GTC motions will be done for review.) This was public health money moved, which required a title change. This supports the current position being paid from a different pot of funds. Approved.

14. Policy Exception – Boys & Girls Club. Current Policies and Procedures do not account for a change like this. It is a title change for Asst. Director by Candice LeBlanc, changing to Director of Operations. This aligns with organizational and strategic planning and align with the national hierarchy/policy guidelines of BG Club of America. Approved.

15. Gaming Waiver Requests. Neither individual (2) has had an incident since or received a waiver before. Approved.

16. Reaffirmation of Poll Votes: Approved

a. Acceptance of HRSA Infrastructure Funding - \$533,044

b. New Health Center Furniture Purchase - \$349,229.11

c. Four Seasons Debt Payoff - \$609,628.59

d. Mask Mandate – November 1, 2021

e. Donation Request

f. Appointment to Marijuana Commission

Tribal Member Comment: Inquiry made about presenting council minutes and use of acronyms.

The next meeting of the Bay Mills Executive Council takes place on Monday, Oct. 25, at 3 p.m.

Woodland Sky Native American Dance Company to perform at LSSU

SAULT STE. MARIE — Woodland Sky Native American Dance Company comes to the Arts Center at Lake Superior State University on Friday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m. to present a musical and theatrical story of Native American culture. These century-old tales are told with eagle feathers, moccasins, flute and drums, hoop dancers, and legendary warriors and hunters.

Admission is \$15 adults, \$10 seniors, \$5 children (age 17 and younger), and free for LSSU students and university employees. Free parking is available in Lot K, in front of the Arts Center, and Lot E behind the Cislser Center.

Woodland Sky was established in 2013 and consists of Native American dancers from the Ojibwe, Sioux, Potawatomi, and Apache tribes. The company employs styles of dance that are all from this region, including traditional, fancy, jingle, grass, and hoop. Their focus is the telling of historic tales and stories using traditional native songs and dances.

In doing so, Woodland Sky hopes “to provide a quality, authentic and respectful Native American dance performance/demonstration with experienced Native American dancers in order to educate the viewer on traditional Native American stories, culture and values using authentic songs, music and dance,” according to their mission statement.



“We’re excited to restore live public performances for our LSSU family and Eastern Upper Peninsula neighbors while honoring an important part of the region’s heritage. Attendees will be able not only to discover exciting aspects about local Native American culture but also experience it in a lively and entertaining way,” said LSSU President Dr. Rodney S. Hanley. “This show undoubtedly exemplifies diversity, inclusion, and belonging, along with community partnerships and engagements, all of which are key components of our strategic plan.”

Woodland Sky’s local performance culminates a weeklong residency at LSSU and was funded by a National Endowment for the Arts Big Read grant.

EXTENSION EDUCATOR SOUGHT BY MSU

MSU Extension is seeking candidates for an **Extension Educator position** that will focus on **Tribal Outreach and Staff Supervision**. Please visit <https://careers.msu.edu> and search for posting #719458 to learn how you can become the next SPARTAN WHO WILL! Although negotiable, there is space for this position at the Marquette County MSUE Office in Negaunee. *MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations of women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities.*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A New “Green Bag Option” for BMIC Trash Compactor Users

The BMIC trash compactor is funded through the sale of “green bags,” which can be purchased at Advanced Office Technologies (AOT) or Bay Mart. These funds help pay for landfill fees and the staff that oversee the compactor and recycling area. Currently, 30 gallon green trash bags are available. Starting Nov. 1, a smaller bag option will be available. The new 12 – 14 gallon size drawstring bags will fit most standard kitchen trash cans.

Double bagging of trash leads to unnecessary plastic going into the landfill. This happens when smaller trash bags are placed in the large green trash bags. Providing the smaller bag option is an effort to reduce additional waste. The smaller bags will also be easier to handle and carry from home to vehicle to compactor.

A survey was conducted during the spring of 2021 to determine how people prefer to dispose of their trash. The majority of survey participants liked the green trash bag system. Offering smaller bags that fit most household trash bins means they don’t have to be placed in a second bag to be accepted at the BMIC trash compactor.

The 12 – 14 gallon size bags will be available at AOT and Bay Mart starting Nov. 1. The 30 gallon green bags will continue to be sold at both locations as well.

- Small Bags: 13 gallon
- Tribal Members: \$.50 each/\$10 Roll of 20
- Non-Tribal: \$.75 each/\$15 Roll of 20
- Large Bags: 30 gallon
- Tribal Members: \$1 each/\$20 Roll of 20
- Non-Tribal: \$1.50 each/ \$30 Roll of 20
- Elders: 40 small bags per two months OR 20 large bags per two months

Yoga at the Mukwa Fitness Center

Yoop Yoga will take place at the Mukwa Fitness Center on the following days this month:

- Sunday, Oct. 24 at 11 a.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 26 at 7 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 29 at 7 p.m.

Cost is \$10 per class. All levels are welcome to participate. Masks are required to enter the Mukwa.

CWD Testing Offered

Hunters are encouraged to have their deer tested for CWD this season. Those who participate will be given a free box of copper ammunition. To participate, please contact Bay Mills Biological Services at 906-248-8651.

Walking path is closed to motorized vehicles

BMIC has developed a pedestrian/bicycle path connecting both sides of the Reservation. This path is for pedestrians and bicyclists only, and our existing tribal ordinances prohibit motorized vehicles from using this path. Signs have been posted. Please be aware that BMPD has been directed to strictly enforce this rule along that pathway to protect walkers, runners, cyclists, and the path itself. If you ride an ATV, ORV, dirt bike, motorcycle, golf cart, etc on this path, you should expect to receive a ticket and pay a fine.

GTC Scheduled

The next meeting of General Tribal Council will take place on Nov. 10 in the lower level of Bay Mills Community College at 6 p.m. All tribal members are encouraged to attend, as a quorum is needed to conduct business.

NO MORE EXCUSES

THERE ARE MANY PLACES TO GET YOUR FLU VACCINE.



2021 Flu Vaccine Clinics

- Nov. 9 – Health Center lobby 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Nov. 16– Boys & Girls Club 3-5 p.m.
- Dec. 7 – Health Center lobby 2-5 p.m.

****Walk-in Clinics - No appointment necessary****



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