

## Obelisk removed from historic Native burial site

By Shannon Jones  
*Bay Mills News*

SAULT STE. MARIE — After decades of advocacy to protect a historic Native American burial site, on what is known as Brady Park in Sault Ste. Marie, the large obelisk has finally been removed.

The obelisk was placed at the site without tribal consultation in 1907 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Soo Locks. For years, tribal communities have advocated for the removal of the structure. In 1998, then Bay Mills Historian Wanda Perron began protesting the obelisk's presence at the burial site and called for the removal of the structure. Back in June, the US Army Corps of Engineers opened a 30 day comment period regarding the monument and its removal. The end result was the decision to remove the piece from the park.

“In June of 1820, during treaty negotiations at Sault Ste. Marie, our grandfather, Crane Clan Chief of the Great Lakes, Shingabowaasin, made it clear to the United States that our ancient burial ground, Wudjiwong, must be protected,” said Bay Mills Ojibwe History Department Historian Paula Carrick. “He insisted that its protection be written into the treaty, recognizing even



then—205 years ago—that this land held the remains and the spirit of our people since time immemorial. His words have guided us for seven generations.”

In acknowledgment of the cultural and historical significance of this location, and in consultation with federally recognized Tribes who continue to utilize the location within Brady Park for cultural and religious

practices, the Corps of Engineers began removing the structure on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

“For decades, we have sought to have the obelisk removed from this sacred place. Today, we feel a deep sense of fulfillment and gratitude to finally be able to witness this moment. In honoring the work that our grandfather, Shingabowaasin, began so long

ago, we carry forward his vision and commitment,” said Carrick. “This is historic day of healing, restoration, and fulfillment.”

The removal of the obelisk is being conducted in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement developed in consultation with federally recognized Tribes, Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and National Park Service.

“The removal of the obelisk represents a meaningful example of how federal agencies and Tribal Nations can work together through the Section 106 process to right historical wrongs. This is not just the removal of a monument, but the recognition of tribal sovereignty and the enduring responsibility to protect our sacred places,” said BMIC President Whitney Gravelle. “Bay Mills Indian Community is proud to stand alongside our fellow Anishinaabe Nations in ensuring that Wudjiwong is treated with the care and respect it has always deserved with a special thanks to the Bay Mills History Department and their decades of advocacy, teaching, and leadership.”

The removal of the obelisk is outlined in the MOA, developed under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which is the process by which federal agencies consider impacts to historic properties.

## BMCC receives grant funds to assist Head Start educators

BRIMLEY— Bay Mills Community College has announced it has been awarded \$1,176,376 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families for year one of a five-year grant. The award, under the Head Start Tribal Colleges and Universities Partnership Grant, will expand BMCC’s capacity to support teachers and staff at tribal Head Start programs across the country in earning their required early childhood education credentials.

The grant project, known as the HOPE program, is designed to remove barriers to higher education for tribal Head Start employees by providing comprehensive support, including free tuition, a textbook lending library, laptops, specialized advising, tutoring, and financial incentives.

“This award is a testament to the dedication and excellent of our team at Bay Mills Community College,” said Dr. Duane Bedell, BMCC president. “Their tireless work and commitment to supporting tribal Head Start profes-

sionals have made this achievement possible. We are deeply grateful for our partners across the country who are doing incredible work in their communities by empowering early childhood educators, strengthening families, and preserving cultural heritage. Together, we are building a brighter future for the next seven generations.”

The new funding, designated as "Round 3," will allow BMCC to build upon the foundation established with previous grants. The college will form new partnerships with tribal Head Start programs from coast to coast, with budding partnerships in South Carolina, Minnesota, Alaska, Washington, and Oklahoma. Currently, Round 2 partners include: Mississippi Choctaw, Inter-Tribal Council, Sault Tribe, Seneca Nation, Aleutian, Chugachmuit, and Cook-Inlet Native Head Start.

This opportunity is truly transformative for those seeking to advance in their careers,” said Heather Stelzer, chair of the Early Childhood Educa-

tion Department at BMCC. “With this funding, we are proud to support early childhood professionals as they pursue higher education with a growth mindset, demonstrate perseverance in reaching their goals, and exemplify resilience to their peers and families.”

The success of the initiative is credited to the BMCC team that developed the grant proposal, led by grant writer Kathy Adair, with crucial input from Sheryl Hammock, dean of occupational education, Stelzer, and Kris Nance, HOPE coordinator, who ensured the proposal met the specific needs of tribal Head Start professionals.

“BMCC Early Childhood Educa-

tion graduates are committed to protecting the future of our young children and the next seven generations,” said Hammock. “They take pride in giving back to their communities and tribe, honoring their heritage while leading with knowledge, compassion, and purpose.”

The grant will also support the hiring of additional BMCC early childhood team members to manage the anticipated growth. The program currently serves approximately 300 students per semester, a number expected to increase significantly.

The period of performance for the grant runs from Sept. 30, 2025, to Sept. 29, 2030.

### Reminder to BMIC Citizens about absentee ballots

The last day to request an absentee ballot for the 2025 General Election is Wednesday, Oct. 29. Any eligible voter who will not be able to cast their ballot in person may request the Election Committee to issue them an absentee ballot. General Election requests must include name and full address, and may be made in person, by email - Elections@baymills.org, by Fax 906-248-3283, or by mail to the Bay Mills Ogimaag-Gamig Governmental Center at 12140 W. Lakeshore Dr., Brimley, MI 49715 Attn: Election Committee. Requests through mail must include the signature of requestor.

# Chairperson’s Report

By BMIC President Whitney Gravelle

As fall progresses, Bay Mills Indian Community still has a lot of projects that are underway which will be completed over the next several months and in early 2026. Of considerable note, we will be reaching the final stages of completion for the Bay Mills Resort & Casino expansion project. The project includes a three-story waterfront resort expansion, which adds 134 additional rooms with balconies, a deli, spa with massage therapy rooms, pool with splash pad, hot tubs, nail salon, fitness center, arcade, conference space, and storefront. The employee break room has also already received a face lift, adding additional space and amenities for staff to relax and enjoy themselves.

This project was approved by the General Tribal Council after analysis showed that the expansion of Bay Mills Resort & Casino was necessary to address declining profits and attract a broader range of guests seeking new and enhanced experiences. By introducing modern amenities, expanded gaming options, upgraded accommodations, and new entertainment and dining venues, our teams aim to strengthen its competitive edge in the regional tourism market. This growth is a key component of the larger Destination Bay Mills vision, which is an initiative designed to transform the area into a premier travel destination that blends gaming, recreation, and cultural experiences. Together, these efforts will drive increased visitation, support local economic growth, and ensure long-term sustainability for the resort and surrounding community. This is not to say that this initiative will dominate our strategy either. Our teams are mindful that as our projects are developed there is a separate focus on protecting the character, culture, and natural beauty of the Bay Mills. Thoughtful planning, sustainable development practices, and community involvement will help prevent the area from becoming overrun by tourism. This balance ensures that while guests enjoy an authentic and welcoming destination, the people who call Bay Mills home continue to thrive and take pride in their land, traditions, and way of life.

In addition to the Resort expansion project, several other projects are also taking place, which includes Plantation Hills Housing Development, Elder Housing Development, Kings Club Re-Development, Riverview Gathering Grounds, Solar Array Deployment, and continued housing development projects. Altogether, in just five years we will have developed 52 new housing units by 2026 for our tribal citizens, their families, and our community to enjoy. The Executive Council conducted a survey a few months ago and asked our tribal citizens what was their number one concern and it was - housing. I want to make sure everyone knows we hear you, we see you, we want to help, and we will continue to do what we can to address the needs of our Tribal Nation.

These construction projects are just a small part of all the other work we are completing related to utilities, water meters, septic and sewer, and recreational development. Most of these projects were funded by grants received in order to improve infrastructure related needs of our community. For the Plantation Hills Housing Development project, our team has been in contact with IHS, DTE, and Cloverland to set up utility connection so that the homes will be ready for move-in as soon as possible.

On Oct. 10 the Executive Council and Legal Department attended the Tribal-State Summit in Lansing, where we met with Governor Whitmer to advocate for stronger tribal-state relations. The primary request was the creation of a Department of Native American Affairs, led by a Cabinet Secretary dedicated to Native issues, affairs, and regulations. With 12 federally recognized tribes and the ninth-largest Native population in the country, Michigan would greatly benefit from a centralized department to ensure adequate representation and foster meaningful collaboration between tribal governments and the state.

We also reaffirmed our commitment to protecting the Great Lakes from the Enbridge Line 5 dual pipelines and tunnel project, urging the State to publicly oppose the project and support full decommissioning of Line 5. In addition, we discussed growing concerns around the Commodity Futures Trading Commission’s consideration of “Sports Contracts,” which pose threats to tribal sovereignty and existing gaming compacts. Together, the Executive Council called for direct meetings between the Attorney General’s office and Tribal Nations to coordinate efforts in defending internet gaming from illegal contract betting.

BMIC also recently hired a new Social Media & Event Coordinator, who will be working alongside our teams to enhance communication efforts across all tribal entities. Effective social media management plays a vital role in keeping our community informed and connected. It allows us to share timely updates about programs, events, and emergencies, while also providing a direct channel for the Executive Council to communicate with tribal members and the broader public—promoting transparency, trust, and collaboration.

Beyond communication, social media serves as an important platform for cultural preservation and storytelling. By sharing our history, language, and traditions online, we not only strengthen community pride but also showcase Bay Mills’ sovereignty and cultural identity to the world. With thoughtful and re-

sponsible management of these platforms, we aim to ensure that our narratives are accurately represented, our voices remain strong, and our citizens stay engaged in the life and governance of our Nation.

The next General Tribal Council meeting will occur in November after the General Election of Bay Mills Indian Community. The General Election is set for Wednesday, Nov. 5. As a reminder: Any registered voter who will not be able to cast their ballot in person may request the Election Committee to issue them an absentee ballot. Such request may be made in person, by email - Elections@baymills.org, by Fax 906-248-3283, or by mail and signed by the person requesting the ballot. In any case, the request must be made seven (7) days before the Election. Reason for requesting an absentee ballot must be given, as absentee ballots are for individuals unable to vote in person. Direct your request to the Bay Mills Tribal Office at 12140 W. Lakeshore Dr., Brimley, MI 49715 Attn: Election Committee.

At the next General Tribal Council meeting we will provide updates to our tribal citizens on projects currently happening in Bay Mills Indian Community, receive presentations from various Departments, and also review proposals related to Burn Bans, Safe Roads to School Work, and various other projects.

There have been a lot of cultural activities taking place across Bay Mills as well, including the Every Child Matters Ceremony, Manoomin Day Camp, feast bag workshop, leather belt workshop, fire keeping teachings, and multiple community workshops that focus on the teachings and passing on of our cultural practices. Chi miigwetch to the Biological Services Department, Cultural Department, Waishkey Bay Farm, Museum & History Departments, as well and everyone else that helps plan, prepare, and coordinate these activities.

BMIC has experienced significant growth in recent years, with major advancements in infrastructure and the expansion of essential services. We sincerely appreciate the community’s patience and support as we’ve managed an extensive list of ongoing projects.

In the months ahead, the Executive Council remains focused on continuing this progress by expanding government services, strengthening business operations, and enhancing benefits for our employees. Our teams are also actively working on key initiatives, including improving access to childcare, exploring new energy and broadband opportunities, protecting treaty resources, and updating tribal laws to better serve our citizens and future generations.

Our teams will continue to strive for the success of Bay Mills Indian Community. Please check out our tribal website or the official Tribal Chairperson Facebook Page for regular updates about what is going on here at Bay Mills. Please don’t hesitate to call, email, or stop by for a visit to share your thoughts, questions, and concerns with me.

## NOTICE GENERAL ELECTION

The Bay Mills Indian Community’s General Election will be held on **November 5, 2025**. **Please Note:** The Election will be held at the Armella B. Parker Senior Center from the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Any member of the Bay Mills Indian Community who is eighteen (18) years or older may vote in the General Election. The candidates for the General Election are:

<b>President</b> Whitney Gravelle William C. Parish Jr.	<b>Vice-President</b> Jacques A. LeBlanc Jr. Andy LeBlanc Jr.	<b>Treasurer</b> Audrey Breakie Tara Parrish	<b>Secretary</b> Beverly Carrick Kaitlynn Leach
<b>Councilman</b> Stephanie L. Walden Timothy G. Kinney II			
<b>Chief Judge (1 Seat, 6 Year Term)</b> Leah Teeple Katie Corbiere			
<b>Appellate Judge (1 Seat, 6 Year Term)</b> Anthony Carrick			
<b>Conservation Committee (5 Seats, 4 Year Term)</b> Terry E. Carrick Jonah Hascall Tom M. Malloy Dana Parish			

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**The General Election Absentee Ballot Request Deadline is Wednesday, October 29, 2025.**

If there are any questions, please call the Ogimaag-Gamig Governmental Center for more information. The telephone number is (906) 248-8100. Ask for Robin Teeple or Kimarie Manabat.

# Executive Council discusses business at regular meeting

Oct. 13 meeting

**President Whitney Gravelle**

— BMIC and tribal nations have had an impact on the state, including \$25 billion impact on the state economy. As part of Indigenous Peoples Day, this is a good time to recognize all the tribe has done. Not only did BMIC open the first tribally owned casino, but we also opened the first tribally owned recreational dispensary for cannabis.

— On Oct 10, the Executive Council and Legal Department went to Lansing, Michigan for the Tribal State Summit. We met with Governor Whitmer, we had the opportunity to sit down with her. We discussed many efforts we are working on.

— We did get to hear from Secretary Benson that, apparently now a lot of tribes want a tribal license plate agreement. Only three of them currently in the state have them.

— Brianna Bowen has been hired to assist in tribal communications, particularly managing governmental social media.

— Working on minimum wage impact that will affect business in 2027.

— Earlier this month attended the LSSU Board of Trustees meeting.

— Attended meeting about the Safe Roads to School project. There may be some impact to yards with work at the side of the road. This will be addressed at the GTC Nov. 12.

— Chester’s Chicken will be coming to Four Seasons.

— There has been repeated incidents over the years where employees have applied tribal member discounts to fuel, or cigarettes, or sometimes to non-tribal members getting food, and then kept the money. We are working on modifying the system to stop abuse from happening.

—The Elder Housing Project is underway. We have updates from Whiskey River showing the roads, sidewalks, and driveways are to be done before winter, so a few houses can be opened up. We are waiting on utilities.

— Riverview Gathering Grounds: We had a successful bid submitted by Whiskey River. They are now working to finalize the budget based on feedback from the Executive Council, as well as a final schedule. If you drove by Riverview, you might have seen a bunch of stakes in the ground. That’s actually meant to be the size of the Gathering Grounds.

— Boys and Girls Club, also notified the Sault Area Public Schools of CAMP’s closure, which will occur on Oct. 29.

—2020 consent decree litigation is ongoing. We’re looking to be filing a brief on Nov. 10 in response to Sault Tribe’s appeal and petition to the Supreme Court, which was filed on Aug. 10.

—Enhanced IDs: we did receive a signed MOU back from the Department of Homeland Security. Now we need to get with cross-border and training, in order to have the meeting with our IT department.

**Chief Financial Officer, Crystal Wilcox**

— Audits are ongoing.

— Our payroll specialist resign recently, we have since filled the position.

— NLCC is preparing packaging on product.

— Migration to Office 365 will start soon.

— Working on resort expansion budget.

— Doing a monthly financial review.

— 2026 budget process has begun.

— Policy reviews are ongoing.

— Working with NLCC on their marketing plan.

**Health Director, Lucy DeWildt**

— We’re still on schedule for a mid-November completion date for provider housing.

— Transitional housing program will be on the next agenda.

— Dr. Brown started at dental this week.

— Our new dentist is starting towards the beginning of November, at the main health center.

— The school wellness program grant at Brimley School had a technical on-site visit a couple weeks ago. It did go really well.

— The Community Recovery Center is going really well.

— A couple of our dental staff went into area schools last week to do dental screenings and some minor work, like dental sealants and things like that.

— The dental therapist started.

— Farmer’s Market wraps up this month.

**Human Resources Director, Stacey Walden**

— Working on training for ADP.

— Benefits renewal presentation today. Open enrollment is set to begin Nov. 25. Benefit fares are scheduled for Nov. 5 & 6.

— Actively preparing training materials for the new Executive Council, organizational charts, employee counts, employment law information, and policies and procedures.

— Analyzing wages as the minimum wage change is coming from the state.

— Working on policies.

**Cultural Program Coordinator, John W.**

— A ceremony was held at Brady Park prior to the removal of the obelisk.

— Doing light housekeeping at the lodge.

— Putting ribbons on trees, maple trees, to get ready for maple season in the spring, so I don’t gotta look without leaves.

— Movie night is being held.

**Bay Mills Gaming Authority, Richard LeBlanc**

— Just returned from Las Vegas Global Gaming Expo.

— October is going well at the resort.

— Ordering equipment for expansion.

— Working on budgets.

**Four Seasons/Bay Mart, Justin LeBlanc**

— Getting equipment together for Chester’s Chicken.

— Met with new social media person to get some promos going.

— A camera needed to be replaced at Bay Mart.

— Sales are going extremely well.

— Fence behind Bay Mart will be replaced next spring.

**Presentation on Elder’s Trust Fund-Austin Brown**

— This year’s distribution was just north of \$438,000.

— We’ve seen an increase of 20% from 2022 to 2023, 5% from 23 to 24, and then 11% from 24 to 25.

**New Business: (Approved)**

1. Resolution No. 25-10-13A: Approval of Participation in the Purdue Direct Action Set-

tlement and Authorize Counsel to Submit Participation Forms on Behalf of the Tribe

2. Resolution No. 25-10-13B: Memorandum of Understanding with Army Corps of Engineers for Removal of Obelisk from Brady Park Portion of Soo Locks

3. Resolution No. 25-10-13C: Approval Legal Services Engagement Letter with Lawyers for Good Government, Inc.

4. Resolution No. 25-10-13D: Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity MDHHS – Policy and Planning 2026

5. Resolution No. 25-10-13E: Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity MDHHS – Comprehensive Services for Behavioral Health 2026

6. Resolution No. 25-10-13F: Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity MDHHS – Child Advocacy Center Supplemental Program 2026

7. Resolution No. 25-10-13G: Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – MDHHS – Child and Adolescent Health Centers 2026

8. Resolution No. 25-10-13H: Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – MDHHS – Crime Victims Sustainability Fund 2026

9. Resolution No. 25-10-13I: Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – MDHHS – Public Health Emergency Preparedness 2026

10. Resolution No. 25-10-13J: Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – MDHHS – Transportation for Substance Use Disorder Treatment 2026

11. Resolution No. 25-10-13K: Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – MDHHS – Tribal Victim Services 2026

12. Resolution No. 25-10-13L: Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – MDHHS – Tribal Opioid Settlement Fund 2026

13. 2026 Benefit Renewal & Premium Share Approval

14. HR Organizational Chart

15. Policy & Procedure Approvals

a. 302 Continuous Length of Service

b. 603 Health Insurance

c. 700 Annual Leave Benefits

d. 409 Two Spirit Individuals and Gender Identity- *Tabled for further review*

16. Acceptance of Funds:

a. Policy and Planning - \$85,933

b. Comprehensive Services for Behavioral Health - \$250,000

c. Child Advocacy Center Supplemental Program – \$41,077

d. Child and Adolescent Health Centers - \$200,000

e. Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health Journey to Wellness Project - \$62,000

f. Anishnaabek Healing Circle Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Initiative - \$150,000

g. Maajtaag Mnobmaadzid Tribal Home Visiting Initiative - \$100,000

h. Crime Victim Sustainability Fund - \$25,640

i. Public Health Emergency Preparedness - \$20,007

j. Transportation for Substance Use Disorder Treatment - \$93,090

k. Tribal Victim Services – \$94,895

l. Tribal Opioid Settlement Fund – \$25,000

m. Indian Health Services Staff Quarters - \$2,000,000- *Tabled for further review*

17. Land Office: Relinquishment of Plantation Hills Lot from Doug Malloy to Maddison Malloy


18. Physician’s Services Contract – Dr. Mackie

19. Bay Mills Child Development Center Facility License

20. Donation Requests

21. Reaffirmation of Poll Votes:

a. Medical Donations



# Flu Clinic

Get your flu shot. Fight the flu.

Our mission is to keep the community safe from influenza this season. Stop by for your annual flu shot to keep you and your family healthy!

**Tues, 10/7 2:00–5:00 | Farmers Market Pavilion  
ADULTS ONLY (Drive-Up)**

**Wed, 10/15 4:00–6:00 | Bay Mills Resort & Casino  
ADULTS ONLY**

**Fri, 10/24 11:00–1:00 | BMHC Ellen Marshall Room**

**Wed, 10/29 9:00–11:00 | BMHC Ellen Marshall Room**

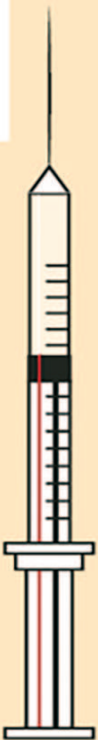
**Mon, 11/3 3:00–5:00 | BMHC Ellen Marshall Room**

**Thurs, 11/6 1:00–3:00 | BMHC Ellen Marshall Room**

**Mon, 11/24 2:30–4:30 | BMHC Ellen Marshall Room**

**Thurs, 12/18 12:00–2:00 | BMHC Ellen Marshall Room**

For more info about the annual flu shot, call 906-248-5527 or visit us on Facebook



OPINION

Data privacy? What data privacy?

**By Tom Purcell**  
Ring. Ring.  
“Hello, this is Tom.”  
“We know who you are, Tom.”  
“Who is this? How’d you get my smartphone number?”  
“Your personal details are everywhere, Tom — public records, websites and apps you’ve downloaded.”  
“I didn’t give you permission!”  
“Sure you did, Tom. You shared your phone number, address and Social Security number every time you opened a credit card, made an online purchase or filed taxes.”  
“This is outrageous.”  
“What’s outrageous, Tom, is that your Social Security number is used for more than 60 Congressionally approved purposes — everything from passports to Medicare.”  
“It is?”  
“Absolutely, Tom. Every bank account, credit card, tax record, loan, hospital visit and insurance claim is tied to that number. Data brokers use it to build a fat file on you they can sell to marketers, insurance companies and even thieves.”  
“Thieves?”  
“Identity theft, Tom. Hackers open credit cards, file fake tax returns or re-finance your house in your name — destroying your credit for years. Don’t get me started about all the new gadgets in your home.”  
“What gadgets?”

“Your Ring doorbell shows when you’re home or away — a treasure trove for burglars who can potentially hack Ring’s data.”  
“Really?”  
“Be wary of Alexa, Tom. For the right price, she might tell Domino’s how vulnerable you are to meat-lovers pizza after 9 p.m.”  
“Alexa would never!”  
“Never, Tom? There have been multiple lawsuits against Amazon alleging Alexa privacy violations. Amazon even paid \$25 million to the FTC for violating children’s privacy by storing their voice recordings. You have to admit, marketers would love to know your in-home habits and desires.”  
“That’s creepy.”  
“Here’s what’s really creepy, Tom. Facebook automatically accesses your photos, contacts, posts and location history unless you deactivate those features.”  
“Why?”  
“One reason is to keep you on its app 24/7, Tom. You didn’t think it was odd to get a friend suggestion from your IRS auditor?”  
“I thought she liked me.”  
“Tom, your phone pings towers, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth everywhere you go. Facebook knows everywhere you’ve been.”  
“It does?”  
“And Google keeps your search history forever, Tom, unless you set it to

auto-delete, which few people do.”  
“No!”  
“I got a kick out of one of your favorite search terms, Tom: ‘Madonna, bikini, before she turned 50.’”  
“Surely, TikTok is safe now?”  
“Good one, Tom. Trump’s \$14 billion deal would spin off TikTok’s U.S. business into a new venture with Oracle, which stores the data in America and submits to audits to block China’s access. But TikTok will still mine your info to sell you junk — just like Facebook and Google.”  
“Is anything safe?”  
“Not in the digital world, Tom. Hackers using AI are cranking out scam emails and deepfake phone calls so realistic, you’ll swear they’re really from your mom. And avatars are so lifelike they’re already tricking em-

ployees in Zoom meetings into wiring millions to fraudsters.”  
“These technologies are invading my privacy!”  
“Privacy, Tom? The Constitution doesn’t guarantee an explicit right to data privacy. Congress is tossing around bills, such as the American Data Privacy and Protection Act, which has stalled. Some states have enacted a patchwork of laws. But data privacy remains a big challenge in the U.S.”  
“Look, I’ve had enough of you. Who are you?”  
“Sorry, Tom. That information is private.”  
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Are you guilty of weekend rentals?

**Tyrades! by Danny Tyree**  
“And if it comes back the very next day, well, then I’ll go bankrupt...” – apologies to Elvis.  
It started with “wardrobing.”  
Unscrupulous shoppers would buy expensive outfits for a special occasion and return them to the store the next day.  
 (“I guess I just trusted this once-great store too much. I didn’t notice that the gown had vintage 1947 wine stains on the front and my boss’s handprint on the derriere when I bought it.”)  
Now, according to USA Today, the phenomenon has morphed into “weekend rentals,” in which citizens purchase power tools, seasonal decorations or just about anything imaginable – with the full intention of getting a refund as soon as the immediate need is satisfied.  
 (“I bought this politician yesterday. And now I have my zoning exemption for a suburban radioactive pig farm. So I’m bringing him back. You can put the refund back on my credit card, or if you have a permissive clergyman in stock...”)  
Consumers perform breathtaking mental gymnastics to rationalize abusing the return process. (“Heaven knows I’ve spent enough money with this company over the years. Well, not this company, but one remarkably similar to it in a different state. And I need temporary custody of a disco ball more than their payroll department needs my Powerball winnings...”)  
The rule-bending mentality even infects store employees. One customer service rep confided in me, “It’s company policy to greet every return with a big smile. But if I ever transfer to a different department, I’m returning my dentures for



a refund.”  
According to the National Retail Federation (motto: “Sure, we hate ethnic slurs, but doggone it, ‘Eliminate the middleman’ deserves to be designated as hate speech, too”) returns (some legitimate, some shady) approached \$890 billion last year.  
This year’s figure will probably go even higher if the “return the Louisiana Purchase” movement gains momentum. (“I think Jefferson squirreled away the receipt somewhere at Monticello...”)  
Many retailers have been squeamish about imposing restrictions such as restocking fees or narrower refund windows, lest they offend the too-clever shoppers. Sounds about as reckless as antagonizing your freeloading in-laws, but, sure, let’s go with that.  
Shoppers hooked on “weekend rentals” view their behavior as a victimless enterprise, but the effects are widespread. Employees must deal with the drudgery of inspecting and restocking. Stores raise prices, give fewer raises, cut back on ven-

dor orders and make fewer charitable donations. (“Sorry, Tiny Tim. When Brad returned home, he suddenly remembered he already had a state-of-the-art barbecue smoker.”)  
Sure, I hate spending money on an emergency item that I may not use more than once (“Pick up your aerosol can of SPF 10 Halley’s Comet screen today!”); but if “weekend rentals” aren’t nipped in the bud, garage sales and Goodwill will soon run short of merchandise. And romantic relationships will suffer. (“If you can’t commit to a toaster, how likely are you to commit to a partner with restless leg syndrome and a huge car loan? Hit the road, Jack.”)  
Sometimes shoppers do see the light. One former “weekend renter” admitted, “I realize now that I wouldn’t want someone treating me that way. It’s a violation of the Golden Rule. And now that I’ve learned that lesson, I’d like to return this Bible. What’s that? Not even a store credit? All you can give me is a hunk’a hunk’a burnin’ brimstone? On second thought...”  
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**Bay Mills News**  
12140 W. Lakeshore Drive Brimley, MI 49715  
Phone: 906-322-9820  
Editor: Shannon Jones

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Opinions expressed on this page are those of the relevant contributors.  
The next deadline is Thursday, Jan. 11 at 4 p.m.  
Submissions may be emailed to: [newspaper@baymills.org](mailto:newspaper@baymills.org).

# Western and Indigenous knowledge will help lake sturgeon, according to new study

By ISABELLA FIGUEROA NOGUEIRA  
Capital News Service

LANSING – The Great Lakes have over 100 native fish species, and of that number, there is only one native sturgeon species: the lake sturgeon.

Called “Namāēw” in the Menominee language, lake sturgeon were once abundant throughout all the Great Lakes, surviving ice ages, industrialization and centuries of human pressure.

“Lake sturgeons are basically living dinosaurs, 70 million years older than the T. rex,” said Holly Embke, a research fish biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey’s Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center.

“They can live over 100 years and grow over 6 feet long,” she said.

For many tribes in the Great Lakes, the return of the lake sturgeon each spring is a sign of renewal and a positive marker for the change of seasons.

“Sturgeon are considered knowledge holders because of their life expectancy and how long they live and a key sign of spring and of seasonal change,” Embke said.

“The Menominee tribe in Wisconsin talks about the appearance of lake sturgeon in the Wolf River as the core sign of spring and the return of their relatives to their ancestral homelands,” she said.

Sturgeon populations have severely decreased by about 80% over the last century due to overharvest during colonization, habitat loss from dam construction and their slow reproduction rate.

Climate change is hurting the sturgeon population with the warmer waters, heavier spring rains and disrupted spawning cycles.

“These fish are still trying to recover from what was done to them a hundred years ago,” said Robert Croll, a policy analyst with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. “Climate change and loss of habitat are all making it harder for them to come back on their own.”

However, now with climate change worsening and the fish’s habitats shrinking, there are efforts to give a helping hand to the sturgeon.

A recent collaborative study, conducted through the commission, the College of Menominee Nation in Kenosha, Wisconsin, nine tribal entities and academic researchers to understand how climate change threatens the lake sturgeon and to develop adaptation strategies rooted in tribal knowledge.

The authors included members of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in Harbor Springs and the Bay Mills Indian Community in Brimley.

“That was the first thing that we talked about as we started prepping to do the project, which was making sure that we were only going to share knowledge and data that the tribal participants authorized us to share,” said Croll, a collaborative author of the study that appeared in American Fisheries Society.

“Everyone who worked with us and all the tribal governments had an opportunity to review the paper before it was published,” Croll said.

Rather than conducting traditional field surveys, the team gathered tribal observations, cultural knowledge and community questions, adding Traditional Ecological Knowledge with scientific vulnerability assessments to lead future conservation work.

“Co-producing this research really centers on relationships. It’s about forming trust amongst tribes and partners, and coming together for a shared vision,” said Embke, another collaborative author.

Tribal communities are already helping with stocking young sturgeon, relocating adults above dams to restore spawning runs and organizing “Sturgeon Guard” programs where community members protect fish during vulnerable spawning periods.

“You’re getting the community involved in protecting these fish,” Croll said. “They’re caring for this being that, back before humans were created, agreed to help take care of us.”

Future efforts will focus on removing or modifying dams, reconnecting rivers to floodplains and restoring shorelines, nature-based solutions that benefit ecosystems, according to Embke.

“Restoring connectivity and creating the most suitable habitat possible for lake sturgeon seems to be what folks are most interested in,” Embke said.

In Michigan, the Department of Natural Resources and its partners uses streamside rearing to improve the state’s lake sturgeon population. That enables young fish to “imprint” to the river water, improving the prospects they will come back to the same river as adults.

DNR staff are assigned to streamside rearing facilities on Cheboygan County’s Black River, Menominee County’s Cedar River, Van Buren County’s Kalamazoo River and Ontonagon County’s Ontonagon River.



The Little River Band of Oddawa Indians operates a streamside rearing facility in Manistee County’s Manistee River and conduct an annual sturgeon release ceremony.

Both Embke and Croll say they see hope in the partnerships forming around the lake sturgeon. They say it’s a model for how Indigenous and Western knowledge systems can work together.

“Science can’t tell us the whole story,” Croll said. “If we’re only using science, then we’re cutting off a very important source of knowledge that could help us.”

The project showed that when science and traditional knowledge work side by side, it’s possible to create strategies to help the sturgeon recover, said Embke.

“I’ve come away from this project with so much hope,” Embke said. “The partnerships and relationships that we’ve been able to develop are really going to be able to provide some hope for lake sturgeon in the future.”

*Isabella Figueroa Nogueira writes for Great Lakes Echo.*

## SNAP benefit cuts could force Michigan families to choose low-quality food

By Mark Richardson  
Public News Service

Changes planned to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program could begin affecting beneficiaries in Michigan and across the country as early as Nov. 1.

The new federal budget is expanding SNAP work rules and reducing benefits. Public health officials say the cuts could force low-income Michigan families to choose lower-quality groceries due to the cost of healthy food.

Kate Bauer, associate professor of nutritional sciences at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, said it is one more economic hit on already stressed families.

"It's critical resources," Bauer explained. "Especially during times like these, where food prices are incredibly high, housing prices are high, families' budgets are being stretched in ways they never have before."

More than 1.4 million Michiganders received SNAP benefits in 2024 but economists have said under the new rules, between 200,000 and 300,000 Michigan households could see significant reductions in benefits. The cuts were part of the GOP-backed budget reconciliation bill to make the

2017 tax cut program permanent.

Bauer is concerned about the long-term effects the cuts will have on families with children. She noted part of changes to the federal program include shifting some of the costs to the states but it is unclear whether Michigan will have the money in its budget to participate when required to in 2028.

"We know that states are being asked to shoulder a lot more of the SNAP benefits and states don't have those resources," Bauer observed. "There is no doubt that fewer families are going to be able to get food assistance."

Bauer pointed out a temporary increase in SNAP benefits during the pandemic allowed families to make better food choices but added the coming changes could send help for low-income families back to pre-COVID levels.

"Not only were fewer families experiencing food insecurity but families were using those benefits to buy more fruits and vegetables, more healthy, whole-grain foods, more lean proteins," Bauer recounted. "When we give families more benefits, they make healthier options."

# Every Child Matters ceremonies held in BMIC

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Indian Community hosted the Every Child Matters Ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 30.

The Mashkawizii Community & Family Services has hosted the event for the past three years, recognizing the hardships tribal citizens faced during the era of boarding schools.

“We honor those who suffered from the injustices of the boarding school process, and those who were not able to return home because of it,” said Family Spirit Liaison Autumn Charles.

During the event Bay Mills Indian Community President Whitney Gravelle spoke, prior to a moment of silence. Orange ribbons were placed on the fence surrounding the Old Indian Burial Ground to honor relatives and remind people that no family should endure this kind of hardship.

“When we honor our past, we can look forward to changing our future to make things brighter and continue our Mashkawiziiwin (resilient) journey.” added Charles. Elders can park on the grass near the pond on Lakeshore.

Students and staff at Bay Mills Community College also participated in ceremony.



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# One “Big Beautiful Bill” impacts hit Michigan health services, hospital group says

By SAMANTHA KU  
Capital News Service

LANSING – “The Reconciliation Act, which you know as the One Big Beautiful Bill, is not beautiful for us,” said Laura Appel, the executive vice president of government relations and public policy at the Michigan Health & Hospital Association.

The changes in federal law and funding for the Medicaid program will hurt Michigan hospitals that provide comprehensive health services to low-income adults and children.

Language in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act says the overhaul of Medicaid rules is aimed at reducing fraud, improving enrollment and eligibility processes, and preventing wasteful spending.

It includes new procedures to verify eligibility and tightens criteria for the program.

“While the new law doesn’t specify an exact financial impact, the most significant effect on health care in Michigan is an estimated \$1 trillion in total federal funding cuts to Medicaid over the next decade, according to Appel.”

Of that, Michigan hospitals will lose \$6 billion over the next decade.

She said the cuts threaten reimbursement that hospitals receive for providing patient services.

“Hospital reimbursement comes from multiple sources,” she said, listing commercial insurance payers including Priority, McLaren Health Plan and Health Alliance Plan (HAP).

In addition, she said, “Medicare is a significant payer for hospital services, especially in certain areas.”

Appel discussed the possible outcomes of the cuts for hospitals.

“The reductions that are possible in terms of Medicaid reimbursement are terrible,” she said, “They will reduce reimbursement below what it costs to take care of people in almost every organization.”

She said some hospitals in the state “are always financially insecure” and thus especially vulnerable to reduced reimbursement rates.

According to Appel, there have been a couple of hospital closures in Michigan

due to financial problems.

“For example, the hospital in Ontonagon was forced to close due to financial instability,” she said, “And one in Sturgis was converted to a rural emergency hospital that maintains an emergency department but does not provide inpatient services or overnight stays.”

Earlier in September, Aspirus Health announced that it will end birth services at its hospital in Ironwood. The decision sparked protests from Upper Peninsula lawmakers.

Besides the hospital closures, the tightened Medicaid coverage will also make it harder for people to afford their medications, according to Appel.

“There’s a lot of concern about what happens to people when it gets to the line at your local pharmacy. There are a lot of people who aren’t okay,” said Appel.

According to Appel, changes and budget cuts mandated by the One Big Beautiful Bill come at a time when hospitals already face economic challenges stemming from frequent drug price hikes by drug manufacturers.

“Of course, there’s the price of newer drugs, which on average are like \$300,000 annually, some of which are absolute miracles,” she said. “There’s a drug for cystic fibrosis that pretty much makes it so that people will survive indefinitely. It’s \$275,000. But they’re alive.”

Appel also provided an example of how drug prices can rise rapidly in an emergency situation.

“A couple of years ago, we had a shortage of two different widely used chemotherapy drugs,” she said. “One of our local hospitals needed to purchase these drugs because they needed it for the people in the middle of their chemotherapy.”

She said the price of one of those drugs, which usually cost \$11 a dose, jumped to \$550 a dose in the market but the reimbursement rate from health insurers didn’t increase to reflect that.

“Hospitals are very much in the same situation of rising drug costs,” Appel said.

Considering the current challenge of rising drug prices, Appel said the stricter Medicaid rules will likely compound the financial challenges for Michigan health care providers.



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# Sault spruce becomes state’s 39th Christmas tree

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget has selected the official 2025 state Christmas tree, a 68-foot spruce from Sault Ste. Marie in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Sault Ste. Marie resident Linda Ried donated the tree in honor of her grandparents, Lawrence and Nettie Richey. The spruce will arrive in downtown Lansing Saturday, Nov. 1, to grace the Capitol lawn for the 2025 holiday season.

“I was shocked when I found out our tree was selected as the 2025 state Christmas tree,” said Linda Ried. “I don’t remember a time when the tree wasn’t in the backyard, but my grandparents played an integral role in my life since I was a young girl, so it means a lot to be able to make this donation in their honor.”

The tree will be harvested Thursday, Oct. 30, and transported to the Capitol with help from the Michigan Association of Timbermen, the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, and DTMB's Christmas tree crew. Once at the Capitol, local Boy Scout troops will continue the tradition of untying the tree. The HI-Ball Company of Lansing will provide a crane and crew to hoist the spruce into place near the intersection of Capitol and East Michigan avenues.

Once in place, the City of Lansing's forestry team will prepare the tree for the lighting scheme and decorations developed by the Michigan Capitol Commission and the Lansing Board of Water & Light. The entire journey will culminate with a tree-lighting ceremony Friday, Nov. 21, at the 41st Annual Silver Bells in the City celebration. Rain or shine, dignitaries will flip the switch that turns on thousands of twinkling lights at approximately 7:30 p.m.

For more information on Silver Bells in the City, visit [SilverBellsintheCity.org](http://SilverBellsintheCity.org) or contact Mindy Biladeau, director of marketing and special events, with Legends Global at [Mindy.Biladeau@lepfa.com](mailto:Mindy.Biladeau@lepfa.com).

## LSSU selected for course redesign program

SAULT STE. MARIE — Lake Superior State University has been selected as one of 14 Michigan institutions to participate in the inaugural Gateway Course Redesign Faculty Academy, an 18-month initiative by the Michigan College Access Network in collaboration with Almy Education and Sova.

The academy aims to support colleges and universities in rethinking and restructuring key gateway courses, such as introductory Math, English, and Science classes, to remove barriers, increase student achievement, and improve outcomes. Participating schools receive \$10,000 in implementation funding to support course redesign efforts.

LSSU’s participation reflects its commitment to advancing student success, particularly for first-generation students.

The Gateway Course Redesign Faculty Academy is based on national research and best practices, designed for faculty, by faculty. Through technical assistance, tailored support, and cross-institutional collaboration, the academy equips educators to redesign courses with equity and effectiveness in mind.



## BMPD welcomes K-9 to the force

Bay Mills Police Department welcomed their new K-9 to the force on Oct. 1. Niibin will serve the local community and is one of three dogs being utilized in Chippewa County.

Officer Chris Goetz, who joined BMPD last year, completed training in Clare with Northern Michigan K-9. The pair graduated on Sept. 26 and were sworn into service by Bay Mills Tribal President Whitney Gravelle on Oct. 1.

Bay Mills Housing Authority is funding the new dog, which is trained in narcotics, tracking, apprehension, and article searching.

Niibin, which means summer, was named by a local medicine man.



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Dental therapist education is only available at four

MDE officials pointed to data that show some of the most in-demand careers need employees with com-

As of the 2023-24 school year, 54% of Michigan's public high schools offered foundational computer science, up from 37% in the 2019-20 school year. The State Legislature also has funded increased computer science course access to students and professional development for teachers.

A group of six diverse high school students are smiling and posing together. The background is a vibrant blue and green patterned design.

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# Walking On

## Reginald “Reg” David Robbins

Reginald “Reg” David Robbins, 72, died at home surrounded by the love of his family and friends on Oct. 4, 2025.

Reg was born in Houghton Lake, Michigan on Feb. 17, 1953.

Reg graduated from Brimley Area High School in 1971 and received an associate’s degree in law enforcement in 1977 from Lake Superior State College preparing him for his thirty-year career with the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Reg was affectionately known as Coach to many. He coached basketball for Brimley Area schools for thirty-three years; fifteen of those years were spent coaching side by side with his beloved friend, John (Raco) Akkanen.

Reg is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Frances (Osborne) Robbins; son, Darrell (Becky) Mead Sr; brother, Eric Robbins; Grandparents, Arly & Anna Osborne; Aunt Lois (Claude) Freeburn; Uncle Lloyd (Della) Osborne; Niece, Angel Charles.

Reg is survived by his “wom” of 45 years, Laurie Carrick Robbins; children, Kurt Robbins, Cody (Raelynn) Robbins; grandchildren, DJ (Ellen) Mead, John (Lexi) Mead, Mila Croad, Bobby Robbins, Camden Bertram, and Thaddeus Robbins; great-grandchildren, Isabelle, Quinn and Alayna Mead, and Walker Mead; siblings, Gloria Jean (GJ) Hallesy; nieces and nephews, Sara (Paris) Billiot, Nathan Hallesy, Erica (Bryan) Newland, Steven (Tonya) Robbins, DeShawn Lowes, Graydon (G-\$) Newland, and Meredith (Dip) Newland; and cousins, Bonnie Gerrity and Judy Cole; special friends and loved ones, Missy Moore, Jacques (Candice) LeBlanc Jr., Trista and Jade LeBlanc, Liz, Owen, and Baily Johnson-Anargyros, Jacques and Gloria LeBlanc, Chris and Michele Delridge, Mike and Audrey Breakie, Greg and Suzy Wink, and Tom (Leela) Lawrence.

Services have taken place. In lieu of flowers, please vote Democrat and Go Pack Go. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylife fh.com](http://www.familylife fh.com).

## Donald William Carrick Sr.

Donald William Carrick Sr., 78, of Bay Mills, Mich., passed away peacefully at his home on Sept. 4, 2025. He was born on Dec. 20, 1946, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Levi and Agnes (LeBlanc) Carrick as the oldest of 14 children and sharing the rarity of having a twin brother, Ron.

Don, known by many as Don Ho, was a natural jokester, very witty, and had an exceptionally inquisitive ability to know how things work, and along-side his twin would often dismantle and reassemble various pieces of equipment of their parents, with the exception of their mother’s sewing machine; which was later found by their mother to not work and their dad ultimately was unable to put back together. He loved cars and he and his twin built their first car, a Coup, together. One day he found a car similar to that Coup, purchased it, and often showcased it in the Brimley 4th of July parades. He also purchased other classic cars which included a Nova, which his kids fondly called “The Grocery Getter”, a 1967 Chevelle, and an Oldsmobile Cutlass. A story often told which encompasses his characteristics was when Don and Ron got a car from their grandpa LeBlanc, which they would hop in and push each other up and down the road to enjoy riding in the car. Uncle Harry Parker once took notice and came to assist. Uncle Harry told them to jump in and that he would push so they could pop the clutch to get the car going. After several attempts, Uncle Harry opened the hood to find no motor. Always a trickster!

Don graduated from Brimley High School and attended Lake Superior State College of Michigan Technological University. He married his high school sweetheart, Violet “Ellen” Logan, on March 19, 1966. Together they began a life full of love, family, and adventure raising their five children. The couple moved to Davison, Mich., where Don worked for General Motors for nine years before moving back home to Bay Mills, where Don worked as a commercial fisherman, youth coordinator and dispatcher for the Bay Mills Indian Community. He later found his true calling in law enforcement as a Bay Mills Police Officer, then a deputy and detective for the Chippewa County Sheriff Department upon retiring in 2005.

Don loved being in the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping, especially at his favorite spots like Monocle Lake and Indian Landing. He also enjoyed riding his motorcycles; of which he had many over the years. He was naturally athletic and enjoyed many years playing on local softball and basketball teams and enjoyed playing “Horse” or “Pig” at the family functions with his grandchildren and joking with them. He also loved music, and self-taught himself to play various instruments including the ukulele, organ, piano, harmonica and many different guitars. He loved playing his instruments as he would sing Elvis, Roy Orbison and Johnny Cash songs. To challenge himself he even purchased a violin. He enjoyed spending time with friends at the 3:00 O’clock



“meetings” at Cozy Inn on ‘Ho Row’, as it was fondly called. He also looked forward to the many phone calls and visits with his long-time school friend, Lynn Sutton. Don will be remembered for his strength, humor, and unwavering support for those he cared about.

Don is survived by his children: Beverly Carrick of Bay Mills, Sheri (Jeff) Graham of Brimley, Donald (Tammy Schopp) Carrick Jr. of Brimley, Debbie (Jim) Wilson of Bay Mills, and Robert Carrick (Jenna Somes) of Bay Mills; grandchildren: Stephanie (Matt) Phipps, Carrie Aikens, Amber Aikens, Brent (Chelsea) Aikens; Tommy (Taylor) Aikens, Autumn Aikens and Victoria Aikens, Jeffrey Graham Jr., Jessica (Nick DeLuca) Graham, Justin Graham, Tabitha (Russell Holden) Graham, Alyssa (Freddie) Jacobs, Megan (Tony) Ringuette, Amanda Carrick, Donald (Kaleigh) Carrick III, Daniel Carrick, Derek Carrick, Johnathon (Erika) Wilson, Mindy (Lance) Piche, Brandon Carrick, and Logan (Adam) Mullins; great-grandchildren: Iris, Natalie, Haven, and Renli Aikens; Jalen and Keeley Stephan; Liam, Wyatt and Hadley Aikens; Cooper and Aubrielle Phipps; Noah, Lleyton, Landon and Leo DeLuca; Myla and Hazel Holden; Ella, Sophia and Jerriek Jacobs; Micailly, Amara, Kayden, Karter and Finn Ringuette; Keena Carrick; Ondra Shannon; Xander Carrick; Daymion and Luxton Piche; Jensen and Conrad Wilson and Adleigh and Braxton Mullins and one on the way in October. Siblings: Wanda (Mike) Perron of Bay Mills, Cheryl (Ray) Baragwanath of Bay Mills, Levi (Millie) Carrick of Bay Mills, Justin (Karen) Carrick of Bay Mills, Allen “Joe” (Patty) Carrick of Bay Mills, Paula Carrick of Bay Mills, Terry (Jolynda Brown) Carrick of Bay Mills, Marcia (Tom) Malloy of Brimley, Twyla (Norm) Ball of Brimley, Lynn (Renee Pilcher) Carrick of Sault Ste. Marie, and Linda Carrick of Frisco, Texas and his beloved fur-baby Stormy and parakeets, now named Don Ho and Ron Ho.

Don was preceded in death by his wife, Ellen Carrick; parents, Levi and Agnes; siblings, Ronald Carrick, Dale Carrick Sr. and Joyce Carrick; and sister in-law, Linda Carrick and brother in-law, George Logan.

Services have taken place.

Donations in Don’s name can be made to Ball Hospice House, 308 W. 12th Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or to Chippewa County Animal Shelter, 3660 S Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Family Life Funeral Homes – Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylife fh.com](http://www.familylife fh.com).

## David A. Jones

David A. Jones, 74, of Huber Heights, Ohio passed away surrounded by his family on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025 after a brief battle with cancer.

Dave was born on April 20, 1951 at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie to Violet and Joseph Jones. He grew up on Lime Island and in Goetzville. If you knew him, you know he never met a stranger.

Dave graduated from Sault High in 1969 and married the love of his life Marian (Sally) shortly after. He served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany. After leaving the service, he worked at Kincheloe Air Force Base. He was transferred to Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH when Kincheloe closed in 1977. He worked there as an industrial equipment mechanic up until his retirement. And even then, he never retired. Dave was a jack of all trades, building, fixing, and doing odd jobs for everyone. He coached soccer for Warrior Soccer Club for many years, and would give the shirt off his back to anyone in need. He mowed lawns up until a few weeks before his death, and in his hospital bed claimed “I have to get out of here, I have work to do.” For many years he was the familiar face greeting customers at Jordan Motorworks, where they called him “Doc”. He sure taught those boys not to leave their tools lying around! He loved his family more than anything, enjoyed riding his Harley, a cold beer, his pets, going to festivals, and watching his shows.

Dave is survived by his wife of 55 years, Marian, children Jim (Anthea) and Shannon (Bruce Garee); granddaughter Jessica Durand, and great granddaughter Hazel; furkids Griffin James and Cece. He is also survived by sisters Roberta (Mike) Paquette, Mary Jones Douglas, Marie McConkey, Samantha (Tracy) Jones Bethel, and close friends Bobby Jordan, Stoney McGarvey, Roger & Toni Clark, Jerry Combs, and lifelong neighbors and friends Mary & Dave Osborne. He has numerous nieces and nephews who all have crazy stories about “Uncle Dave.”

He is predeceased by his parents, brothers Casey Jones, JP Jones, Skip Hudson, and Daniel Jones, and sisters Joanne Parr and Maureen Egeland. He is also predeceased by his mother and father-in -law Beverly & John Sally, who loved him like he was their own son, and “his boy” Carmi Williams.

As he would say, “I’ll sleep when I’m dead,” and we hope he’s finally getting that long needed rest that he deserved.

Anyone wanting to make a contribution in his memory can donate to Chippewa County Animal Shelter, 3660 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault MI 49783.

As he would say “when it’s your time, it’s your time.”



# Events announced at Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum

**Nov. 7: Presentation**

The Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum will host an Edmund Fitzgerald speaker panel to take place on Friday, Nov 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Whitefish Township Community Center in Paradise. Panelists will range from historians and surviving Fitzgerald family member to Shipwreck Society staff and a former engineer on the Fitzgerald. This is a free event and seating will be on a first-come, first serve basis. The event will last approximately 1.5 hours. The Whitefish Township Community Center is located at: 7052 M-123, Paradise, MI 49768.

**Nov. 9: Book signing**

The Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society will soon release the second edition of its popular Edmund Fitzgerald publication, *The Legend Lives On*. With an additional 48-pages of content, this richly illustrated book features historic imagery and artwork of “Big Fitz” during its working life and of this ship’s ongoing story across the years since Nov. 10, 1975. The GLSHS official release and book signing of *The Legend Lives On* will take place at the Shipwreck Coast Museum Store on the Shipwreck Museum campus (Whitefish Point) on Sunday, Nov. 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. Authors Bruce Lynn and Christopher Winters will be signing copies of the book at this time.

**Nov. 10: Memorial Ceremony**

The Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society will hold an outdoor public remembrance service for the 50th Edmund Fitzgerald Memorial at Whitefish Point on Monday, Nov. 10 at 2 p.m.

**PLAN AHEAD – WHAT TO EXPECT:**

Outdoor Shelter: No tent or seating\* will be setup for the outdoor public ceremony, as November can have volatile weather that would cause more harm than good.

Check the weather forecast prior to traveling to Whitefish Point, and know your limits.

\*(Seating will be provided for speakers and individuals ringing the bell.)

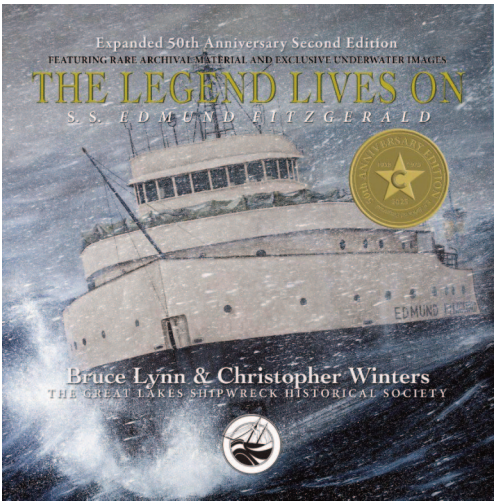
Parking: Limited parking is available at Whitefish Point. No RVs, campers, or trailers will be allowed to park in the paved parking areas. Once paved parking areas are filled, be prepared to park along the shoulder of the road prior to reaching Whitefish Point.

No Shuttle Services: Be prepared to walk the distance from where you parked to get to Whitefish Point. Know your limits.

Museum closed: The Museum will be closed to the public. Restrooms will be open. Grounds cleared: In order to make room (and parking available) for Fitzgerald families driving-in for the evening ceremony, daytime visitors will be asked to leave the grounds by 5 p.m.

A ceremony for family members only will take place at 7 p.m., which will be livestreamed for the public. Under no circumstances will the evening ceremony for the family members of the Edmund Fitzgerald be open to the public.

The live stream link of the evening ceremony will be made available prior to the ceremony via the museum website and social media channels.



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# Increased precipitation, foot traffic pose trail erosion problems at Lake Michigan parks

By LAUREN COIN  
Capital News Service

LANSING – Park trails along Lake Michigan’s shoreline in Michigan and Wisconsin are eroding because of more frequent extreme precipitation events and increased foot traffic from visitors in undesignated recreation areas.

While erosion is a natural process, excessive weathering in shoreline park areas can pose problems for nearby water sources, such as Lake Michigan. Eroded soil may carry unhealthy runoff and pollutants that threaten the lake’s health, according to Amanda Schwabe, a climate outreach specialist at the Wisconsin State Climatology Office.

Increased precipitation trends are a key driver of erosion in these areas. According to the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Southeast Wisconsin has gotten about 20% wetter in the fall, winter and spring since 1950.

Schwabe said these shifts, coupled with a warmer atmosphere due to climate change, can lead to more frequent extreme precipitation events, such as thunderstorms and heavy downpours. A warmer atmosphere can retain more moisture and escalate normal rainfall.

“When we have heavier rain, that creates more runoff because that soil can’t absorb all of that water as quickly, so you have more erosion happening,” Schwabe said.

Schwabe also said the shortened length of Lake Michigan freeze times plays a role in foot traffic on trails.

As temperatures across the two states increase, Lake Michigan and surrounding natural areas thaw earlier. That allows a longer window for ero-

sion since the soil is not packed down. “That means if things are staying warmer in the fall and getting warmer earlier in the spring, more people will probably be out on the trails earlier,” Schwabe said.

Pam Uhrig, the board chair for Friends of Grant Park in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, said she has seen a significant increase in foot traffic from visitors at Grant Park since the COVID-19 pandemic. However, erosion has become more prevalent because many visitors stray from designated trails.

“Vans of young people would pull up, and they would actually exercise down along the ravine,” Uhrig said. “They’d be running, not just on the trail, but on the stone walls, and then they’d head up the slope. Of course, those trails started to become worn down, and then the erosion would be even worse when it rained,” she added.

The misuse of shoreline park trails isn’t unique to Lake Michigan’s western shore.

Tim Novak, the state trails coordinator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, said the lake’s eastern coastline suffers from similar problems.

“It is becoming such an issue that people either don’t know how to use the trails, or in some cases, they’re being intentionally harmful to trails,” Novak said. “They’re ignoring signage that we have out there already to stay on the trail or be aware of erosion.”

Trail erosion in these parks adds to other adverse impacts on Lake Michigan, such as shoreline erosion from high water levels, said Stacy Hron, the Lake Michigan program coordinator

for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ Office of Great Waters. She added that these shoreline areas are more vulnerable to erosion because of their sandy soil.

“Those exposed areas pretty much universally experienced higher rates of erosion,” Hron said. These problems extend further than just trails—they have damaged parking lots at Michigan parks as well.

Robert Lukens, the community development director for Muskegon County Parks, said that sandy soil and increased precipitation have steadily eroded the Dune Harbor Park parking lot in Muskegon.

Lukens said the area was a “sand mine” before being turned into a parking lot. This infrastructure, coupled with the parking lot’s sloped design and a buildup of rainwater, has caused the area to erode.

Dune Harbor Park received a \$250,000 grant from the Consumers Energy Foundation in 2024 for ecological restoration, and part of that money will go toward a project to combat erosion.

This project is unique, Lukens said, because excess rainwater will be redirected to a rain garden area filled with native vegetation and perennials. These plants will help stabilize the surrounding area.

This is just one of many solutions being implemented to fight erosion in parks along Lake Michigan.

For example, a restoration concept plan was developed in 2024 for Grant Park to address erosion impacts at one of its most frequented ravine areas. The plan, in coordination with Milwaukee County Parks, aims to improve

trail surfaces and implement natural and human-made deterrents to off-trail foot traffic.

Increased signage along trails and more communication to visitors about off-trail impacts are among other ways Lake Michigan park agencies are combatting erosion problems.

In the meantime, Novak has simple advice for park visitors:

“Stay on the trail.”

*Lauren Coin writes for Great Lakes Echo.*

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# Michigan sees fewer Canadian visitors this year as bridge traffic continues to decline

By CLARA LINCOLNHOL  
Capital News Service

LANSING – So far this year, the United States has seen a large drop in Canadian visitors, and Michigan is no exception to the national trend.

Each month in 2025, the United States has seen less Canadian inbound traffic than the previous year, according to Statistics Canada. The number of Canadians visiting the United States by car last month was 34% lower than in August 2024.

Local businesses in Metro Detroit are feeling the absence of Canadian visitors, said Brett McWethy, the senior director of communications at Visit Detroit.

“We can confirm that tourism from Canada to Southeast Michigan is down in 2025 and has had a challenging impact on our local attractions,” he said.

McWethy said maintaining a positive relationship with Canada and welcoming Canadians to the United States is essential for the economic well-being of the region.

A survey earlier this year for the Association of Canadian Studies found that most Canadians now think the United States is unsafe to visit and they no longer feel welcome.

Reasons cited include increased scrutiny for people entering the county, higher U.S. tariffs on Canadian products and derisive rhetoric from President Donald Trump.

“America wants our land, our resources, our water, our country; these are not idle threats,” said Prime Minister Mark Carney in his election night victory speech. “President Trump is trying to break us so America can own us. That will never, ever happen.”

Studies by the World Travel and Tourism Council and Tourism Economics predict the United States will see a \$25 to \$29 billion loss due to lower international tourism this year.

In 2024, Canadians made up one-fourth of international visitors, according to the U.S. National Travel and Tourism Office.

Michigan has four land border crossings with Ontario.

The Ambassador Bridge between Detroit and Windsor had the second-greatest number of personal vehicle traffic among all the U.S.-Canada international bridges nationally last year. The Blue Water Bridge linking Port Huron with Point Edward, Ontario, ranked fourth for personal vehicle traffic in 2024, according to the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

Data available from January through August shows a month-by-month decline in each bridge’s traffic.

So far, the International Bridge connecting Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, has seen a 24% decline in traffic compared to last year, and the Ambassador Bridge has seen a decline of about 15%.

The Detroit-Windsor Tunnel and Blue Water Bridge have experienced less dramatic declines at about a 2% decrease for both, according to the Bridge and Tunnel Operations Association.

Matthew Slotwinski, the chief executive officer of the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership, said the decline at the Blue Water Bridge would be much higher if looking only at personal vehicle traffic rather than including commercial vehicles.

Political decisions and comments threatening Canadian sovereignty by the Trump administration, have dissuaded Canadians from coming into the U.S, he said.

“Comments about Canada becoming the 51st state have not fallen well on the Canadian public,” Slotwinski said. “Certainly people are proud of our country and are hesitant to contribute economically or physically in any way to a country that is perceived as threatening upon our sovereignty.”



Tariffs imposed and border security concerns are other significant reasons, he said.

“There’s been stories about individuals being harassed or alternatively facing potentially unreasonable circumstances at the Canada-U.S. border that they don’t want to expose themselves or their families to,” Slotwinski said.

Given that the two countries have had a centuries-long positive relationship, Trump’s rhetoric has shocked many Canadians, he said.

The biggest impact he sees locally in Port Edward is people no longer crossing the border for daily shopping needs in Port Huron, he said.

“People traditionally would have crossed the border for a case of beer, a tank of gas or to buy groceries at Meijer,” he said. “Right now, people aren’t doing that, and that’s a major contributor to [declining] cross-border traffic but also local economies.”

Tom Nemacheck, the executive director of the Upper Peninsula Travel and Recreation Association, said communities near the international crossings are more likely to see economic fallout from a drop in Canadian visitors than the central UP.

Canadian tourism to Michigan overall is undoubtedly down, but that trend isn’t observable in the UP because Canadians generally don’t represent a large percentage of visitors to the region in the first place, he said.

“It makes sense. Toronto is a long way away,” he said. “And the UP has a lot of similarity to Ontario as far as lakes and hills and beautiful areas along the Great Lakes.”

A place like Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, where people go shopping, is a different story, he said.

Bridge traffic has decreased there for the first time since the bridge was built in 1962, he said, describing the trend as “sad.”

“It’s just remarkable to think that the bridge has increased traffic every year since 1962,” he said. “So, that’s an unbelievable trend to go the other way.”



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# Dead deer and small fish: NMU students learn to investigate poaching through evidence

By EMILIO PEREZ IBARGUEN  
Capital News Service

LANSING — As a group of Northern Michigan University students huddled around the carcass of a northern pike supposedly caught earlier that day, they knew something was wrong: The fish was far too small.

Michigan law requires anglers to release northern pike if they’re less than 24 inches long in an attempt to protect fish before they mature and can reproduce.

The students approached an angler standing nearby, interviewed him and began matching evidence to a filed complaint to find out if he violated state fishing regulations.

Before long, the students ascertained that the man had illegally caught the northern pike.

That is one of several scenarios students take on when they enroll in NMU’s wildlife conservation law and policing program.

For students hoping to become conservation officers for the Department of Natural Resources — tasked with enforcing fish, game and natural resource protection laws — the class gives a glimpse into their day-to-day work.

Jeremy Sergey, a conservation officer who teaches the class called Conservation Law Enforcement, said his goal is to immerse students in the lifestyle of conservation officers.

“I like to bring in a lot of recruits and show students what the training is like,” said Sergey, who has been an officer since 2016. “I might throw a couple of scenarios at them.”

Topics range from the history of state and federal wildlife conservation law enforcement to comparative discussions about wildlife rangers protecting endangered species in Africa and Asia.

Since Sergey began teaching in fall 2023, two students have gone on to graduate from the DNR’s 23-week conservation officer training academy.

Joseph Budnick is one of them. He graduated from the academy in early July and will work in Mackinac County after field training with a veteran officer. Another former student, Olivia Haerr, graduated in the same cohort and is assigned to Baraga County.

After taking Sergey’s class, Budnick — who already had an interest in conservation work — knew “as soon as another academy was going to run, I was going to be applying for it.”

Much of the wildlife conservation policing program blossomed out of NMU criminal justice professor Greg Warchol’s research into illegal wildlife trading and poaching in Africa.

Warchol teaches Environmental Conservation Criminology, one of three classes all students enrolled in the program have to take before graduating with a minor in wildlife conservation law and policing.

Criminology is the scientific study of crime and borrows from fields such as sociology, psychology, economics and statistics to determine why people commit crimes and how to prevent them.

In his environment-focused class, Warchol said, students grapple with “what kind of person goes out and poaches wildlife in a national or state forest in Michigan or poaches animals in Africa and Asia.” Students also learn about what domestic law enforcement and their international counterparts do to combat those crimes.

While most of Warchol’s research is focused on environmental crimes — or “green crimes” — in Africa, he suspects illegal hunting is fairly common in the U.S. In 2024, the Michigan DNR generated more than 10,000 poaching complaints from 43,250 calls.

The average person doesn’t poach out of desperation, according to a 2020 Arizona State University report on illegal hunting on federal land. Rather, they’re often driven by potential profits, thrill or excitement and the “relatively low risk” associated with the crime.

Investigating environmental crimes comes with several disadvantages, Warchol said. Often, victims are wildlife or their surrounding environment and they can’t provide statements, the crimes are committed in remote parts of the forest and tips from the public are limited.

Warchol suspects that “a great number” of crimes in national and state parks likely go unreported, partly because there aren’t enough conservation officers to cover the vastness of DNR land. Roughly 250 conservation officers are spread across Michigan.

One solution besides increasing enforcement or militarizing conservation efforts — as is the case in some African countries — is to educate people on



*Northern Michigan University students examine a fake deer carcass loaded in the back of a hunter’s truck. Students in the university’s Conservation Law Enforcement program investigate several mock crime scenes to learn how to investigate environmental crimes. Courtesy: Jeremy Sergey*

the value of wildlife.

“It’s a problem you’re never going to end, but it’s a problem you can control and reduce to a certain extent, because there’s always demand for wildlife products,” Warchol said.

Budnick, the conservation officer, said he took that job because he wanted to protect animate and inanimate natural resources that, without protection from the DNR, would be vulnerable to exploitation.

Sergey, the adjunct instructor and conservation officer, said he continues to review his class each semester, finely tuning the curriculum to what students are interested in pursuing after school, whether it’s working as conservation officers or as firefighters for the DNR.

“It’s a project, it’s in development,” Sergey said. “But I think it gets better and better every year.”

*Emilio Perez Ibarguen reported this story for a partnership with the Mott News.*

*Collaborative in cooperation with Capital News Service, Bridge Michigan, Capital News Service and MSU’s Knight Center for Environmental Journalism.*

## Travelers be prepared as MDOT announces roadside parks that are set to close for season

LANSING — Most roadside parks operated by the Michigan Department of Transportation will be closed for the season on Friday, Oct. 31.

Three parks closed early for the season on Monday, Oct. 20, to begin bathroom building upgrades:

- White Cloud Roadside Park on M-37 in Newaygo County.
- Chase Roadside Park on US-10 in Lake County.
- Baldwin Roadside Park on US-10 in Lake County.

Some parks will remain open until later this fall.

Closing Friday, Nov. 28:

- Brown Roadside Park on M-25 in Huron County.

Closing Saturday, Nov. 29:

- White River Roadside Park on M-20 in Newaygo County.
- High Rollway Park Roadside Park on M-82 in Newaygo County.

Closing Monday, Dec. 1:

- Manistee River Roadside Park near Manton on US-131 in Wexford County.

Parks remaining open year-round:

- White Rock Roadside Park on M-25 in Sanilac County.
- Cass River Roadside Park on M-46 in Tuscola County.
- Artesian Flow Roadside Park on M-140 near Watervliet in Berrien County.

MDOT maintains 82 roadside parks around the state, with nearly all of them closing annually in late October and reopening in late April. A map of all MDOT roadside parks is available on MDOT's website.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Tribal license plates available**

On Aug. 1 all Bay Mills tribal citizens residing in Chippewa County became eligible to obtain a Bay Mills tribal license plate. Tribal citizens may now purchase newly designed plates to support a specific program within Bay Mills Indian Community. For more details contact Bay Mills Tribal Administration at 906-248-8100.

**Cut River Detour**

MDOT will be conducting inspections of the Heath M. Robinson Memorial Cut River Bridge on US-2 in MackinacCounty from Monday, Oct. 27, through Friday, Oct. 31, requiring a closure and detour of US-2.

US-2 traffic will follow a posted detour on Cut River Road and Prater Boulevard with a reduced speed limit of 45 mph. No over-width permits will be issued in the detour section.

The detour is needed for a detailed inspection of the bridge, including survey scanning, reach-all inspections and soil borings. These inspections will help ensure continued safe and reliable operation of the bridge.

**Ballot request deadline**

The General Election Absentee Ballot Request Deadline is Wednesday, October 29. If there are any questions, please call the Ogimaag-Gamig Governmental Center for more information. The telephone number is (906) 248-8100. Ask for Robin Teeple or Kimarie Manabat.

**Community Baby Shower**

Mark your calendars! The 27th annual Community Baby Shower will be held on Wednesday, Oc. 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Lake Superior State University. This FREE event is for those who are currently pregnant or had a baby in the past 6 months.Call (906) 253-2778 to register.

**BMIC Members reminded about Purchased Referred Care**

If you or a family member seek emergency medical care you must inform the office within 72 hours of your care by calling them to get help with payment. Elders have up to 30 days to contact PRC. This includes visits to the emergency room or use of an ambulance. You can reach them by contacting 906-248-8326.

**Have you moved? Update your address!**

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

**Walking path is closed to motorized vehicles**

BMIC has developed a pedestrian/bicycle path connecting both sides of the Reservation. This path is for pedestrians and bicyclists only, and our existing tribal ordinances prohibit motorized vehicles from using this path. Signs have been posted. Please be aware that BMPD has been directed to strictly enforce this rule along that pathway to protect walkers, runners, cyclists, and the path itself. If you ride an ATV, ORV, dirt bike, motorcycle, golf cart, etc on this path, you should expect to receive a ticket and pay a fine.



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**Dates for Fall 2025:**  
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*September 2<sup>nd</sup>*  
*September 16<sup>th</sup>*  
*September 30<sup>th</sup>*  
*October 14<sup>th</sup>*  
*October 28<sup>th</sup>*  
*November 11<sup>th</sup>*  
*November 25<sup>th</sup>*  
*December 2<sup>nd</sup>*

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