

# BAY MILLS NEWS

Serving the Eastern Upper Peninsula

*"Gnoozhekaaning Bidajimowin"*

August 2023

## BMIC receives grant for language preservation

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Indian Community has received a three-year, \$363k grant to provide cultural and language instruction within the community. The grant, part of the 2023 Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance Project, will allow the tribe to hire an individual that will serve as the cultural language educator.

The educator's primary goal is to assist in building second language fluency in Anishinaabemowin. The person serving in this position will lay the groundwork for the development and implementation of a community-wide immersion program that will provide Anishinaabemowin instruction, workshops, and events with wide community involvement bringing a range of ages from elder to youth together. Activities will include social media postings, interactive activities, and signage in Anishinaabe throughout the community. BMIC at large, BMIC tribal citizens, community members, and BMIC employees will have materials made available to them to help preserve and promote language within the organization and community.

"Language is a vital component of culture," said BMIC President Whitney Gravelle. "When we lose our language, we lose a unique understanding of our history, relationships, and perceptions we have of the world. It is extremely important as we develop other areas throughout our tribal nations that we are also developing cultural language resources as well. Our language, Anishinaabemowin, has existed for thousands of years and it is our responsibility to ensure it exists for thousands of years more."

The cultural language educator position will be posted later this fall. Once hired, the individual will coordinate their activities with the

BAY MILLS — As part of a national weeklong celebration to raise awareness of the mission and accomplishments of America's health centers as local solutions for affordable and accessible health care, Bay Mills Health Center held events on the week of Aug. 9 that featured informational displays, healthy snacks and a coloring contest.

The Community Health Center safety net serves over 22 million people across the country and has been successful in reducing income and ethnic health disparities nationwide; saving \$24 billion annually in health systems; reducing unnecessary visit to emergency rooms and hospitals; and creating a preventive medicine system that patients use regularly to stay healthy, thus saving lives.

To learn more, visit National Association of Community Health Centers at [www.nachc.org](http://www.nachc.org).



**Executive Council Aug. 14**

## Reports

**President Whitney Gravelle**

- Grants team met to discuss pending grant applications. Priority grants were discussed. Elder housing discussed.
- We continue to look at other funding options for Chippewa Landing and Kings Club redevelopment.
- Met with Cloverland and Project Manager about broad scale solar infrastructure for BMIC. M-28 is the ideal location for this, with transformer across the street. Cloverland will reach out with a presentation.
- Violence Against Women and Indian Child Welfare training took place. Nearly 300 trainees attended either in person or online.
- Met with History Dept. about boarding schools and history. Funding option this fall for research and archival training.
- Attended BIA Partners in Action conference. Climate change, economic development, transportation, and renewable energy trainings were attended.
- Invited BIA to come out and do assessment of programs to make sure we are using everything we can that we have available.
- Line 5, Aug. 11 petition submitted. A recommendation will be made.
- Aug. 24 is CORA meeting, no new updates on Consent Decree.

**Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram**

- 64 Evals at last count.
- HR has a hole cut in the building. They will shut the power Friday at noon.
- IT has been working on several projects and dealing with power outage.
- Janis is retiring from AOT, her position is posted.
- Working on filing accounting position.
- FRF due for an update, will connect with Rachel on that.
- Working on BMRC expansion.

**Health Director Audrey Breakie**

- Brimley Area Schools renovation still going on. Space reframed with metal to meet fire code. Work will go through October.

- Considering a grant to bring dentistry and hygiene checks into the school.
- New dental clinic nearly ready to go, will get keys this week.
- Waiting to see if we are awarded HRSA funds.
- Employee recruitment- dentists fell through, salary request for pediatric dentist was too high. Pharmacist offer made, waiting on licensing.
- Running out of space at new health center for offices.
- Working on audit for tribal immunization.
- Celebrated Health Center Week. Healthy food this year, no cake.
- Farmer's market is very successful, goes on every Thursday.

**Human Resource Director Kendal Perron**

- Anna Carrick left HR to work at BMCC, she will be a great loss to the department.
- Recruitment is going well.
- Looking at some software options for printing.

**BMGA General Manager Richard LeBlanc**

- Weekend coin in went well.
- Wild Wacky weekend was held, we have had a waiting list.
- Occupancy at the hotel has been at 96 percent. The campground has been just under 70 percent, which is better than past years.
- We are working on the balancing act for the groundbreaking and moving offices for the construction. We are slowly looking at that and where to move people.
- Moving some items to maintenance building.
- Sat down with new food and beverage director on plans for BMRC. Kitchen manager and bar & beverage manager were selected.
- Concerned about what construction will do to current business. We want to make sure access is available and people know we are open.

**BMBH General Manager Kimmi Walden**

- Processes emailed out with standard operating procedures for NLCC.
- We will then update current marijuana ordinance, then business plan. Once approved, intro to business holdings for new council members. Hope to be done by November.
- Working on inventory and POS systems.

- NLCC will be closed for EmployeeFest. Bay Mart and Four Seasons will be open.
- Bay Mart tank replacement will result in closure of six weeks, beginning Oct. 2. It may go longer. We have reached out to another store about tribal discount. Have not heard back.

#### Presentation

Overview of Sage Accounting Dashboards – Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram

#### Old Business

Resolution No. 23-07-17D: Approval of Lease Application & Lease Submission – Rita LeBlanc. Tabled.

#### New Business

1. Resolution No. 23-08-14A: Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity & Consent of Tribal Court Jurisdiction – USDA Rural Development Security Agreement & Promissory Note. Financing for health center. This waiver will allow us to close out the loan. Approved.
2. Resolution No. 23-08-14B: Authorizing Property Purchase – Brimley, MI. Two parcels formerly known as the Passmore Property on M-221. Cost is \$175,000. Work must be done to split the parcel deeds for tax purposes. Approved.
3. Resolution No. 23-08-14C: Support of Indian Health Services Annual Funding Contract Agreement – IHS Contract Number 239-12-0012. IHS funding, \$2 million request. Money for Purchased Referred Care, salary and fringe. Approved.
4. Resolution No. 23-08-14D: Bay Mills Health Center Authorizing Services to Non-Beneficiaries. This is for services to non-tribal members. Approved.
5. Resolution No. 23-08-14E: Support for the Submission of the FY 2023 USFS/American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association NATIVE Act Grant Program. No match. Cultural tourism. Approved.
6. Resolution No. 23-08-14F: Application and Residential Lease – Gail Glezen. 7142 S. WhiteHawk Trail on Sugar Island for her mother's property. Approved.
7. Resolution No. 23-08-14G: Residential Lease – Brandon Carrick. Approved.
8. Resolution No. 23-08-14H: Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – Michigan Department of

Health and Human Services – Michigan Public Health Institute - \$60,000. Approved.

9. Participating Agreement between the BMIC and the USDA Forest Services Hiawatha National

10. Forest - Bay Mills Indian Community Ishkode. Approved.

11. Participating Agreement between the BMIC and the USDA Forest Services Hiawatha National Forest – Dumpsite Feasibility Study. Approved.

12. Participating Agreement between the BMIC and the USDA Forest Services Hiawatha National Forest – Pt. Iroquois Lighthouse. This allows a renewal to happen for another five years. Opens up funding opportunity.

13. Acceptance of Funding: Approved

a. Native Connections - \$250,000

b. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - \$80,000

c. Federal Transit Administration - \$195,761

14. Tribal Priority Points for SDS Projects: Will allow funding to be placed into project.

a. Solid Waste Transfer Station \$3.9 million funding

b. Spectacle Village Waste Water Improvements \$345k funding

15. Gaming Commission Rules: Approved.

a. Rule 7: Employees Classified as “Key Employees” and “Primary Management Official”

b. Rule 14: Tribal Internal Control Standards.

c. Game Rule 14 XVII

16. Plantation Hill Lot Applications:

a. Cole Tadjerson

b. Nathan Tadjerson

c. Rikki Burley

17. Raffle Permit – Bay Mills Community College for Round Dance. Approved.

18. Reaffirmation of Poll Votes: Approved.

a. Emergency Travel Donation - \$500.00

b. Sports Sponsorship - \$1,000.00

# OPINION

## Dogs & Cats are facing hard times as well

By Tom Purcell

There's a lot of sad news to go around, but this Vox story really breaks my heart: animal shelters are overflowing with abandoned dogs and cats again.

A few years ago, during COVID isolation, there was a surge of people rescuing pets from shelters to fill their homes with lovable furry creatures.

It was the heyday of abandoned animals finding homes, with more animals leaving shelters than coming in.

As people went back to work, however, some people decided they didn't have the time or desire to care for a pet and sent it back to the shelter — something they should have thought through before they disrupted the pet's life.

But there is another force that is driving people to abandon their pets: it has got way too expensive to feed and care for them.

High inflation drove up the cost of pet food 20% year over year — for the simple reason that the ingredients to make pet food were also at record highs, as everything has been the past three years.

The inflation rate is down some in 2023, but the cost of services is not. That includes the cost of having a pet get regular checkups and care at the veterinarian, as well as the proper shots pets need annually.

CNN reports that a high percentage of the abandoned pets have serious medical issues, which can be very costly to treat.

My 2½ year old Labrador, Thurber, is healthy and fit as can be — but when he began having seizures, we discovered he suffers from epilepsy.

That required trips to more than one veterinarian, including a skilled neurologist who specializes in pets, and also some costly lab work.

Fortunately, I have a pet-insurance policy that made the roughly \$800 vet bill bearable. Thurber got excellent care and the medication is working perfectly.

However, if I were struggling to feed my children and pay my mortgage and car payment, as many middle-class people are, would I have given my dog to a shelter to hopefully get it the care I could not afford?

The answer is no, never, for me — I'd take a second job or sell my truck first. I'm not kidding when I say if reincarnation was real, my dream would be to come back as my own dog!

But I feel sorry for people who are really struggling to pay their bills right now and the painful decisions they are being forced to make.

I wonder: Are we heading back to the pre-WWII era, when the only people who could enjoy pets were the well-to-do?

Today's pet-abandonment trend illustrates well what happens in the daily lives of everyday Americans because of the reckless government policies and spending that the Wall Street Journal reports have made the cost of everything, including our ability to care for our pets, unbearable.

But if you have the means and the commitment and love in your heart, remember that wonderful pets are waiting in shelters for you to bring them home — and if you cannot adopt, your donations are always welcome.

If you are in financial straits and your pet needs basic supplies or even costly medical care, the Humane Society and other organizations may be able to offer financial assistance to help you keep your beloved pet in your home.

Now, if you'll excuse me, my pup is dropping his ball at my feet. It's time to go outside for some exercise!

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Purcell, creator of the infotainment site [ThurbersTail.com](http://ThurbersTail.com), which features pet advice he's learning from his beloved Labrador, Thurber, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at [Tom@TomPurcell.com](mailto:Tom@TomPurcell.com)

### *Bay Mills News*

12140 W. Lakeshore Drive Brimley, MI 49715 Phone: 906-322-9820

**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, Sept. 14. Submissions may be emailed to: [newspaper@baymills.org](mailto:newspaper@baymills.org).*





# BRIMLEY BAY MILLS FARMERS MARKET



**Thursday 4-7pm  
July 27-October 26**

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

## **BAY MILLS MARKET PAVILION**

11644 Plantation Road  
Brimley, MI 49715

**More information contact Connie Watson**

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



**Adaawegamigowaa**



## LSSU establishes College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education

SAULT STE. MARIE — Capitalizing on its singular location in the heart of the Great Lakes, Lake Superior State University announces the creation of the College of the Great Lakes Ecology and Education.

LSSU's board of trustees voted unanimously to establish the College of the Great Lakes Ecology and Education. Its interrelated goals include increasing enrollment, retention, and graduation at Lake State; training the next generation of conservationist leaders and teachers; delivering high-impact practices for students, such as research, internships, and volunteerism; partnering with public and private natural resource agencies on environmental causes vital to the area; expanding revenue streams for the blue economy that flows across the Great Lakes; and bettering the Great Lakes region.

Dr. Ashley Moerke, executive director of the Richard and Theresa Barch Center for Freshwater Research and Education (Barch CFRE) at LSSU, has been named founding dean of the College of the Great Lakes Ecology and Education.

"LSSU's new College of the Great Lakes Ecology and Education will not only help the institution equip graduates with the knowledge and skills to craft a life of meaningful employment but also enhance the quality of life of the Great Lakes region and beyond," said Lake State Board of Trustees Chair Timothy L. Lukenda. "The Great Lakes supply almost 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater plus drinking water for more than 30 million people. LSSU's backyard is nestled among three of them, thus providing vital occasions for ecofriendly research, innovation, real-world experiences—and this new college."

The College of the Great Lakes Ecology and Education will be comprised of Barch CFRE, the School of Natural Resources, and the School of Education. Students can enroll in the College of the Great Lakes Ecology and Education starting in the fall 2023 semester. Preliminary efforts are underway to staff the new college and new academic programs are under consideration.

The College of the Great Lakes Ecology and Education becomes LSSU's sixth college. Lake State's board of trustees previously restructured academic programs into five colleges (and various schools within them) in December 2017: the College of Criminal Justice and Emergency Responders, the College of Health and Behavior, the College of Innovation and Solutions, the College of Science and the Environment, and the College of Education and Liberal Arts.

"We're excited to springboard our cutting-edge, transformative-driven Barch CFRE as the foundation for the College of the Great Lakes Ecology and Education to further the excellence in teaching, learning, and service that are hallmarks of a Lake State education," said LSSU Interim President Dr. Lynn G. Gillette. "We opened the spectacular \$18 million Barch CFRE in December 2021, and it immediately was considered in the vanguard of its kind. Also late in 2021, U.S. Sen. Gary Peters of Michigan selected LSSU as the hub for the U.S. Coast Guard's Great Lakes Center of Expertise on the study and mitigation of oil spills in freshwater environments, and last summer, we celebrated the grand opening of the Great Lakes Center of Expertise at Barch CFRE, as just one of several alliances at our site. For decades, LSSU has reared and released tens of thousands of Atlantic salmon annually at the CFRE Fish Hatchery. In fact, since LSSU's founding in 1946, the institution has embraced any number of going-green endeavors. So it makes perfect sense for the university to take the ultimate step and launch a College of the Great Lakes Ecology and Education—because the campus, region, state, and country benefit in overlapping ways."

LSSU Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Kimberly Muller said, "The Great Lakes form a key part of Michigan's identity, abound with ecological riches, and are an indispensable economic engine. LSSU's College of the Great Lakes Ecology and Education will augment academic programs, generate more experiential learning opportunities for students, give students additional conduits to pursue research projects with faculty, inspire students to enroll, allow faculty to buttress their already-significant contributions to the field, respond to workforce needs, and redouble LSSU's sustainability. An essential component of the new college, Barch CFRE, has earned a reputation for preservation, experiential learning, research funding, and workshops and overviews for K-12 education and the public.

More than 6,500 people have visited its Great Lakes Discovery Center since the opening less than two years ago. With the College of the Great Lakes Ecology and Education, Barch CFRE can develop its own academic programs in higher education settings."

College of the Great Lakes Ecology and Education Founding Dean Dr. Moerke said, "I am honored to be part of this exciting initiative that recognizes LSSU's unique location at the nexus of three Great Lakes and that will build upon our natural, cultural, and social resources for our students to become the next local and global leaders in natural resources, conservation, and education."

## *Walking On*

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### **John Walter Hutchinson**

John Walter Hutchinson, 56, of Sault Ste. Marie, MI walked Saturday July 29, 2023 at his home. He was born August 10, 1966 in Fort Sill, OK to M. John "Hutch" and Carolyn (Thies) Hutchinson.

John was a veteran of the U.S. Army and enjoyed going to various Pow Wows across the Great Lakes to represent his culture and his pride in having served as an ogichidaag warrior. John worked for Bay Mills Indian Community for many years and liked giving back to those around him. John had the best hugs, ones that would make you feel safe and loved. He greeted everyone with a smile and wore his heart on his sleeve. John was known far and wide as a genuine, loving, and honest person that was always filled with great love for his family, friends, and for the love of his life, his wife Virginia. Most importantly, John was a husband, father, brother, uncle, and friend. His passing will leave an absence in the lives of many within Bay Mills.

John is survived by his wife, Virginia Hutchinson (Manitowabi) of Sault Ste. Marie, MI; son, John W. Hutchinson of Bay Mills, MI; step-son, Nick Pavlat of West Bloomfield, MI; daughter, Kathlin Hutchinson of Bay Mills, MI; step-daughters Rachel Pavlat of Sault Ste. Marie, MI, Autumn Pavlat of Sault Ste. Marie, MI; mother, Carolyn Hutchinson of Grand Rapids, MI; sisters, Karen Lizzy of Linwood, WA, Jennifer (Tony Casaletto) Hutchinson of Grand Rapids, MI; brother, Bryan (Drew Caffiero) Hutchinson of Grand Rapids, MI; grandchildren, Myra, Hazel, Stella, and Sunshine; many nieces and nephews. John is also survived by his dog Matilda Honey "Tillie" Hutchinson.

John is predeceased by his father, M. John "Hutch" Hutchinson in February of 2022.

John's family would like to express heartfelt thanks to everyone at Hospice of the EUP especially

nurse Christy Curtis, Dr. Neuroth at Sault Tribe Health Center, and everyone who made his journey easier for him.

Traditional Native services have taken place. Final resting place will be Mission Hill Cemetery in Bay Mills, MI. In lieu of flowers the family request's memorial contributions be made in John's name to, Hospice of the EUP, 308 W. 12th Ave Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Clark Hovie Galer Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

### **Gary Bruce Switzer**

Gary Bruce Switzer, 85, passed away on Aug. 5, 2023, at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey, Michigan.

Gary was born on Nov. 21, 1937, to Henry and Alvina (Richter) Switzer in Traverse City, Michigan.

He graduated from Allegan High School with the Class of 1955. On June 1, 1957, he married Lois VanHouten in Allegan, MI. Gary served in the Marine Corps Reserve and later the U.S. Army. He was a member of the American Legion Post #3. Gary attended Barber School and worked as a Barber for many years, retiring from the Captain's Quarters Barber Shop in Sault Ste. Marie. He enjoyed working as a farmer and gardening; he also was an avid reader and enjoyed watching Westerns and the History Channel. Gary was a Ham Radio Operator and was the "Voice of the Weather" at 6:30 every night. He also loved spending time with his Border Collie, JoJo.

Gary is survived by his wife, Lois; his sons: Gary (Tamara) Switzer, Jr of Sugar Island, MI; Bruce (Nicole) Switzer of Sault Ste. Marie, MI; and Timothy (Kathleen) Switzer of Sugar Island, MI; and a daughter-in-law: Kristine Switzer of Dafer, MI. Also surviving Gary are his 9 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren. He is also survived by a sister-in-law: Grace Switzer of Allegan, MI; a sister: Karla of Florida and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Henry; and his brother, Wayne Switzer.

No public services will be held at this time.

## BMCC to offer paramedic certification

BAY MILLS — Individuals holding a basic EMT certification will have the opportunity to upgrade their skills this fall as Bay Mills Community College begins offering paramedic certification.

The five-term paramedic certification program was given Letter of Review status from the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP), signifying that a program seeking initial accreditation has demonstrated sufficient compliance with the accreditation Standards through the Letter of Review Self-Study Report. Letter of Review is recognized by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) for eligibility to take the NREMT's Paramedic credentialing examination(s).

The first cohort will begin during the fall semester, with the first course on Aug. 27. Tuition, fees, and books for the first year of the program will be covered by the State of Michigan Emergency Medical Services Workforce grant, with the possibility of funding all expenses related to the certification.

It's no secret that first responders, including paramedics, are in short supply throughout the state. In recent months, townships have been forced to consolidate their departments and expand their service area.

"Paramedics throughout the country are in demand. Local agencies throughout Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac Counties have been limited to the extent of hiring paramedics due to the available programs available throughout the State of Michigan," said Randy Miller, program director and department chair of EMS education. "Now that BMCC has a LoR, it gives an opportunity to the atypical 8-5 student that would like to continue their education while working in their current career and to be able to provide a level of care that will provide potential life-saving pre-hospital emergency care here in the rural areas of an Advanced Life Support Agency."

Anyone interested in the program or who would like to enroll can reach out to Diana McKenzie at [dmckenzie@bmcc.edu](mailto:dmckenzie@bmcc.edu) or Randy Miller at [rmiller@bmcc.edu](mailto:rmiller@bmcc.edu).

The new program will be fully accredited after the first cohort has completed the program and compliance has been demonstrated.

The last day to apply for admission to BMCC for the fall term is Aug. 22. The last day to register for fall courses is Thursday, Aug. 24. Learn more about this program and others by visiting [www.bmcc.edu](http://www.bmcc.edu).





# TIRE RECYCLING

OPEN TO ALL BMIC MEMBERS



**DO YOU HAVE OLD TIRES  
TO DISPOSE OF?**

Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Tribal ID required**

Drop off at the BMIC Maintenance department

5414 S. Nbiish Road, Brimley

Please contact Biological Services at  
906-248-8652 for details.

**OPEN UNTIL  
OCT. 1, 2023**



Bay Mills Indian Community  
Biological Services  
[www.baymills.org](http://www.baymills.org)

11801 Plantation Rd  
Brimley, MI  
(906) 248-8652

*This tire collection is made possible by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.*

## Impaired driving enforcement campaign encourages sober driving

LANSING — The end of summer is traditionally marked by the Labor Day holiday and is a time for friends and families to enjoy pool parties, backyard barbecues and late-summer road trips. Sadly, the Labor Day holiday weekend is also one of the deadliest times of the year in terms of impaired-driving fatalities.

That is why, through the remainder of August and the 2023 Labor Day holiday weekend, the Michigan State Police (MSP), along with county and municipal police agencies across Michigan, are encouraging motorists to celebrate safely and make smart driving decisions. During a three-week period, August 10 through September 4, there will be increased enforcement and messaging about the dangers of driving impaired.

In Michigan during 2022, there were 9,331 alcohol-involved crashes (with 322 fatalities) and 2,452 drug-involved crashes (with 249 fatalities), according to the MSP Criminal Justice Information Center.

Over the Labor Day holiday weekend periods from 2018 to 2022, there were 40 drivers killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes in Michigan. In those crashes, one-third of the drivers killed were alcohol-impaired.

“The aim of the enforcement campaign is to drastically reduce deaths and serious injuries caused by impaired driving,” said Katie Bower, director of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). “This should be a time for friends and family to enjoy the final days of summer. Driving impaired is a choice. We are encouraging people to make the right choice and find a sober ride home if they plan on using an impairing substance.”

Officers will be on the lookout for motorists under the influence of drugs and alcohol throughout the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” enforcement period. In Michigan, it is illegal to drive with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher, although motorists can be arrested at any BAC level if an officer believes they are impaired.

Also, in Michigan during 2022:

- About 40 percent of fatalities on Michigan roadways involved alcohol and/or drugs, according to the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute.
- In all traffic crashes occurring over the Labor Day holiday period, 11 people died.
- One person was killed in an alcohol-involved crash every 27 hours.

To increase awareness and encourage safe and sober driving, the OHSP is funding a statewide media campaign about the dangers of impaired driving.

The “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign is supported with federal traffic safety funds provided by the United States Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and coordinated by the OHSP.

## Michigan releases 2023 Eat Safe Fish Guides to help residents learn about and plan for local fish consumption

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has released the 2023 update to its Eat Safe Fish Guides, which provide guidelines for eating locally caught fish.

Guidelines are based on levels of chemicals found in the portions of fish that people eat – typically the filets. Test results from the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories are used to determine what is safe for people to eat over the long term.

“There are many health benefits to eating fish and the Eat Safe Fish Guides help individuals choose the fish that are best for them and their families,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive.

Chemicals in fish are a worldwide issue. The chemicals most commonly found in fish are mercury and PCBs. Additional chemicals, such as perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), have also been found in fish, resulting in Eat Safe Fish guidelines for fish from certain Michigan water bodies. Like mercury, PFOS cannot be removed by trimming away the fat on the fish because the chemical is stored in the filet. By using the Eat Safe Fish Guide, Michigan fish consumers can be confident they are making informed choices about eating the fish they catch from their local lake or river.

The 2023 Eat Safe Fish guidelines include several new recommendations originally announced in January 2023 for certain locally caught smelt. The new smelt guidelines are based on elevated levels of PFOS found in the smelt.

The new Eat Safe Fish consumption guidelines for smelt are as follows:

- Lake Huron: 6 servings per year.
- Lake Michigan: 1 serving per month.
- Portage Lake in Houghton County: 1 serving per month.
- Gull Lake in Kalamazoo County: 2 servings per month.
- Higgins Lake in Roscommon County: 4 servings per month.

MDHHS previously issued a guideline for smelt from Lake Superior in May 2022, recommending that no one eat more than 1 serving per month of smelt

from Lake Superior, due to elevated levels of PFOS. That guideline will remain in effect.

Originally issued in August of 2018, the ‘Do Not Eat’ fish advisory remains in effect for a large stretch of the Huron River due to elevated PFOS levels in fish. That advisory begins downstream from where the river crosses N. Wixom Road in Oakland County to where the river crosses I-275 in Wayne County and includes the following waterbodies: Norton Creek (Oakland County), Hubbell Pond also known as Mill Pond (Oakland County), Kent Lake (Oakland County), Ore Lake (Livingston County), Strawberry & Zukey Lakes (Livingston County), Gallagher Lake (Livingston County), Loon Lake (Livingston County), Whitewood Lakes (Livingston County), Base Line & Portage Lakes (Livingston/Washtenaw County line), Barton Pond (Washtenaw County), Geddes Pond (Washtenaw County), Argo Pond (Washtenaw County), Ford Lake (Washtenaw County) and Belleville Lake (Wayne County).

In addition to updating the Eat Safe Fish Guide with new guidelines, the program regularly reviews the science behind its guidelines. This review ensures that Eat Safe Fish guidelines are based on the best available science to be health protective for people who eat fish caught in Michigan.

Unlike the Department of Natural Resource’s Michigan Fishing Guide, the MDHHS Eat Safe Fish guidelines are not laws or regulations, and no one is required to follow them. Instead, the guides are a free resource for those who would like information about which fish, and how much of those fish, are healthy to eat from various bodies of water across the state.

MDHHS also produces the Buy Safe Fish Guide to help residents choose seafood from local grocery stores, fish markets and restaurants that is lower in mercury. The Eat Safe Fish Guides and Buy Safe Fish Guide are available online at [Michigan.gov/EatSafeFish](https://Michigan.gov/EatSafeFish).

For more information on how to buy, eat or prepare safe fish, or to get the Guide for your region, visit [Michigan.gov/EatSafeFish](https://Michigan.gov/EatSafeFish) and click on Find Your Area or call the MDHHS Division of Environmental Health at 800-648-6942.



# Solar panels installed at two BMIC buildings



**BAY MILLS** — Bay Mills Indian Community completed solar panel installations on both the Bay Mills Justice Center and the Armella B. Parker Elder Center facilities on Aug. 11.

These installations are part of the tribe's continued efforts to work towards making investments in renewable energy. In the future BMIC hopes to enter into larger scale solar energy infrastructure that can power tribal-wide operations throughout Bay Mills Indian Community.

Last year, BMIC completed solar panel installations on the Boys & Girls Club, which has provided a substantial savings to the organization.

The tribe is also continuing to work on sustainable and environmentally friendly building practices.

Partners making this project possible are Peninsula Solar, the BMIC Green Infrastructure Committee, and Grid Alternatives



## Bay Mills Health Center

Open to the Public at our new location!  
12455 W Lakeshore Dr. Brimley, MI 49715

**Services Provided:** Medical, Dental, Behavioral Health, Community Health, Pharmacy, Laboratory, Radiology.  
WE NOW HAVE OPTICAL AND A PHARMACY DRIVE-THRU WINDOW!

To schedule an appointment call 906-248-5527

Hours of operation: 7:30am – 6pm, Monday – Friday  
Closed during all major holidays

Most insurances accepted. Sliding Fee, Fee-For-Service, and Insurance Assistance are available for patients on-site.

### After-hours Services for Patients:

**Medical:** Call 911 for medical emergencies; after hours medical provider access: 906-203-4074.

**Behavioral Health:** Call 911 for emergencies; Hiawatha Behavioral Health crisis line: 906-632-2805.

## Adopt a Working Cat!

We have a number of rodent patrollers in URGENT need of new homes

Please contact us if you own a barn, workshop, warehouse or brewery.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

906-632-2519



All cats are provided at no-charge and are healthy, spayed / neutered, vaccinated

