BMIC election brings two new faces to Executive Council

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Indian Community held their General Election on Nov. 3. Chairperson Whitney Gravelle retained her seat, running unopposed on the ballot. Vice Chair Brenda Bjork lost her seat after voters elected Jacques A. LeBlanc, Jr. to serve, garnering 212 votes to Bjork’s 161.

Treasurer Gail Glezen retained her seat with 226 votes over challenger Anthony Teeple, who received 145 votes. Secretary Beverly Carrick retained her seat as well, receiving 258 votes to Betty Jahnke’s 116 votes.

Rachel Burtt-Lyons decided not to run for reelection, opening up the seat for councilperson. Stephanie Walden will serve in the position after receiving 200 votes over challenger Joshua Hudson, who received 175 votes.

Appellate judges voted in were Tamara Munz and Kayla Perron. Elected to the Conservation Committee were Tim Kinney, Shawn Robert Hascall, Terry E. Carrick, Lindsay Hatfield, and Jonah Hascall.

BMIC awarded $1.03 million HUD grant

BAY MILLS — The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded more than $73.9 million in Indian Community Block Grant-American Rescue Plan (ICDBG-ARP) grants to 68 tribal communities on Wednesday, Nov. 10. Bay Mills Indian Community was among the list of tribes to receive funding for COVID-19 relief.

BMIC will utilize the $1,035,000 in funds to construct a 1,800 square-foot addition to the Bay Mills Health Center. The addition will serve as a screening area for patients and employees entering and exiting the facility, in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19. A hygiene station and thermal scanners will also be installed in the screening area to detect body temperature.

“Bay Mills Indian Community is extremely excited to have received this award from HUD. There are not many construction grants available to tribal nations and we are very thankful for this opportunity. This project will help our community in its continued efforts to mitigate and recover from COVID-19,” said BMIC Tribal Manager Rachel Lyons.

The grant announcement comes right before White House Tribal Nations Summit, on Nov. 15 and 16. Biden’s administration noted the president is committed to strengthening the federal relationship with Tribal Nations, and these awards are just one example of that commitment.

In total, the American Rescue Plan Act provides $750 million dollars in HUD resources to Indian Country to support the continued fight against COVID-19.
Oct. 25 meeting

Reports

Chairperson Whitney Gravelle
— Mask mandate on agenda to continue until Dec. 1. Monthly reauthorization requires us to communicate and look at local data.
— Had meeting with US Army Corps of Engineers about dredging material in the St. Mary’s River. The Army Corps is proposing to place that material around the old burial ground to stop erosion. Asked what the material is made of -primarily sand. There will be an environmental assessment and they will coordinate with biology and history to make sure this is the best place.
— Working with HR on policies and procedures that are not working well. Looking at clearer guidance, title changes, breastfeeding in the workplace.
— Oct. 18 the program on substance abuse aired. The program went really well, even though we had to do everything via Zoom.
— Oct. 18 participated in wolf consultation with MDNR about potential wolf hunts. Wolves have been removed from endangered species list. There is federal litigation taking place. We will be in consultation about this moving forward.
— Kings Club planning committee toured KCC and make assessment of facility. Prior repairs list is being compiled along with costs. Once that is received, that will move into the design phase. We are still trying to figure out the best space and use of that area.
— Line 5 continues on. We have state litigation where the government of Canada invoked the 1977 treaty. Working with several nonprofit organizations as well to seek Tribal Consultation with the White House and Biden. Working to get the Straits of Mackinac designated as a cultural area. Met on Oct. 12 with Mackinac Corridor.
— 2020 Consent Decree negotiations: They are continuing to move on. They are confidential. Status conference took place with the judge on Oct. 15.
— Draft Kings and internet gaming continues to go well. They are in the top 3 gross competitors.
— Kronos accruals still being corrected.
— Working on transition plan. Plan on paper in the next few weeks so we don’t have to rush.
— Indian Community Development Block Grant we should hear about soon. Broadband grant information in December/early January.
— Remote employees we are working on giving them access to clock in to Kronos so manual entries do not have to be done.
— FRF spend out: working to get that done before end of year.
— Paul LeBlanc has been hired in the CFO assistant position. He will help coordinate many things and starts on Nov. 1.
— Draft audits were received. Looking at balances to make sure they agree with our books.
— 2021 budgets will be addressed in next working session and in November meeting.

Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram
— EMS remains a hot topic. Met with War Memorial for a meeting. Transports are needed in emergent situations.
— Hiring has begun for social services department.
— Drafted contract for BAS nurse.

BMGA General Manager Richard LeBlanc
— Working through community exposure issues, working on staff levels plan for continuity of service. Goals are to remain open with minimal impact.
— Entered the slower season. Weekend hotel occupancy remains healthy.
— Looking at promotions opportunities.
— Met with Food and Beverage team and temporarily eliminated Sacy’s dinner service. The cost was excessive and less people were eating dinner at Sacy’s. BBGG’s remains open.
— Interior smoke room to be sanded and painted. Air filtration to be installed. End of next week it is projected to be completed.
— Working on budgets.
— Anticipate supply chain issues and possible menu changes and vendor options. Currently have stocked up on what we can at current prices.

Kimmi Walden, Bay Mills Business Holdings General Manager
— Submitted written report.

Old Business
1. Gaming Waiver Request: The prior granted waiver did not need to be given. The prior motion will be struck and removed from the
meeting minutes, based on recommendation from Gaming Commission. Approved

New Business

• Resolution No. 21-10-25A: Contract for Legal Services. Tribal attorney position was posted for several months. Interviewed two individuals. New person will start date on Nov. 29. Approved.
• Resolution No. 21-10-25B: Lease Submission – Randilynn Touchtone. She was given permission to take over. Manufactured home on the property. Approved.
• Resolution No. 21-10-25C: Long Term Investment Fund. When council set out financial priorities it involved paying off debts and working toward financial prosperity. Approved.
• Resolution No. 21-10-25D: Mask Mandate December 1, 2021. Going month to month. Numbers are still up, and we are nowhere near where we need to be. Will look at this again at the end of the month.
• Resolution 21-10-25-E: Acceptance of Funds from BIA Highway Safety Program, Occupant Protection Grant (Child Passenger Safety Seats) $3,984. Two officers will also be trained to put in the car seats. No match required. Approved.
• Lease Application for Randilynn Touchtone. Approved. Approval to Submit CERCLA 128(a) Funding – $60,000. Work on the brownfields for biology. Approved.
• Donation Requests (2)
  — Dancing with the stars for hospice with tribal members and children’s Christmas fund.

Reaffirmation of Poll Votes: Approved.

Acceptance of Inter-Tribal Council Funds - $66,734.00
Optometry Equipment Agreement - $258,325.48
Optometry Equipment Quote - $130,350.00

As it was her last meeting, Rachel Lyons thanked the council for their work and the experience.

Nov. 8 Meeting

Chairperson Whitney Gravelle

— Only one active COVID-19 case tied to BMIC off-reservation. 126 active cases in the county. Slight decline in transmission. Continue to monitor cases. The border is opening back up today, Nov. 8.
— Last Friday we received information about Purdue Opioid settlement, $99k to be received. There are still cases being litigated. Money is based on several factors for each tribe. From this settlement, our percentage share was very small based on data metrics. Requirements for money to focus on addiction issues within BMIC.
— Vaccine mandate came out last week with information. Questions remain about this and whether it requires to tribal entities. Reviews being done. Information will be rolled out when we know what applies.
— Nov. 1 Webster Kinney 1950-1953 Korean War, oldest veteran and tribal member. Last tribal citizen born in the 20s. Received award at luncheon.
— Nov. 1. Attended Paradise Brownfield meeting about cleaning up sites. Resolution was previously enacted by council. They have run into some hurdles about cleaning up the site. Historic Landfill and Underground Leakages are an issue. Runoff from this site concern about PFAS contaminant into Lake Superior. Awaiting testing results from this.
— Oct. 21- met with peer reviewer for assessment program for lighthouse strategic plan. Caretakers have moved out. Need to create plan on how to manage during the winter and maintenance efforts between USFS and BMIC to be defined. Excited to partner with the forest service on this. Looking forward to telling history of this area, BMIC, and various bands that have traveled the region.
— Enbridge : 12 tribes sent letter to Biden asking for intervention and seeking support to shut it down. Continue to work with Algonquin Consultants to designate a historic cultural property. On Nov. 2 met with the US Corps about tunnel project.
— 2020 Consent Decree negotiations ongoing. Status conference with attorneys this week.
— Build Back Better passed. New spending, includes areas targeted for Indian Country. Broadband, Waste/Sewer/ roads, etc.
— Interviews for grants/compliance specialist held. We have several grants to maintain and keep in track. Nearly 250 grants and contracts being maintained. Lonnie LeBlanc will start Nov. 22.
— FRF meetings are held each week. We update expenditures to budgets as needed.
— Met with cultural center about workshops to be hosted from grant funding.
— Did some staff evaluations.
— Weekly training sessions being done with public works staff for safety.

CFO Albert Bertram submitted a written report

HR Director Kendal Perron

— Meeting held about Kronos issues and remaining issues.
— Benefits renewals will be converted to new plan, Simply Blue 2500, by Jan. 1.
— Working on plans for building move in the spring.

Health Report, Asst. Director Joshua Hudson

— 6,962 vaccines in arms, 3, 209 fully vaccinated. Booster vaccines are done on provider schedule for patients. We have 65 children registered for first children’s clinic on Wednesday.
— Portage Street Property: Permits being applied for this week.
— Working on finalized date for new health center completion.
— EMS meeting held and attended. Emergency transfers are the issue since everyone is so short staffed.
— Social services requested staff be put on salary due to hours.
— Behavioral Health helping to assist police in some situations.
— Working on Family Nurse Practitioner in Brimley Area Schools.

BMGA General Manager Richard LeBlanc

— Dealing with delivery and product delays in the industry.
— Food and Beverage meeting help. Sacy’s faces seasonal decline and costs are going up. This is a challenge. Back Bay is doing well at 2500, by Jan. 1.
— Benefits renewals will be converted to new plan, Simply Blue 2500, by Jan. 1.
— Working on plans for building move in the spring.

Kimmi Walden, Bay Mills Business Holdings General Manager

— Retail is seeing delays in product.
— Inventory systems being discussed.
— Bay Mart tank replacement still not done, likely in the spring.
— NLCC held one year anniversary. Welcome several new customers.
— Grow operation on the agenda for GTC this week.

New Business:
• Resolution No. 21-11-08A: Duly Elected Officials. Approved
• Resolution No. 21-11-08B: Authorization of Trust Accounts. Details authority to manage those accounts. Approved.
Resolution No. 21-11-08C: Authorization of Land and Leases. Approved.
Resolution No. 21-11-08D: Authorization to Sign. Approved.
Resolution No. 21-11-08E: Authorization to Borrow. Approved.
Resolution No. 21-11-08F: Norma Bennett- Lease Cancellation. Due to personal circumstances they are turning this property and lease back to the tribe. Done by request of the family. Approved.
Resolution No. 21-11-08G1: BMGA Governmental Lease: Parcels along Lakeshore Drive. Former Bennett property and lot near it to create business center for BMRC. Approved.
Resolution No. 21-11-08G2: BMGA Governmental Lease. Approved.
Resolution No. 21-11-08H: Steven Massy Lease Cancellation. Relinquished lease to his daughter, Autumn. Approved.
Resolution No. 21-11-08I: Sandy Walden Lease Modification. Add sister to lease and mortgage. Approved.
Resolution No. 21-11-08J: Approval of FY2022-FY2025 Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan. Updated annually to include roads in the reservation. Allocates funds to maintain and prepare those roadways. This would allow for the paving of Little Bear Trail Circle, Memorial and Loons. Approved.
Resolution No. 21-11-08K: IMLS Application for Submission (Institute of Museum and Library Services). Grant application for managing Point Iroquois Museum. Application for staffing of the museum, $100k max. No match requirement. Project period is for three years. Approved.
Resolution No. 21-11-08L: Support of FY22 Federal Brownfields Grant Funds application. There is $500k in funding available. There is a match of 20 percent for this, we could apply for waiver. This is for brownfields projects. Approved.
Resolution No. 21-11-08M: Authorized signers tribal court bank account. Approved.
Lease Application Autumn Charles. Approved.

Resolution No. 21-11-08N: Autumn Charles-lease submission. Approved.
Resolution No. 21-11-08O-Amendments to Leasing Ordinance. Provision about charge on governmental leases. Grants do allow us to charge for fee rate for governmental purposes (such as fire crew, health center, tribal admin, etc.) This way we are not limiting ourselves with grant fund opportunities. Approved.
Applications for future membership. Screening committee discussed recommendations for citizenship. The ones on the list identified are for children that have not turned one year of age. This way the council can adopt them in. Approved.
Approval of Employee Christmas Bonus: $50 GFS Bonus for employees. Increase from $30 last year. Approximately a cost of $33k. Approved.
Donation Request: Brimley Area Schools Boys Basketball program. New uniforms and equipment. They need $8k, asking for $2500. Fundraising due to COVID has been stalled. Can drive for $1,320 done in one weekend. Dinner planned they are trying to coordinate. They have not had uniforms for several years. Not enough uniforms to fill roster. Will go for all ages in the program (elementary included) Approved.
Reaffirmation of Poll Votes: Approval of Child Care Development Center License. Approved.

On Nov. 1, the Tri County Veterans honored Web Kinney. He is a veteran of the United States Army, served during the Korean War, and is now Bay Mills Indian Community’s oldest living veteran.
The association operates in the Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac counties of the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan, with the goal to celebrate, assist, and serve all veterans in the United States.
Edmund Fitzgerald Memorial event held at Whitefish Point

The annual bell ringing ceremony for the Edmund Fitzgerald memorial event, which takes place every Nov. 10 at Whitefish Point, was closed to the public this year. Due to current COVID conditions in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, only Fitzgerald surviving family members, USCG and Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society personnel were permitted to attend.

On Wednesday, Nov. 10, the bell was rung 29 times for the men lost on the Edmund Fitzgerald, and a 30th time to remember all those who have died on the Great Lakes.

It has been 46 years since the 728-foot freighter sank in Lake Superior during a November storm.
LANSING — With the increasing rise in COVID-19 and flu cases, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will be issuing a face mask advisory and offering guidance to keep loved ones safe and prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses during the holidays.

MDHHS will issue a Public Health Advisory that recommends everyone over the age of 2 should wear a face mask at indoor gatherings regardless of their vaccination status. In addition, establishments should implement a policy to ensure that all persons entering or seeking services, including employees, wear a mask. This face mask advisory will remain effect until further notice.

"The increases in case counts, percent positivity and hospitalizations have us very concerned," said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. "We are issuing the face mask advisory and are looking to Michiganders to do their part to help protect their friends, their families and their communities by wearing a mask in indoor settings and getting vaccinated for COVID-19 and flu as soon as possible if they have not already done so."

In addition to the MDHHS advisory, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also issued recommendations for safe gatherings including getting vaccinated, wearing masks, social distancing and washing hands. Mask wearing is considered an effective mitigation strategy and is recommended for all in public indoor settings in areas of high transmission and indoors for those who are not vaccinated. Practice social distancing when possible, especially in places where the vaccination status of those around you is unknown.

"COVID-19 cases are high as we head into the holidays, and we must take every measure we can to keep our families and loved ones safe - which starts with getting vaccinated," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive. "Safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines are available to children ages 5 and up, and boosters are available for eligible Michiganders. The holidays can be a time to spread great cheer and we recommend taking measures including wearing a mask indoors to not spread COVID-19 to loved ones."

If you are considering traveling, it is recommended that you be fully vaccinated or delay travel until you are fully vaccinated. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the completion of their primary vaccination series: two weeks after the second dose for a two-dose mRNA vaccine series or two weeks after a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. In addition to getting vaccinated, you should get tested for COVID-19 before and after you travel. If members of your family are unable to be vaccinated, CDC offers safer travel tips including wearing a mask, avoiding crowds and washing hands often.

MDHHS follows CDC guidance in offering the following special considerations for holiday gatherings:

- Immunocompromised people should take all precautions of unvaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitted mask.
- Choose to wear a mask if a member of your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease or is unvaccinated.
- If you are gathering with groups from multiple households from different areas across the state and country, consider additional precautions like getting tested for COVID-19 to reduce the risk of spreading to loved ones.

To find a vaccine near you, visit VaccineFinder.org.
Michigan pet owners mistreating their animals may have to pay

By VLADISLAVA SUKHANOVSKAIA
Capital News Service

LANSING — People charged with neglecting and abusing animals would have to pay for the animals’ shelter expenses during their court proceedings, if recently introduced legislation becomes law. Animals across the state suffer from the deprivation of food, water and shelter and from abandonment and torture, Tanya Hilgendorf, the president and CEO of the Humane Society of Huron Valley in Ann Arbor, wrote in an email. The cost of rehabilitation of the animals falls mostly on shelters and animal control agencies, advocates say.

“Roughly 150,000 homeless, lost and abused animals go through Michigan’s licensed shelters each year,” Hilgendorf said. “Animals, who are trapped in homes where they are being intentionally hurt or neglected have no means to escape, defend themselves or ask for help.”

The bills would obligate an owner to post a bond or deposit to be used for an animal’s care, such as veterinary treatment, behavior changes and providing safe shelter. If the owner doesn’t pay, the animal would be placed for adoption or euthanized.

Euthanasia can be conducted if the animal is too sick and will suffer in future or if the animal has severe aggressive behavior that can’t be changed. The amount of bond or security deposit would be determined by the court.

“We support these bills and believe the forfeiture aspect is particularly important,” Hilgendorf said. “It is completely unfair and often damaging to the animals to keep them in shelters for months and months because of how long legal proceedings drag out.”

The House approved both bills 91-14 on Nov. 10, and they are pending in the Senate.

Rep. Yousef Rabhi, D-Ann Arbor, voted against them. He said he is concerned that some owners can’t afford the costs of shelter, and that shelters have other ways to attract money from local communities.

However, representatives of shelters say that there are not enough resources.

“Enforcement and prosecution are lacking across the state. It often isn’t taken seriously, or few government resources are put into protecting animals,” Hilgendorf wrote.

Donations and taxes now pay for the animal care, said Andy Seltz, the vice president of field services at Michigan Humane, which operates in Detroit, Rochester Hills, Howell and Westland. “But the responsibility should fall back to the owner.”

“It can easily cost thousands of dollars to provide all the care needed to one cruelty case animal, including medical and behavioral care,” Hilgendorf said. The Humane Society of Huron Valley investigates about 500 animal cruelty cases each year. Michigan Humane receives 5,000 cruelty complaints per year but has only five investigators and three field agents on rescue calls, according to Seltz. An investigation team tries to make contact with the owner and have a discussion to see if they can view the animal.

In most cases, they help educate the owner on what standards the law sets on how the animal should be maintained. If the owner is struggling and needs assistance, the organization can provide resources. Michigan Humane has food assistance, dog houses and straw for the wintertime so the animal has something to bed in.

The investigation team involves the Detroit Police Department and prosecutors’ offices if the attempt to help the owner and animal fails.
SAULT STE. MARIE — Students with an interest in computer science for a data-driven world have a new option for furthering their education. Lake Superior State University is now offering a new bachelor of science in data science degree.

The program emphasizes the creation, analysis, and use of data-driven knowledge to influence the decisions of businesses, communities, and policymakers.

The program is now accepting applications for new and transfer students to start in the fall 2022 semester.

In this new program, students will choose one or more concentrations for their degree. There are currently seven concentrations: bioinformatics, business analytics, chemistry informatics, geosystems modeling, health informatics, robotics, and spatial analytics.

“This new degree provides a solid core in mathematics, data manipulation, artificial intelligence, and algorithms, combined with significant depth in the application areas. Students will gain the skills that are desperately needed in today’s society,” said Dr. Christopher Smith, associate professor of computer science, who led the creation of this program. “Data drives the world. My colleagues and I built this program to fit both student interests and global needs.”

The program emphasizes an interdisciplinary curriculum, which will equip students with practical and theoretical knowledge on how to work with big data sets. Students will then gain experience using that knowledge in a concentration discipline.

Dr. Lynn Gillette, provost and vice president, noted that data scientists are in high demand and earn high entry-level salaries.

“Data science is used globally to tackle some of the biggest issues of modern times,” added LSSU President Dr. Rodney S. Hanley. “Our faculty and students, applying the student-centered approach for which Lake State is known, will use data tools to drive innovation.”

To learn more, visit www.lssu.edu.

Deadline to submit to LSSU Banished Words List is Nov. 30

SAULT STE. MARIE — Last year, people across the U.S. and around the world were tired of hearing and reading about COVID-19. What words and terms rate bad or excessive this year? One month remains to submit entries for Lake Superior State University’s annual tongue-in-cheek Banished Words List. The deadline to submit entries for consideration for banishment for 2022 is 8 a.m. Eastern Standard Time on Nov. 30, 2021, at lssu.edu/banishedwords.

LSSU will announce results on Dec. 31, 2021, to start the New Year on the right foot, or, tongue. Lake State has compiled its yearly mock-serious Banished Words List since 1976 to uphold, protect, and support excellence in language by encouraging avoidance of words and terms that are hackneyed, redundant, oxymoronic, clichéd, illogical, nonsensical—and otherwise ineffective, baffling, or irritating.

COVID-19 terminology monopolized submissions last year. Out of 1,450-plus nominations, upwards of 250 of the words and terms suggested for banishment for overuse, misuse, or uselessness pertained to the coronavirus pandemic. Seven of the 10 words and terms that LSSU banished for 2021 were about it. Ranked No. 1 to get rid of was what started the global crisis: “COVID-19” itself. Others included “social distancing,” “in an abundance of caution,” and “We’re all in this together.”

Over the decades, LSSU has received tens of thousands of nominations for the list, which now totals more than 1,000 entries.
Benson lifts driver's license suspensions for more than 150,000 Michiganders, cancels infractions for many more

LANSING — Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has announced that her department has lifted suspensions on the driver's licenses of more than 150,000 Michiganders after ongoing implementation of laws that took effect last month identified additional infractions to cancel. The department lifted the suspensions of 12,000 Michiganders in October. Michigan residents who are now eligible for a driver's license may still need to pay a reinstatement fee or renew or reapply for a license, depending on how long the license was suspended.

"We've continued to analyze the new laws in order to get eligible Michiganders safely back behind the wheel," said Benson. "Countless Michiganders need to drive to get to work, get groceries and get their children to medical appointments and I am committed to making government work for all of them."

Letters with more information are being sent this week to all impacted Michiganders at the address listed on their driving record. Copies of the letters will also be posted on each person's Secretary of State account online.

The letters will indicate whether they are eligible to reinstate their license or if they continue to have outstanding infractions. Individual cases vary and impacted residents should obtain a copy of their driving record and seek legal assistance to determine what steps to take.

Residents can visit their Secretary of State online account to view their letter and purchase a copy of their driving record.

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Join Michigan Indian Legal Services and attorney Joshua Wease for a discussion on current tax issues, including:

- **Tax Debt, What To Do If You Receive an IRS Letter, and Child Tax Credits**

**When:** December 3rd @ 12pm
**Where:** [bit.ly/MichiganIndianLegalServices](https://bit.ly/MichiganIndianLegalServices)

**COVID Vaccine Options at Bay Mills Health Center**

- **Nov 23rd, 1-3pm: Moderna Clinic (18+)**
  - We have been hosting weekly Moderna Booster Clinics. Our next is Nov 16th at Wild Bluff Golf Course from 2:30-5pm. Anyone 18 and Older is eligible for a 3rd dose.
  - For more information, register here: [https://forms.gle/XAybOjA67lUSVeA9](https://forms.gle/XAybOjA67lUSVeA9)
  - The most up-to-date information can be found at [www.facebook.com/BayMillsHealthCenter](http://www.facebook.com/BayMillsHealthCenter)

**Let's stop covid - 19**
SAULT STE. MARIE — The SSMBA board reviewed and officially accepted the results of the routine detailed inspection earlier this month.

A team of bridge engineering experts from the lead firm of Hardesty and Hanover (H&H) of Okemos, Mich., along with their Canadian partner firm WSP Canada Group Limited of Mississauga, Ontario, conducted the week-long periodic inspection of the bridge this fall and presented their findings on Nov. 4.

“Even though maintenance activities have slowed a bit this year, the bridge’s ongoing maintenance is outstanding, keeping the structure in good to fair condition,” said H&H structural engineer Richard Wianecki. “Our inspection found no significant changes from previous years.”

H&H noted some minor items, such as pier cap sealing and cleaning and painting of steel components to be addressed. The International Bridge Administration (IBA) staff has included this work in scheduled maintenance for 2022.

The International Bridge is inspected every year, with the routine inspection alternating with a fracture critical inspection. The routine inspection looks at the entire bridge every other year.

“The International Bridge has a history of diligent maintenance,” said Karl Hansen, the IBA bridge engineer. “Our staff is dedicated to protecting the public investment in the bridge. Any concerns found in these inspections are prioritized and addressed in a timely way, either through monitoring, contracted repairs, or in-house repairs.”

In other business, the board elected officers. Board member Nicholas White of Petoskey was elected as the 2022 chair of the SSMBA board of directors.

The SSMBA board consists of up to eight members, four Michigan members appointed by the governor and four Canadian members appointed by the Federal Bridge Corporation Limited, located in Ottawa, Ontario.

Natalie Kinloch of Apple Hill, Ontario, was elected vice chair for 2022. The other Canadian representatives on the board are Thye Lee and Warren Askew. The other U.S. representatives are Thomas Buckingham Sr., Scott Shackleton, and Linda Hoath.

For more information on the International Bridge, please visit www.saultbridge.com or www.Michigan.gov/IBA.

WMH to host town hall meetings

SAULT STE. MARIE — Two town hall meetings will be hosted by War Memorial Hospital and MidMichigan health to discuss war Memorial joining the MidMichigan health system. On Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, David Jahn, president and CEO of WMH and Dr. Diane Postel-Slattery president and CEO of MidMichigan Health will provide information and answer questions regarding the affiliation.

“We are happy to be able to work together and provide our community an opportunity to receive additional information about what it means to join the MidMichigan Health System,” said Jahn.

Last month WMH and MidMichigan health announced they had signed an agreement which would make WMH the eighth Medical Center in the MidMichigan Health centers system.

Leadership from War Memorial and MidMichigan expect the affiliation to be completed in early 2022. The meetings will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. and Wednesday, December 1 at 10 a.m. The location of both meetings is LSSU Anchor Room located in the Cisler center. This is a free event open to all community members. Attendees can park behind the Cisler center in Lot d or adjacent to the art center in lot K.
In April 2021, Michigan enacted the Clean Slate Law to help those with criminal records seek expungement through the legal system. The law will help people find better jobs, qualify for housing and higher education loans, and give peace of mind that past mistakes are no longer a hinderance. Courts set aside your conviction(s) if you meet specific criteria.

**Criteria You Must Meet**

- Your crime(s) must be ones that can be expunged, or set aside.
  - For example, most criminal sexual conduct convictions, some child abuse crimes, felony domestic violence if you have a previous misdemeanor domestic violence conviction, driving while intoxicated, terrorism or human trafficking **cannot be expunged**.
  - Convictions for which the maximum punishment is life in prison cannot be set aside.
- You may have too many convictions.
  - If you have more than three felony offenses in Michigan you might not be able to expunge any convictions.
- There are waiting periods.
  - The waiting periods range from none at all for misdemeanor marijuana related crimes to seven years for more than one felony conviction.

**The Process of Cleaning Your Record**

- You do not need an attorney to set aside your conviction(s). However, it is strongly recommended given the complexities of the law.
- If you meet the criteria set forth in the statute, you must submit the required paperwork to the court in which you were convicted. You must also file this same paperwork with the Michigan State Police, the prosecutor in the county in which you were convicted, and the Michigan Attorney General’s office.
- The application should include supporting documentation of why your conviction should be set aside, such as letters of recommendation, attendance at AA, or other improvements you have made in your life.
- Once all the documents are submitted, a hearing will be scheduled in the court you were convicted in.

**Costs**

- Free legal representation may be available to you if you live in one of the following 10 counties and meet income eligibility requirements:
  - Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford counties. (assistance may be available for people who have convictions in other counties throughout the state).
- Costs you will be responsible for:
  - Obtaining a copy of your ICHAT report from the Michigan State Police ($10);
  - Obtaining certified copies of your convictions (costs depend on the county);
  - Obtaining fingerprints (may be a fee associated with obtaining them);
  - Application fee to the Michigan State Police for verifying your identity and criminal background ($50); Notary services (may be a fee associated with obtaining notarization).

**INTERESTED IN PURSUING EXPUNGEMENT?**

Please reach out to Michigan Indian Legal Services to see if you are eligible to have your convictions set aside.

One of our staff will conduct the initial screening and then refer you to our dedicated attorney for assistance.

Income eligibility thresholds are 200% of the 2021 Federal Poverty Guidelines as set by the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services.

Call (231) 947-0122, M-F, between 9-12pm, and 1-5pm
Martin Cottle

Martin Alex Cottle, 60, peacefully passed away Nov. 2, 2021, after a long struggle with cancer. He died at home in the arms of his wife. In fitting style, he went in the middle of a snowstorm.

Martin was born Aug. 23, 1961 to R. Alex and Delores Cottle in Pickford, Michigan, where he attended Pickford Public Schools. He went on to graduate from Lake Superior State College.

Martin married Alicia Holton on June 12, 1982, and they were devoted to each other. Martin and Alicia enjoyed camping, snowmobiling, and volunteering, and spending time with their extended family whenever they could. Martin relished deer hunting each year and was very proud when he bagged a 10-point several years ago. Besides being an avid snowmobiler who would “hit the trails” as often as possible, Martin was a busy volunteer. While holding several offices in the Sault Ste Marie Snowmobile Association, he served as the President for approximately 15 years. Martin also served as the Treasurer of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Snowmobile Council and the Treasurer of the state organization – the Michigan Snowmobile Association. Martin felt strongly about the future of snowmobiling and was a certified Snowmobile Safety Instructor who held well-attended classes for pre-teens for many years. Martin’s love and devotion to the sport of snowmobiling was evident by the many awards and accolades he received, including being named Michigan’s Snowmobiler of the Year in 2006. As he always said – “summer is just 3 months of bad sledding”.

Martin is survived by his wife, Alicia Cottle; siblings, Cheryl (Ed) Cate, Allen (Patricia) Cottle, Dana (Les) Beyer, and Lisa Crawford; sisters-in-law, Georgia (John) Mareska and Doreen (Barry) Chapman; special nephew and niece Michael (Deanna) Cottle and Jennifer (Justin) Peterman; and many other nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews. He is pre-deceased by his parents, R. Alex and Delores Cottle and his brother-in-law, Jeff Crawford.

Charles S. Link, Jr.

Charles S. Link, Jr., 88, passed away surrounded by family, at the home of his daughter in Bay Mills Township on Oct. 31, 2021.

Charles was born on June 6, 1933, in Reading, PA to the late Charles and Olivia (Fisher) Link, Sr. He graduated from Brimley High School. Charles served his country in the United States Army and later in the United States Air Force, retiring as a Tech Sergeant on June 30, 1971. He enjoyed his dogs, Fritz and Roscoe, and loved spending time with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He is survived by his nine children: Diane (Fred) Kelly of Detroit; Patty (Daryl) Hopper of Hulbert; Mike (Janet) Link of Detroit; Debbie (Lee) Freedman of Brimley; Yvette (Keith) Houser of Seattle, WA; Beverly (David) of Pewaukee, Wisc.; Kristine (Trent) Lawson of Brimley; Marlene (Jason) Shirley of Seattle, WA; Charlie (Shelly) Link, III of Sultan, WA. He is further survived by 32 grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Charlie is also survived by two siblings: Larry (Susie) Link and Mary Ann Brunner.

Charlie was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Mary, of 59 years; his parents; a grandchild, Sky Marie Link; and a great grandchild, Karrigan Hopper.

Services took place at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home with Pastor Brooks Sayer officiating with burial will be at Hillcrest Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left in memory of Charlie to the Sault Wesleyan Church - Uganda Missions.
Eligible Michiganders should plan to get booster doses six months after primary

LANSING — Following FDA approval, recommendations from the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the endorsement of the CDC director, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is urging all eligible Michiganders to get a Johnson & Johnson, Moderna or Pfizer booster vaccine if they have received their primary COVID-19 vaccines.

Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may prefer the vaccine type they originally received and others may prefer to get a different type of booster vaccine. CDC’s recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots. Consult your healthcare provider if there is a question which vaccine is appropriate for you.

Michiganders should bring their COVID-19 vaccine card or immunization record with them when getting their booster dose, which are available at any vaccine provider. Downloadable immunization records are accessible free at the Michigan Immunization Portal. To obtain their record, Michiganders must create a MiLogin account at Michigan.gov/MiImmsportal and upload a valid government issued photo ID such as a driver’s license, state ID or passport. If you do not have records in the portal contact your healthcare provider or local health department.

As previously recommended, Michiganders with moderately to severely compromised immune systems should receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after a second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

To date more than 5.6 million Michiganders aged 5 and up have gotten at least their first dose of one of the three safe, effective COVID-19 vaccines. Michigan is making good progress on boosters and third doses, with over 1.1 million administered to date, making the state 7th nationwide in booster doses.

From January to Nov. 5, unvaccinated Michiganders accounted for 88% of COVID cases, 88.2% of hospitalizations and 87.7% of deaths. Many Michiganders are still in need of the extra protection provided by booster doses, including residents of long-term care facilities where outbreaks can spread quickly and extra protection is strongly recommended.

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine.
More fruits and vegetables are available for WIC families

LANSING — Michigan Women, Infants and Children clients are being reminded about additional Cash Value Benefits (CVB) they are receiving to purchase fruits and vegetables at the grocery store through the end of the year.

On Sept. 30, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act of 2022 into law, thus authorizing State WIC Agencies to significantly increase the program’s vegetable and fruit benefit through Dec. 31, 2021.

"Michigan is excited to offer this great increase in benefits to the women, infants and children that we serve," said Christina Herring-Johnson, Michigan WIC director. "This increase in fresh fruits and vegetables, will continue to promote and support healthier eating patterns and overall great nutrition."

"With far too many families struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic to afford the healthy foods that help grow healthy children, this temporary boost to the WIC benefit is an investment in our nation's future," said Rev. Douglas Greenaway, President & CEO of the National WIC Association. "Increased access to vegetables and fruits is a critical step toward ensuring that children have access to vital nutrients, curbing childhood obesity rates while strengthening our local farm economies. In communities across the country, WIC is ready to help as parents continue to navigate the COVID-19 crisis."

The monthly cash value benefit for fruits and vegetables has been increased to the following amounts:

- $24 for children.
- $43 for pregnant and postpartum people.
- $47 for breastfeeding people.

WIC's CVB vegetable and fruit benefit was first introduced in 2007 and is credited with improving the dietary quality of WIC participants and reducing the prevalence of childhood obesity among WIC toddlers. Michigan residents can learn more about what the Michigan WIC program has to offer, by visiting Michigan.gov/WIC. To apply for WIC, visit Michigan.gov/MIBridges.

Cloverland warns members about calls

DAFTER – As scam calls once again surge across the Eastern Upper Peninsula, Cloverland Electric Cooperative warns business and residential members to stay alert of calls threatening to disconnect electrical service or demanding immediate payment by phone. Scam callers identify themselves as representatives from Cloverland Electric and use legitimate (906) area phone numbers to target the cooperative’s business and residential members.

Signs of a scam call include a sense of urgency and actions that do not align with cooperative protocol, including:

- Threatening to disconnect service if payment is not made immediately by phone;
- Demanding a pre-paid credit card so there is no dispute with the bank;
- A specific name or truck number of the person coming to disconnect service.
- Members should be aware that Cloverland’s member services team does not take credit card information by phone. Instead, the cooperative uses an automated pay-by-phone system (844-843-6837, which is printed on billing statements).

Cloverland urges members to never provide personal or financial information to a scam caller. If such calls are received, members should make a note of the number, details about the call and immediately hang up and report the incident.
Use best hunting practices for firearm deer season

Hunters can expect excellent conditions for the 2021 firearm deer season, which began Monday, Nov. 15. As Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officers gear up for the season, they share best practices and tips to avoid the most common violations and mistakes they see every year.

Here's a list of 10 best practices to help hunters avoid common mistakes and violations during firearm season - most of which can easily be avoided with a little research and planning.

#1 - PROPERLY TAG YOUR DEER

Conservation officers often see the wrong kill tag on game - such as fish or turkey licenses on deer. Often, this is a simple mistake made in the dark and can be corrected by re-tagging the deer as soon as you notice the error.

Solution: Before field-dressing or moving the deer, kill tags should be filled out (including the month and date the deer was taken and the deer's gender and number of antler points) and properly placed on the deer.

#2 - KNOW YOUR FIREARM AND HOW IT FUNCTIONS

Semi-automatic, lever, bolt and pump-action firearms are common choices among hunters, but each firearm functions differently.

Solution: Take the time to familiarize yourself with your firearm and make sure it is properly sighted and functioning before you go hunting.

#3 - KNOW YOUR TARGET AND WHAT'S BEYOND IT

Each year conservation officers investigate property damage caused by firearms. Rifle rounds travel long distances - hunters are responsible for where the bullets end up.

Solution: Know the area you'll be hunting, including nearby buildings and properties. No one may hunt with a firearm within 450 feet of an occupied structure (including buildings, dwellings, homes, residences, cabins, barns or structures used for farm operations) unless they have permission from the landowner.

#4 - RESPECT LANDOWNER RIGHTS

If a deer runs onto private property, the hunter cannot retrieve it without the landowner's permission.

Solution: Always respect posted trespassing signs. If you'll be hunting near someone else's property, contact the landowner ahead of time; don't wait until you're tracking game. Most of the time, a friendly call or visit to your neighbor will remedy the situation.

#5 - SHARE PUBLIC LAND

State-managed land is a popular place to hunt. Confrontations over hunting spots, or the illegal posting (trespassing or hunting signs) of state-managed public land, do occur. Conservation officers, who are often asked to help resolve disputes, say the main reason for these situations is usually last-minute hunters who randomly pick a spot.

Solution: Hunters should research and scout the land they plan to hunt well before the hunt. Brush, constructed blinds and tree stands on public land are just that - public. Regardless of who constructed, purchased or tends to these blinds, when they're on state-managed public land, they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Public land cannot be posted or reserved.

Tree stands used on public land must be portable and have the hunter's name, address and Michigan driver's license number or DNR sportcard number affixed in legible English that can easily be read from the ground.

#6 - LEAVE THE LAND BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT

Leaving propane bottles, hand-warmer wrappers, food wrappers, bottles and other trash causes problems for animals and people.

Solution: Practice the "leave no trace" ethic and don't litter. Whatever is brought into the woods should be taken back out. It is the responsibility of all hunters to be good environmental stewards and clean up after themselves.

#7 - WEAR HUNTER ORANGE

Some hunters remove their orange clothing once they get into deer stands or blinds. In the excitement of getting a deer, hunters may forget to put their orange clothing back on.

Solution: Hunters are required by law to wear hunter orange as the outermost layer of clothing at all times. Hunter orange garments, including camouflage, must be at least 50 percent hunter orange and be visible from all directions. Clothing options include a cap, hat, vest, jacket or raincoat. The DNR recommends wearing as much hunter orange as possible to increase visibility to other hunters.

#8 - KNOW AND FOLLOW BAITING REGULATIONS

Conservation officers stay busy responding to calls about illegal baiting in Michigan's Lower Peninsula and portions of the Upper Peninsula.

Solution: Know the law. Baiting and feeding are banned in the entire Lower Peninsula and in the core chronic wasting disease surveillance area in the Upper Peninsula (portions of Delta, Dickinson and Menominee counties) - except for hunters with disabilities who meet specific requirements.

In approved Upper Peninsula baiting areas, 2 gallons of bait can be spread in an area that measures 10 feet by 10 feet. On commercial forest land, bait must be brought in each night, unless the landowner has given permission. Use bait sparingly to help curb the spread of deer diseases like bovine tuberculosis and chronic wasting disease.

#9 - HUNT IN-SEASON, DURING LEGAL HOURS

One of the most common complaints to the DNR's Report All Poaching Hotline is about shots fired after dark. Often, these complaints are reported days later.

Solution: Make sure your hunt is within legal hours. A hunter legally may shoot game 30 minutes before sunrise or until 30 minutes after sunset. Anyone who witnesses or suspects hunting outside of legal hours should immediately call or text the DNR's Report All Poaching hotline at 800-292-7800. Fast reporting makes it more likely that a conservation officer will identify the suspect.

#10 - BE RESPECTFUL TO OTHER HUNTERS

Conservation officers investigate acts of hunter harassment - which is when a person or organization intentionally sabotages another hunter's quality opportunity to take game. Solution: Respect the law. Michigan law prohibits anyone obstructing or interfering with the lawful taking of animals. Hunter harassment is a misdemeanor offense.

Anyone who feels targeted by hunter harassment or who witnesses a natural resource violation should immediately call or text the Report All Poaching Hotline line at 800-292-7800. Information can be left anonymously; monetary rewards may be offered for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of violators.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

School dismissal for holiday

Brimley Area Schools will dismiss at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 24, for Thanksgiving Vacation. There will be no school on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25 and 26.

Employees needed for school positions

Brimley Area Schools have a need for substitutes in most areas of employment. This includes: teachers, bus drivers, custodians, food service workers, and teacher aides. For further information, or to pick up an application, contact the central office at: 248-3219. Please be aware that substitute employment in a school requires a background and fingerprint check.

Winter Farmer’s Market to be held each week

Sault Ste. Marie Farmer’s Market will be held on Saturday mornings beginning Nov. 20 at Bayliss Public Library from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The winter market will feature bread, eggs, produce, poultry, baked goods, meat, jams, nuts, wood crafts, handcrafted items, and more.

Habitat ReStore is open and seeking donations

North Star Habitat For Humanity in Sault Ste. Marie is open from Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The store has Christmas items available for purchase and is open to donations.

Public Comment sought:

The Bay Mills Indian Community will be submitting a grant request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the ICDBG Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages. Eligible purposes for this grant include the development of viable Indian Communities, including the creation of decent housing, suitable living environments, and economic opportunities for persons with low and moderate incomes. The grant can be single-purpose or imminent threat. Part of the grant requirement involves citizen participation. The project information must be published, and insight from our community members is encouraged. The tribe proposes to construct an addition for the new Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills. The BGCBM I a vital component of the community. The additional space will allow for appropriate safety measures and social distancing due to COVID-19 and allow for an increase in maximum capacity. In addition, the proposed expansion will provide parents with a location for their children to participate in various after-school and summer programs. We will be requesting $700,000 in grant funds. If you would like to submit public comments regarding this project, please send them to Tara Parrish, tparrish@baymills.org, by 4 p.m., Nov. 21, 2021.

This project has been previously listed for public comment. However, due to increases in costs, the overall square footage of the project will decrease.

Public Comment Open

Comment on FY22 Federal Brownfields Grant Funds open until November 26, 2021. The Bay Mills Indian Community will be submitting a grant request to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development (BUILD) Act (P.L. 115-141), requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to publish guidance for grants to assess and clean up brownfield sites. EPA’s Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, communities, tribes, and nonprofit organizations to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfield sites. Part of the grant requirements involves community notification. This will allow the community an opportunity to comment on the grant application and on the draft application. Included in this will be a draft Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA), which summarizes the site and contamination issues, cleanup alternatives considered, and proposed cleanup. The project information must be published, and insight from our community members is encouraged.

The tribe proposes using the funds for cleaning up environmental contamination at Chippewa Landing, including petroleum, hazardous material, asbestos, and lead contamination. Funding is available up to $500,000, with a 20% cost match required. Bay Mills Indian Community will apply for a waiver for the cost-share requirements but understands that waivers are considered on a case-by-case and extremely limited basis. If you would like to submit comments regarding this project, please send them to Jen Parks, jmparks@baymills.org, or Tara Parrish tparrish@baymills.org by 4 p.m. on November 26, 2021. Documents relating to the project can be found online at www.baymills.org.