

# BAY MILLS NEWS

Serving the Eastern Upper Peninsula

*"Gnoozhekaaning Bidajimowin"*

December 2021

## DNR reaches snowmobile trail-grooming agreement for eastern UP trails

LANSING — The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Straits Area Snowmobile Club have reached a grant agreement for trail grooming over 101 miles of state-managed trails in the southeastern Upper Peninsula.

Recently, the DNR alerted snowmobilers to avoid the area as trails would not be groomed indefinitely while an agreement was being discussed. Since then, the club's leadership has reorganized, and trails will be groomed as soon as there is enough snow available on the trails.

"We thank past club leadership for their time and considerable effort over many years to keep snowmobile trails in this part of the Upper Peninsula groomed and open for riders," said Ron Yesney, U.P. trails coordinator with the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division trails section. "New leadership and membership stepped up in the club, which has made this new agreement and trail grooming possible. We thank those club members as well."

The affected trails are in Mackinac and Chippewa counties, connecting the communities of St. Ignace, Trout Lake and Epoufette.

In addition to registering a snowmobile at the Secretary of State, residents and nonresidents who operate a snowmobile in Michigan are required to purchase a snowmobile trail permit.

The trail permit enables snowmobilers to ride state-managed trails and public roads and public lands (where authorized). It is valid for one year, which begins Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30 of the following year. State-designated trails are open Dec. 1 through March 31 and grooming occurs when there is enough snow on the ground.

Michigan's snowmobile program is 100% funded by trail permit and registration dollars, which are directly reinvested into the program for the benefit of snowmobilers. The funds pay for grooming, signage, maintenance, bridge and culvert construction, purchase of new equipment, liability insurance; maintenance of trailhead amenities (signage, bathrooms, plowing of parking lots) and other snowmobile-related expenditures.

For more information on snowmobiling in Michigan, visit [Michigan.gov/Snowmobiling](http://Michigan.gov/Snowmobiling).

# Bay Mills Executive Council discusses business

## Dec. 13 Meeting

Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 22, 2021: Approved

### Reports

#### President Whitney Gravelle

— Inclement weather plan went into place this weekend and BMRC stepped up to provide power and rooms to those in need. Most of the power lines that run in BMIC are up in the air on Lakeshore Drive. We should look at how to get the lines into the ground to prevent outages.

— BMIC has five active cases on the reservation, one active case off. As of last Wednesday, CCHD had 259 active cases of COVID-19, WMH is treating 11 individuals. Seeing an outbreak from Thanksgiving, holidays will likely cause an increase as well. Council will address furthering the mask mandate, based on recommendation from health officials.

— Will look at budgets this meeting for 2022 approval.

— Last week discussed lease with OCS. They will need a commercial lease for their facilities. They are seeking a mortgage. The GTC will need to approve this at the Jan. 19 meeting.

— Due to federal court injunction, mandate on vaccines has been put on hold for now. We will keep everyone up to date on applicability. Head Start falls under ITC and will be required under that mandate from federal guidelines from their agency in D.C.

— Met with Baker Tilley for feasibility study on wind and solar energy needs. Build Back Better plan provides additional funds for projects and we want to make sure we are prepared to apply for such projects. One windmill alone could power all BMIC government and enterprise operations.

— Line 5: Whitmer revoked her lawsuit against Enbridge, moving their litigation back to state court. We are continuing to work on our front on the EGLE permits that were issued. We have also received a draft report regarding the Straits designation as a cultural site.

— Consent decree negotiations are ongoing. Next status conference with judge is Jan. 21. Current decree of 2000 operates until June of 2022.

— Extended Draft Kings agreement. This is a way to shape our future. In one year we have paid off debt and built a long term investment plan. We plan to continue this for the next 15 years.

— Marijuana Regulatory Agency is attempting to allow for the negotiation of a marijuana compact with the state. This would provide us more outlets to sell our product.

#### Tribal Manager Rachel Lyons

— Traveled to a symposium last week. Attended sessions about energy sovereignty, USDA grant programs, lots of good information.

— Received grant documents for ICDBG (Indian Community Development Block Grant) first phase. Funds were awarded for staging area on current health center, which will then become administrative building.

Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram

— Working through Kronos issues. Hoping it is being fixed now. Problem was with leave accruals. Working to get everything digitalized.

— Looking at budgets this meeting.

— Plow truck hit wall at AOT, dome side. Have not heard anything more. Siding is possibly cracked, no structural damage that we know of.

— CRF final report is tomorrow. Indirect cost proposals being worked on as well.

— License payment with fee was received from Draft Kings.

#### Health Director Audrey Breakie

— Took training last week at management conference.

— Vaccinations: 7,276 shots given, 3287 fully vaccinated, including 67 children. 685 boosters have been given. Team went out in storm and provided shots. They are now being provided to patients by appointment. Tests: 5428 tests given, 204 positive overall. Limited testing during the holidays.

— Portage Street Property: looking to acquire strip of land between businesses. Once information received, forward to legal for review.

— New construction in Brimley Area (Feb. 14 was initial deadline)

— Rescind request to make social workers salary after what I have learned at training.

#### BMGA General Manager Richard LeBlanc

— This week we dealt with reductions in business. Been speaking with patrons and employees. New generator was installed at hotel recently, which helped during inclement weather this weekend.

— Installing video displays at retail sportsbook venue. Kiosks are ready for programming from Draft Kings, so no waiting six months, only a few months. We hope to have something before March.

— Hotel room renovations will take place early next year. We won't start until we have all the materials for a group of rooms. We look to have it done before May.

### **BMBH General Manager Kimmi Walden**

— Generator at Bay Mart is not working. It is going to be repaired. They believe it is part of the hook up.

— Met with the business holding board about opportunities about vending machine operations, campground sites.

— Working on surveillance and security for the new grow operation.

— Reached out to a tribal member that is a regulator for the state of NY that also has cultivated. He has taken a look at our position description for cultivation manager. He has offered to help as we move forward.

— Looking at a growing facility in Chippewa County.

— Working on inventory system. Not sure if it is feasible for Four Seasons with current register system.

— Started inside construction on grow facility. Did find there is no insulation where new outside wall will be constructed. Prices have been sent to the council.

### **New Business**

- Resolution No. 21-12-13A: Mask Mandate February 1, 2022. This applies to indoors. Current mandate expires Jan. 1. This is the last official meeting until the New Year. This is the recommendation of health professionals. Approved.
- Resolution No. 21-12-13B: Approval of Budgets for FY 2022. Approved.
- Resolution No. 21-12-13B1: Approval of Indirect Budget FY 2022. Approved.
- Resolution No. 21-12-13C: Waiver of Sovereign Immunity PNC Bank. Standard Waiver for State of Michigan. Approved.
- Resolution No. 21-12-13D: Renewal Contract for Legal Services- Candy Tierney. Approved.
- Resolution No. 21-12-13E: Renewal Contract for Legal Services. Aaron Schlehuber. Approved.

- Resolution No. 21-12-13F: Adoption of Land Acquisition Due Diligence Policy. Creates formal process for property development process. Process to give permits and leases. Creates a standard procedure. Approved.
- Resolution No. 21-12-13G: Adoption of Land Office Workflow Policies and Procedures. Approved.
- Resolution No. 21-12-13H: New Health Center Land Lease. Approved.
- Resolution No. 21-12-13I: Residential Lease – Ernest Lahti. 6934 S. Homestead Road. Already has home on it. Approved.
- Resolution No. 21-12-13J: Waiver of Sovereign Immunity Soo-Coop Credit Union. Approved.
- Application for Residential Lease – Ernest Lahti. Approved.
- Approval of Long Term Investment Fund Policy. Money as an asset that we can borrow against if we need to.
- General Donation Requests
  - Additional \$1500 to children's Christmas party. Fund will purchase gifts, food, wrapping paper, etc.
  - Tribal youth request for monies to participate in traveling volleyball program. Four youth asking. Total of \$75 per tribal youth proposed. Approved.
  - Brimley Robotics request sponsorship. Several tribal youth participate. They need to offset \$30k in expenses. \$1,000 donation approved.
  - Greg Parker is retiring after 30+ years of service. Funds allocated to purchase a gift. Approved.
- Reaffirmation of Poll Votes: Approved.
  - Acceptance of EPA funding for the Bay Mills Indian Community Tribal Response Program FY22 - \$60,000
  - Approval to submit Application for HRSA-22-120, Community-Based Workforce to Build COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence Grant
  - Approval to submit Application for Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums – National Endowment for the Humanities Grant
  - Raffle License: Bay Mills Pow Wow Committee
  - Emergency Travel Donation Request



Michigan Indian  
Legal Services

## FREE VIRTUAL ESTATE PLANNING CLINIC

-FOR-

## BAY MILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY

December 14, 2021 & February 9, 2022

From 9am - 4pm

### **Michigan Indian Legal Services is offering remote estate planning.**

WILLS, POWERS OF ATTORNEY, PATIENT ADVOCATE DESIGNATIONS, FUNERAL REPRESENTATIVES, AND LADY BIRD DEEDS.

MILS is offering digital estate planning clinics on Tuesday, 12/14/2021 and Wednesday, 2/9/2022 to make creating your estate plan as safe and convenient as possible. These documents can be signed and executed from the comfort of your own home. This Program is open to Tribal Members, Employees, and their family. The guidelines of this program will allow us to cater to a broader group than is typically permitted by MILS' funders.

This Program is available to those who make up to 500% of the poverty and eligibility guidelines. The threshold starts at \$63,800 and is increased by \$22,400 for each additional household member.

Additionally, we are open and still offering our services statewide to income-eligible individuals and tribes, advocates for the rights of individuals, which advances systems of justice, and works to preserve Indian families through State and Tribal Courts.

Please call us at **(231) 947 - 0122** to scheduled a time for assistance with your estate plan. Clients may also request alternative dates if needed.

 **Administration for Native Americans**  
An Office of the Administration for Children & Families



## Bay Mills Community College and Salish Kootenai College announce new articulation agreement for math degree

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Community College students can now use their credits towards a bachelor's degree being offered at Salish Kootenai College in Montana, without ever leaving their home. The two tribal colleges have officially signed an articulation agreement offering another educational opportunity to BMCC students.

Math Dept. Chair Jan Miller had previously worked with faculty at SKC and jumped at the opportunity to work out the articulation agreement when she heard the school was establishing an online math degree. Miller shared the idea and workload with BMCC President Duane Bedell, VP of Academics Samantha Cameron, Registrar Sherri Schofield, and Education Dept. Chair Katherine Tassier. The process took about six months of development.

The articulation agreement, effective immediately, enables BMCC students to easily transfer into the online Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, Mathematics program at SKC. This will provide students with a pathway that is streamlined to help them complete their studies and obtain a teaching degree in math instruction. The new agreement ensures a smooth curriculum transition, minimizing loss of credits and duplication of coursework. Students can begin their first two years of coursework at BMCC and then transfer to SKC. The program can be completed anywhere, as it is offered virtually.

Once their education is complete, students will only need to take their Michigan certification tests to become teachers. The Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget has found that the median of math teacher salaries in Michigan is \$80,360.

“Articulation agreements between two TCUs is always special, especially when our institutions are working together to help strengthen our communities,” said President Bedell. “This articulation agreement will help meet the shortages of mathematics teachers in Indian Country and the communities they serve. I’d like to thank everyone who worked on this very important agreement.”

Students should contact Katherine Tassier for more information on the degree program and enrollment. Further information can be found online at [www.bmcc.edu](http://www.bmcc.edu).



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Call 1-866-967-BMCC for more information  
12214 W Lakeshore Dr. Brimley, MI 49715  
[www.BMCC.edu](http://www.BMCC.edu)

## LSSU Freshwater Research and Education Center opens

SAULT STE. MARIE — State-of-the-art laboratories for campus constituents to conduct freshwater research, hands-on exhibits for community members to learn ways to protect natural resources, and wall-to-wall windows for uninterrupted views of the St. Mary's River as the backyard-backdrop highlight Lake Superior State University's new \$14.2 million Richard and Theresa Barch Center for Freshwater Research and Education (Barch CFRE).



LSSU hosted a grand opening of the 18,000 square-foot, two-story site for campus colleagues, community partners, and the general public on Friday, Dec. 10. The Barch CFRE is located at 100 Salmon Run Way, Sault Ste. Marie, adjacent to the CFRE fish hatchery in the Cloverland Electric Cooperative Hydroelectric Plant.

Grand opening tour stops included a cutting-edge mesocosm laboratory, an experimental system in which to perform a broad range of scientific investigation spanning aquaculture to contaminants to invasive species. There was also a visit to the Great Lakes Discovery Center, with real-world interactive displays on the ecology of the Great Lakes, and a Discovery Lab that will host K-12 and undergraduate classes in the near future, including a Career and Technical Education program in natural resources for high schoolers. The complex additionally contains office space for key external partners, such as Michigan Sea Grant, an initiative of the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with the mandate to enhance sustainable use of the Great Lakes; and the upcoming U.S. Coast Guard National Center of Expertise for the Great Lakes that will focus on oil spills in freshwater environments.

“The Richard and Theresa Barch Center for Freshwater Research and Education expands our footprint deeper into the Soo and extends our trailblazing environmentalism. Barch CFRE

immediately has become the crown jewel of our campus buildings and an important hub for the region,” said LSSU President Dr. Rodney S. Hanley. “Because Lake State is surrounded by three Great Lakes and the five comprise the largest freshwater system in the world, we’ve made their stewardship a priority for faculty and an opportunity for students since our beginnings in 1946. Due to the generosity of lead donors Richard and Theresa Barch, Lake State now has a top-notch repository that equips our graduates with the knowledge and skills to craft a life of meaningful employment while augmenting the quality of life of the Great Lakes region, per our mission. Put simply, Barch CFRE is innovative and transformative, reflecting ecological sustainability, student learning, operational excellence, and community alliance, which are pillars of our strategic plan.”

Construction began in October 2019; the general contractor was Spence Brothers, out of Traverse City. Barch CFRE is the 29<sup>th</sup> building on campus (excluding the CFRE fish hatchery in the Cloverland Electric Cooperative Hydroelectric Plant) and the seventh academic structure.

The most previous significant improvement to the physical campus occurred with the three-year \$13.5 million renovation of Considine Hall, home of the Lukenda School of Business and formerly called South Hall, in 2017.



Santa Claus made an appearance at the Bay Mills Children’s Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 18. Each child received a gift and the opportunity to share their wishes with Santa. A few days later, Santa and his elves from Ojibwe Charter School, were able to deliver gifts to 72 children.

## MacArthur Lock closed for seasonal repair, maintenance

SAULT STE. MARIE — The Soo Locks' MacArthur Lock will be closed to marine traffic from Dec. 15, 2021 through 12:01 a.m. April 30, 2022 to perform critical maintenance.

The Poe Lock will remain open until 11:59 p.m. Jan. 15, 2022 or until commercial traffic ceases, whichever occurs first. The operating season is fixed by federal regulation and is driven in part by vessel operation ability in typical ice conditions.

“The 800-foot-long MacArthur Lock, built in 1943, is 78 years old; the maintenance period is critical to keeping the lock in operation during the shipping season,” Maintenance Branch Chief LeighAnn Ryckeghem said.

Every year, the Corps of Engineers uses the winter period to perform maintenance to keep the Soo Locks operating. The Sault Ste. Marie Project Office works long hours in extreme conditions to complete a significant amount of maintenance during this annual closure period. The work they perform is unique, especially given the harsh northern Michigan conditions they work in.

There are several projects on the MacArthur Lock to complete before reopening in March.

“The first step is to place the upper and lower bulkheads, then our dive team goes into the freezing water to seal the bulkheads and prepare the lock for dewatering,” Ryckeghem said.

The team will install a temporary panel bridge across the MacArthur Lock. This panel bridge will provide the ability to mobilize materials and equipment to the job sites throughout the winter closure. Maintenance crews will complete hydraulic



steel structure inspections and repair the MacArthur Lock's miter gate 5 sill. Contractors will complete MacArthur Lock tainter valve machinery replacement. Morrish-Wallace Construction Inc. d/b/a/ Ryba Marine Construction from Cheboygan, Mich., was awarded a \$7.276 million to replace the MacArthur Lock tainter valve machinery. “The contract was awarded in August of 2020 due to the long lead time needed to manufacture the mechanical components,” Chief of Construction Nicholas Pettit said. The scheduled construction completion date is April 30, 2022.

In addition to the above, crews also perform a wide range of other maintenance tasks from fender timber replacements on the piers to inspections and preventative maintenance on electrical and mechanical systems.

You can watch the Detroit District Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/USACEDetroitDistrict> for updates about the maintenance work.

More than 4,500 vessels, carrying up to 80 million tons of cargo, maneuver through the locks annually. Iron ore, coal, wheat and limestone are the most frequently carried commodities.

To find more information on the Soo Locks, visit the Detroit District Website: [www.lre.usace.army.mil](http://www.lre.usace.army.mil).

## State of Michigan sets COVID-19 booster goal, outlines actions to protect yourself and family from Omicron variant

GRAND RAPIDS — On Dec. 21 the State of Michigan announced a statewide goal to have 1 million more Michiganders, including 95% of eligible nursing home residents, receive the safe, effective COVID-19 booster by Jan. 31, 2022. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director Elizabeth Hertel also outlined actions Michiganders can take to keep themselves and their families safe this holiday season.

"As Omicron becomes the dominant COVID-19 variant in the United States, we all have to step up this holiday season to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe," said Governor Whitmer. "Our hospitals and health care workers have been working tirelessly to save lives, and we are in for a tough four to six weeks. We must all take action to protect ourselves and help our healthcare workers and hospitals do their jobs. I encourage every Michigander who is eligible to get their booster shot. Together, we can help 1 million more Michiganders, including 95% of all eligible nursing home residents get their boosters by the end of January 2022. We know from preliminary data that the booster offers more robust protection against Omicron. A 15-minute appointment to get your booster can help keep you out of the hospital and save your life. If you still have not gotten vaccinated yet, know that it is not a matter of if you will get sick but of when. We have safe and effective vaccines. Please get your shots."

"Today, we remain at a severe point in the pandemic. As the more transmissible Omicron variant continues to spread, now is the time for everyone to make sure you have plans for the holidays that will keep you and your family safe into the New Year and make sure we all have access to care if we need it," said Hertel.

### Actions for Michiganders to Take

Get your vaccine. Get your booster. Find an appointment at [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov)

Mask up in public indoor settings and crowded outdoor settings. Upgrade your mask to something with additional layers such as a KN95 mask or wear two well-fitting face coverings.

For holiday gatherings with friends or family, immunocompromised people should take all precautions of unvaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitted mask. If a member of your household has a weakened immune system, wear a mask. If you have symptoms consistent with for COVID-19 or if you may have been exposed to COVID-19, and before any unmasked gatherings, get tested.

The department is working with local, state and federal partners to support health systems, address the surge and save lives with every available resource. MDHHS has been coordinating the allocation and monitoring of federally distributed Monoclonal Antibody medication, working on expansion and identifying staffing resources for sites. They are also supplementing mechanical ventilators to meet demand in ICUs and surging local supplies of PPE.

Michigan's positivity rate has decreased but remains relatively high at 16.2%, a reflection of our high transmission levels. Cases are at 477 cases per million and have been rising and falling over and over, but at an elevated level. This is a number we expect to rise as the Omicron variant continues to spread rapidly. Over the past month, 30- to 39-years-olds were experiencing the highest case rate and there were increases in hospital admissions among most age groups under 50. The percent of inpatient hospital beds occupied by individuals with COVID is now at 20.8%. This number has been increasing for 22 weeks and the mortality rate is high too - from Dec. 3 to 9, there were 756 COVID deaths.

### Risks for Unvaccinated Michiganders

In October, unvaccinated people had 4.3 times the risk of testing positive for COVID-19 and 13.2 times the risk of dying from COVID-19 than people who were fully vaccinated.

From Jan. 3 - Dec. 15, 2021, people who were unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated represented: 85.1% of COVID-19 cases, 88.1% of hospitalizations and 85.5% of deaths.

# BAY MILLS CULTURAL CENTER



*winter is a time for  
story telling*

## December 2021 Activities

### Saturday Dec. 18th

**Full Moon Ceremony & Teachings**

6:00pm-Teachings  
7:00pm-Talking Circle  
8:00pm-Ceremony

### Friday Dec. 24th

**Christmas Eve Gathering**

7:00pm-11:00pm  
\*Free Gifts  
\*Story Telling  
\*Snacks & Drinks

### Friday Dec. 31st

8:00pm-Medicine Wheel Teachings  
Talking Circle  
10:00pm-Story Telling  
**Midnight- Special  
Surprise!!**

### Weekly Meets

\*Mens Support Groups  
Sundays @ 6:00pm  
\*Womens Support Groups  
Wednesdays @ 6:00pm

For questions please call  
Jeanette White 906.248.1200

**NEW YEARS  
EVE!**

## Michigan farmers markets look to add local distillery samplings

By DANIELLE JAMES

Capital News Service

LANSING — Sunday morning strolls to the farmers market could include a few stumbles home if distillers are given permits to sell at them.

Small winemakers can buy Michigan farmers market permits to conduct tastings and sell alcohol for consumption off the property.

Some lawmakers want to extend similar permits to local distillers and mixed drink manufacturers.

Farmers markets are a new way to reach customers, said Jon O'Connor, the president of the Walloon Lake-based Michigan Craft Distillers Association and owner of Long Road Distillers in Grand Rapids.

“For a long time, winemakers have had the ability to taste and then sell directly to consumers at farmers markets,” O'Connor said. “This is a great opportunity to put our members where we think valuable customers are at.”

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Pauline Wendzel, R-Watervliet, has been referred to the Committee on Regulatory Reform. It does not include craft beer tastings. Under the proposed legislation, tastings and sales must be limited to a clearly marked area and monitored by the permit holder, said Amanda Shreve, the executive director of the Michigan Farmers Market Association in East Lansing.

Social distancing has also complicated how farmers markets space their vendors and customers, Shreve said.

“Some markets during the peak of the pandemic had to limit the amount of vendors they had in order to allow customers to move safely,” she said.

Shreve said it has been necessary in some cases to allocate additional space in the market to tastings.

“If we're trying to maintain the ability to sample and socially distance folks, it in many cases has necessitated additional space to be allocated to the winery,” she said.

But those restrictions aren't unique to drink tastings, said Sara Johnson, the manager of the Downtown Marquette Farmers Market.

“Sampling is a very powerful selling tool, and the pandemic really forced a lot of people to have to change the way they're doing business,” Johnson said.

The ability to have tastings in farmers markets could lead to more sales, said O'Connor.

“The best opportunity for small-town Michigan companies is to get out and in front of people,” O'Connor said. “People who shop at farmers markets are supporters of things made locally, and with craft spirits we often use a lot of local grain or fruits in our product.”

“If you're at the farmers market, you're going to be able to meet someone who can explain to you where the grain in the product came from and why it makes a superior product,” he said.

O'Connor said the association has been approached by farmers markets that want distillers included.

And the addition of distillers could help farmers across the state, said Shreve.

“We're excited about welcoming distillers because we recognize that Michigan distillers are using Michigan agricultural commodities to make their products,” Shreve said. “We're excited about ways to support Michigan farmers, and we believe this is another way to support them by expanding markets for what they're producing.”

Permits would have to be approved by the local police agency and a farmers market manager.

The Downtown Marquette Farmers Market has successfully worked with wine vendors for several years, said Johnson.

“It was really exciting, and more of a unique offering to have at a farmers market,” Johnson said. “Because of their participation in the market, we've developed a stronger relationship with them as well.”

# Walking On

## **Theophile Clifford “Cliff” Perron**

Theophile Clifford “Cliff” Perron, age 88, of Brimley, passed away peacefully on December 10, 2021, surrounded by his family at the Robert & Helen Ball Hospice House after a long battle with Dementia/Alzheimer’s Disease. He was born on May 9, 1933, to Theophile and Arbutus (Kirby) Perron in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

After graduation, Cliff joined the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War. On Aug. 18, 1956, he married the love of his life, Sylvia Smart. They had three boys: Reid, Larry, and James. After being widowed in 1991, he remarried Janet Sprecker on Aug. 23, 1997.

For many years Cliff worked as a mechanic/body repairman, as well as owned and operated Perron’s Body Shop until his retirement. His passions included working in the garage, doing home remodeling, trips to the casino, playing bingo and many card games. He also enjoyed travelling to Lakeland, Florida during the cold U.P. winters.

Cliff is survived by his children; Reid (Rochelle) Perron, Larry (Mary) Perron, and James (Patricia) Perron all of Sault Ste. Marie, MI. Grandchildren; Melanie (Timothy) McBride, Tyler Perron (Kali Brosco), Jacob (Melissa) Perron, Christina Perron (Mike Dolkey), Hailey Perron (Denver Pierce), all of Sault Ste. Marie, and Noelle (Tanner) Swayne, of Woodstock, Georgia. He is also survived by his eight great-grandchildren: Jillian, Caleb, Landon, Silas, Scarlett, Cecelia, Sophia, and Laurel. Additionally, he has one surviving sister, Marlene (Ted) Cearlock of Port Sanilac, MI and many nieces and nephews.

Cliff is predeceased by his parents, Theophile and Arbutus Perron; Spouses Sylvia (Smart) Perron and Janet (Sprecker) Perron, as well as two brothers, Ernest (Elaine) Perron and John “Jack” Perron, and two sisters, Francis Horka and Malvenia (Melvin) Cryderman.

No public services will be held. It was Sylvia and Cliff’s wishes to have their ashes spread together on the family property in Brimley, Michigan. The family will privately gather to see that their wishes are fulfilled, and they are reunited once again. C. S. Mulder Funeral Home is assisting the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials or donations can be made to Hospice of the EUP. The family would like to thank all the wonderful healthcare workers that assisted our family during this difficult time.

## **Edward James Lothrop**

Edward James Lothrop, Sr. of Brimley, passed away on Nov. 26, 2021 at the age of 76. He was born on June 19, 1945 in Brandon, the providence of Manitoba, Canada to the late William and Mary Lothrop.

He worked at the Algoma Steel in Canada until he retired after 25 years of service. Then he and his love moved to Bay Mills where they grew old together and celebrated 55 beloved years of marriage. He loved to play bingo, ride down the road in his "Buggy", collect pop cans, work outside in his shed, and always looked to find a good trade or bargain. You would see him with a backwards "NativePride" hat and a big smile after he took any opportunity to tease. He married Bernadette Lothrop (LeBlanc) the love of his life on June 18, 1966.

Together, they had four children: Edward Jr. (Joyce), Albert (Angel), Nicole, and Selina. They have 12 grandchildren: Tara (Allan), Ashley (Darick), Alyssa (Timothy), Page, Matthew (Kourtney), Aaron, Daniel, Megan, Trevor (Maria), Mystique, Quinten and Alli; 19 great grandchildren: Trey, Chendra, Jayden, Michael, Calie, Kade, Owen, Alex, Diem, Emma, Brynn, Stella, Nora, Maryea, Landon, Lily, Carter, Gianni, and Timothy III. His surviving 15 brothers and sisters are: Darlene, Ada Mae (James), Patricia, Geraldine, Mildred (Clarence), Barbara (Kenneth), Steven, Mary (Ken), Susan, Donna (Earle), William and Judy (Roni). His in-laws: Albert (Joann), Eileen, Debra, Corrine, Anthony (Dawn), Ruby (Sam), Jacques (Gloria), and Evelyene (Joe).

He also has many relatives on both sides of the river. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers: Donald, Robert and Michael, sister Sharon, and In-laws Albert & Amelia LeBlanc, Daniel, Pierre, Raymond Marcel, and Soloma.

"Eddie, Dad, Papa" will be greatly missed by all his loved ones.

Services took place with the assistance of Galer Funeral Home.

## DNR announces Beyond Becoming an Outdoors-Woman events

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Becoming an Outdoors Woman program will offer Beyond BOW events this winter at various venues in Marquette County.

The BOW program gives women, 18 and older, an opportunity to improve their outdoors skills in a relaxed, noncompetitive atmosphere.

In addition to being fun to participate in, many of the BOW and Beyond BOW classes offer important outdoor skills, safety and tips on appropriate outdoor clothing attire.

### Upcoming Beyond BOW events:

Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, at 6:20 EST, Sugarloaf Sunrise Snowshoe, Marquette, MI 49855. Participants will meet at the trailhead about 5 miles north of Marquette (must have a Recreation Passport or Michigan State Day Pass to park). Location details will be made available to participants after registration. The group will snowshoe from the trailhead to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain. Once on top, leaders will boil water and provide options for coffee, tea or other hot drinks. If participants plan to have a hot drink, please remember to pack an insulated mug. Sunrise for that day is 7:46 a.m. After the sun rises, you will snowshoe back to the trailhead, following the same route. Mileage/Terrain/Activity Level: The roundtrip snowshoe hike is approximately 3 miles with an elevation gain of over 400' during the first 1.5 miles. If there is recent snow, the trail might not be broken which will increase the difficulty level.

Please consider this snowshoe hike to be strenuous. Required Items: Snowshoes and boots, clothing and outerwear appropriate for snowy, cold conditions (no cotton). If you don't own snowshoes, they can be rented from outfitters in most communities.

Sunday, March 20, 2022. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. EST, Marquette MI, 49855. Do-It-Yourself Trail Snacks. In this class, participants can expect to enjoy at least three homemade trail snacks, including some of the instructor's favorite goodies to bring into the woods or out on the water. Expect this to be a hands-on class and to go home with a goodie bag of fresh trail snacks and recipes to use again in the future. Health Procedures: The group will follow all state and local guidelines, as well as the guidelines at the venue, as they pertain to COVID-19. Updates will be emailed to participants as the event gets closer. Required Items: bring your own to-go containers to bring home the extra, tasty treats from class.

Registration materials for the Beyond BOW workshops are available at [Michigan.gov/BOW](https://Michigan.gov/BOW) closer to these events.

The traditional Winter BOW weekend workshop will be held at the Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay, Feb. 25-27, 2022. Registration materials for the winter event are also available at the website. Those signed-up for BOW email notifications will receive an email when event details and registration materials are available on the DNR website.

# Illegal hunting complaints reach record numbers during pandemic, arrests down

By NICHOLAS SIMON

Capital News Service

LANSING – Reports of wildlife crime have reached their highest levels on record while related arrests are trending downward, according to new data from the Department of Natural Resources.

The department's Report All Poaching hotline received around 60% more complaints related to hunters and wildlife crime in 2020 than it did in 2018. At the same time, arrests related to wildlife crime fell, despite a rise in hours worked by DNR officers.

This spike in complaints could be caused by more people using outdoor areas during the pandemic, said Nick Green, the public information officer for Michigan United Conservation Clubs, a coalition of outdoor sports groups.

"You gotta be careful to not confuse correlation with causation, just because there are more calls it doesn't mean any of those calls are valid," Green said. "I would say there probably are more reports because more people were home, and more people were out in the woods hunting. We saw increases in almost every (hunting) license category the first year of COVID."

Lockdowns contributed to at least some of the calls during the pandemic, said David Shaw, the assistant chief of the DNR Law Enforcement Division.

"The supervisor told me they received a lot of complaints of people just calling in and saying, 'We're seeing animals during the daytime; and we think that somethings wrong, like they're sick.'" Shaw said. "When things shut down, people had so much time on their hands that every park and every open space had people utilizing it and people were seeing things that they had never seen before."

This isn't the case for every complaint, and experts worry that the discrepancy between arrests and reports backs up rumors that poaching has been on the rise but under the radar for years.

"It does fit anecdotally with what I've been hearing from Michigan hunters in general and from our members, said Erik Schnelle, the president of Michigan's state advisory council for the National Deer Association. "They feel there's quite a bit of poaching going on and what gets reported is probably a tip of the iceberg of what's actually happening."

Experienced hunters say that most people who live in rural areas know the difference between legal and illegal hunting activities, Schnelle said. Complaints like shots fired, which rose 37% during the pandemic, and shining, which is up 33%, are hard to confuse as anything other than poaching.

"When they're using thermal night vision stuff you may not see bright spotlights like you might have in the past," Schnelle said. "But they might be shooting well after dark."

Complaints from people reporting improperly disposed deer carcasses leftover from hunting are also up, but figuring out if it's poaching-related is not always possible, law enforcement officials say.

"That doesn't mean it's poaching, it could be a totally legal deer that was taken," Shaw said. "They took it home, they processed it, they boned it out and then they drive home, usually in the evening and dump it somewhere, which is a littering violation."

Hunting groups say that the cases that get reported are usually more egregious than a littering violation. Poachers tend to be people who know what they are doing. Illegal deer hunters cut the skull plate and the antlers off the deer and leave the rest of it to rot.

"There's always somebody saying 'I'm doing it to feed my family' sort of thing as they drive around in their \$50,000 pickup truck with a night scope," Schnelle said. "I'm sure there are people that are legitimately trying to feed their family, but that's not the bulk of what's going on when people are poaching."

Light penalties for wildlife crimes could be contributing to the rise in numbers. DNR officers often have to work with courts that don't understand the nature of wildlife crime, and that can sometimes lead to a lack of aggressive prosecution, Green said.

"What's often happening in these crimes is they offer either plea deals or plea bargains and then these folks are walking away with nothing more than a parking violation," Green said. "I think that's where education and effort should be placed from the hunting public, from conservationists, from stakeholders, from groups like (MUCC), to make sure that prosecutors and judges all understand how we feel about wildlife"

Some DNR law enforcement officials say that they have a harder time prosecuting cases in urban counties than they would in the Upper Peninsula, Shaw said. But the working relationship between the DNR and prosecutors is a positive one.

"I think we get very good convictions," Shaw said. "We have 83 counties. That's more than 83 different district courts. Some areas they may not be as knowledgeable about are regulations or the value of it, but across the board I would say we get excellent participation with our prosecutors and prosecution."

Illegal hunting erases the gains made by members of the legitimate hunting community who work to promote healthy ecosystems, nothing infuriates hunters more than people who cheat the rules, Schnelle said.

The DNR Report All Poaching hotline, 800-292-7800, is one of the main weapons the department has to combat poaching. It's unlikely that an officer is just going to happen upon a crime in progress, Shaw said. Instead, law enforcement has to rely on the community to get attention to the problem.

# Proposed hotline aimed at bottle bill fraud

By DANIELLE JAMES  
Capital News Service

LANSING – Some state lawmakers and environmental advocates want to create a hotline to stop retailers from fraudulently cashing in on Michigan’s bottle deposit law.

Bottle bill fraud takes deposit money away from state pollution prevention and cleanup programs.

The effort isn’t to stop the kind of scam immortalized in a 1996 “Seinfeld” episode where Kramer and Newman trucked empty cans and bottles from New York to Michigan for the higher deposit redemption.

New technology that scans barcodes makes it much harder to redeem cans from out of state, according to Conan Smith, the president and CEO of the Michigan Environmental Council.

Instead, the recently introduced Senate bill would focus on reporting large violations, mostly by retailers who buy beverages out of state and sell to Michigan residents Smith said.

“This is actually oriented at two major systemic problems we’ve been experiencing with the bottle bill,” Smith said.

First, the state has a problem of retailers buying bottles and cans in Ohio, where there is no bottle deposit. Then they sell the beverages in Michigan, often to gas stations, where the consumer still pays the cost of the beverages plus the deposit.

“You as a consumer are charged the 10 cent bottle deposit, but you’re not able to return that can because it’s not a Michigan can,” Smith said. “You get screwed out of 10 cents, and these fraudulent sellers pocket your dime.”

Smith said these dimes could amount to tens of thousands of dollars per year in deposit costs for consumers.

Most automated return machines won’t accept out-of-state cans. If a consumer is able to return an out-of-state can to a retailer that hand checks them, some cases of fraud are not intentional.

Many people who try to redeem their containers from out of state don’t even know it’s illegal, said Matt Fletcher, a recycling market development specialist for the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

“I’ve gotten calls from Boy Scout troops in Illinois saying, ‘We’ve loaded up a U-Haul, and we’re going to drive up to Michigan to get the deposit,’” Fletcher said,

“and I have to explain to them that it would be fraud, because the deposit has to be paid to get redeemed.”

Fletcher said the Boy Scouts had been collecting cans all summer for a trip.

“They had \$10,000 worth of dimes,” he said.

Any fraud takes away from state unclaimed bottle deposit funds.

Those are used to clean up and develop polluted areas in the state and educate the public about pollution prevention, Fletcher said.

“It’s not the consumer’s role to figure out if where they bought it in Michigan is complying with the law,” Fletcher said. “Ultimately the main environmental impact of fraudulently redeeming containers would be that it weakens the system and takes away unclaimed deposit funds that are used for benefits in Michigan.”

The addition of a hotline could reduce instances of fraud, Smith said.

“If a can doesn’t say ‘Michigan 10 cents,’ you need to have somewhere you can report that so that the bottle bill can be enforced,” he said.

Smith said another violation comes from retailers throughout the state that still haven’t opened up their bottle return facilities.

“They shut them down during COVID, which was totally reasonable,” Smith said, “But they’ve since failed to reopen those facilities, despite the fact that the rest of their business is back open.

“That means they’re denying you the opportunity to utilize that facility.”

Since October 2020, the return program has been fully re-established.

Businesses are required to have facilities open, and can’t refuse returns or restrict their hours to impact the return of bottles, said the Department of Treasury.

But the total number of violations throughout the state isn’t tracked by Treasury, said Ron Leix, a deputy public information officer for the department.

Smith said the hotline could also be used to report nonoperational facilities.

“We haven’t taken a formal position on the bill yet, but are very supportive in concept,” Smith said. “I want to make sure when we create this hotline that we’re not reporting our neighbor dropping a can in the trash. “We’re really trying to generate info and intelligence on systemic problems with the implementation of the law,” he said.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BMIC MASK MANDATE:** In order to combat the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of our Tribal Nation, the Bay Mills Indian Community Executive Council is hereby adopting an indoor mask mandate effective Sept. 8 until Feb. 1, 2022 for all citizens, employees, guests, and visitors within our tribal government and tribal enterprise operations. This indoor mask mandate applies whether you are vaccinated or unvaccinated. At this moment in time, there are no other outside, gathering, capacity, or social distancing restrictions.

## 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.

## *Please take note of the following BMIC trash compactor hour changes:*

- Thursday 12/23 - Closing at Noon (for Departmental Christmas Celebration)
- Friday 12/24 - Closed for Christmas Eve
- Saturday 12/25 - Closed for Christmas
- Friday 12/31 - Closed for New Year's Eve
- Saturday 01/01 - Closed for New Year's Day

They will open as normal outside of these changes (Normal schedule: Tuesday thru Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm.)

We apologize for any inconvenience; however, our crews would like to enjoy the holiday season as well! HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



## Chicken Workshop

**Saturday, January 15, 2022 10a-3p**

*Pressure canning & healthy meals with chicken from the Waishkey Bay Farm Pasture Poultry Program*

**IN PERSON WORKSHOP SPACE IS LIMITED.**

Contact Connie Watson to register [cwatson@baymills.org](mailto:cwatson@baymills.org)  
906-248-8363

Next workshop: Fish & Fish Filleting February 19 10a-3p



Location: Waishkey Bay  
Farm Gitigan Hall  
10135 W. Mills Rd  
Brimley, MI 49715

## Child Welfare Committee Vacancy

There is one (1) opening on the Child Welfare Committee

The Child Welfare Committee meets on a monthly basis. In case of an emergency, there may be a need for more than one meeting a month. If anyone is interested in the specific duties of the Child Welfare Committee, they are available at the tribal office.

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and must be a member of the Bay Mills Indian Community.

If you would like to be considered to fill this vacancy, please submit a letter by January 7, 2022 to: Bay Mills Executive Council Attn: Kathi Carrick 12140 W. Lakeshore Drive Brimley, MI 49715