

# BAY MILLS NEWS

Serving the Eastern Upper Peninsula

*"Gnoozhekaaning Bidajimowin"*

November 2023

## Executive Council re-elected, making tribal history

The results from the 2023 Bay Mills general election are in, with the entire council being re-elected to serve another two-year term. This is the first time an entire council has been re-elected, and the only time a female chairperson has been re-elected for consecutive terms. Serving BMIC are:

President: Whitney Gravelle

Vice President: Jacques LeBlanc Jr.

Treasurer: Gail Glezen

Secretary: Beverly Carrick

Councilperson: Stephanie Walden

New faces taking office include:

Appellate Judge: Katie Corbiere

Conservation Committee: Don Tadgerson, Timmy Walden, Lawrence LeBlanc Jr., Tony LeBlanc, Thomas Malloy

The swearing in ceremony for the Executive Council took place on Friday, Nov. 3 at Bay Mills Community College. Chief Judge Leah Teeple gave the candidates the oath of office, which incorporated the Seven Grandfather Teachings. Council members were also honored with an eagle feather by elder Bucko Teeple. That feather that will carry on from council to council, marking a new tradition.



L-R are Gail Glezen, Beverly Carrick, Stephanie Walden, Jacques LeBlanc, Jr., and Whitney Gravelle.

## Gill net of "Big Abe" returned to LeBlanc family after 52 years

LANSING — On Oct. 26, Gov. Whitmer and the State of Michigan honored, Albert "Big Abe" LeBlanc at the Tribal State Summit by gifting his gill net taken by MDNR Conservation officers more than 52 years ago back to the LeBlanc family.

On Sept. 28, 1971, the State of Michigan issued a citation to Bay Mills tribal citizen Albert "Big Abe" LeBlanc for fishing with gill nets, and prosecuted him under Michigan's criminal laws. This decision was not made lightly to be charged, but only after our Tribal Nation came together to support him as he volunteered himself.

Bay Mills Indian Community defended LeBlanc against the charges by arguing that the rights reserved by the 1836 Treaty Tribes under the Treaty of Washington continued to exist, and that they

superseded state hunting and fishing regulations under the supremacy clause of the United States Constitution.

That all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land. For this treaty, as LeBlanc argued was an exchange that would continue in perpetuity, an exchange of 14 million acres of land and 13 million acres of water for the usual privileges of occupancy.

After being arrested and charged for fishing with a gill net and without a state license, the case *People v. LeBlanc* would create the momentum for *United States v. Michigan*, which reaffirmed tribal treaty fishing rights for the Anishinaabe throughout much of present-day Michigan.

# Bay Mills Executive Council discusses business

Executive Council meeting of Nov. 13

## Reports

### **President Whitney Gravelle**

- Report goes back to Oct. 25
- Shout out to everyone who helped with the trunk or treat event, more than 300 children participated.
- Tribal cannabis compact bills passed the state. With this passage we can enter into compact negotiations. Meetings have been held. The cannabis regulatory agency will have another meeting on Nov. 22. We should hear something soon.
- On Oct. 26 Council and the legal department attended the tribal state summit and met with the governor and her legal team. Discussed long term care facility and inclusion of tribal treaty needs.
- MDNR returned Abe LeBlanc's fishing net, family was able to receive it.
- BMCC Board of Regents meeting was held on Oct. 30. Meeting included discussions on design of BMCC expansion and nursing/EMT program. They will house an ambulance in the facility. They also shared that the library has mold issues and a new one will be built. Some design concerns expressed about blocking the view of the Lake and the property line of those around it. This will be addressed in revisions.
- Met with the Dept. of Natural Resources about insurance requirements on fishers. Conservation Committee said this is a non-starter, insurance would be difficult to obtain. We are working to restrict this from the permit. This was brought up regarding dock damage that was done a few years ago.
- Bi-weekly meetings are being held with legal to discuss ongoing projects.
- Consent Decree issues on going. The briefing process for the appeals briefs is now in focus. Neither the Sault Tribe or amici groups have asked for an injunction/stay. Decree will move forward in the meantime. Implementation date in the coming months.
- Line 5 issues are ongoing. Received alternatives from the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Nov. 6 Business Holding and Gaming Authority meetings held.
- Nov. 21 GTC- several items on agenda. Quorum is 153.
- Nov. 23- closure for holiday.

### **Tribal Manager Rachel Lyons**

- Various departments will be closed the Friday after Thanksgiving. It is advised to check ahead if you need to do something that Friday.
- Land coordinator is working on trust applications.
- Met with folks from road commission regarding frost laws and BMRC expansion.
- Updating BIA roads inventory. Working with them to add roads. This would increase funding.
- Org charts are being updated for BMIC.
- Numerous grants have been recently submitted.
- Ongoing projects include club expansion, justice center expansion, commodities expansion, IHS scattered sites. Plantation Hills utilities are moving forward, meetings still being held. Some work is done, other installs to take place.
- Admin & MSU Extension are holding a community forum about tourism assessment.

### **Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram**

- Meeting this week with HR about Blue Cross.
- Met with IT team regarding applications for system administrator position.
- AOT: Met with Ronnie, he hired assistant for transition. Trying new products out at store.

### **Health Director Audrey Breakie**

- COVID vaccines are in-stock, demand is declining. High risk patients are advised to get the vaccine.
- December completion scheduled for Brimley Area Schools clinic.
- Sault Clinic fair market appraisal complete. Pharmacist will start Jan. 15 and dentist will start Jan. 2.
- Attended several meetings.
- Health Board Meeting to be held Nov. 14. Finance meeting scheduled for health center funding. Dec. 13 all employee staff meeting at Horizons for health center.
- HRSA will do a site survey next year (sometime from May to September).

### **Human Resources Director Kendal Perron**

- Recruitment is going very well.
- Open enrollment is going on for insurance all month.
- New Kronos met with us last week. We are working to get more usage with the system.
- Looking for new ID badge software.

### **Bay Mills Gaming Authority Richard LeBlanc**

- Weekends are likely to be bulk of weekly results as cold weather sets in and road conditions change.

— Snowmobile parking is being discussed based on reduced parking due to construction. Trailers take up many spots. We will have parking at Wild Bluff and new maintenance area. This is for hotel guests with trailers. Parking for day use will not be permitted at BMRC. Parking placards will be provided to guests to allow for security team to permit hotel guests with trailers to park. No parking for trailers will be permitted on BMRC side. Still looking for additional parking.

— Met with DraftKings about upcoming events.

— Casino construction meetings continue. Some walls going up.

— Working on budgets for teams.

### **Bay Mills Business Holdings /NLCC**

— Firewall began blocking some software. Looking at issues with software pricing structure as well.

— Looking at some POS services.

— Some of the lights are impacting plant health. Looking to get protective material for staff as well for UV lights.

### **Old Business**

1. Bay Mills Personnel Policies and Procedures: Approved.

a. 500 Compensation - this is for employees currently maxed out, they could get a raise of 1.5% based on evaluation.

b. 302 Continuous Length of Service- previous policy did not take into effect specialized employment.

c. Enterprise/Government Salaried Grid Review- When the council gave the \$3/hr wage increase, each of the grades were bumped. This misaligned the grid review.

### **New Business**

1. Resolution No. 23-11-13A: Duly Elected Officials. Acknowledging election results. Approved.

2. Resolution No. 23-11-13B: Authorization of Trust Accounts. Designates Executive Council to oversee trust accounts. Approved.

3. Resolution No. 23-11-13C: Authorization of Land and Leases. Empowers council to sell or exchange land on behalf of BMIC. Approved.

4. Resolution No. 23-11-13D: Authorization to Sign. Approved.

5. Resolution No. 23-11-13E: Authorization to Borrow. Approved.

6. Resolution No. 23-11-13F: 2024-2027 Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan. This is to approve the new plan. Plantation Hill remains top priority. Approved.

7. Resolution No. 23-11-13G: Fee-to-Trust for Hiawatha-Passmore Property on M-221. This would put property into trust. Approved.

8. Resolution No. 23-11-13H: Support of MEDC Business Development Project. This is for demolition funds for buildings. Approved.

9. Resolution No. 23-11-13I: Support of MEDC Business Development Study. Eligible to apply every year. This money is available for the 12 tribes of Michigan. Requesting \$30k. Approved.

10. Approval of FY23 Employee Christmas Bonus. This year will be a \$75 Gordon Food Service gift card. Approved.

11. HR Policy Exception: Annual Leave Carry-Over for Lorie Hunter Teeple. Kronos was not working correctly in accrual. She had more leave than she could use. This will give her until June to use leave. Approved.

12. Acceptance of Funding for the REACH Journey to Wellness Project - \$94,000. This is ITC funding for wages & fringe. Approved.

13. Acceptance of Funding for CY2024 Combined Health Services - \$2,830,391. Annual funding for operating costs. Approved (with changes to language on Page 7 resolution).

14. Acceptance of Funding for FY 2024 Families First Prevention Services Act Expansion - \$70,000. ITC funds for tribal liaison for home visiting program. Approved.

15. Approval to apply for OJJDP Tribal Youth mentoring, Delinquency Prevention and Reintegration Initiative, and Innovative Mentoring Models - Boys and Girls Club Bay Mills, Brimley, and CAMP. This is funding programs for the Dept. of Justice. Approved.

16. Donation Request: Boys & Girls Club is doing their annual decorate the fence competition. They are requesting \$500 total for 1-2-3 place prizes.

17. Reaffirmation of Poll Votes: Approved.

a. Acceptance of Funding for Mental Health and Delivery Systems for Native Americans at the Bay Mills Health Center - \$66,734

b. Approval to Apply for the Michigan Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs Grant for the Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills

c. Approval to Apply for the Environmental Protection Agency's FY 24 Brownfield Clean Up Grant for the "Silverdome" Site on Bay Mills Reservation

d. Emergency Medical Donation

*The next meeting of the Bay Mills Executive Council is scheduled to take place on Monday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. in the tribal administration building (old court room).*



Let's meet!

# GTC Meeting

**TUESDAY, Nov. 21 @ 6 p.m.  
Armella Parker Building**

**PLEASE NOTE THE  
LOCATION CHANGE:**  
The meeting will take place  
in-person at the Armella  
Parker Building (Bay Mills  
Elder Center).

**Refreshments will be served.**

All tribal citizens are  
encouraged to attend, as a  
quorum is needed to conduct  
business.

The agenda is forthcoming.



## First Impressions Tourism - Assessment A Community Report Forum for Bay Mills Indian Community

### DATE & TIME:

- November 28, 2023
- Registration & refreshments
- 5:30 —6 p.m.
- Program 6 – 8 p.m.

### LOCATION:

- Elder Center
- 12485 W Lakeshore Dr.
- Brimley, MI 49715

### COST:

- This event is free.
- Space is limited.
- RSVP using the hyperlink below.

### SPONSORS:

- Bay Mills Indian Community
- Bay Mills Community College
- MSU Extension

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting MSU Extension at 906-281-7270 within two weeks of the event to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be fulfilled when possible.



### DESCRIPTION:

As part MSU Extension's First Impressions Tourism (FIT) assessment program, Bay Mills Indian Community and the surrounding area received a team of first-time visitors over several weeks during summer 2023. The evening event is designed to showcase the results of first-time visitor impressions.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

This event is open to everyone and anyone interested in the future of Bay Mills and surrounding area. Business owners, elected officials, educators, organizations, and residents are encouraged to attend.

**Please RSVP now at the link below  
or use the QR code!**

<https://forms.office.com/r/xMVnY1ZbKe>



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## House of Bargains building to be demolished

SAULT STE. MARIE — The House of Bargains building located at 567 Ashmun in Sault Ste. Marie will be carefully deconstructed due to “safety concerns that could impact the surrounding community and operations of the canal which fuels Cloverland Electric Cooperative’s hydroelectric plant.” Cloverland has owned the property since 2016 and conducted extensive research and analysis on potential redevelopment options.

“Ultimately, the costs to preserve the building, estimated to cost between \$10,000,000 and \$18,000,000, were too immense for the cooperative to justify to our membership of 34,000 across the Eastern Upper Peninsula,” said Cloverland Electric’s President and CEO Mike Heise.

The House of Bargains building will be carefully deconstructed, with bids on the project being taken until Nov. 30. Interior abatement and demolition preparation will be allowed after contract award. Exterior abatement, building demolition, and building services removal will be performed between May 1st and July 1st in conjunction with the adjacent canal work project.

According to the company, they extensively explored options for funding through state entities.

The cooperative will retain the property for access to the canal for ongoing required maintenance and will work with the City of Sault Ste. Marie to explore options regarding repurposing the site. Hydroelectricity is a key factor in keeping the cooperative’s rates among the lowest for electric utilities in Michigan. Cloverland’s hydroelectric plant generates nearly 30% of renewable energy for the cooperative’s 34,000 members across the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Continual maintenance of the power canal and hydroelectric plant is a vital part of Cloverland’s infrastructure.

# New scholarship established

SAULT STE. MARIE — The Michigan Charter Boat Association (MCBA) has announced a generous gift to create a scholarship endowment that will provide financial assistance to students pursuing a degree in fisheries at Lake Superior State University. This gift is a significant step in the continuing mission of providing educational opportunities at Lake Superior State University.



Established in 1972, the Michigan Charter Boat Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization of professional, United States Coast Guard licensed captains and their safety inspected vessels. The association and its membership have a flawless safety record over several decades guiding fishermen and women on sport fishing excursions on four Great Lakes surrounding the State of Michigan.

“I am honored to present Lake Superior State University with a check to establish the Michigan Charter Boat Association Fisheries Scholarship Endowment,” said Captain Rich Haslett, vice president of MCBA. “I have observed the outstanding work LSSU has done to protect the fisheries of our Great Lakes. LSSU has a superior education program that will help protect our Great Lakes fisheries for years to come. The Michigan Charter Boat Association is proud to support the research efforts at the Center for Freshwater Research and Education, and most importantly to the students as they pursue their education degree and their career opportunities in fisheries.”

The MCBA created an annual scholarship at LSSU in 2018 to provide financial assistance to a student majoring in the LSSU Fisheries and Wildlife Management program with a focus on fisheries. To date, five students have benefitted from their annual scholarship support. With their most recent gift to create an endowment, a scholarship will be awarded into perpetuity. Successful candidates must be a full time student of at least junior status majoring in the Fisheries and Wildlife Management program, with a focus on fisheries who has earned a minimum 3.0 GPA. If there is no eligible candidate, a student majoring in a School of Natural Resources program with a focus on fisheries may be considered.

“We are profoundly grateful to the Michigan Charter Boat Association for their generosity in establishing this endowment,” said Dr. Ashley Moerke, Dean for the College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education. “Their commitment to education and fisheries conservation aligns perfectly with our mission, and we are excited to be able to support more students that will leave a lasting legacy of positive change in the Great Lakes region.”

For more information on the Michigan Charter Boat Association Fisheries Scholarship or for information on establishing a scholarship to make an impactful difference to LSSU students in their chosen field of study, please contact the LSSU Advancement Office at 906-635-2665 or [foundation@lssu.edu](mailto:foundation@lssu.edu).

## Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority gets annual update

SAULT STE. MARIE— The Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority (SSMBA) board of directors, the bi-national body that supervises operations of the International Bridge, heard reports on a recent bridge inspection at the board's regular meeting Thursday, Nov. 16.

The SSMBA board reviewed and officially accepted the results of the routine detailed inspection of the bridge. A team of bridge engineering experts from the lead firm of Hardesty & Hanover (H&H) of Okemos, Mich., along with their Canadian partner firm, WSP Canada Group Ltd. of Mississauga, Ontario, conducted the inspection of the bridge in August and presented their findings at Thursday's meeting.

"The bridge's ongoing maintenance is outstanding, keeping all major elements of the structure in good to fair condition," said H&H engineer Mark Helinski. "Our inspection found no significant new issues or significant changes from previous years."

H&H noted some items, such as expansion joint seals, cleaning and coating of steel components, and rail painting to be addressed. The International Bridge Administration (IBA) staff has included this work in future scheduled maintenance.

Optional infrared deck scans, included with inspections of the International Bridge since 2008, give early indications of areas that may need preventive maintenance. The results have been very encouraging. Out of more than 260,000 square feet of top deck surface, 0.4 percent (less than 1,000 square feet), have shown "delamination," or surface chipping of concrete.

IBA bridge engineer Karl Hansen attributed the good condition of the deck to recent epoxy sealing work, the use of sand instead of road salt, and on the deep concrete deck overlay work performed in the 1990s.

"These results show the International Bridge's efforts at preventive maintenance are working," Hansen said. "Our dedicated staff is diligently protecting the public investment in the bridge. We've been able to prioritize and address any concerns found in these inspections in a timely way, either through monitoring, contracted repairs, or in-house repairs."

The International Bridge is inspected every year, with the routine inspection alternating with a fracture critical inspection. The routine inspection looks at the entire bridge every other year. Additionally, the bridge's required five-year underwater inspection of 15 submerged piers in the St. Marys River is scheduled for spring 2024. Requests for proposals will be issued before the end of the calendar year and a best qualified consultant will be presented to the board in February 2024 for approval.

In other business, the board welcomed one new member and elected board officers. The SSMBA board consists of up to eight members: four Michigan members appointed by the governor and four Canadian members appointed by The Federal Bridge Corporation Limited (FBCL), a crown corporation located in Ottawa, Ontario.

Thomas Buckingham Sr. of Newberry, Michigan, was elected chair for 2024. The other U.S. representatives are Nicholas White, Scott Shackleton, and Linda Hoath.

Board member Natalie Kinloch of Apple Hill, Ontario, was elected as the 2024 vice chair of the SSMBA board of directors.

The board also welcomed a new Canadian member, Karen Richards, FBCL chief operating officer, to a three-year appointment, effective Nov. 7. The other Canadian members are Thye Lee and Rémi Paquette. The board also received an update on the bridge's new toll system. In the final phase-in of the system, the International Bridge will cease accepting the former Prox commuter cards after Dec. 31.

The International Bridge (connecting Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, with Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario) and both U.S. and Canadian sides of the Blue Water Bridge (connecting Port Huron, Michigan, to Point Edward, Ontario) have modernized their toll systems. As of Jan. 1, 2024, all three operators will have discontinued the current card-based systems and transitioned to radio frequency identification (RFID) windshield tags that are automatically read by the toll system when customers pull into a lane. RFID tags purchased from any of the three agencies will work at any of the partner crossings, although customers will have to maintain accounts with each agency.

"Frequent customers need to remember the deadline for card expiration is rapidly approaching," IBA Chief Financial Officer Emily Jacques said. "We encourage them to take advantage of our commuter discount program with the convenient new RFID tag system. Our new system offers an improved customer experience and a [new web portal](#) so customers can manage their accounts online more effectively."

The board set its 2024 meeting dates for Feb. 22, May 16, Aug. 15 and Nov. 21.



# Work continues on the New Soo Lock

By [Carrie Fox](#)/U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, DETROIT DISTRICT

SAULT STE. MARIE — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District works on unlocking the Great Lakes by providing a much-needed resiliency at the Soo Locks with the construction of the New Lock at the Soo. The New Lock at the Soo will be the same dimensions as the Poe Lock, 1,200 feet long, 110 feet wide and 30 feet deep.

Often called the “linchpin” of the Great Lakes navigation system, the Soo Locks are located in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan between the upper Peninsula of Michigan and the Canadian province of Ontario. The St. Mary’s River is the only connecting waterway between Lakes Superior and the lower Great Lakes.

The New Lock at the Soo is being built in the footprint of the existing Sabin Lock, the northern most lock on the Soo Locks facility, opened in 1919. The construction program, which includes improvements to the northern approach channel, is occurring in three phases of work.

“The Corps of Engineers continues to work hard to maintain the pace and continue to make progress toward New Lock at the Soo total project completion in 2030,” said Mahoney.

All major phases of the New Lock at the Soo have been awarded. Phase 1 is substantially complete as of August 1, 2022. The \$52 million contract was performed by Trade West Construction Co., they removed about 300,000 cubic yards of bedrock and overburden from the north channel. Trade West used mechanical means to remove the material by using rippers and excavators placed on barges to break up and remove the material. The removed material was placed on the Northwest Pier of the Soo Locks facility and will act as a wind break for transiting vessels.

Phase 2 is currently in the second year of construction and is estimated to be complete in summer 2024. The contractor, Kokosing-Alberici, is placing a series of coffer cells filled with stone aggregate and concrete, in front of the over 100-year-old Sabin Lock walls. The contract is valued at \$117 million and includes a total of 52 coffer cells along with several transition walls constructed with steel sheet piles. All the coffer cells and transition walls will be capped with concrete, which will serve as the walking surface of the new walls along the upstream approach channel.

The base contract for Phase 3 was awarded to Kokosing, Alberici, Traylor, LLC on July 1, 2022. With timely award of all nine contract options, this phase of work is expected to be complete in 2030. The New Lock chamber will be the same size as the Poe Lock to provide resiliency in the operations and maintenance between the New Lock at the Soo and the Poe Lock. There will be some new features on the New Lock at the Soo, such as hands free mooring units.

“Hands free mooring units act like suction cups that hold the ship in place moving up as the chamber fills or down as it empties,” Rachel Miller, New Lock Supervisory Civil Engineer said. “These units will be a safety upgrade to using line handlers, the current method of mooring ships in the lock chamber.”

The award of the Phase 3 base contract is a major milestone for the project. Awarding the base allows the contractor to begin a substantial portion of the required work. To date the base contract and one of the nine options have been awarded with a total value of \$1.071 billion. With continued funding, the remaining work, valued at \$802 million is ready to be awarded over the next three years.

A major cost increase led to a five-month contract award delay while the Corps of Engineers developed necessary reports to deliver a new cost estimate for reauthorization to Congress. The cost increase root causes include changing market conditions, inflation, a nationwide labor shortage, design modifications and early estimate assumptions. Since the project’s last authorization in 2018 the project’s cost increased from \$1 billion to \$3 billion.

“We recognize funding a larger amount for the New Lock at the Soo is a challenge that could potentially result in schedule impacts,” said Deputy District Engineer Kevin McDaniels. “The Corps of Engineers is partnering with industry and federal agencies to find collaborative solutions aimed at addressing the cost impacts to Corps of Engineers programs and projects nationwide.”

In 2022, the New Lock at the Soo received \$478.9 million in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and \$214.2 million in the 2022 BIL addendum (contingent upon the project’s reauthorization at a higher cost in the 2022 Water Resources Development Act). The 2022 BIL addendum funds allow the Corps of Engineers to award some of the remaining \$802 million work required to make the New Lock at the Soo fully functional.

The Soo Locks, recognized as nationally critical infrastructure, continue to receive bipartisan support in Congress for funding the New Lock at the Soo project.

The Soo Locks complete more than 7,000 vessel passages a year, moving up to 75 million tons of cargos. Moving bulk cargos through the Soo Locks and across the Great Lakes saves more than \$3.9 billion per year in freight costs compared to moving the same tonnage by rail or truck. One 1,000-foot vessel can carry the equivalent of seven 100 car trains with a 10,000-ton capacity or 3,000 large trucks with a 25-ton capacity each.

The New Lock at the Soo will be named by Congress, most likely after it is completed.

## Reducing salt use on snowy roads proves challenging

By KENZIE TERPSTRA  
Capital News Service

LANSING – As the winter season approaches, counties across Michigan are preparing to handle the inevitable dumping of snow, especially on roadways.

Technology and processes employed have helped plows become more efficient, said Bradley Wieferich, the director of the Department of Transportation.

“There are so many different sensors and factors that (plow drivers) have to weigh in on their job,” Wieferich said.

He said plow operators are constantly looking at factors such as wind speed, relative humidity and temperature while clearing the roads.

In addition to technology, rock salt is a major contributor to keeping roads clear of snow and ice, according to Wieferich.

“Salt, at the end of the day, is what we have to melt snow and ice – it’s needed for safety,” Wieferich said.

However, the salt left on roads after snow and ice removal eventually washes into ditches or waterways, and the department is working to minimize the use of salt to protect the state’s watercourses.

“We’re looking into some agricultural byproducts that might help lower the temperature at which salt is going to be effective, which would be a big benefit,” Wieferich said.

Jeff Cranson, the director of communications at MDOT, said the vast majority of state roads are plowed under contracts by cities and counties.

Craig Bryson, the senior communications director at the Road Commission of Oakland County, said the county is always looking at alternatives to salt.

“A lot of the agricultural byproducts like beet juice all have an odor to them,” Bryson said. “They also attract wildlife to the roads.”

Bryson said Oakland County, traditionally, has the highest number of car crashes involving deer – over 2,000 last year – and the use of these agricultural alternatives to salt may attract more deer to the roads, putting drivers at even greater risk.

The combination of rock salt and liquid brine, which contains naturally occurring saltwater, has been both the

best-performing method of snow and ice removal and the most cost-effective, according to Bryson.

“We have three brine wells in the county, so we pump the brine out of the ground and it’s essentially free to us after the cost of building the wells,” Bryson said.

Bryson said the use of wing plows – which fold into the side of trucks and swing out for use – enable drivers to clear the width of the truck and an additional lane at the same time.

Jerry Byrne, the managing director of the Kent County Road Commission, said the agency blends different products to aid in de-icing the roads, usually involving chlorine-based materials.

“We’re using more liquids with the rock salt so it activates quicker. There’s less chance of it being either bounced off the roads or carried off the roads with vehicles,” Byrne said. “It lowers the freeze points so it activates quicker.”

Byrne said that while his road commission hasn’t found a complete alternative to rock salt, the use of blended products and proper placement make the process more efficient.

Marquette County, the largest county geographically in Michigan, has an average snowfall of more than 200 inches, according to Peter Duex, the managing director of the county’s road commission.

“We simply cannot afford to melt all the snow on our roadways,” Duex said. “We don’t use much salt – we use it to blend together with our ice control sand to keep it unfrozen and ready for use when traction is an issue.”

Duex said his road commission focuses on de-icing and traction sand efforts on hills, curves and intersections.

Ross Olsen, the director of operations for Marquette County’s road commission, said truck loons are new to the area.

Olsen said the loon turn design is essentially a run-off lane for trucks making a “Michigan left” turn. That allows larger vehicles to safely make a U-turn and requires special attention from plow trucks after big storms.

Meanwhile, the State Police advised motorists to replace worn tires and check air pressure regularly, keep an emergency preparedness kit in their vehicle and have their radiator system serviced before winter.

## *Walking On*

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### **Andrew “Andy” Brian Bailey**

Andrew “Andy” Brian Bailey, 51, of Hessel, Mich., passed away on Oct. 30, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, on Aug. 3, 1972, to Kenneth and Inez (McCoy) Bailey.

From an early age, Andy embodied the values of hard work, honesty, and respect for others. These principles shaped his character and guided him throughout his life. He had many accomplishments including receiving a Refrigeration License through Delta College, earning an Electrical Journeyman’s License, Master License, and a Contractor License, as well as owned and operated his own electrical contracting business. He married Debbie Milbrandt and had two beautiful and smart children and built his dream house with his dad... He was not only a hard worker but always willing to help and give back to his family, friends, and his community. He would literally have given anyone the shirt off his back. Even after death he was an organ donor saving several lives.

Andy was also a dedicated husband and father who provided unwavering support, always striving to ensure they had the best in life. His sacrifices were a reflection of his boundless love for his family, and his presence will be deeply missed.

Andy had a deep connection with nature, finding peace and joy in the beauty of the outdoors. He loved being in the woods either hunting, cutting wood, four wheeling, fishing at remote lakes, and just hanging out with Maggie, Copper, and Bella (his fur babies).

Andy is survived by his wife of 22 years, Debbie Bailey; son, Drew Bailey; daughter, Brooke Bailey; parents, Kenneth and Inez Bailey of Hessel; sisters, Karen (Roland) Lipponen of Brimley, Michigan, and April (Edward) Olson of Moran, Michigan; nephews, Jeff Bailey, Arron Bailey, Hunter Lipponen, and Caleb Lipponen; in laws, Donna (Penny) Milbrandt of Hemlock, Michigan and Clifford (Ruth) Milbrandt of Hemlock.

Andy was predeceased in death by his grandparents, Isabell McCoy, and Don and Edith Bailey.

A Celebration of Life and benefit dinner was held at the Cedarville Community Center on Nov. 18.

Family Life Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.galerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.galerfuneralhomes.com).

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Andrew Brian Bailey please visit our Sympathy Store.

### **Hank William Gravelle**

Hank William Gravelle, 38, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., began his journey home on Oct. 29, 2023, at the Hospice of the EUP in Sault Ste. Marie after a fierce battle with cancer. He was born in the Soo to parents Chuck (Helen) Gravelle and Sharon Causley on Jan. 12, 1985.



Hank spent his youth in the Sault area and attended Malcolm High School. After obtaining his GED, he went on to work in the restaurant industry, Kewadin Casino and as a

laborer for his brother’s construction company. He lived for a brief time in Arizona before coming back to Michigan to be closer to family and friends.

Hank was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and was the original founder of the Rez Posse.

Hank loved music and was talented at both playing the guitar and drums. He enjoyed skateboarding, hacky sack and going to the casino to play slots. He enjoyed all life had to offer, hanging out with friends and loved his family greatly. He will be greatly missed by many.

Hank is survived by the love of his life, Tara Horka; daughter, Lilly; stepmother, Helen Gravelle; brother, Derek Causley; sisters, Rachel Causley, Denise Andrews, and Lisha Krull-Linder; many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews; special family and friends, Jena Peffers, Brian Matrious, Neemin-Gizis Matrious, Kewahtahsay Matrious, Justin Peek, Jake Stallard, Charlie Beaudry, Chris Goetz, and Adam Rutledge.

Hank is preceded in death by parents; Chuck Gravelle and Sharon Causley; grandparents, Richard and June Gravelle, Raymond and Loreen Causley.

A traditional ceremony took place on Oct. 31, 2023, at Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building. Hank will be laid to rest at Maplewood Cemetery in Hessel, MI, at a later time.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the family to help with funeral expenses or Hospice of the E.U.P.

**John Steven LeBlanc**

John Steven LeBlanc, 67, began his journey to the spirit world on Oct. 28, 2023, surrounded by loved ones at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey, Michigan. He was the seventh of eleven children born to Arthur “Brother” LeBlanc and Marvine “Beanie” (Teeples) LeBlanc on June 14, 1956, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

John resided in the AFC home – Elliott House in St. Ignace, Michigan since 2013 and he has been under the love and care of his friend and special Angel, Kathy Peterson, and her family (Corey, Chelsea and John Ross) since 1991. There are no words to express the love and gratitude the LeBlanc family has for these terrific people.

For those who knew John, they know of his infectious smile, voracious and eager appetite for home cooking and delight whenever he was able to visit with family and friends. John was especially good at conjuring up an old tune or jingle and finding humor and laughter in a shared story or memory.

John was a proud member of the Bay Mills Indian Community, and he cherished those moments when he would stop in for a visit or an extended stay.

John leaves behind many that loved him, especially his family at the Elliott House, Meagan Wiartalla and her group of saints, Kathy, Lisa, Mary, Matt, Natasha, Sherri and Tiffany.

John also leaves behind siblings, Jeanette LeBlanc of Brimley, Michael (Jeanette) LeBlanc of Bay Mills, Matthew (Margaret) LeBlanc of Bay Mills, Kelly Bedell of Bay Mills and Howard LeBlanc of Bay Mills; and sister-in-law Kathleen LeBlanc of Bay Mills. Many nephews, including, Joseph LeBlanc and Richard (Shelly Deuman-LeBlanc) LeBlanc of Bay Mills, Andrew (Michelle) LeBlanc of Bay Mills, Lance Teeples of Sault Ste. Marie, Jason (Lalara) LeBlanc of Bay Mills, Daniel LeBlanc of Sault, MI, Leonard LeBlanc (Loretta Trudeau) of Bay Mills, Trevor LeBlanc (Ashley Kreiser) of Bay Mills and a niece, Allison LeBlanc of Brimley, including several great nephews and nieces and great-great nephews and nieces.

He was predeceased by his parents, Art and Marvine, siblings, Gale, Lisa, Paul, Andrew and Arthur and sister-in-law Jean Boyer and brother-in-law Robin Bedell both of Bay Mills.

Funeral services were held Bay Mills Cultural Center on Wednesday, November. Burial will be at the Mission Hill Cemetery in Bay Mills.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of John Steven LeBlanc please visit our Sympathy Store.

**Mark (Mac) David McIntyre**

Mark (Mac) David McIntyre, 67 of Brimley, MI, passed away at home on Oct. 18, 2023, with family at his side. He was born May 31, 1956, to Archie and Doris McIntyre.

Mark grew up in Port Huron, Mich. After high school, in 1976, he went to work on Mackinac Island. While there he met Patty (Faue) McIntyre. They married in 1978 in Minnesota. Forever looking for the next adventure, they moved several times before settling in Traverse City for 16 years. Then in 1996, to fulfill a lifelong dream to live on Lake Superior, they moved to Brimley.

Mark worked as an electronics tech in vending for many years and then 20 years with Bay Mills Indian Community. In younger years he learned taxidermy and did wood carving. A favorite pastime was going to flea markets, antique shops, thrift shops and garage sales. He loved to repurpose just about anything into his own unique form of art. He enjoyed watching the freighters on the lake and became very interested in learning about the history of the Great Lakes. Many bonfires were enjoyed on the beach. He loved his family very much and appreciated time spent together.

Mark is survived by his wife Patty of Brimley, MI; daughters: Monique (Adam) Wallis of Shafer, MN, Molly (Michael) Levy of Scandia, MN; Grandchildren: Ivy Wallis, Cora Wallis, Amelia Wallis, Crosby Levy, and Rowen Levy; his brother Matthew (Terri Watson) of Fort Collins, CO and sister-in-law, DeeDee McIntyre and niece Melissa. He is also survived by many brother and sister in laws and nieces and nephews on the Faue side of the family.

Mark was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents Ruth and Sanford Morrison and Ethel and Nelson McIntyre; brothers Michael McIntyre and Martin McIntyre; in laws George and Pat Faue; brother-in-law, Joseph Faue; niece Kelley Inman.

A family celebration of life will take place at a later date.

Memorials may be left to St Jude Children’s Research Hospital or Hospice of the EUP.

## MI Tobacco Quitlink celebrates 20 years of helping people become tobacco-free, resources available

LANSING, Mich. – This November, the Michigan Tobacco Quitlink is celebrating 20 years of helping Michiganders become tobacco-free.

Tobacco use continues to be the leading cause of preventable death in Michigan. Approximately 70% of all adult smokers report wanting to quit, but fewer than one in 10 succeed in quitting for good without the assistance of coaching and/or nicotine replacement therapy. The Michigan Tobacco Quitlink is a free and confidential service that offers several different programs designed to help Michiganders quit tobacco based on the level of support needed, including phone and online coaching.

“We know the use of tobacco takes a significant toll on people’s health,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive. “Quitting can be difficult and the Quitlink offers Michiganders the resources and support they need to successfully quit tobacco and begin living healthier lifestyles.”

The Michigan Tobacco Quitlink, formerly the Tobacco Quitline, was established in October 2003 as a pilot project for Upper Peninsula residents. In 2004, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) received a grant to expand the service statewide.

In 2022, 27% of Tobacco Quitlink phone coaching participants quit using tobacco. However, Quitlink enrollees who participated in four or more coaching calls had a quit rate of 34%, illustrating that Quitlink participants who stuck with their program had a better chance of quitting tobacco for good.

MDHHS reminds Michigan residents there are numerous benefits to quitting tobacco including financial savings, better health and more time spent with loved ones. As it can take several attempts to quit for good, tobacco users are encouraged not to give up after a failed attempt. Quitlink uses proven strategies that have helped more than 1.5 million people quit tobacco.

For residents who need assistance quitting tobacco, the Michigan Tobacco Quitlink – 800-QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669) is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Individuals can also text or chat with coaches online. Visit [Michigan.gov/Quitlink](https://Michigan.gov/Quitlink) for more information.

**More life. More health. More savings.**

**Get more when you quit tobacco.**

MI Tobacco Quitlink  
1-800-784-8669

MI TOBACCO Quitlink MDHHS

# LSSU awarded funds to research oil spills

SAULT STE. MARIE — Lake Superior State University has been awarded a substantial funding allocation of \$3.87 million from the Government of Canada, supporting the International Consortium on Oil Research for Our Waters of the North (ICOR-OWN). This collaboration unites 12 organizations and 24 scientists from both the United States and Canada, with LSSU's Center for Freshwater Research and Education and Algoma University as lead partners.

The funding, unveiled by the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, minister of Energy and Natural Resources, is part of the Multi-Partner Research Initiative (MPRI), a five-year, \$30.3 million commitment under Canada's Oceans Protection Plan (OPP). The MPRI's goal is to advance scientific knowledge, develop cutting-edge cleanup technologies, and enhance response strategies to safeguard Canada's marine and coastal areas.

Under the umbrella of the International Consortium, the following research networks have been awarded funding:

CA\$646,758 for Research on Oil Fate in Freshwater Ecosystems: In collaboration with the US Geological Survey, Memorial University, and the US Coast Guard, LSSU will investigate the fate, behavior, and transport of oil in freshwater ecosystems, with a specific focus on diluted bitumen.

CA\$1,466,695 for Oil Spill Detection and Monitoring Technologies: LSSU, working alongside Algoma University, University of Windsor, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Limnotech, and the University of Michigan's Cooperative Institute of Great Lakes Research, will develop and evaluate technologies for oil spill detection and monitoring in freshwater and ice environments. This includes an innovative integrated drone and long-range autonomous underwater vehicle system, as well as low-cost in-situ oil detection systems for rapid response efforts.

CA\$1,756,000 for Ecological Effects of Oil Spills in Cold-Climate Ecosystems: LSSU, in partnership with Algoma University and University of Windsor, will examine the ecological impacts of oil spills and bioremediation in cold-climate ecosystems, with a focus on coastal wetlands of the Laurentian Great Lakes.

LSSU Interim President Lynn Gillette expressed excitement about the collaboration, "We are thrilled to lead this international initiative alongside our Canadian partners, including our international neighbors at Algoma University. The collaboration highlights our new College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education and LSSU's reputation as a growing leader in freshwater science. This exciting initiative will create numerous opportunities for our students to engage in real-world science on a multinational issue that will contribute directly to Great Lakes conservation."

ICOR-OWN has secured funding for a four-year period and is closely coordinated with and contributes to the ongoing research efforts led by the US Coast Guard's Great Lakes Oil Spill Center of Expertise. This center is located at LSSU's Center for Freshwater Research and Education along the St. Mary's River, representing a significant investment by the United States in the field of oil spill research.

"ICOR-OWN is leveraging LSSU and Algoma University's scientific expertise and resources and our unique location, at an international border and the nexus of the upper Great Lakes, to build scientific capacity and training, ensuring that the best available science is used to understand, minimize, and respond to oil spills in cold, freshwater environments," said Dr. Ashley Moerke, LSSU's lead of the International Collaboration on Oil Research and Dean of the College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education.

The funding provided through the Multi-Partner Research Initiative (MPRI) highlights Canada's dedication to environmental conservation, scientific progress, and cooperative endeavors aimed at safeguarding and maintaining critical water ecosystems for both the present and future generations.



**Bay Mills Indian Community  
Deck the Fence  
and Community Tree Lighting  
at the Bay Mills Baseball Diamond**

**Wednesday, December 6th, 2023 at 5:30pm  
With Special Guest: SANTA!  
Refreshments will be served.**

**Deck the Fence**

**Panels must be decorated by  
Wednesday, December 6th, 2023  
at 12pm**

**Winners Announced on  
Wednesday, December 6th, 2023  
after Tree Lighting**

**Prizes:**

**1st Place - \$250**

**2nd Place - \$150**

**3rd Place - \$100**

- **9x8 fence panel (only 26 panels with Electric Hook up)**
- **Contact Jenna Somes at 906-248-8577 or by email [jsomes@baymills.org](mailto:jsomes@baymills.org) to sign up.**
  - **Supply your own decorations**
- **Fence must be cleaned up by March 1st, 2024**



**Title VI  
Public Meeting**

Parents, Families & Community Members are Welcome

**Tuesday, November 28, 2023  
5:00 p.m.**

**Ojibwe Charter School Conference Room  
12099 W. Lakeshore Drive  
Brimley, MI 49715**

Please join us to discuss program goals, workshops, and opportunities for our Native youth.

BAY MILLS HEALTH CENTER OFFERS

**TRADITIONAL MEDICINE APPOINTMENTS**

**Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>  
and  
Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

Call 906-248-5527 #4 to schedule an appointment

Appointments begin at 8am  
12455 W. LAKESHORE DR  
BRIMLEY, MI 49715

*Open to all Chippewa County Residents*

# **BMIC UPCOMING CLOSURES**

**Thursday, November 23rd - THANKSGIVING**

**ALL GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENTS WILL BE CLOSED (INCLUDING THE HEALTH CENTER)**

**Friday, November 24th - CLOSED**  
Staff are taking earned annual leave in these departments

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TRIBAL ADMIN</li> <li>SOCIAL SERVICES</li> <li>HUMAN RESOURCES</li> <li>COMPLIANCE</li> <li>PUBLIC WORKS</li> <li>BOYS &amp; GIRLS CLUB</li> <li>HISTORY DEPARTMENT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HOUSING AUTHORITY</li> <li>TRIBAL COURT</li> <li>VICTIM SERVICES</li> <li>BIOLOGY</li> <li>CONSERVATION</li> <li>CULTURAL CENTER</li> <li>BMPD LOBBY</li> <li>(EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL CONTINUE)</li> </ul>
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**ADJUSTED HOURS FOR FRIDAY: AOT 12PM - 4PM**  
**HEALTH CENTER HOURS (INCLUDING PHARMACY) ALL WEEK:  
8:00AM - 4:30PM (EXCLUDING THANKSGIVING DAY)**