

# BAY MILLS NEWS

Serving the Eastern Upper Peninsula

*“Gnoozhekaaning Bidajimowin”*

June 2023

## Michigan regulators weigh final arguments on oil pipeline

LANSING— Attorneys for the Bay Mills Indian Community have submitted the Tribe’s final brief to the Michigan Public Service Commission, wrapping up nearly three years of litigation in a contested case over the proposed Line 5 tunnel project. The Commission must decide whether to grant a permit for Enbridge, a Canadian oil giant, to dig a pipeline tunnel beneath the Straits of Mackinac. This untested tunnel project could result in an explosion and release oil into the Great Lakes.

“After another round of testimony and cross-examination, the safety concerns about Enbridge’s proposed tunnel remain,” reads one brief. “And new concerns have emerged.”

During the case, a pipeline safety expert warned that the pipeline could rupture, releasing oil or natural gas liquids into the tunnel. The product and the associated flammable gases could ignite and trigger a massive explosion.

Brian O’Mara, a geologist with decades of experience with tunnels, testified that the explosion could create a fuel-rich fire that would burn for days, causing the tunnel to collapse. Oil would spill into the heart of the Great Lakes, and any product stuck in the rock or sediments would slowly dissolve into the groundwater for decades or possibly centuries. These issues remain unaddressed by Enbridge.

“The tunnel project doesn’t solve the risks associated with oil flowing through the Great Lakes,” says Earthjustice attorney Julie Goodwin. “It just replaces one set of risks for another.”

No one has ever attempted to build a massive concrete tunnel to route a hazardous liquids pipeline underneath the Great Lakes—or anywhere. Evidence gathered over the last three years shows the experimental design of this project is significantly flawed and especially risky.

“The stakes are too high for the State of Michigan to gamble on catastrophe,” reads one of BMIC’s final briefs. “The possibility that this misguided project would rain devastation and destruction on the Great Lakes, and to Bay Mills and other communities, is simply too great of a risk.”

The proposed tunnel would lie beneath a place of deep spiritual, cultural, and economic importance to BMIC.

In August 2020, BMIC intervened in Enbridge’s permit application, represented by attorneys at Earthjustice and the Native

American Rights Fund (NARF). They were soon joined by several neighboring Tribes.

As BMIC President Whitney Gravelle testified: “My people, Bay Mills Indian Community, have had a longstanding historical relationship with the land and water in and around the Straits of Mackinac since time immemorial [...] If that relationship is severed it can only mean that my people no longer have the ability to survive in this area any more – they could not hunt, they could not fish, they could not gather, they could not perform ceremony, they could not pass on teachings, and they could not use medicines to heal themselves. The list goes on and on. All it takes is one time and one spill to destroy my people and destroy all that we hold dear.”

Richard Kuprewicz, a chemical engineer with nearly 50 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, warned the Commission about the serious risk of an explosion in the tunnel. Alarmed by these warnings, the Commission re-opened the record in July of 2022 and ordered Enbridge to answer questions about the safety of the tunnel design.

“Instead of addressing the Commission’s well-founded concerns, Enbridge either ignored their questions or gave answers that were flawed, biased, and completely unsupported by actual numerical data,” said Earthjustice attorney Christopher Clark.

In one case, Enbridge provided an expert employed by the company’s software provider, who adjusted a risk probability calculation simply because of his faith in that software. In another instance, Enbridge failed to answer the Commission’s request for an assessment on the feasibility of using more protective electrical equipment. Instead, Enbridge gave excuses about the difficulty of doing feasibility exercises that they never bothered to perform, despite having nearly a year to complete them.

All parties now await the decision of the three-member Michigan Public Service Commission.

“The history of pipeline operations in this country is replete with examples of ruptures, leaks and explosions that have had devastating impact,” testified BMIC President Whitney Gravelle. “Undoubtedly, these events were regarded as highly unlikely to happen. And, too often, Indigenous people bear the brunt of such accidents.”

# Bay Mills Executive Council discusses business

President Whitney Gravelle

- May 24 EC and Tribal Manager met with Joint Commission on Health Center review. Projects were discussed. Audrey's team received outstanding remarks.

- Also met with MSU Native American Institute. NAI has struggled with transitions, but we have several students attending MSU. We discussed what they could do for tribal students. NAGPRA was discussed, as well as MSU holding archives.

- Whiskey River has begun work on tribal administration building. Prior contractor did not meet timelines. WR projects the building will be done early next year, they have been great to work with. They previously completed the new Boys & Girls Club.

- May 31 CORA meeting discussed PFAS contamination. Statewide notices are confusing to people. Conversation took place about advisories. Looking to get more localized advisories instead of lake-wide. Will have a follow up meeting with EGLE about pollution.

- United Tribes of Michigan meeting took place. Legal attended as well. We were able to give an update about Line 5 work and the international process.

- Met with USFS about surrounding campground closures, Bay View and Monocle Lake. Disputes are taking place, they are trying to resolve. For next year they are looking for new campground hosts.

- Consent Decree litigation still taking place. Oral arguments took place in late May. Order from judge indicates statements of law and statements of fact to be filed in next 30 days.

- Line 5 continues on. May 25 met with Army Corps. Team on site for wetlands and archeological studies next two weeks.

- Resort expansion bid date extended to late June to put together better numbers. Still expect to break ground this year and do interior renovations this winter.

- BMBH meeting discussed Bay Mart tank replacement. Land around Bay Mart in BMIC name now. Chippewa County Road Commission was a cooperative partner in this process. Sunoco agreement

discussed, need input from accounting. NLCC gave projected analysis on staffing and equipment.

- Birch Bark canoe build to take place this week (10-6 every day).

- June 16: Peach Parish (court) and Dean Parish (conservation) are retiring.

Tribal Manager Rachel Lyons (submitted written report)

Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram

- Financials are available online for managers in the new accounting system.

- Correcting errors in new system.

- Attended training.

Health Director Audrey Breakie

- Still working on Brimley School clinic.

- Portage Street landscaping took place.

- Working on getting dentists still.

- HRSA budget/application in the works.

- Waiting on job offers to open positions.

- Billboard on M-28 for Health Center, going east.

- Electric sign going up.

- Attended Native Nations Health Care Conference

- Looked at blueprints for townhomes at Brewbaker's. Waiting on final cost estimates.

Human Resources Director Kendal Perron

- Lots going on in HR. Accruals issue being addressed. Working with managers. Adjustments will be made. Vacation requests must be given in advance.

BMGA General Manager Richard LeBlanc

- Growing number of applicants for open positions.

- Have begun purchasing kayaks and supplies. Want to have a healthy inventory. No rates or procedure set yet.

- Working with marketing team to address trends.

BMBH General Manager Kimmi Walden

- Attended a conference and learned a lot.

New Business

1. Resolution 23-06-12A: Waiver of Sovereign Immunity and Approval of Lease with United States Postal Service for Brimley Property. Making electric

improvements to property. Five year agreement. Approved.

2. Resolution 23-06-12B: Bay Mills Indian Community Long-Range Transportation Plan Updates. Approved.

3. Resolution 23-06-12C: Support of the Produce Prescription Pilot Program (P4) Cooperative Agreement Submission to the Indian Health Services. Would allow Health Center to give prescriptions for organic and Native foods. Approved.

4. Resolution 23-06-12D: Approval and Support of Cooperative Agreement between the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Bay Mills Indian Community for Wildland Fire Management. Approved.

5. Resolution 23-06-12E: Acceptance of Funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Sugar Island Purple Loosestrife and Narrowleaf Cattail Surveying, Mapping and Removal Project - \$35,000. Approved.

6. Acceptance of Funding Michigan Department of Education Coordinated Application - \$87,450. This is for Boys & Girls Club for summer food program. Approved.

7. Acceptance of Funding for the BMIC FY2023 Performance Partnership Grant - \$50,455. Biology to continue environmental programs. Approved.

8. Approval to Submit Application for Primary Care Services – PP-2024 Policy and Planning - Allocation of \$85,933. No match required. Approved.

9. Acceptance of Funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant and 3-year Plan for Child Development Fund - \$152,745. No match required. Approved.

10. Approval to submit to the Tribal Behavioral Initiative Allocation- \$250k. Approved.

11. Bay Mills Health Center – Approval of McKesson Pharmacy Agreement. To supply the pharmacy. Approved.

12. Land Office – Approval of Plantation Hill Lot Procedures. Approved.

— Total of 94 lots, 87 residential, 7 commercial (held by BMIC).

— Some lots are impacted by natural drainage ditches. Those 14 lots BMHA will be assigned. Five lots are pending review by THPO.

— This establishes lot requirements moving forward. Full procedures can be found online at Bay Mills Land office page on [www.baymills.org](http://www.baymills.org).

— No zoning restrictions, can be home or trailer.

13. Conservation Committee – Appointment of Interim Member until November 2023. Recommendation to appoint Don Tadgerson to seat until November election. Approved.

14. Bay Mills Gaming Commission Compliance Department - Gaming License Waiver Request. Approved.

15. Raffle License Request – Powwow Committee No. 23-006 & 23-007. (Prize raffle and 50/50) Approved.

16. Donation Requests:

- Paradise Clean Up Group: Been working with them on PFAS contamination near old dump site. They are looking for \$480 to deal with gas leak that previously occurred near gas station. Approved.

- Water is Life Festival: Asking for \$2,000 donation. Can use Line 5 funds. Support donation of Line 5 monies, \$5,0000.

- Brimley Girls Basketball Team: Seeking donation to cover team camp costs. BMIC previously donated to boy's team. Support for \$3,000 donation. Approved.

- Student letter requesting for Brimley Class of 2024 support for senior trip to Wisconsin Dells. The total cost is \$4,000. Non-school sanctioned, but teachers will chaperone the event. Any donation appreciated. \$1,000 donation approved to Brimley Class of 2024.

17. Reaffirmation of Poll Votes: Approved

a. Approval to Accept Funding for Distributed Generation Wind Energy Feasibility Study in the Amount of \$174,755.

b. Approval to Accept Funding for Utility and Community-Scale Solar Project Development Feasibility Study in the Amount of \$149,170.

c. Approval to Submit for Public Health Emergency Preparedness Support in the Amount of \$6,087, with a 10% match of \$609.

d. Donation Request – Emergency Medical Donation \$500.

e. Approval to Submit Application for Product Prescription Pilot Program and Accept Funding in the Amount of \$60,000 from MDHHS.

f. Approval to Accept Funding for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program in the Amount of \$499,850.



# BRIMLEY BAY MILLS FARMERS MARKET



Thursday 4-7pm  
July 27-October 26

We accept Michigan Bridge Card, Bay Mills Prescription for Health, WIC Project Fresh, Senior Market Fresh, Double UP Food Bucks, & UP Food is Medicine Vouchers.

## BAY MILLS MARKET PAVILION

11644 Plantation Road  
Brimley, MI 49715

More information contact Connie Watson

906 248 8363 [cwatson@baymills.org](mailto:cwatson@baymills.org)



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## **LSSU offers space certificate program**

Lake Superior State University is excited to announce that students can now register for Introduction to Space Systems – SPAC 310 for the fall semester. This is the first class to be offered by the university for the new Space Missions and Operations Certification program. The class offers a lecture and lab schedule that will provide a systematic overview of space systems, fundamentals, and satellite technology components. Prerequisites include MATH112, MATH131 or higher-level calculus, CHEM091 or higher, PHYS221 or higher.

Thanks to grant funding from the MEDC Michigan Enhancement Grant Department and Senator John Damoose, the approved project allowed development of a training and certification curriculum, which proposed creation of workforce for the Chippewa Homestead Antenna Mission Program (CHAMP). The new class offering comes after a year of coordinated effort from LSSU professors Zakaria Mahmud, PhD, Edoardo Sarda, PhD and Christopher Smith, PhD, Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation President Chris Olson, Brandon “BT” Cesul, PhD at KBR and Al Lepore of Redwire Space. This certificate program would not have been possible without the contributions of Stanley Kennedy, Jr. and his vision bringing this program to the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

Dr. Mahmud said, “I have spoken with numerous students who have aspired to pursue a career in aerospace. The availability of this certification program, which is accessible to all, is truly a dream come true for them.”

“We have nothing but opportunity here in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, and this program, spearheaded by a strong public/private partnership, is part of an effort to make our region the next great American hub for space activity,” stated Sen. Damoose. “I’m proud to play even a small role in making it happen.”

Space operations professionals direct the entire space system, from launch vehicle processing and flight events, to initialization and operation of satellites on-orbit, to anomaly resolution and mission planning, and finally disposal and data archiving. The LSSU certificate program as designed mirrors in many ways the US Space Force’s Space Readiness and Training Command (STARCOM) training units in California and Colorado for enlisted and officer active duty. With the expected growth in number of United States Space Force (USSF) personnel, current training programs do not have sufficient capacity to service the USSF’s needs, and if done with this mind, the LSSU certificate program could position itself to be an alternate training program with reciprocity to the professional military education programs.

An important consideration in the Space Missions and Operations Certification program is that the experience gained through the field work planned for the two-class sequence will give valuable resume bullets that will qualify the student for space careers that they otherwise would not have coupled with a traditional degree. Average pay for a space operator / satellite operator / satellite ground station operator is \$60,000 – \$100,000 per year according to ZipRecruiter, depending on exact position and location.

Learn more about this program at the LSSU Website, [www.lssu.edu](http://www.lssu.edu).

## BMCC recognizes the Class of 2023

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Community College recognized the Class of 2023 at ceremonies held on the BMCC campus on May 12. Graduates were welcomed into the ceremony with traditional music from the Mission Hill Drum.

In total, the college handed out 12 bachelor degrees, 42 associate degrees, 10 certificates, 48 Certificates of Completion, and one diploma. Students who could not attend the ceremony in-person had the opportunity to participate via livestream.

Guest speaker Brandon Fewsins, USDA Rural Development state director for Michigan, encouraged graduates to reflect on their accomplishments as they look toward the next phases of their lives.

“Within your life and mine, there will be good chapters and bad chapters. Chapters will be filled with challenges,” he said. “You will fail at some point, and that’s okay, learn from your failures.”

BMCC students of the year, Dante Cardella and James St. Onge, were also in attendance.

This was the 39th class of graduates from the institution

“Commencement is a significant milestone accomplishment for graduates. Our graduates will enter the workforce, continue their education, and, most importantly, know they can accomplish anything. Seeing the smiles on graduates and their families is what makes being in education so gratifying,” said BMCC President Duane Bedell. “I truly loved congratulating and shaking graduates’ hands as they received their degrees. All of us at BMCC applaud their accomplishments!”

BMCC was chartered by the Bay Mills Indian Community in 1984, to meet the training needs of the Tribe’s growing workforce. From very meager beginnings, BMCC received initial accreditation in 1995, and today is a fully operating Tribal College and Land Grant Institution with an open admissions policy for students of any race, creed, color, and national or ethnic origin. As the college continues to grow, their offerings continue to meet the needs of the workforce. In the past year the school added two new bachelor degree programs to the mix. Many of the students participating in the graduation ceremonies have already committed to continuing their education in these new programs.

To learn more about BMCC, visit [www.bmcc.edu](http://www.bmcc.edu).



## *Walking On*

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### **Darryl Henry Cameron**

Darryl Henry Cameron, 74, of Bay Mills, walked on, on June 4, 2023 in Bay Mills, MI. He was born May 14, 1949 in Bay Mills, MI to Harold and Charlotte Cameron (Teeple).

Darryl spent his childhood and early years in Bay Mills. As a young man he moved to Flint, where he met and married his wife of 51 years, Edith. Darryl worked for General Motors for over 20 years before moving back to Bay Mills. Darryl spent another 20+ years working at both Kings Club and Bay Mills Resort & Casino, starting first as a security guard before moving into the slot department. He loved spending time with his family, watching every type of sporting event there is - including the sports that some people may not consider a sport. His favorites included hockey (especially the Red Wings) and golf, which he enjoyed playing himself. He enjoyed golf so much that he would walk the golf course before it was even open for the season to get some rounds in!

Darryl is survived by his sons, Darryl Jr & Shauna, David, Dean & Alesha, Donald & Clarissa; daughter, Betty & Simon; brothers, Joel, Norman & Eileen; sister, Carol & Chris; sisters-in-law, Martha & Paul Foor, Mary Winnett & Chasie Foor, and Dawn Winnett; brother-in-law, Jimmy & Heather Winnett; grandchildren, Darryl III, Raymond, Hayden, Ethan, "#1" Chelsey, Malikahi, Savannah, Summer, Lyddia, Cameron, Leila, Drake, Dextyn, Kyra, Neveah, RuthAnn, and Dennis; great grandchildren, Blake, Adria, Susie, Isaac, Adrian, and several nieces and nephews.

Darryl was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Edith Cameron; son Dennis Cameron; brothers, Harold Cameron Jr, Arnold "Hawk" Cameron, and William "Bill" Cameron; sisters, Leola Calder, Penny Leapley, and Carrie Cameron; parents-in-law, Roy and Betty Winnett; and brother-in-law, Timmy Winnett.

Final resting place will be Mission Hill Cemetery in Bay Mills, MI. Clark Hovie Galer Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

### **Sandra Jean (McNally) Tassier**

Sandra Jean (McNally) Tassier, 83, of Cedarville, Michigan, died at Cedar Cove Assisted Living Facility surrounded by family on May 28, 2023. She was born in Royal Oak, Michigan, on October 5, 1939, to John and Shirley (Peterson) McNally.

Sandra grew up in Royal Oak and graduated from Madison Heights. She attended a local college before working at Henry Ford Hospital for two years. She met Stephen Richard, and they married on Sept, 12, 1959, in Royal Oak where they started their family. In 1962 they moved to Cedarville, where Sandra and Steve started Tassier Construction where Sandra did the bookkeeping for over 25 years, they owned and operated Snobs Bar and Restaurant for eight years and founded Thick-n-Thin Lumber Company. After retirement, they travelled the country for many years, typically to Florida and Georgia, but also going out east and west in their motorhome.

Sandra attended the First Union Church in Cedarville.

She loved reading, visiting with friends, playing Mahjong, boating in the North Channel, going to local basketball games (she was a huge sports fan!) and she absolutely adored spending time with her grandkids.

Sandra is survived by her three sons, Stephen (Heather) Tassier II, of Savannah, Georgia, Michael (Katherine) Tassier, of Cedarville, and David (fiancé Tammey Schlehuber) Tassier, also of Cedarville; grandchildren, Dustin (Lauren) Tassier, Sheldon (Daphne) Tassier, Griffin Tassier, and Stephen R. Tassier III; great grandchildren, Isla, Laikynn, Evyn, Charlotte, Cailin, and Crew; and sisters-in-law, Rowena Roach, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and Martha Tassier of Cedarville.

Sandra was preceded in death by her husband, Stephen Tassier; son, Thomas Tassier; daughter, Carol Lynne Tassier; brothers-in-law John "Jack" Tassier and Frank Roach; and nephew Daniel Tassier.

The final resting place will be at Cedar Cemetery in Mackinac Twp., Michigan.





# Gnoozhekaaning

## "Place of the Pike"

### Bay Mills Indian Community

32nd Annual Honoring Our Veterans Pow Wow

12099 West Lakeshore Drive, Brimley MI 49715

## June 23-25, 2023

#### Drum Competition

Prizes (USD)

- 1st Place: \$8,000
- 2nd Place: \$6,000
- 3rd Place: \$4,000
- 4th Place: \$2,000

*\*Drum split for all non-placing drums.*

Registration \$20 per person.  
Registration starts Friday at 4PM.

#### Dance Competition

Prizes (USD)

- Adult: \$1,000, \$800, \$600, \$400
- Teens: \$200, \$150, \$100, \$50
- Junior: \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25

Categories: Traditional, Fancy, Grass, and Jingle but *\*dance categories are combined within Golden Age Categories*

Registration \$15 per person.  
Registration starts Friday at 4PM.

#### Grand Entries

- Friday @ 7PM
- Saturday @ 1PM & 7PM
- Sunday @ 12PM

#### Vendors

- Food \$200
- Craft \$100
- Tiered spots available.

Pre-registration required for Vendors.  
Call or email for an application.

**Head Veteran:** George Martin

**Arena Director:** Walker Stonefish

**Emcees:** Shannon Martin & Joel Syrette

**Dance Judges:** Bud Day and Melissa Isaac

**Drum Judge:** Juan (Little Man) Quintero

**Head Dancer, Host Drum:** Picked Each Session

#### Dance Specials:

- Veterans Special: \$700, \$500, \$300, \$100
- Sweetheart Special: \$700, \$500, \$300, \$100
- Men & Women's Traditional: \$700, \$500, \$300, \$100
- Other fun specials may occur throughout the weekend.

#### Accommodations:

- Bay Mills Resort & Casino (Code: Pow Wow 2023); or first come, first serve rustic camping.

**NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL**

*Come Swing and Sway, the Anishinaabe Way!*

Questions: Please contact the Bay Mills Pow Wow Committee at [bmicpowwow@gmail.com](mailto:bmicpowwow@gmail.com) or 906-248-8100!



## Department of State, partners to bring successful driver's license restoration clinics to Upper Peninsula for the first time

LANSING— The Michigan Department of State, along with partners in the public and private sectors, will host the Upper Peninsula's first Road to Restoration driver's license clinics in Marquette, Escanaba, and Sault Ste. Marie this July. Road to Restoration clinics help Michiganders with a suspended driver's license learn how to take the necessary steps to restore their driving privileges. Pre-registration for the U.P. clinics is now open at [Michigan.gov/RoadtoRestoration](https://Michigan.gov/RoadtoRestoration).

"The positive impact of the Road to Restoration program is palpable and we've worked hard with state and local partners to bring our clinics to residents of communities in the U.P.," said Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. "Helping people get safely back behind the wheel clears the way for them to get better jobs, travel with their families, and drive to stores, restaurants, and leisure activities. When we can help people restore their driver's license it kicks off an economic ripple effect felt throughout the communities we serve and the entire state."

The Road to Restoration program will make the following stops in the U.P.:

Marquette – July 10  
Northern Michigan University – NC Ballroom IV  
1401 Presque Isle Ave.  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Escanaba – July 12  
Delta County Chamber of Commerce Center  
1001 N. Lincoln Rd.  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sault Ste. Marie – July 14  
Lake Superior State University – Norris Center  
1000 Meridian St.  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Road to Restoration program was created after changes to state law in 2021 lifted suspensions for drivers who failed to pay tickets or court fines or failed to appear in court for certain non-moving and other violations. While the new laws removed suspensions for more than 150,000 Michiganders, many must still take further action to get their driver's license restored.

Since the program's launch in 2022, more than 6,000 affected Michiganders have participated in Road to Restoration clinics throughout the state. Each clinic is equipped to provide immediate access to driving records and many Secretary of State office services, including the written driving test, to help people get back behind the wheel as quickly as possible. Participants leave Road to Restoration clinics with a plan to return to the road after taking additional steps based on their personal case, or in many cases, with a driver's permit in hand.

Road to Restoration clinics are free to attend, however, residents may be required to pay outstanding fines or fees before their license can be reinstated. The clinics do not provide DUI/OWI expungement services and license reinstatement is not guaranteed.

The expansion of Road to Restoration clinics to the Upper Peninsula is possible through an innovative public-private partnership that includes the Department of Attorney General, DTE Energy, Miller Canfield Law Firm, Detroit Justice Center, Michigan Association of United Ways, Michigan 2-1-1, Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!, Northwest Michigan Works!, and Delta County Chamber of Commerce.

Space for the clinics may be limited. Pre-registration is highly recommended. Registration details and more information can be found at [Michigan.gov/RoadtoRestoration](https://Michigan.gov/RoadtoRestoration) or by calling 211.

# DNR moose survey results show population in western UP statistically unchanged since 2019

In survey results reported to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission in Roscommon today, the moose population estimate for the western Upper Peninsula was not statistically different from the last moose survey conducted in 2019.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has been surveying the western U.P.'s core moose population since 1997, typically every other winter. The 2023 survey marks the first survey completed since 2019 due to scheduling conflicts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The 2023 moose survey estimate was 426\* individuals, which is not statistically different from the 2019 estimate of 509 individuals," said Tyler Petroelje, northern Michigan wildlife research specialist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in Marquette. "This continues the trend of plateauing abundance where population growth over the last 12 years is now less than 1%."

Aerial moose surveys are conducted over core moose habitat areas during winter to identify and tally bulls, cows and calves. This past winter's survey was conducted by the DNR during portions of January and February.

The western U.P. moose core range covers about 1,400 square miles in parts of Marquette, Baraga, and Iron counties. Moose were translocated there from Canada in two separate efforts in 1985 and 1987.

The remainder of the U.P. is not surveyed for moose but some pockets of higher quality habitat are occupied by lesser numbers of moose, as seen in the eastern U.P. region. Moose have been observed there since the 1950s. During the 2023 winter survey, researchers tallied 212 individual moose, which was 20% fewer than the 266 moose observed on the 2019 survey. A point estimate indicated a 16% decline in moose abundance.

"Looking at demographic data, with respect to previous surveys, we observed a comparable – but low – cow-to-calf ratio and percentage of calf numbers," Petroelje said. "A potentially concerning observation is the lesser percentage of twins seen during this survey (9%) compared to the 10-year average of 15%."

Petroelje said fewer twins, in combination with a lesser bull-to-cow ratio could point to a recruitment issue, which is the number of individuals added to a population over a given time by either births or immigration.

DNR wildlife biologists will continue to monitor recruitment in the population in future surveys to determine whether a trend is developing or if 2023 was a poor calf year.

"Another factor that has affected the moose in the western U.P. is that 2022 was a high year for moose-vehicle crashes," said John Pepin, DNR deputy public information officer in Marquette. "Collisions involved at least 20 moose last year in the western U.P. We remind motorists to watch for moose, especially when traveling at night."

With the Moose Hunting Advisory Council's recommendation to only allow moose hunting if a growth rate of greater than 3% is maintained, the DNR is not recommending implementing a hunting season. The same was true over the past several survey result years.

For more information on moose in Michigan, visit [Michigan.gov/Moose](https://Michigan.gov/Moose).



# SAVE THE DATE

**SEPTEMBER 2, 2023  
12PM-9PM**

**MUSIC • ACTIVITIES  
DOOR PRIZES • FAMILY  
FUN AND MORE!**

**VENDOR REGISTRATION:**

[www.waterislifefestival.org/copy-of-vendor-registration](http://www.waterislifefestival.org/copy-of-vendor-registration)

**WANT TO DONATE?**

[www.waterislifefestival.org.donate](http://www.waterislifefestival.org.donate)

**NEW LOCATION!**

**FESTIVAL PARK NEAR BREAKWALL  
200 WACHTEL AVENUE | PETOSKEY, MI**

[www.waterislifefestival.org](http://www.waterislifefestival.org)



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FESTIVAL  
UPDATES**



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# Announcements

## BMIC App Available

You can now head to your Google Play or Apple App Store and search Bay Mills Indian Community to download. This mobile app is just another example of various ways our Tribal Nation seeks to improve communication with our tribal citizens, employees, and community members. It will serve as a central source of information, services, websites, recreation, and food throughout Bay Mills Indian Community. Furthermore, the mobile app will also allow for push notifications for important and/or emergency events, which will alert all individuals who install the app. This may include inclement weather, power outages, etc.

## Have you moved? Update your address!

Bay Mills Tribal Enrollment office asks all tribal citizens to maintain a current address with their office. An online form can be found at [www.baymills.org](http://www.baymills.org).

## 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.

## Looking for events?

Please check out the community calendar on [www.baymills.org](http://www.baymills.org) for the most up to date listings of events and cultural workshops. You can send your events to [newspaper@baymills.org](mailto:newspaper@baymills.org) as well to be posted on the calendar.

Bay Mills Community College

Waishkey Bay Farm

## Sweet Grass Field Trip

Wiingushk (Grandmother's Hair )

Tuesday, July 11th

Summer 2023



Join us for a field trip to identify,  
gather and process sweetgrass.  
We will follow traditional  
Anishinaabe methods & protocols  
for harvesting:

- Bring tobacco
- Take only what we need
- Women's teachings apply

**10:00 am Depart**  
locally from  
**Waishkey Bay Farm**  
10135 W Mills Rd  
Brimley, MI 49715

**(Weather permitting)**  
**Everyone welcome**

*For more information contact:*  
Kathy LeBlanc  
BMCC Cultural Services  
(906) 322-7037  
OR  
Dennis Carrick  
Waishkey Bay Farm Technician  
(906) 322-8455




12214 W Lakeshore Dr Brimley, MI (906) 248-8401 WWW.BMCC.EDU Bay Mills Community College is Accredited by  
the Higher Learning Commission - HLCOMMISSION.ORG