BMCC awarded grant to establish bachelor's degree in computer science

By Shannon Jones
Bay Mills News

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Community College has been selected to receive a 2021-2025 TCU Computer Science Capacity Building Grant for the proposed project “Nanda-gikendan Waasimowini” (seek to learn computers). This is the second bachelor's degree that will be offered by BMCC.

The next step for BMCC is to hire an additional computer science faculty member. That position is currently open and posted on BMCC's website, www.bmcc.edu. Once the hiring is complete, that person will hit the ground running with curriculum development, and later will teach in the program.

According to Computer Information Systems Dept. Chair Tyler Postma, while the grant allows for development to take four years, they would like to get the program up and running within two years.

Four schools were selected for the grant by the American Indian College Fund, but BMCC is the only school that will be offering a fully online bachelor’s degree program.

Those who are interested in the program can get a start this fall by enrolling in either of BMCC’s associate degree programs — computer science with a concentration in web development or computer information systems. Either of those programs will give potential bachelor’s students a solid educational foundation in hardware, networking, technologies, and web development. Students who have an associate’s degree will be able to transition smoothly into the new bachelor’s program.

BMCC's Chief Information Officer Chet Kasper believes anyone with a bachelor’s degree in CIS can land a well-paying job.

“This will be a great opportunity for tribal members and their communities,” Kasper said.

Career options for graduates include system/network administrator, software engineer, and network architect.

Once the program is established, the Higher Learning Commission will review for approval, the final step before it can be launched.

Postma said the biggest challenge is filling the new faculty position.

“We hope to have this position filled by the end of July. Anyone with questions about the program or the position is encouraged to reach out to either myself or human resources,” said Postma.

Red Road to DC make last tour stop in Mackinaw City

MACKINAW CITY — Citizens of Bay Mills Indian Community are calling on President Biden to take immediate action to shut down Enbridge’s Line 5 pipeline.

On Tuesday, July 27, in an event to be held as part of the Red Road to DC, a cross-country tour highlighting Indigenous sacred sites at risk, elected leaders of the Bay Mills Indian Community and other tribes will address the Line 5 issue. The tribes note the pipeline is a violation of the Treaty of 1836 and a threat to their sacred waters. Organizers of the Red Road tour will stop in Mackinaw City on the last leg of their journey to the Capitol. The event, open to the public, will begin at 9 a.m. at Fort Michilimackinac Park.

The event will display a totem pole by Lummi Nation carvers to highlight sacred sites at risk due to development and infrastructure projects.

The tour includes stops: in Snake River at the Washington/Idaho border; Bears Ears in Utah; Chaco Canyon in New Mexico; the Black Hills in South Dakota; the Missouri River in Yankton South Dakota; Standing Rock; Line 3 oil pipeline in Minnesota; and Line 5 pipeline in Michigan. The tour will end in Washington, DC, with a press event and rally on the National Mall. Tour organizers include House of Tears Carvers, The Natural History Museum, IllumiNative, Native Organizers Alliance, Se’Si’Le, and the National Congress of American Indians.

Line 5, initially given an easement in 1953, has been the center of controversy in the Upper Peninsula for several years. Enbridge has planned to build a tunnel around the pipeline, saying it will protect the Straits from the danger of spills. But that construction would allow the destruction of sensitive wetlands and the placement of structures on the bottomlands within the Straits of Mackinac. And these plans and permits would allow the destruction of sensitive wetlands and the placement of structures on the bottomlands within the Straits of Mackinac. And these plans and permits have moved forward without tribal consultation.

“Time and time again, we must fight for what was promised to our ancestors in the treaties,” said Gravelle. “This should never happen, and it is something the Biden administration can and should address. No infrastructure project should move ahead without the consent of the tribes affected.”

As part of the Treaty of 1836, BMIC reserved for all time the right to fish, hunt, and gather in the ceded land and waters of the state of Michigan—including the ceded waters of Lake Superior, Huron, and Michigan, which includes the Straits of Mackinac.

“Side-stepping the concerns of Tribal Nations and rubber-stamping this project before the necessary studies are completed signals a deeply concerning indifference to tribal sovereignty,” added Gravelle.

Gov. Whitmer revoked the easement allowing to company to operate on May 12, yet Enbridge continues to operate illegally. In an effort to get Enbridge to comply, Whitmer has threatened to go after Enbridge’s profits, but no action has been taken.

“We aren’t the only ones at risk from the devastating effects of a pipeline spill. Fishermen, the tourism industry, our Michigan economy, are all endangered if Line 5 continues to operate in our waters. President Biden must address this crisis immediately.”

The House of Tears Carvers has created a tradition of carving and delivering totem poles to areas struck by disaster, or otherwise in need of hope and healing. The first such journey was in 2001 in the wake of the September 11th tragedy in New York. In 2013 the Lummi people began, what would turn out to be, a yearly totem pole journey, in response to the threat of a 50 million ton coal export terminal proposal on their traditional and sacred lands at Xwe’chi’eXen (Cherry Point). Each year, the totem pole has been brought to tribal and non-tribal communities throughout the country seeking to honor, unite and empower communities in the destructive path of fossil fuel extraction and environmental degradation.

Following the tour, the totem pole will be exhibited outside of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian to coincide with the Kwal’Hoy. We Draw the Line exhibition about the history of the Lummi totem pole journeys, developed by The Natural History Museum and the House of Tears Carvers.
Chairperson’s Report

Celebrating our shared connection to land and water

By BMIC Chairperson Whitney Gravelle

Next Tuesday, on July 27th, the Bay Mills Indian Community will be welcoming the Red Road to DC and the House of Tears Carvers of the Lummi Nation as they make their final stop transporting a 24-foot totem pole they carved to deliver to the White House in Washington D.C.

This historic event is a celebration of lines of connection - honoring, uniting and empowering communities and Tribal Nations like Bay Mills Indian Community working to protect sacred places. The totem pole carved by the House of Tears Carvers carries the spirit of the lands it visits and the power and prayers of communities along the way. Those sacred places include our Straits of Mackinac, our Great Lakes, and highlights our interconnected relationship with land and water as Anishinaabe people.

Our teachings remind us that, we as Anishinaabe do not believe we were created last because we were the most important, instead we understand we were created last because we are the least important. We rely on the rest of the world to survive. The world is not here for us to conquer, control, dominate, or exploit. It is here to honor, celebrate, teach, and respect - knowing we could not live without it.

As we all know, the Great Lakes are also part of our treaty rights as a signatory to the 1836 Treaty of Washington, in which Bay Mills and other Tribal Nations ceded territory to the United States for the creation of the State of Michigan, which included approximately 14 million acres of land and 13 million acres of navigable waters. As we celebrate the arrival of the Lummi Nation next week, I hope the State of Michigan can acknowledge the cultural, traditional, spiritual, and historical significance of the Great Lakes to Tribal Nations. They have been an integral part of our lives as long as we can remember, and will be for many generations to come. Commercial and subsistence fishing continue to be the primary occupation of members of the Bay Mills Indian Community from Treaty times until the present day with over half our citizen households rely on fishing for all, or a portion of their annual income.

Bay Mills Indian Community continues to work towards protecting the Great Lakes as an intervening party before the Michigan Public Service Commission, a consulting party before the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental and Great Lakes Energy Department, as well as an amici in the legal case Governor Gretchen Whitmer v. Enbridge Energy et al.

Separately, I want to remind everyone of the 30th Annual Honoring Our Veterans Pow Wow this year on August 13-15. We have lost a number of Veterans this year, Dale Semasky Sr., Norma (Jesse) Bennett, Keith Cameron, Robin Bedell; and although many of us will prepare to gather and celebrate again as a Tribal Nation many of our relatives will also still be in mourning. We invite the families of all of veterans to join us this weekend and help us honor our ogichidaag for their protection and sacrifice over the course of their lifetime, and also join us to celebrate in the good medicine the big drum brings.

Although COVID-19 cases have significantly declined the coming weeks, I also want to remind everyone we are still in the midst of a pandemic. Please be mindful and do not attend the Pow Wow if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with anyone who has symptoms. Please check out our tribal website, 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. You can reach me at 906-248-8100 or wgravelle@baymills.org.
Bay Mills Executive Council discusses business at regular meetings

June 28 Regular Meeting

Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2021

Reports

Chairperson Whitney Gravelle

• Received news from US Army Corps of Engineers, seeking Line 5 environment impact statement on Enbridge. This extends timelines significantly. Illustrates tribal advocacy is working and we are being heard about our concerns.

• Working with Native Organizations Alliance on July 27 Red Road to DC in Mackinaw City. Totem Pole journey. Opportunity to talk about and reflect on what has happened and what we are protecting.

• No active cases of COVID-19 on the reservation.

• Consultation with Michigan Public Service Commission on Line 5 issues.

• Looking to provide relief to fishermen from NOAA. Would not come into effect until late this year.

• New tribal website will be launching soon.

Trihal Manager Rachel Bertt

• Have not received info from Treasury on second round of stimulus monies.

• 1200 stimulus payments have gone out. Big lead, head to accounting and enrollment.

Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram

• Kronos is working, HR has started training.

• Audits going on in accounting.

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Health Director Audrey Breakie

• Met with EMS to discuss staffing issues.

• Booster clinics coming up for Pfizer.

• Working on insurance renewal.

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Have you been avoiding the dentist?

By Peter Funt

I figured that nine months after the pandemic began, sheltered and cooped up Americans would be creating a baby boom. It never happened. In California, for example, births in 2021 are expected to be about 50,000 fewer than in 2020.

There was, however, a boom in books.

According to Publishers Marketplace, which tracks book deals, memoir acquisitions were up about 9 percent in 2020. Among the first to land contracts were actors Michael J. Fox, Billy Dee Williams and Hayley Mills. Soon, PBS reporter Yamiche Alcindor and retired NASCAR driver Bill Lester had sold their stories.

But even some affluent white urbanites with five clinics within bicycling distance of their dentist’s chair.

As luck would have it, I’ve done some incredible things, like hanging from a 10-foot ceiling to create the impression of an “upside down room,” to putting airline passengers through an X-ray machine and then getting sued and having to defend myself in Los Angeles Superior Court while being chased by the mob.

Self-Amused is now on sale, yet I’m not urging you to buy it, which confirms my lack of business skill. I’m reminded that when Abbie Hoffman wrote his memoir back in 1971 the title was, “Steal This Book.”

Here’s my offer: If you, too, wrote a memoir during the pandemic, I’ll buy yours if you buy mine. You go first.

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Peter Funt’s new memoir, “Self-Amused,” is now available at CandidCamera.com.

The Memoir Pandemic

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Project engineer provides Soo Locks update

By Shannon Jones
Bay Mills News

SAULT STE. MARIE — On July 15 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided an update to the public concerning the New Soo Lock that is being constructed. Information during the online forum was provided by project engineer Kristina Schnettler, who has been working on the project for the last three years.

With only the Poe Lock able to handle the freighters 1,000+ feet, the new lock is a critical part of keeping the freighters and their cargo moving through the Great Lakes region. Ninety percent of the cargo carried is done by 13 of these 1,000+ foot vessels.

“A single point of failure would be detrimental to the iron ore supply,” said Schnettler. “This would result in a 2-6 week closure, where U.S. steel production would cease, and cause auto and appliance manufacturing to shut down.”

The new lock construction is currently in phases one and two, with a completion date of 2030. The new lock will be the same dimensions of the current Poe Lock and will be in place of the Sabin Lock, which was decommissioned in the early 2000s due to age.

Phase one, the deepening of the channel, is wrapping up this fall. This has required the removal of more than 300,000 cubic yards of sandstone and loose sediment, which has been placed at the north-west pier. Trade West Construction of Nevada began the work last spring, and to date is 70 percent complete with the job.

Phase two involves the upstream approach walls. The current walls were built in the 1900s. This phase will be complete in 2023. A concrete batch plant is being constructed at the northwest pier placement area to prevent the need to haul concrete by barge.

Phase three, the new lock chamber, is currently in the design phase. This contract will be awarded this winter, with construction planned for next spring. This is considered the main part of the project.

The new Soo Lock is a billion dollar project and will create more than 1,200 jobs on an annual basis — 600 of those will be directly linked to the construction itself.

The new lock will be named by Congress, likely after completion of the project.

Every year approximately 7,000 lockages take place during the 10-month operating season. Approximately 80 million tons of commercial commodities pass through the Soo Locks annually. Once the new lock is complete, it is likely maintenance schedules will be rotated, possibly allowing for work to take place during warmer weather. Currently, the lock maintenance is done during the winter shutdown each year.

LSSU names Michigan native David L. Diles as new athletic director

SAULT STE. MARIE — Lake Superior State University has selected veteran collegiate athletics executive and Michigan native David L. Diles as its new director of athletics after conducting a national search. He succeeds Dr. David Paitson, who earlier resigned after four years to accept an assistant professor of sport management position at University of Indianapolis.


A four-time NCAA athletic director over the past 26 years, Diles comes to LSSU from the Virginia Military Institute, a Division I institution with 18 varsity sports. In eight years running the program, he has played key roles in increasing student-athlete GPA from 2.55 to 2.88, establishing an initiative to recruit athletes with exceptional academic backgrounds, growing the scholarship budget by more than 70 percent, supporting VMI’s efforts in raising tens of millions of dollars for equipment, renovations, construction, and fundraising.

“My wife, Suzanne, and I are thrilled to be returning to our home state and to be joining an institution that we believe in and a leadership team that made a profoundly positive impression. Both of our adult children, Matthew and daughter-in-law Heather, and Mitchell will be frequent visitors to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.,” said Diles. “President Dr. Rodney S. Hanley and Provost Dr. Lynn G. Gillette as chair of the search committee provided a clear and compelling vision of the vital role intercollegiate athletics can play in the advancement of the university. In addition, my familiarity with the GLIAC and the CCHA will allow for a quick transition. I’m honored to accept this appointment and looking forward to working with the department’s coaches, staff, and, most importantly, the student-athletes.”

Other career credits include director of athletics and chair of the physical education department at the Div. III Case Western Reserve University (2005-13). During his tenure, student-athlete graduation rate was 92 percent, the program GPA was 3.39, and there were 37 Academic All-Americans. Numerous teams earned NCAA Championship berths. The program also raised millions of dollars for equipment, renovations, construction, and staffing.

As athletic director at the Div. I Eastern Michigan University (1995-2005), Diles helped increase the graduation rate of student-athletes to 60 percent, boost their GPA from 2.6 to 3.05, rebalance gender equity in favor of more female participation, create a student-athlete code of conduct, and raise unprecedented external funding.


Earlier jobs included assistant director of athletics at Auburn University (1991-94) and Central Michigan University (1989-91). He also served as director of athletics at Dexter Community Schools (1987-89). Diles was an assistant director of public relations for the New York Jets of the National Football League in 1984. Author of numerous articles in professional journals and member of numerous conference and NCAA committees, he earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism and a master of sports administration from Ohio University and a doctorate of education from University of Michigan.

“David Diles was easily our top candidate for many reasons,” said LSSU President Hanley. “He is a highly experienced administrator with more than 25 years of work as a NCAA director of athletics and comprehensive leadership in institutional, conference, and national governance work in athletics. And he has considerable experience in growing programs, supervising capital projects, and fundraising. The list of his accomplishments is very lengthy, but perhaps the thing we were most impressed with is his record of ethical leadership at the various places he has served.”
On Wednesday, June 30, Mukwa Health & Fitness Center/BMCC held the very first Robin R. Bedell 5k to raise money for the newly established Robin R. Bedell Scholarship offered at BMCC. The weather cooperated, and BMCC was able to honor Robin Bedell’s memory on his birthday. There were a total of 90 individuals that participated in the 5k. The group raised over $7,000 (final count not done) for this year’s event. A big thank you to all of our donors, participants, sponsors and volunteers for making this 5k event such a great success.

5k Sponsors were:

- Bay Mills Community College
- Bay Mills Indian Community
- Bay Mills Resort & Casinos
- Northern Light Cannabis Co.
- Cloveiland Electric Cooperative
- Mark’s Tire Inc.
- Ojibwe Charter School
- Bay Mills Housing Authority
- War Memorial Hospital
- Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills
- Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
- Central Savings Bank
- Soo Co-Op Credit Union
- National Office Products & Printing Co.
Kid’s Fishing Day is back at Rotary Park on July 31

SAULT STE. MARIE – After a year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Connor Gor-such Kids Fishing Day is back at the Sault Ste. Marie Kids Fishing Pond at Rotary Park. This year’s event will be held 8-11 a.m. on July 31.

Kids Fishing Day is an opportunity for kids to catch trout and win prizes, all through the generosity of a variety of local businesses, organizations and volunteers.

Bait, food, drinks and fish-cleaning services are all provided free of charge. Some fishing rods and tackle are available for those who need it.

The event is held at the Kids Fishing Pond at Rotary Park, which opened for the season earlier this month. Maintained by Cloverland Electrical Cooperative, the City of Sault Ste. Marie, and Lake Superior State University, the pond is in a unique set-ting along the St. Mary’s River shipping channel. It is open to fishing for kids 16-under.

“All of the fish going into the pond this year are coming from the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery,” said Roger Greil, who has been leading the efforts at the pond since it was established in 2004. “The hatchery provided fish last year, too, when the pond was open but our annual Kids Fishing Day was cancelled. Without them, we would not have fish for the kids to catch.”

Greil said the Jordan River Hatchery is providing 3,000 trout this year, with 1,000 rainbow trout being stocked the night before Kids Fishing Day. The pond will be closed that evening to increase the chances of kids catching fish the next day.

“The fish we’re stocking are part of the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery fish-ing initiative, where we provide fish to groups that promote free and accessible youth fishing opportunities across the state of Michigan,” said Roger Gordon, manager of the federal hatchery. “With the success of the pond last year, in spite of the pandemic, we are very pleased to be able to help out again this year.”

Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery has donated fish for the pond in the past, too, as has the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources, and many people have donated toward the cause.

Registration for Kids Fishing Day will run from 8-9 a.m. on the day of the event. Kids 8-under can fish from 9-9:30 a.m., kids 9-16 can fish from 9:30-10 a.m., and all age groups can fish at 10 a.m. Look for more information on the Sault CVB web page and Facebook account.

The Sault Kids Fishing Pond is funded through the Sault Convention and Visitors Bureau’s Sault Area Foundation for Education (SAFE), a 501© 3 foundation (tax ID # 46-0739920). To help keep the pond successful, write Sault Area Foundation for Education, P.O. Box 1000 or 225 E. Portage Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. 49783.

Chippewa County Fair releases schedule of events

SAULT STE. MARIE — The 2021 Chippewa Co. Fair is just around the corner. There will not be a printing of a premium book this year, the fair will be following the classes in the 2019 book. You can find the book, schedule, camping form, livestock registration forms, etc. on their webpage: chippe-wafair.com.

There are a few changes this year. Please see the schedule below.

Skerbeck Carnivals will be back this year, starting on Wednesday. Sept. 1 starting at 1 p.m. Mega bands are available at $85 (this allows you to ride all day/every day) Wrist bands are also available for $25 each on the following days and times: — Wednesday, 1-5 p.m. — Thursday, 6-10 p.m. — Friday 1-5 p.m. — Saturday 12-5 — Sunday, 6-10 p.m.

Grandstand events are as follows: Sunday, Aug. 29 - Harness Horse Racing starting at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 31 - USA Demo Derby at 8 p.m.

Tickets are: $12 for adults $8 for ages 4-12 3 & under Free Tuesday, Aug. 31 - USA Demo Derby at 8 p.m.

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Saturday, Sept. 4 - 9 a.m. Garden Tractor Pull 12 p.m. Market Livestock Buyer’s Luncheon 12 p.m. Carnival rides start 1:30 p.m. Market Livestock Sale 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Fair Exhibitors’ Barn Dance

The 2021 fair schedule is as follows:

Saturday, Aug. 28 - Miss Chippewa Co. Fair Queen Contest at 7 p.m. in the 4-H Building.

Sunday, Aug. 29 - 11 a.m. Goat Judging 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. enter all other rabbit meat pens 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. enter all other rabbit bits 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. enter poultry meat pens 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. enter all other poultry tickets are: $12 for adults $8 for ages 4-12 3 & under Free tickets are: $12 for adults $8 for ages 4-12 3 & under Free tickets are: $12 for adults $8 for ages 4-12 3 & under Free tickets are: $12 for adults $8 for ages 4-12 3 & under Free

Monday, Sept. 6 - 9 a.m. Release of all projects 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Car Show ( in front of the 4-H building) 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Carnival rides ($2 each)

Chippewa County Fairgrounds are located in Kinross, just 1 mile off I-75 Kinross exit 378 in the Kinross Township Community Park.
BMIC History Dept. honored

Each year, the Historical Society of Michigan presents awards at the Upper Peninsula History Conference: the Charles Follo Award for individuals and the Superior Award for historical organizations based in the Upper Peninsula.

Last year, Bay Mills History Dept. and Historian Paula Carrick were honored with the Superior Award. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Carrick was not recognized for her accomplishments until this summer.

At the summer conference earlier this month, Carrick was honored for her work and the significance of the Bay Mills History Dept. in the Upper Peninsula.

The Bay Mills History Dept. has been in operation nearly 23 years. For many of those years, Carrick worked alongside her sister, Wanda Perron, preserving the local history and tribal heritage. Carrick attributes her partnership with Perron is what made the department so successful.

“Together we made the department what it is today. Doing what we both love. Learning and teaching the history of the Bay Mills Indian Community,” said Carrick.

USCG Cutter retires from Great Lakes service, moves to California

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Alder made its final trip through the Soo Locks on July 9 as a lock and dam operator tended the vessel. Alder was on her way to the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore. After 16 years of service from its homeport of Duluth, Minn., the 225-foot-long cutter will undergo mid-life servicing before moving on to a new assignment in San Francisco. The cutter Spar will replace the Alder in 2022. Spar is also a Juniper Class cutter and will continue Alder’s busy tending, ice breaking, law enforcement and search and rescue missions.
The Michigan United Conservation Club, the Bay Mills Biological Services Department, and several community volunteers helped Bay Mills Indian Community clean up the lands on Saturday, July 17, by clearing two historic dump sites on reservation on Sugar Island.

The group cleaned up and hauled away washers, lawn mowers, a motorcycle, vehicle axels, car parts, dozens of tires and much more.

Bay Mills Community College also did a cleanup. On Friday, July 15, staff cleaned the beach in Brimley. Their efforts removed five large bags of trash from the area near BMCC.

BMCC plans to make the beach cleanup an annual event.
Thanks to Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Conservancy, 300 new trees to grow at LSSU

SAULT STE. MARIE – The environmentally friendly campus of Lake Superior State University looks even greener thanks to a recent donation of more than 300 trees by the Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Conservancy (SWP).

A crew of four young adults from SWP’s Great Lakes Climate Corps (GLCC) spent a week planting 339 carefully chosen and strategically placed saplings across campus: 200 white spruce, 85 maple, 32 chokecherry, 12 white oak, and 10 eastern white pine spanning the central heating plant, the Fletcher Center, the row houses, and the Center for Applied Science & Engineering Technology.

“In the planning stages of this project, we coordinated with the university to prioritize native species that provide both community and ecological benefits,” said GLCC Program Manager Tyler Penrod. “For example, the oaks and pines at the Fletcher Center will one day offer excellent hammocking as well as filter and absorb runoff before it enters the Great Lakes. And the chokecherries will produce a tasty snack not only for students but also for wildlife.”

The trees should grow for decades, continued Penrod, “many with lifespans that can exceed a century. They will provide habitat and food for wildlife while serving the community with improved water quality, shade, and opportunities for outdoor recreation.”

This effort was part of an initiative announced last May by the nonprofit and Marquette-based SWP to provide 100,000 trees free of charge for planting throughout the Upper Peninsula via funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The public has planted some; GLCC has planted others. The many positive gains from trees—others include reducing soil erosion and removing carbon dioxide—“epitomize SWP’s mission to protect and improve the natural resources throughout the Upper Peninsula via funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The public has planted some; GLCC has planted others. The many positive gains from trees—others include reducing soil erosion and removing carbon dioxide—“epitomize SWP’s mission to protect and improve the natural resources throughout the Upper Peninsula via funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The public has planted some; GLCC has planted others. The many positive gains from trees—others include reducing soil erosion and removing carbon dioxide—“epitomize SWP’s mission to protect and improve the natural resources throughout the Upper Peninsula via funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The public has planted some; GLCC has planted others. The many positive gains from trees—others include reducing soil erosion and removing carbon dioxide—“epitomize SWP’s mission to protect and improve the natural resources throughout the Upper Peninsula via funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The public has planted some; GLCC has planted others. The many positive gains from trees—others include reducing soil erosion and removing carbon dioxide—“epitomize SWP’s mission to protect and improve the natural resources throughout the Upper Peninsula via funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The public has planted some; GLCC has planted others. The many positive gains from trees—others include reducing soil erosion and removing carbonioxide—epitomize SWP’s mission to protect and improve the natural resources.”

“SWP’s mission echoes LSSU’s regarding enhancing the quality of life of the Great Lakes region, so when they reached out to us about this possible synergy, we were grateful and excited,” said LSSU President Dr. Rodney S. Hanley. “Plus, LSSU’s core values include environmental stewardship and one of the pillars of our strategic plan is sustainability. These new trees are a wonderful, mindful thing.”

SWP, which formed in 1999, and its GLCC intend on collaborating with LSSU again on donating and planting hundreds more trees at the cutting-edge $14 million Richard and Theresa Barch Center for Freshwater Research and Education facility, scheduled to open toward the end of 2021.

HR welcomes latest hires to Bay Mills Indian Community workforce

Jordon Thomas Hurst was hired on May 25 to work in the Biological Services Dept. Boat Wash Station. He will wash boats, communicate with the public on invasive species, and maintain equipment. His interests include working on invasive species prevention. He likes to fish, hunt, collect insects, and birding.

Joan Jerman was hired on June 2 as the clerical grants worker. She will be answering phones, assisting the grant manager, and performing general clerical work. She chose to move back to Bay Mills and take the position to be closer to home. She and her partner, Diane Wink, reside in Brimley.

Carmen Kincaid also joined the BMIC workforce on June 2. Kincaid is working as an invasive species technician. She will assist in invasive species control, field surveys, and education and outreach initiatives. She is a senior at Lake Superior State University. She chose to come to BMIC to gain experience in her chosen field and help reduce the impact of invasives.

Stephanie Teeple began working on the Bay Mills Fire Crew on June 14. Her main goal is to preserve the land. She chose to come back home to the community for her new adventure. She enjoys spending time with her dogs and enjoys running. One day she hopes to be a storm chaser.

Kora Blake began as a youth development worker on June 21. The Brimley graduate is looking to help in new ways in any way she can.

Joshua Michael LaCoursiere began as a public works carpenter on June 21. He will be assisting on building projects. He has four children, and has been married to his wife, Ashley, for three years. He enjoys playing music in his free time.
Enjoy butterflies, beaches and a lighthouse

By JIM DuFRESNE
Capital News Service

LANSING — From mid-August through September, Peninsula Point in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula is known for “monarch madness.”

That’s when huge numbers of the distinctive orange butterfly migrate from Minnesota, Wisconsin and the U.P. south to Mexico, a 1,900-mile journey for an insect with a wingspan of less than 4 inches.

Waves of monarchs use Peninsula Point as a staging area before attempting the long open water crossing of Lake Michigan. At the peak of the migration in early September a decade ago, you could witness 3,000 or more monarchs fluttering in a handful of trees at this Hiawatha National Forest day-use area at the end of Stonington Peninsula.

Since then, climate change and deforestation of the insect’s mountainous winter habitat in central Mexico has greatly harmed the monarch population. It’s estimated that the Eastern species has declined by more than 80% since the 1980s, but it’s still an amazing migration. And it’s best seen today in Michigan at Peninsula Point.

Can’t make it for the monarch madness? Come whenever you can.

This small spit of land is loaded with history, excellent birding opportunities and a lighthouse that visitors can climb for a watery panoramic of Lake Michigan.

The centerpiece of the day-use area is Peninsula Point Lighthouse. Congress authorized its construction in 1864 because wooden sailing ships, hauling lumber, iron ore and fish from Escanaba, Gladstone and Fayette, were no match for the treacherous shoals that separate Big Bay de Noc from Little Bay de Noc.

The structure was built in 1865 and consisted of a 40-foot tower, lit by an oil lamp and reflectors, and an adjoining home for the lightkeeper and family.

The light went out for the last time in 1936, but the view from the point was so spectacular that the U.S. Forest Service converted it into a public picnic area in 1937. The lightkeeper’s house burned to the ground in 1959, but the brick tower survived and today is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Peninsula Point is also an important migration stopover for birds traveling up the Lake Michigan shore. Spring migrations can be exceptional, a time when birders can sight more than 200 species.

Much of the point is forested, and winding through the trees or skirting the shoreline is an interpretive trail and a rugged single-lane dirt road. The two can be combined for a scenic hike, a 2.2-mile loop from the RV parking area at the end of the pavement to the picnic grounds that surrounded the lighthouse.

In addition, the nearby Maywood History Trail features an old growth hemlock forest on the west shore of Stonington Peninsula.

Jim DuFresne of Michigan TrailMaps.com is a Michigan State University journalism alumnus.

Monarch butterflies use Peninsula Point in the Hiawatha National Forest as a staging area before crossing Lake Michigan on route to Mexico.

Peninsula Point is also an important migration stopover for birds traveling up the Lake Michigan shore. Spring migrations can be exceptional, a time when birders can sight more than 200 species.

Enjoy butterflies, beaches and a lighthouse in 1936, but the view from the point was so spectacular that the U.S. Forest Service converted it into a public picnic area in 1937. The lightkeeper’s house burned to the ground in 1959, but the brick tower survived and today is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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State launches ‘Stay Well’ series for children and adults

LANSING — Mental health research shows it may take months or even years for some people to recover emotionally from experiencing something like the COVID-19 pandemic. With that in mind, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Stay Well program has scheduled two free summer webinar series focused on supporting mental wellness and strengthening resilience.

“MDHHS has recognized the value of helping people take care of their behavioral health as well as their physical health during the fight against COVID-19 and will continue to do whatever we can to help Michiganders address their mental health needs,” said Allen Jansen, senior deputy director of the department’s Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration. “The idea is to give Michiganders feeling distressed by the pandemic some new ways to channel their thoughts and energy this summer. Or, as we like to say, be kind to your mind.”

The two series of webinars are called the “Summer Resilience Series” and “Draw Your Feelings!” Details are below:

**Summer Resilience Series**

The series is open to anyone with access to the Zoom online platform. Featuring a diverse assortment of guest speakers from around Michigan, the webinars explore practices that can help people find hope, tranquility and optimism.

The remaining program line-up for the Summer Resilience Series is as follows, with all “Summer Resilience” webinars beginning at 1 p.m.:

- July 27: Music for Mindfulness
- Aug. 3: Mindfulness Practice for Anyone, Any Time
- Aug. 10: Meditation 101
- Aug. 17: Exercise for Depression
- Aug. 24: Yoga and Yogic Breathing for Wellness
- Aug. 31: Hardwiring Your Nutrition Routine

**Draw Your Feelings!**

The second series of webinars offers interactive Zoom workshops designed for parents and their children ages 2 to 10. Led by licensed clinical mental health counselor Zeinab Moussa, the weekly workshops are designed to help children build emotional intelligence through guided drawing activities.

“Children sometimes have difficulty expressing their emotions, and parents may not fully understand what the child is feeling,” said Dr. Debra Pinals, MDHHS medical director for Behavioral Health. “The pandemic has certainly shed light on this, as children have been forced to adapt to change, just as adults have. This free, interactive learning series uses art to help parents and children connect - to their inner feelings!”

The schedule and topics for this series are as follows, with all “Draw Your Feelings!” webinars at 2 p.m.:

- July 28: My Values. Parents and children illustrate their family values by creating a drawing together.
- Aug. 4: Grief and Loss. Through drawing, kids acknowledge sad feelings and work toward processing grief and loss.
- Aug. 11: Anger. What does anger look like? Making pictures leads to a discussion of appropriate ways to express anger.

To learn more and register for any of the sessions, visit Michigan.gov/StayWell. Recordings of past webinars are also available at the site.

In April 2020, disaster behavioral health professionals at MDHHS created the Stay Well Crisis Counseling Program, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in conjunction with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to help Michiganders through the mental health challenges of COVID-19.

The program operates the Stay Well crisis counseling line - Dial 1-888-535-6136 and press “8” - hosts virtual support groups, presents psychoeducational webinars, and distributes mental wellness information in multiple languages. For information, visit Michigan.gov/StayWell.

**MSUE offers series on living with chronic pain**

Chronic Pain PATH is a free six-week workshop designed to support individuals who face daily challenges of living with chronic pain. Discussion topics include:

- Ways to talk to family and friends about chronic pain
- How to manage medications and deal with health professionals
- Ways to deal with frustration and understanding emotions
- Developing healthy eating and exercise plans
- And LOTS more

Sessions will be held online via Zoom on Thursdays, beginning Aug. 5, 2 – 4 p.m. Eastern, 1 – 3 p.m. Central.

Register at: [https://events.anr.msu.edu/cpPathaug5carter2021/](https://events.anr.msu.edu/cpPathaug5carter2021/)

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**Narcan available through ITC partnership**

The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc. has partnered with NEXT Distro and Grand Rapids Red Project to ensure all tribal communities have access to free naloxone through the mail. NEXT Distro is an online mail-based naloxone program designed for people who can’t access naloxone through pharmacies. Community members who need naloxone can access it at no cost through nextdistro.org/icmi.

If you are a person who uses drugs or if you have a loved one who uses drugs, use this brief online training to learn how to respond in the case of an opioid overdose emergency. Enroll to have Narcan nasal spray or intramuscular naloxone mailed to you at no cost.

This online training system does not interact with health systems, insurance carriers, or law enforcement. Naloxone is sent to your address in a plain, discrete package. Please direct questions about our program to info@nextdistro.org

To learn more about remote trainings please reach out to Lmoran@itcmi.org

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Rudyard, Michigan
Preparing for antlerless deer hunting season

Preparing for antlerless deer hunting will be a little different this year, as most deer hunters will not need to apply for an antlerless license. Hunters in specific areas will be a little different this year, as most deer hunters will not need to apply for an access permit to hunt antlerless deer. This license is valid across the state.

• Protect your pets - dogs and cats can come into contact with ticks outdoors and bring them into the home. Talk with your veterinarian about the best tick-prevention products for your pet.

Use insect repellent:
• Apply repellent containing DEET or Picaridin on exposed skin.
• Treat clothes (especially pants, socks and shoes) with permethrin, which kills ticks on contact or buy clothes that are pre-treated. Do not use permethrin directly on skin.

Perform daily tick checks:
• Always check for ticks on yourself and your animals after being outdoors, even in your own yard.
• Inspect all body surfaces carefully and remove attached ticks with tweezers.
• To remove a tick, grasp the tick firmly and as closely to the skin as possible. With a steady motion, pull the tick’s body away from the skin. Cleanse the area with an antiseptic.

Bathe or shower:
• Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors (within two hours) to wash off and more easily find ticks that are crawling on you.
• Wash clothing in hot water and dry on high heat to help kill ticks in clothing.

Not all ticks spread the same germs. MDHHS can help to identify ticks you may encounter outdoors. Residents can email photos of ticks to MDHHS-Bugs@michigan.gov for identification. Michigan hunters can also submit ticks to MDHHS for identification free of charge. For more information on how to submit your tick and/or photos, visit Michigan.gov/lyme.

Preparing for antlerless deer hunting season

Preparation for antlerless deer hunting will be a little different this year, as most deer hunters will not need to apply for an antlerless license. Hunters in specific areas may need to apply for an access permit to hunt antlerless deer in certain areas of the Upper Peninsula and in the Shoresville State Game Area. Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, Shiawassee River National Wildlife Refuge and Shiawassee River State Game Area.

In the Upper Peninsula, new deer management units 351 and 352 will require an access permit and a universal antlerless license to hunt antlerless deer. Both are required for each deer harvested.

DMU 351 is made up of DMUs 021, 022, 055, 255 and 322. DMU 352 is made up of DMUs 027, 036, 152 and 252. See a map for a list of the DMUs. One thousand access permits will be available in each of these two DMUs. Also in the U.P., DMUs 022, 122, 055, 255 and 121 are open to antlerless hunting without an access permit, while DMUs 127, 066, 031, 131, 042, 007 and 048 are closed to antlerless deer hunting.

Applications for limited-hunt access permits may be purchased for $5 from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources or online at Michigan.gov/Deer. Applications for unlimited access permits may be purchased for $5 from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources or online at Michigan.gov/Deer.
Dorothy “Dottie” Evelyn Mikolowski

Dottie was born on May 29, 1935, in Washington D.C. to the late James L. Walters and Roudella Perrin. She was a long-time member of the St. Mary’s River Sportsmans Club and also the senior bowling league. Dottie enjoyed playing euchre with friends, Bingo, her flower gardens, and spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dottie had a contagious smile and a warm heart. To know her was to love her.


Dottie was also survived by her two sisters: Vera Alleman of Pennsylvania and Geraldine “Geri” Kuppers of North Carolina.

Dottie was preceded in death by her parents; her husband: Richard G Mikolowski Sr.; stepson: Kelvin Mikolowski and brothers: Jimmy Walters and Johnny Walters.

The entombment will be at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens Cemetery. C.S. Mulder Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

In Remembrance of Dottie’s life, the family asks that any charitable donations be made to the St. Mary’s River Sportsman’s Club, P.O. Box 6, Barbeau, MI 49710.

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John Lyke LaPonsie

John was born on March 19, 1933, in Brimley to the late William and Myrtle (Williams) LaPonsie. He worked on the family farm and was a logger as a young man. He went to Lansing for a job opportunity with Oldsmobile. John returned to Sault Ste. Marie and found employment at the Veneer Mill before returning to the job that became his passion, Logging. Wood’s work was in John’s blood and he spent the vast majority of his time with a chainsaw or a processor in his hands. He logged with his brothers and nephews and loved to talk about all of their great times together over the years. Every man that has ever logged knows that loggers never retire. Such was the case with John until 2008 at the age of 75 he hung up his lunch pail and put away his bug dope. John never left the woods far behind and always had a story of the bear 20 feet away or the Bull Elk screaming next to his machine when he walked in, in the morning. He loved to socialize with friends and family and nobody remained a stranger with John for long. John, May the Sun always be at your back, May your saw always be Sharp and May every stick be a Veneer Log.

John is survived by his daughters: Debbie (Roy Cane) LaFaver of Sault Ste. Marie, Brenda (Leon) Derusha of Brimley, and Yvonne LaPonsie of Rudyard. Also, surviving are eight grandchildren: Kenneth LaFaver, Crystal (Jason Berg) LaFaver, Jessica (Roy) Bathgate, Ashley (Bryan) Bunker, Justin (Chelsa) Derusha, Jenna Derusha, Clinton LaFaver IV, and Amanda LaPonsie; and 20 great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by his siblings: Fern and Arty of the Soo, Larry of Brimley, Jimmy, Gene, Martha, and David — all of Dafter. John is preceded in death by his parents; and Matilda LaPonsie, the mother of his children; and four siblings, Billie, Ida, Andy, and Gay.

No public services will be held at this time.

Keith Allyn Cameron

He was born Sept. 21, 1944 in Ellwoodown, North Dakota to Herman and Frances (Hugo) Cameron. Keith was a proud member of the Bay Mills Indian Community and a United States Army veteran. He enjoyed traveling, fishing, gaming, dancing at pow wows, running, visiting with friends, and spending time with his family. Keith is survived by his wife of 53 years, Janis Cameron; son, Allyn (Samantha) Cameron; daughters, Andrea (Jim) Shaw, Nicole (Andy) Teppee Cameron, and Fawn (Justin) Gauthier; sister, Sandy; and brother, LeBlanc; brother-in-law, Bob Parrish; sister-in-law, Catherine Cameron; grandchildren, Haley, Bradley, Ethan (Sherry), Joseph, Mason, Jenna, Carmen, Andrew, Emma, Sean, Avery, and Adam; great grandson, Braxton Shaw; and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents; siblings, Herman Cameron, Jr., Frances LeBlanc, Irma Parrish, Geraldine Parish, and Carl Cameron, Sr.


David John Dolezel

David moved to Sault Ste. Marie as a child and graduated from Sault Ste. Marie High School. Following his graduation, he moved to Texas where he worked as a chef. He later moved back to Marquette and finally back to Sault Ste. Marie where he worked for War Memorial Hospital as a radiologist. He retired from the hospital in 2012 when he became ill.

David loved to play hockey and coaching his sons in the sport. He also enjoyed riding his Harley. He was a very good cook and loved to play cribbage. Most of all, he loved to hang out with his children and pets.

David is survived by his wife, Dawn Cruickshank; children, Donald Dolezel of Brimley and Nevaeh Cruickshank-Dolezel of Sault Ste. Marie; father, Donald of Sault Ste. Marie; siblings, pattie (Roy) Bunker, Justin (Chelsa) Derusha, Jenna Derusha, Clinton LaFaver IV, and Amanda LaPonsie; and 20 great-grandchildren.

No public services will be held at this time.

Dale Lee Semasky, Sr.
Dale Lee Semasky, Sr., born on April 17, 1966, passed away peacefully on May 20, 2021 at the age of 55.

Dale was a veteran of the U.S. Army and was stationed at the 82nd Airborne Division as a Spec 4 Paratrooper. After leaving the Army, he worked for the Michigan Department of Corrections in Alger County until he retired in 2017 after 27 years of service.

A day with Dale was filled with laughter. He loved watching the 80s movies, reruns, grilling, hunting and fishing with his kids and grandkids, wood burning and enjoying game night, every night.

His cooking skills, according to Dale, were impeccable, which is how the Annual Semasky Family Cook-Off was started 7 years ago. Of course, Dale humbly and graciously accepted the very first Semasky Family Cook-Off Trophy.

He was certainly a people person and an all-around handyman that friends and family could definitely rely on in their time of need. He was a great husband, father, brother, grandfather and friend and loved spending time with his kids and grandkids and giving them rides on his side-by-side. Seeing them laugh brought endless joy to him.

Dale is survived by his beloved wife Heather and daughter Skylar; his sons Dale, Jr., Joseph, Joshua and Dillion. He is also survived by his siblings Michael Semasky of Georgia, Richard Semasky, Jr. (Lydia) of Brimley, MI, John Semasky of Sault Ste. Marie, MI, Elaine Lehre (Elmer) of Sault Ste. Marie, MI, Irene Semasky of Sault Ste. Marie, MI, and Joy Hunt of Brimley, MI. His grand childrens Dale III, Isabelle, Paige and Willow; several nieces and nephews and special long-time friend, Gwen Loonsfoot.

Dale was preceded by a daughter, Alicia, his parents Richard Semasky, Sr. and Frances Semasky and his brothers Robert Semasky and Irving Tepple.

Final burial will be at Mission Hill Cemetery.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unclaimed funds
BMIC Tribal Members: Accounting has several outstanding checks for Elder’s Trust Payments that were never cashed. The full list is available at www.baymills.org. If your name is on the list, please reach out to Amy Capelli in accounting for more information by calling 906-248-8502.
If you see someone you know on the list, please reach out and let them know.

Scam Alert
Cloverland members have reported receiving a call from Cloverland stating their bill is past due, and demanding payment by phone. Callers have used a fake name and have even mentioned a Cloverland truck number. THIS IS A SCAM! Cloverland would never call and demand immediate action or threaten a member. Give the Cloverland team a call at (800) 562-4953 if you have questions. If a call seems suspicious, demands immediate action or threatens - it is most likely a scam. Please share this post with your friends and warn your neighbors that this scam is going around. The attorney general’s office has been notified.

Pow Wow planned
The Bay Mills Indian Community Honoring Our Veterans Pow Wow will take place from Aug. 13-15 at the Bay Mills Ball Diamond.

Bay Mills Health Center to hold coloring contest
Bay Mills Health Center is holding their coloring contest, as part of health center week. Coloring pages can be picked up at the Bay Mills Health Center lobby. The winner will be chosen on Aug. 16. Entries are due by Aug. 12.

Water Report available
The 2020 drinking water report is now available for viewing. This can be downloaded at www.baymills.org.

Fundraiser announced
An Indian Taco sale will take place on Friday, July 23 from 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. at the Armella Parker Building. Monies raised will go to help Kimarie Manabat with her kidney transplant surgery.

Stimulus application
Applications for stimulus monies for Bay Mills Indian Community tribal members are available online at www.baymills.org. Please make sure your address is up to date with enrollment when filling out an application.

Cultural events
Bay Mills Indian Community Cultural events are updated regularly on the website’s community calendar, www.baymills.org.

Now Hiring!
For open positions please visit our website.

These are all full-time, on-site positions located in Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

For job descriptions, salary information and how to apply, visit stronghearts helpline.org/about/jobs

Stronghearts Native Helpline offers: competitive pay, generous vacation package, 100% employer-paid health insurance for full-time employees (after 60 days) and retirement plan (after 1 year)

MSU Extension is seeking candidates for an Extension Educator position that will focus on Tribal Outreach and Staff Supervision

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Page 15
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