

BAY MILLS NEWS

Serving the Eastern Upper Peninsula

"Gnoozhekaaning Bidajimowin"

February 2022

Experts raise environmental and public safety concerns over Line 5 tunnel project

LANSING — On Feb. 18, a coalition of Indigenous Tribes, public safety experts, and environmental groups brought together all the pieces of their case before the Michigan Public Service Commission to deny a permit for the Enbridge Line 5 Tunnel Project. In their initial briefs submitted to the Commission, the groups underscored the serious risks the pipeline tunnel in the Straits of Mackinac would pose to tribal treaty rights, public safety, and efforts to combat the climate crisis.

Bay Mills Indian Community has lived along the Straits of Mackinac for centuries and retains treaty-protected access to the waterway. BMIC has been a vocal opponent of the existing pipeline and tunnel replacement and has been battling Enbridge for nearly a decade. Bay Mills stressed to the Commission how constructing an underwater tunnel to transport crude oil through such ecologically sensitive waters poses an untenable risk to its frontline Indigenous communities, fish populations, sacred burial sites, and medicinal plant species.

"The Straits of Mackinac are a precious and culturally sacred part of our ecosystem that should not be jeopardized in the name of corporate greed," said Bay Mills President Whitney Gravelle. "It's more than just our food and water that's at stake. It's our connectedness to the natural world, our cultural identity, and deep sense of community that this landscape keeps alive. This is not just a tribal fight; we are fighting on behalf of all who value the Great Lakes and our environment."

Due to the proposed tunnel's design, the likelihood of a catastrophic explosion that would cause irreparable harm to the Great Lakes and to surrounding communities is also a serious concern. "Enbridge's proposal to run a liquids pipeline through an enclosed tunnel has never been done before and creates the conditions for a catastrophic explosion in the Straits," said Christopher Clark, attorney with Earthjustice, which along with the Native American Rights Fund is representing the Tribe before the Public Service Commission. "This is not the right time or right place for such a dangerous experiment."

"Climate change is disproportionately ravaging the natural resources, economic livelihoods, and safety of the Tribal Nations located in Michigan," said David Gover, attorney with the Native American Rights Fund. "These are the very same communities that are bearing the brunt of the unacceptable risks posed by the existing Line 5 pipeline and this tunnel replacement."

All of the parties have submitted their initial briefs to the Commission. They will then have an opportunity to formally respond to each other's arguments by March 11th.

Bay Mills Executive Council discusses business

Reports from the Feb. 14 Meeting

Chairperson Whitney Gravelle

— As of Feb. 11, there were 6 active cases on reservation. This is an improvement from just a few weeks ago. County numbers are improving as well.

— The Council has met with health center and management team to discuss the policy on COVID going forward. The mask mandate is no longer working and employee morale is low. We have come to the conclusion we have given the public opportunity to protect themselves with vaccines and mandates. On March 1 we will let the mask mandate expire for BMIC.

— The Feb. 9 GTC did not meet quorum. The count fell short by about 40 people. On the agenda was the charter school lease. We will work to bring this to the April GTC. Looking at other meeting options as well in regard to location.

— Wolf management plan: Placed back on endangered species list temporarily. USFWS looking to delist for Great Lakes as well.

— Continuing conversations with Army Corps of Engineers regarding shoreline erosion.

— On Jan. 4 BMIC submitted comments for the Enbridge environmental impact statement. On March 1, Sec. 106 process discussion taking place with the corps.

— 2020 Consent Decree negotiations continue.

— Bay Mills Gaming Authority: Met with casino team and DSGW to discuss expansions, issues, and options.

— Bay Mills Business Holdings: HB5706 Tribal Marijuana Compact Bill has been introduced. We had meetings to discuss today. This bill is critical to NLCC grow operation as it would allow us to sell to other retail operations across the state.

Tribal Manager Rachel Lyons

— Working on soft close with grants for end of year numbers.

— Meeting with health center to see about providing more counseling services for healing to wellness court.

— Interviews are being scheduled for the museum director at lighthouse position.

— Playground and recreation committee meeting was held. Discussing surveys, hoping to get order in for equipment soon.

Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram

— Worked on AOT purchase policy.

— Updated FRF funds for report due in April.

— DraftKings update was sent out. Still waiting on NIGC letter for retail.

— Worked with NLCC on grow and operations budget.

Health Director Audrey Breakie

— 3,346 people fully vaccinated. 826 Booster doses given. Decreasing Moderna clinics starting March 3, decrease in demand for those shots. No longer doing J&J shots. Pfizer given by appointment.

— Working on new facility. Lots of work to be done.

— Nurse is now in the school.

BMGA General Manager Richard LeBlanc

— Working with food and beverage to get a breakfast menu launched this month, besides buffett. Hope to have dinner service resume by June. Still facing supply chain issues.

— Met with marketing about promotions for summer. We are looking at what the rest of the industry is doing.

- Attending a gaming conference in April.
- Updating machines, hope to be done in May.
- Hotel renovations are continuing.

BMBH General Manager Kimmi Walden

- Will use similar surveillance system that BMRC uses for enterprise. NLCC will be different.
- Hired Justin LeBlanc as retail manager. He has a lot of knowledge on software and register systems. James Teeple was promoted to retail supervisor II. He will be stationed at Four Seasons.
- Met with vendors for inventory systems.
- Working on NLCC promotional calendar.
- NLCC construction is moving forward.

New Business

- Resolution No. 22-02-14A: Waiver of Sovereign Immunity -(COVID-19) Immunization Tribal Support-2022 notice of award for \$133,188. This will help with programs that deal with the adverse effects of COVID19. Approved.
- Resolution No. 22-02-14B: CSB Loan Authorization Health Center. This is for 3.1 million construction loan to finish medical center. Approved.
- Resolution No. 22-02-14C: FY2021 Historic Preservation Fund – Tribal Heritage Grant Application P22AS00029. Up to \$60k, no match. Would staff lighthouse museum. Approved.
- Resolution No. 22-02-14D: Grant Application for Continued Red Pine Planting. This would be for Sugar Island. Budget near \$50k. Approved.
- Resolution No. 22-02-14E: Wisconsin Vision Associates. This is for medical center. Approved.
- Resolution No. 22-02-14F: HOYA Vision Ease: Waiver of Sovereign Immunity for medical center. Approved.
- US Treasuries Long Term Bank Account- Key Bank. This is a safe short term investment. Treasury note, no fees. Approved.
- Approval to Submit Bureau of Indian Affairs

(BIA) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Application – Category 1, Focus Area 2 for Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Disposal Alternative, and Invasive Species Control. No match. Funds will support staff, training and supplies. Approximately \$132k. Approved.

- Approval to Submit State Opioid Response Grant from SAMHASA (SOR3). Approved.
- Section 714: Donated Leave Policy. Issues related to COVID. Approved.
- Strong Hearts Memorandum of Understanding – Victim Services. Partnering for off-hours, holidays, snow days. This way there is always coverage. Approved.
- MSU Extension Memorandum of Understanding - Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP). Through BMCC. Approved.
- Future Citizenships – Screening Committee. Received a memorandum from the Feb. 2 meeting. They qualify as future citizens, less than one year of age. Five children. Approved.
- Raffle License – Ojibwe Charter Schools. This has been done annually. It is a raffle for a side of beef. The monies go to robotics and the yearbook. Approved.
- Donations Requests:
 - OCS Robotics Team. Looking for funds to sponsor. Team has 15 students this year. \$1,000 donation. Approved.
 - Table Sault Michigan hockey donation after missed tournament date.
 - Request from tribal member to attend grant writing course for \$119. Approved.
 - Medical emergency request: \$250 Approved.
- Reaffirmation of Poll Votes: Approved.
 - Ellen Marshall Renovation Proposal
 - Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills Raffle License
 - Approval to Submit Wildflower Re-Establishment Grant

OPINION

Let's talk about social insecurity

By Tom Purcell

A quarter of a million dollars.

That's the amount that I've paid in FICA payroll taxes during my working career, according to my recent Social Security statement.

FICA, which stands for "Federal Insurance Contributions Act," "is a payroll tax that helps fund both Social Security and Medicare programs, which provide benefits for retirees, the disabled and children," says the Social Security Administration (SSA).

The FICA tax also will partially fund — at least I hope it will — my retirement years.

My statement says I am eligible to begin receiving Social Security payments of \$1,851 a month when I hit age 62.

If I wait until I am 70, I'll receive \$3,370 a month — which is a nice little chunk of dough.

However, if I had invested the \$250,000 FICA deducted from my earnings on my own, I'd have, according to my money manager, more than \$1.5 million socked away.

If I drew a conservative 4 percent of that \$1.5 million every year, I'd be collecting a \$5,000 retirement check every month right away.

Of course, that is assuming I would have saved and invested all the money that FICA took from my weekly paychecks.

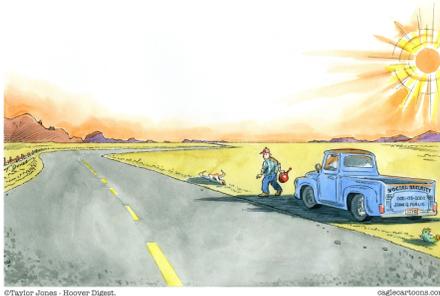
More likely, me knowing me, I would have blown most of it on nicer cars and more vacations.

Saving money for your future is hard, even for more-disciplined people.

My parents raised six kids on one income and had a lot of big bills along the way, so saving money for the future was not always possible.

They now rely on the Social Security payments they receive every month to help them cover their basic expenses.

Millions of elderly Americans are in the same precarious financial boat.



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The Social Security Administration reports that about 40 percent of Americans 65 and older receive half of their retirement income from Social Security — and about 13 percent rely on it for 90 percent or more of their income. It takes some of the sting out of the 15.3 percent FICA tax that is imposed on my self-employed earnings to know that my contributions are helping others get by in their old age.

But will Social Security be around to help me in my old age?

Social Security is now paying out more than it is taking in and the funds working taxpayers contribute now go directly to Social Security recipients.

But what about the Social Security "trust fund," which saved trillions of the surplus tax contributions that had rolled in for years?

The partially good news is that it will not run out of money until 2034 — at which time Social Security payments will have to be reduced, taxes will have to be raised or more money will have to be borrowed.

The bad news is that its funds were "invested" in government bonds, which the federal government happily spent on day-to-day budget expenses, such as foreign wars, food stamps and the national debt.

As the great columnist Charles Krauthammer explained in 2011, the Social Security trust fund is filled not with money but with special-issue government IOUs that can only be repaid by raising taxes or borrowing even more money.

In any event, it's anybody's guess how much my monthly Social Security checks will be, so let me make the guys at the Social Security Administration an offer.

How about you give me back my 250 large in return for removing me from your rolls?

What do you say, SSA?

Hello?

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Bay Mills News

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This publication is owned and operated by Bay Mills Indian Community. Opinions expressed on this page are those of the relevant contributors. Bay Mills News does not necessarily share these opinions. Bay Mills News no longer prints "letters to the editor." We apologize for the inconvenience.

The next deadline is Thursday, March 10. Submissions may be emailed to: newspaper@baymills.org.

LSSU hires new student support advisor for Native American Center

SAULT STE. MARIE — Robear Assinewe-Beaupre has joined the staff of Lake Superior State University in the new role of Native American Center student support advisor. In this position, he will help provide wrap-around student support for at-risk students, working in a team approach to connect students to campus resources such as supplemental instruction, academic counseling, and tutoring.

Assinewe-Beaupre will also coordinate campus events and cultural learning opportunities at LSSU's Native American Center.

The Native American Center is a campus resource dedicated to supporting Native American students throughout their educational endeavors. The center also serves as a resource in preserving and teaching local Native American culture, history, and traditions through educational, ceremonial, and social activities for the campus and surrounding communities.

This new position highlights the university's commitment to priorities outlined in the LSSU strategic plan, including strategies that broaden the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and belonging, as well as its commitment to provide strong support services that help students complete their academic goals.

"We are honored to welcome Mr. Assinewe-Beaupre to the Lake Superior State University campus. His background and experience will be a resource for our students and an asset to our campus community," said LSSU President Dr. Rodney S. Hanley.

Assinewe-Beaupre brings to LSSU experience in both cultural education and student support, most recently serving as the cultural coordinator for the Bay Mills Boys & Girls Club, where he helped develop and implement cultural learning experiences for Boys and Girls Club members and the surrounding community.



"With a focus on direct student support and campus outreach from the Native American Center, Mr. Assinewe-Beaupre will contribute to creating a safe and inclusive environment for our students, staff, and faculty. He is enthusiastic about the opportunity to expand programming from the Native American Center, working collaboratively with campus departments and local Tribal nations to develop and provide engaging historical and contemporary learning experiences that are unique to our region and that will have a strong impact on

the education of our students," said Dr. Lynn G. Gillette, provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Assinewe-Beaupre is from Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation, located on the north shore of Lake Huron in Ontario, and lives in Gnoozhekaaning/Bay Mills.

Dept. of Treasury closed for President's Day

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Treasury reminds taxpayers that state of Michigan offices will be closed in observance of Presidents Day on Monday, Feb. 21.

Taxpayers with questions about their state individual income taxes before, during and after Presidents Day are encouraged to use [Treasury eServices](#). The Michigan Department of Treasury portal enables taxpayers to ask state individual income tax-related questions when convenient and avoids waiting for a customer service representative to answer your call.

Real-time tax refund status information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Individuals can find their Adjusted Gross Income on line 10 of the MI-1040. Total Household Resources are found on line 33 on the MI-1040CR or line 37 on the MI-1040CR-7.

To get started with Treasury Self-Service, go to www.michigan.gov/incometax and click on "Where's My Refund?"

BMIC enters agreement to provide school nurse to Brimley students

BAY MILLS — Students at Brimley Area Schools will now have access to healthcare while at school thanks to a collaboration between Brimley Area Schools and Bay Mills Indian Community.

Brimley Elementary Principal Hugh Clarke contacted BMIC Tribal Administrator Rachel Lyons late last year, inquiring about how to get nursing services back on the school campus. Lyons immediately began the ground work to bring that idea to fruition, working with Bay Mills Health Center.

Under the agreement, Brimley Schools will initially pay a portion of the salary for the nurse with grant funds during the first year, and Bay Mills Health Center will supply the rest. After Brimley's funds are exhausted, BMIC will pay the entire salary. BMIC also supplied the medical chairs and technology to the school, while the school supplied the space needed for the nurse to serve the students. In return, the nurse practitioner, Ashly Ellis, will be at the school site Monday through Friday during the school year, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. During school breaks Ellis will work at Bay Mills Health Center.

Ellis was vetted and hired by Bay Mills Health Center and began her position on Jan. 31. She has a bachelor's degree in nursing from Lake Superior State

University and master of science in nursing from the University of Cincinnati. She has been practicing since 2012, with a background in pulmonary/critical care, cardiology, emergency department, urgent care, urogynecology, and family practice.

"My role will be primarily in the Brimley school while it is in session providing nursing care this school year. I will be assisting with acute illness and injuries," said Ellis. "In the next year we will be working to transition toward having a functioning clinic in the school to provide services to the children including well-child examinations, urgent visits as well as sport physicals."

Having additional medical services in place at the school will also alleviate some of the demand on the Bay Mills Health Center.

"Providing for our community has always been an important goal for both Bay Mills Health Center and Brimley Area Schools," said Lyons. "This collaboration is just one example of what can be accomplished when individuals work together as a team. Bringing healthcare to our youth is an extremely proud accomplishment for all involved and we could not be more excited for these services to begin."

MSU Extension offers free Tai Chi for Diabetes program

Michigan State University Extension once more is offering Tai Chi for Diabetes, a tai chi set specifically designed by Dr. Paul Lam, a retired family physician and tai chi master. Dr. Lam led a team of tai chi and medical specialists to create this program with special features that make it easy to learn and is designed to prevent and improve the control of diabetes. The program will help minimize the risk of complications of diabetes by improving heart/lung function, muscular strength, flexibility, balance, and stress reduction. The Tai Chi for Diabetes program is based on Sun and Yang style tai chi and incorporates basic/advanced moves, warm-up, wind down, and Qigong breathing exercises. For people with or without diabetes, Tai Chi for Diabetes is a good way to start your journey to better health. It is an enjoyable and safe set of forms which delivers many health benefits.

MSU Extension is offering Tai Chi for Diabetes each Monday starting March 14 and going through May 9th, 1 p.m. CT/ 2:00 p.m. ET via zoom. This online series is led by a certified instructor of Tai Chi for Diabetes and is free to all participants. Participants will need to register and space is limited. To register go to : <https://events.anr.msu.edu/taichiforddiabetes2022/>

Libraries see rise in book challenges, fueled by social controversies

By Jada Penn, Capital News Service

LANSING — Michigan has seen an increase in public library and school library books challenged by parents and patrons, especially titles related to the LGBTQ+ community, according to library officials.

The American Library Association says the critics argue that their intent is to protect children from exposure to explicit content and inappropriate language.

“George,” a LGBTQ+ novel by Alex Gino, is frequently the most-challenged book, according to the association. It’s a children’s novel about a young, transgender girl.

The American Library Association reported 156 book challenges in 2020, but officials have said the number for 2021 could be double or triple that. The 2021 report is expected to be completed in April.

Deborah Mikula, the executive director of the Michigan Library Association, said the state’s 396 public library systems create and follow their own policies in consultation with their attorneys.

Most libraries have policies in place for handling such challenges, Mikula said.

“We all have a right to go to our library that is tax-supported, and if we pick up something or children bring something home that they find offensive, they can challenge that book,” she said.

Mikula said the increase in challenges stems from political reasons and that efforts to improve diversity are not accepted in all households.

“If I don’t believe in diversity based on gender, where do I go first?” Mikula said, referring to some parents “who are upset by the presence of certain books in their libraries.”

If a complaint concerns school libraries, which have experienced the largest increase in complaints, “you would go to your school board,” she said. Reasons for challenges include content with sexual abuse, conflict with religious viewpoints, profanity, drug use, alcoholism, “divisive language,” racial slurs, racist stereotypes and “anti-police messages,” according to the national association.

The state association is seeing conservative viewpoints that are well-funded through organizations that are political in nature and that assert conservative family values, according to Mikula.

The 2021 Traverse Area District Library’s Pride Week display in the children’s department spurred complaints, according to youth coordinator Andy Schuck.

“Over the course of two weeks, we had five different calls from community members about the display,” Schuck said. “They didn’t think it was appropriate for the kid’s department, but we kept the display.”

Despite last year’s grumblings, the library plans to have another LGBTQ+-related display in June, he said, adding, “I’m sure we will hear more complaints this year.”

Michigan is far from the only state with book challenge woes. Last month, for example, a Virginia legislative committee killed a proposal requiring parental consent before their children could check out sexually explicit books at school libraries.

Also last month, a Tennessee school board banned “Maus,” the Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel about the Holocaust, from its eighth-grade curriculum.

Thomas Morgan, a communications consultant for the Michigan Education Association, said students need to hear all viewpoints and have a broad-based education to fully prepare for college and the workplace. The MEA is the state’s largest union of teachers and other school personnel.

“As an organization, we strongly support the First Amendment, and we believe that having a diverse education with a wide variety of sources is the best course for Michigan students. We strongly oppose politicians trying to ban books – that’s wholly un-American,” Morgan said. This Rousseau, the collection development director at Capital Area District Library in Lansing, said she is seeing informal complaints from parents.

“Oftentimes it’s about items that they see on the news or that they’ve heard things about,” Rousseau said.

“They’re asking questions about their appropriateness for that part of the collection, and we explain that the library has items for everyone in our communities,” she said. If a family isn’t interested in those items, “we have plenty of other titles that we can help them find.”

Pair sentenced in Paradise kidnapping case

SAULT STE. MARIE — On Feb. 15, Jon Stygler (age 70) and George Cunningham (age 56) were sentenced by the Honorable James P. Lambros of the 50th Circuit Court in Sault Ste. Marie. Cunningham was sentenced to 39.5 years to 50 years, while his co-defendant, Stygler, was sentenced to 26.6 years to 50 years.

Cunningham and Stygler were tried jointly by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Kristin M. Giommi. Over the five-day trial, jurors viewed approximately 42 pieces of evidence and heard from 22 witnesses who described the events that transpired on March 13, 2019, when these men carried out a pre-meditated plan to kidnap Cunningham's biological child. The 5-year-old biological child was removed from Cunningham's care through an Ohio court when he was only 11 months old and placed permanently with a local Chippewa County family, after Cunningham was arrested and ultimately convicted of sexually assaulting his daughter.

The jurors learned that Cunningham and Stygler broke into the family's Paradise residence while armed with clubs, wasp spray, and knives. The family tried to fight back, however, the defendants eventually subdued and hog tied the family before carrying the 5-year-old child, clothed only in pajamas, out of the home and into the freezing March temperatures. The men also took the phones from the house in order to thwart the family from calling for help.

They took the child north, up a dead-end road where they ditched their truck and proceeded onto the dangerous ice of Whitefish Bay – headed toward Canada on foot. The 5-year-old was transported by sled with only a sleeping bag; no coat, hat, gloves, or boots.

At the conclusion of the trial, the jury ultimately convicted both men on all counts charged, including:

George Stephen Cunningham

- Count 1- Child Abuse 1st Degree
- Count 2- Armed Robbery
- Count 3- Home Invasion 1st Degree
- Counts 4-8 – Unlawful Imprisonment
- Count 9- Kidnapping

Jon Scott Stygler

- Count 1- Armed Robbery
- Count 2- Home Invasion 1st Degree
- Counts 3-7 –Unlawful Imprisonment
- Count 8- Kidnapping

The case was originally set for trial in September 2019, and prosecution was prepared to go forward at that time. However, defense requested an adjournment which the court granted. Unfortunately, the next trial date coincided with the beginning of the COVID19 pandemic, and it was not until August 2021 that the trial was actually held. Ordinarily, sentencing would occur within approximately 6 weeks of the verdict, but defense continued to request adjournments until the case was eventually concluded with the sentencing hearing on Feb. 15.

During the sentencing hearing, the parents described the serious lasting physical and psychological impacts these men have caused to them and their children. Giommi reiterated to the Court that this was not a crime of opportunity, that these men developed a targeted plan to violently steal a child. They were equipped with three bags of survival gear, 2 sleds, multiple bags of zip ties, duct tape, and weapons.

“A plea offer was never extended in this case for good reason, because their dangerous actions that day almost resulted in multiple deaths. This egregious and atrocious conduct that Chippewa county has arguably never seen before was extremely selfish,” said Giommi during the hearing. “Their defiance of the law and their lack of remorse goes to show that no amount of rehabilitation will keep the family safe.”

“We hope by convicting these men, that the family can start to move forward, and that these lengthy sentences will provide some closure and peace of mind, knowing that they will likely never see freedom again,” explained Chippewa County Prosecutor Robert Stratton. “Our office would like to thank each and every officer who answered the call of duty that night, and who put their lives on the line as they searched the Paradise area trying to locate the 5-year-old. From the door to door canvassing, to searching the thawing ice in the pitch black, your dedication does not go unnoticed.”

Child mental health declining, educators say

By HOPE O'DELL
Capital News Service

LANSING — Student mental health has become a top worry for Michigan educators, according to a new statewide survey of 2,600 educators.

The Michigan Education Association survey found that 88% said they were very concerned about student behavioral problems and mental health.

That was the second-ranked concern among educators, with staffing shortages taking the top spot. Pay and benefits came in third.

The MEA is the state's largest union of teachers and other school staff.

"This is the first time I haven't seen educator pay and benefits as top-ranking," said Doug Pratt, MEA's director of public affairs.

As the concern over student mental health grows, districts and the state are looking for programs to help them.

Kristina Hansen, the student success coordinator for Bark River-Harris Schools in the southwestern Upper Peninsula, said the lack of social and face-to-face interactions during the COVID-19 pandemic hurt students' mental well-being.

Hansen creates systems for academic, behavioral and social-emotional support for Bark River-Harris' 740 students.

"Those students that already struggled seem to struggle more, and then some students who maybe were fine prior to the pandemic, or appeared to be okay, also had some struggles," she said. "So, it kind of became this universal thing that everyone needed some additional support."

According to the Children's Hospital Association, which represents 220 children's hospitals across the country, over 25% of parents have sought professional help for their child because of the pandemic.

In the first half of 2021, cases of self-injury and suicide in children ages 5-17 were up 45% nationally compared to the same timeframe in 2019, according to children's hospitals that self-reported.

In response to the situation, Bark River-Harris Schools started using the University of Michigan's TRAILS (Transforming Research into Action to Improve the Lives of Students) program rooted in cognitive behavioral therapy, a psychological treatment based on the concept that symptoms can be improved through learning coping skills.

Ann Arbor Public Schools and Detroit Public Schools are among other districts that also use the TRAILS program.

Hansen said all Bark River-Harris teachers were trained at the beginning of the school year in lessons ranging from empathy to cognitive coping. They then pass those lessons on to their students.

Each week, Hansen said, teachers of every grade teach a lesson based around the same topic. Hansen gave the

example of empathy, where every lesson taught is about empathy in a way that is age-appropriate "so that the conversations that adults were having around the building with students could go back to that core idea of that week."

For students struggling with intense mental health problems like suicidal thoughts, Hansen said the lessons give adults the language and skills to help them as well.

For students who are really struggling, Hansen said the district has also used a small group TRAILS program.

Hansen said she's noticed an improvement in students' ability to identify their thoughts and emotions, and change their behavior due to TRAILS.

"It's not perfect," she said. "This is not some utopian society that we've created. But the kids really have some skills now that they didn't have before."

According to the National Association of School Psychologists, students who receive mental health support do better in school than those without such support.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's new budget proposal calls for an expansion of TRAILS and investing \$361 million in student mental health. That includes hiring more mental health professionals.

Hansen said she would love to have more mental health professionals available for her students.

"Part of the problem that we're running into is that just because we would like to hire more, and if we had the money to hire more, they're not necessarily out there to hire," she said.

According to the Michigan State University Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, there should be one counselor for every 250 students, but there's only one for every 693 students in the state.

There's one school social worker for every 1,051 students and two school psychologists for every 2,184 students, the institute said.

Michigan Education Association President Paula Herbart said mental health professionals are part of the larger educator shortage the state faces.

"This is adding to the already overwhelming pressure caused by meeting students' academic, social and emotional needs while also dealing with COVID-19, unfair evaluations, standardized testing, the threat of school violence and so much more," Herbart said.

Part of filling that shortage is providing education funding for those who want to go back to college to prepare to become mental health professionals in schools, which is included in Whitmer's budget proposal, she said.

If higher salaries and better benefits become the norm for educators, including mental health professionals, more people will want to go into education for a career, Herbart said.

"If you build it, they will come," she said.

Cloverland Electric calls for Board of Director nominations

DAFTER — Cloverland Electric Cooperative announces election packets are available for members interested in serving on the cooperative's board of directors. Cloverland's service area is divided into districts A, B and C with three directors serving each district. Each director serves a three-year term with one director seat up for election each year in May.

Serving on Cloverland's board means making a difference locally by using individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op to benefit the greater community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, other major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the members it serves. On a granular level, Cloverland board members typically provide input and guidance on budgets, co-op goals and direction, capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology, renewable investments and energy mix and the co-op's role and involvement in economic development.

"We are thankful for the service of our board of directors and the leadership they provide to the cooperative," states Cloverland's President and CEO, Mike Heise. "We are also thankful for all member-owners who participate in our election process."

Interested in seeking election to the board?

Director candidates must meet director qualifications outlined in Cloverland's bylaws and file a petition for nomination with valid signatures of at least 25 members from his or her district. For a petition and information packet, please leave a voicemail message at 906-632-5143. Nominating petitions and supporting documents must be electronically submitted or returned to the co-op's administration office at 725 E. Portage Avenue in Sault Ste. Marie by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 4.

Ballots mail April 25 and voting ends May 27. Members can vote by mailed ballots or electronic voting. Director candidate information will be presented on Cloverland.com, the cooperative's social media channels and the May/June issue of Cloverland Connections.

Election results will be presented at the annual meeting of the members on Thursday, June 2 and announced on social media and cloverland.com.

A business or other entity, such as a firm, association, corporation, partnership or governmental unit, must

designate on its stationary the representative who is authorized to cast a vote on behalf of the entity and file the designation with the cooperative by the date of record, March 25, 2022. A sample letter is available at cloverland.com/about-us/board-of-directors/elections/.

Please call (906) 632-5143 with any questions regarding the director election process.

Cloverland Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric utility located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. With over 4,000 miles of power line, the cooperative serves over 43,000 meters for 34,000 residential and business members across Chippewa, Delta, Mackinac, Luce and Schoolcraft counties.

Apply for the Nick Gerrish Scholarship

Soo Co-op Credit Union is offering educational scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year. Three (3) scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$2,500 each and one (1) scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$1,500 to a Bay Mills Community College student.

Applicants must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Students must be a member in good standing of Soo Co-op Credit Union. Note: You must be a primary member or a dependent of a member for at least two years.
- The student must be enrolled or will be enrolled as a full-time student, in an accredited college, university, or trade school.
- The student must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75.
- Students must attend college, university, or trade school during the school year listed on the scholarship application.

Applicants must submit an essay on the following topic: "My Goals, My Dreams, and How I Plan to Achieve Them". Essays are to be limited to 300 words.

Students who have previously received a Nick Gerrish Scholarship may re-apply.

Applications must be submitted by June 1, 2022.

Each award will be paid directly to the college, university, or trade school and credited in the recipient's name. (One-half of the scholarship will be distributed per semester).

Full details and scholarship application are available online at www.soocoop.com.

Laker Athletics announces the addition of three new varsity programs

SAULT STE MARIE — The Lake Superior State University Athletic Department has announced that the addition of NCAA Division II Women's Triathlon, and Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving has been approved by the Board of Trustees. The three new athletic programs will become the 13th, 14th, and 15th varsity teams at LSSU.

"I am thrilled to be adding three new programs to our athletic department," said LSSU President, Dr. Rodney Hanley. "Swimming & diving and women's triathlon will help to fulfill our university's goals of expanding our footprint throughout the region. I look forward to supporting all three programs and our future student-athletes as they represent the Lakers in their respective fields of play."

Lake Superior State will use the upcoming 2022-23 academic year to hire coaches and begin roster development and sport planning for these three programs. The athletic department is targeting a start date of fall 2023 to begin competition in each of the three sports.

Women's Triathlon

Women's triathlon, which consists of running, biking, and swimming, is currently one of the fastest growing sports in the NCAA and has been growing the most at the Division II level. Lake Superior State will become the 39th women's triathlon program in the NCAA and the 16th in Division II. LSSU will also become the second program in the state of Michigan, joining Calvin College (Division III).

"Lake Superior State University is a great addition to the women's collegiate triathlon family," said Rocky Harris, USA Triathlon CEO. "Seven schools have added women's triathlon since March of 2020, which is a testament to the sport's continued upward trajectory, particularly among young athletes, as well as the hard work of our staff and members of the multisport community. We are marching ever closer toward our goal of triathlon becoming an NCAA Championship sport."

Women's triathlon is a fall sport, and the varsity season includes four National Qualifiers followed by the Women's Collegiate Triathlon National Championships, typically held in November. The draft-legal races are sprint-distance, featuring a 750-meter open-water swim, draft-legal 20-kilometer bike and five-kilometer run.

"LSSU athletics could not be more excited to introduce women's triathlon as an intercollegiate sport beginning in the fall of 2023," said Diles. "Through a thorough examination, we concluded that triathlon fits our department, institution and community exceptionally well. USA Triathlon has been a great partner throughout this process, and we will continue to work with them to make sure we establish a great foundation for this sport."

The addition of women's triathlon at Lake Superior State was made possible through a \$25,000 grant from USA Triathlon (USAT). USAT offers grants to help with program startup costs in an effort to expand triathlon at the collegiate level.

Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving

Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving is already established in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) as five member schools and two affiliates compete in the conference (Augustana, St. Cloud State, Davenport, Grand Valley State, Northern Michigan, Saginaw Valley State, Wayne State).

The Lakers current facilities in the Norris Center meet the grandfathered guidelines and standards so no major renovations are required for training.

The teams will compete in a variety of distances in each of the four swimming strokes (freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly) as well as individual medley races. In addition to the individual events, the Lakers will also compete team relays which include a number of different distances and stroke styles. The diving teams will compete in one-meter and three-meter events on both the men's and women's side. Swimming and diving are both winter sports.

Walking On

Wayne Joseph Teeple

Wayne Joseph Teeple, 68, of Strong's, went home to his Lord and Savior on Jan. 31, 2022, from War Memorial Hospital.

Wayne was born on Sept. 12, 1953, in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. He graduated from Brimley High School with the class of 1973. He married Faith Ann Hopper on February 14, 1975, at Brimley Baptist Church. He worked as a commercial fisherman for many years and retired as a forestry skidder operator. Wayne enjoyed cutting grass, feeding the birds, and shooting squirrels. He loved a good flea market. Wayne was a member of the Bay Mills Indian Community.

Wayne is survived by his wife: Faith Teeple; four children: Lee (John) Napoletano, and Esther (Judd) Kieliszewski both of Bay Mills, Joshua (Dorothy) Teeple of Gwinn, and Alex Teeple of Bay Mills; fourteen grandchildren: Natosha, Janine, Shianne (Michael), Tristan (Angelica), Connor, Isabella, Colin, Emery, Khale, Shadow, Cassidy, Rocky, Brianna, and Kyllah; and five great-grandchildren: Iris, Raine, Juvia, Dominik and Saoirse. He is also survived by his mother: Theresa Joyce Teeple; his siblings: David (Charlene) Teeple of Hannahville, Gail Teeple, Vincent Teeple, Sharon Teeple all of Bay Mills, Dulcie (David) Waite of Salt Point, and Terry (Tom) Henninger and Calvin Teeple both of Bay Mills.

Wayne was preceded in death by his father: Emerson Davis Teeple; a granddaughter: Lauren; and three siblings: Cathy, Emerson, and Kenny Teeple,

A funeral service took place at Strong's Community Bible Church with Pastor Glen Shaw officiating.

Stewart "Boon" Allyn Parish

Stewart "Boon" Allyn Parish, 64, of Kincheloe, MI passed away on Feb. 3, 2022 with his sister Gloria LeBlanc by his side. He was born March 4, 1957 on an American Army Base in Germany to Arnold, Sr. and Geraldine (Cameron) Parish. Boon was an avid fisherman and hunter. He loved to watch sports with his dog Maggie always by his side. His favorite role to play was Papa to his many grandchildren. Boon is survived by the love of his life, Jill Belonga, with whom he spent 30 wonderful years; son and fishing partner, Jordan Gaskin; daughters, Amber (Chris) Belonga, Ashley (Curtis) Marra, and Carrie (David) Gaskin; sisters, Sharon (Wade) Teeple, Joni LeBlanc, and Gloria (Jacques, Sr.) LeBlanc; brother, Arnold (Pam) Parish; grandchildren, Jaylen, Wynter, Anthony, Brent, Gracie, Mason, Landon, Silas, Scarlett, Allie, Carson, Jett, and Stevie-Ann. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Boon is predeceased by his parents and nephew Marcelle LeBlanc. Traditional Services were held at the Bay Mills Cultural Center in Bay Mills, MI. His final resting place will be Mission Hill Cemetery in Bay Mills, MI in the spring. Clark Hovie Galer Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

Walter Charlie Hyvarinen. Sr.

Walter Charlie Hyvarinen Sr, 89, of Brimley, passed away on Jan. 20, 2022, at his home.

Walter was born on Oct. 5, 1932, in Brimley to the late Charlie and Hilma (Ahola) Hyvarinen. He was one of twelve children.

Walter graduated from Brimley High School in 1950. Attended Michigan Tech Soo Branch. He was drafted into the US Army in January 1954 and stationed at Fort Richie, MD. There he worked at a receiver site for the Under Ground Pentagon until discharge in 1956. He later attended Shepard College in West Virginia from 1956-1958, received a BA in math and science. He taught at Dundalk High School Baltimore, Maryland. In 1963 he received a Master of Arts in school Administration from George Washington University, Washington D.C.

Walter then came to Brimley as High School Principal where he taught Physics, Chemistry and Finnish. He coached girls' volleyball "Walleyball" winning the Upper Peninsula State Championship in 1987.

Walter was also Superintendent for 9 years. He was Superior Township Supervisor for 28 years. He also served as assessor for several townships for many years.

Walter is survived by his loving wife: Eila; Marjatta (Pennanen) Hyvarinen whom he married on Dec. 19, 1981, two daughters: Donna J (George) Weatherly, of Brimley, and Kathy D (Randy) Blalock, of Sault Ste. Marie.

Seven grandchildren: Jamie, Janine, Diana, Kelsi, TJ, Douglas Jr. and Holli.

Nine great-grandchildren: Samantha, Baylie, Hunter, Ezra V, Ryker, Aurora, Isabelle, Kyleigh, Ashton, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. And one sister-in-law: Sirkka Liisa Smith, of Sault Ste Marie.

Survived by brothers: Jacob (Jo Nell) Hyvarinen of Rochester Hills, MI, Rudy (Darlene) Hyvarinen of Dafer, MI., John (Alberta) Hyvarinen, of Owosso, MI, Robert (Jeanne) Hyvarinen, of Vermontville, and Donald (Ila) Hyvarinen of Durand, MI.

Sisters: Delores (Jimmie) Grim of Glendale, AZ, Linda (George) Hovi of Sudbury, Ontario.

Walter was preceded in death by his parents and a son: Walter C. (Roseann) Hyvarinen, Jr, and grandson: Ezra (Beth) Glenn IV. Sisters: Mary (Charles) Link, Sylvia Williams, Beatrice (Charles) Carter, and brother: Wayne (Arilla) Hyvarinen.

Burial will be held in the Spring at Hillcrest Cemetery. C.S. Mulder Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

Kinross Correctional Facility Sergeant named the 2021 Michigan Department of Corrections Director's Award winner

LANSING — Keith Clegg, sergeant at the Kinross Correctional Facility was selected as the winner of the 2021 Michigan Department of Corrections Director's Award for his efforts in assisting the facility by creating emergency processes and assisting staff with his excellent leadership skills.

MDOC Director Heidi Washington presented Sgt. Clegg with the award Wednesday at Kinross Correctional Facility.

The Director's Award is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon employees of the MDOC. Sgt. Clegg also received the department's Professional Excellence Award for his work supervising all food service operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. When food service leadership and staff were unable to work due to COVID-19, Sgt. Clegg used his experience as a restaurant owner to train reassigned staff to prepare and serve meals and acquired the necessary supplies to ensure food service at Kinross Correctional Facility stayed a smooth operation throughout the COVID-19 outbreak.

"Sgt. Keith Clegg's exceptional work ethic and leadership abilities throughout the COVID-19



pandemic are an excellent representation of our department," said Director Washington. "Sgt. Clegg's willingness to assist beyond his job duties during a time of need is admirable. He maintains high standards, always being courteous, pleasant and professional. He is a true asset to his facility and the department."

Sgt. Clegg has worked for the department since 1999, where he began in Food Service. He transitioned to a Corrections Officer in 2013 and was promoted to Sergeant in 2017.

Sgt. Clegg is a team player, often going out of his way to enhance the work environment at the facility. He often donates food from his own restaurants, Pure Country located in Rudyard and Sault Ste. Marie, for work events and is known to be a mentor to many staff at the facility.

Conservation District awards grants

CHIPPEWA COUNTY — The Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District (CLMCD) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2022 Conservation Grants Program. The 2022 Conservation Grants Program application period closed on Feb. 4, after a 75-day request for proposals period. The 2022 Conservation grants are being used to fund local conservation projects that support wildlife habitat, erosion control, recreation opportunities, student learning, pollinator habitat restoration, outdoor education, and vegetative management. The following organizations/individuals are each being awarded with an \$800 grant.

- Lake Superior Academy in Sault Ste Marie for the creation of their Bluebird Birdhouse Trail and wildlife habitat.
- Bay Mills Indian Community in Brimley for the re-establishment of wildflowers and erosion control at the Bay Mills Community College Property on Lake Superior.
- Nicholas and Emily Cassel in Sault Ste Marie for a pollinator planting/enhancement project.
- Paradise Country Pathways Association in Paradise for the establishment of interpretive trail information on the 1.4-mile Paradise Pathway loop in Paradise.
- Mackinac Associates in Mackinaw City for the establishment of interpretive trail information along the Hardwood Nature Trail located on Mackinac Island near Point lookout and Sugarloaf Rock.

“For the first year of this Conservation Grants program we received a good number of applications and are happy to see small local projects put into place. We are very excited for the grant recipients and can wait to see the finished projects. We hope to continue this programing going forward and possibly expanding the program to allow for more or even larger projects in 2023,” said Mike McCarthy, executive director at the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District.



KING & QUEEN — Bay Mills' tribal citizen Jacques LeBlanc III and Alana VanderMeer were chosen by their peers as Brimley High School's Homecoming King and Queen on Friday, Feb. 18.

Residents can now apply for home heating credit

LANSING – Michiganders who need help with their energy bills can now apply for the Home Heating Credit, according to the Michigan Department of Treasury (Treasury).

Low-income, deaf, disabled or blind persons, disabled veterans and senior citizens may qualify for the Home Heating Credit. Applicants are not required to file a Michigan individual income tax return to receive the credit.

"The Home Heating Credit is an important benefit for Michiganders," said State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks. "This credit can provide assistance on heating bills during our cold seasons, allowing individuals to spend their hard-earned dollars on other necessities. Please don't hesitate to seek out assistance if you think you're eligible."

Individuals can apply for the Home Heating Credit electronically through the e-File system.

Forms and instructional materials are available on the internet at Michigan.gov/IncomeTax or by calling 517-636-4486. Forms are also available at many libraries, Northern Michigan post offices, and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) offices across the state.

All applications for the credit must be received by Sept. 30, 2022.

Over the last five years, around 277,000 claimants each year have received the Home Heating Credit, with an average credit of \$193.

Additional information can be found on the Home Heating Credit website. For more information about resources available for heating assistance, go to Michigan.gov/HeatingAssistance.

2022 Black Lake sturgeon season wraps within 36 minutes

CHEBOYGAN — After only 36 minutes of fishing, this year's sturgeon season on Black Lake (in Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties) ended at 8:36 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 5. The season, which included spearing and hook-and-line fishing, was scheduled to run Feb. 5-9, or until the harvest limit quota of six lake sturgeon had been reached.

Anglers initially were allocated a season quota of seven sturgeon, but the Michigan Department of Natural Resources set the harvest limit at six fish. This action helps accommodate the expected number of anglers and anticipate the possibility of near-simultaneous harvest of more than one fish.

There were 565 registered anglers, including a good number of supervised youth. According to the DNR, five sturgeon harvested were male and one was a female, ranging from 46 to 62 inches long and 23 to 67 pounds in weight.

The first fish was a 59.5-inch female that weighed 48 pounds.

Fish number two, the largest fish, was a 62-inch male that weighed 67 pounds.

Fish three was a 47-inch male that checked in at 25 pounds.

Fish four was a 57-inch male that weighed 45 pounds.

The fifth fish was a 46-inch male that weighed 23 pounds.

The sixth fish was a 56-inch male that weighed 35 pounds.

All six harvested fish taken had been captured before by Michigan State University and the DNR during spring spawning runs in the Black River or from past surveys of Black Lake.

The harvested 62-inch male originally was captured in every other year in the spawning run from 2002 through 2020.

The 57-inch male had been captured and tagged during the 2002, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2013, 2019 and 2021 spawning



runs in the Black River. The 56-inch male had been captured in the 2013, 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2021 spawning runs. In addition, the 47-inch male had been tagged in the 2006, 2010 and 2012 spawning runs.

Participating anglers were notified of the season closure in a variety of ways, mainly from nearly instantaneous text alerts and ice shanty visits from DNR personnel. All methods were used to indicate the season's end within minutes of the final fish being harvested. DNR law enforcement officials and other department personnel again were embedded in the on-ice fishing communities and were able to quickly and safely report harvested fish this year, as well as to quickly contact all lake sturgeon anglers on the ice and close the season.

Rehabilitation of lake sturgeon in the Cheboygan River watershed is a cooperative effort involving the DNR, the Black Lake Chapter of Sturgeon For Tomorrow, Michigan State University, Tower-Kleber Limited Partnership, Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

For more information on lake sturgeon in Michigan, visit michigan.gov/Sturgeon.

To learn more about all fishing opportunities statewide, go to michigan.gov/Fishing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BMIC MASK MANDATE: The mask mandate for Bay Mills Indian Community will be lifted on March 1.

Commercial Fishing Notice

Whitefish Point Docking Permit: The sign-up sheets for Whitefish Point docking permits are now up at the Conservation office and Tribal office. You may sign up throughout the month of February. The drawing will be held at the March 1st Conservation Committee meeting.

Black Lake Sturgeon Applications: Black Lake sturgeon applications are now available at the Conservation office. You may apply during the month of February. The drawing will take place at the March 1st Conservation Committee meeting.



Snowsnake Competition

**Gnoozhekaaning 6th Annual
Saturday March 5th, 2022**

Bay Mills Cultural Center
12498 W. Tower Road
Brimley, MI 49715
10am-5pm EST

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
(906)322-9266
jabowen77@outlook.com



**BAY MILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY
31ST ANNUAL
HONORING OUR VETERANS POW WOW**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

JUNE 24 - 26, 2022

Winter Farmer's Market to be held each week

The Sault Ste. Marie Farmer's Market will be held on Saturday mornings 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.

Report water issues

Having water problems? Report an issue with your water by calling 906-248-8179.