Tribe to acquire Four Seasons Market in Brimley

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Indian Community’s Executive Council has agreed to purchase Four Seasons Market in Brimley, the local grocery store located across from Brimley State Park on Six Mile Road. The tribe anticipates completing the acquisition within the next six months. The council approved the purchase at their Jan. 27 meeting.

Current employees of the market will be retained and transitioned to be part of Bay Mills Enterprises. Brandon Leapley, who currently manages the tribe’s Bay Mart operation, will oversee the market. Leapley looks forward to continuing the Bay Mills model of quality customer service, just on a larger scale.

The purchase includes the 5,160 square foot building, as well as some acreage surrounding the market.

“We are excited and eager to bring the Four Seasons Market into the fold of enterprise operations. Expanding our reach through property acquisition has been a long-term goal and we are pleased to realize ownership in a business that will continue to offer a quality product to our area citizens,” said Richard LeBlanc, Bay Mills Resort & Casinos general manager. “Our management team will work diligently to find growth opportunities for this operation while we continue to offer value, variety and the best service possible.”

The expansion of Bay Mills businesses, outside of gaming operations, has been on the radar of the Executive Council for quite some time. However, this is the first such investment in several years.

“We are excited about diversifying our business holdings, and about the opportunity to make big investments in our community. Four Seasons Market has been a cornerstone of our local economy for many years, and will make a great addition to the Bay Mills Enterprise Brand. I want to welcome the Four Seasons employees to the Bay Mills team,” said BMIC Tribal Chairman Bryan Newland.

“We believe that the Four Seasons Market has the potential for growth, including food service and retail offerings, as well as working with local food producers to bring healthy locally-sourced foods to our community.”

BMIC is one of the largest employers in the Chippewa County. The tribe currently has more than 650 employees.

MOVING UP! - Black Dragons of Mukwa Health & Fitness Center is proud to present 15 beginner youth students that were recently promoted to a yellow belt in TaeKwonDo.


A new 10 class session begins on March 14. It is the perfect platform to get started in martial arts. To learn more, or to register, contact Instructor Jamie at: jeavou@gmail.com or 906-322-6400 with interest, questions, and to register.
Bay Mills Executive Council discusses business

BY SHANNON JONES/BAY MILLS NEWS

Bay Mills Executive Council met for regularly scheduled meetings on Jan. 27 and Feb. 10.

After opening the meeting with prayer and approving agenda the following reports were given:

Jan. 27

The following items were discussed in Chairman Bryan Newland’s report:
- Treaty Fishing Negotiations: Looking at how to manage fishery into the future, putting significant time and effort into the plan.
- Economic Development: Letter of intent on agenda for tribally-owned cannabis business on tribal land, looking at construction information for building.
- Four Seasons market acquisition: All employees to stay, Bay Mart management team to help with transition.
- Emergency Response Plan: In order to be eligible for FEMA funding, plan needs to be a particular format, looking at completion by end of next month.
- Insurance: Changes to health broker, the tribe is looking to go self-funded in coming years.
- Construction: Red Pine Lane water main first project of the year.

Tribal Manager Duane Bedell discussed the MSU job description posting and said the tribe will fund half the salary and MSU will spearhead the hiring process. Officials from the program will be onsite in Bay Mills to finalize the description during the week. It will likely take a few months to find an applicant.

Bedell is also working with the tribal engineer on software for work orders in an effort to streamline the process for maintenance.

Chief Financial Officer Albert Bertram was unable to attend the meeting, he submitted a written report to council.

Health Director Audrey Breakie discussed the following items:
- Looking at health center design, fire hydrant placement;
- Podiatry brought on board at health center;
- Meetings at WMH continue;
- Radiology licensing with the state of Michigan;
- Elevator replacement at current building;
- Considering purchasing a new generator in light of recent outages;
- Working to provide services at BMCC, such as crisis counseling.

Items discussed by Bay Mills Resort & Casino General Manager, Richard LeBlanc:
- Busy week, much of it surrounding retail acquisition of Four Seasons;
- Continuing efforts with retail sports betting and what needs to be done there, working with designers and budget;
- Discussion with CFO about costs expected for sports betting;
- Hotel occupancy positive, even with lack of snow;
- Planning for the spring, looking at floor in Sac’y’s peeling, needs replacement;
- Parking lots continue to be an issue, been cold packing to address holes for winter, will cut out sections and replace in future;

Old Business
- Resolution No. 20-1-27A - Support for Paradise Brownfield Cleanup: Presented at last meeting. EC of BMIC supports the effort to immediately and comprehensively remediate 7094 N. M-123 in Paradise. (Approved)
- Cooperative Agreement between the BIA and BMIC for Wildland Fire Management: Tabled as waiting on additional information.

New Business
- Donation Request – OCS Robotics: BMIC donated $1,000 last year for past couple of years. Council approved a $1,000 donation.
- Donation Request – BMCC AIHEC Club Members – All tribal colleges compete in competition. Council approved $1,000 donation.
- Health Center QI Plan and Strategic Plan were tabled until next meeting.
- Pharmacy Wholesaler Agreement – McKesson – Lucy Dewildt: This was also tabled until entire package is reviewed by legal.
- Approval for Biology to Submit BIA GLRI FY20 Grant – Rachel Burtt: Approval for submission over $50k threshold. Two categories, neither grant requires a match.
- Resolution No. 20-1-27B – Biology’s First Nations Development Institute Grant – Brianna: Biology in Dept. with Waishkey Bay Farm, no match about $30k in funding available for seedkeeping and saving project at the core of this grant. Farm would find culturally relevant then seeds go to seed library. Council approved application.
- Resolution No. 20-1-27C – Purchase Agreement – Four Seasons Market: Council approved the purchase agreement.
- EMS Service Contract – Duane Bedell: Chippewa Township (Strongs) flat rate for services provided, Council approved the rate.
- Utility Rate Board Appointment – Duane Bedell: This is from the utility ordinance revision, appoint council member to the board. Gail Glezen appointed. Two meetings a year.
- Policy Exception – Four Seasons employees: This is to bring them into the fold of enterprise staff without additional requirements.
- Reaffirmation of Poll Votes:
  - Approval Letter of Intent with Emerald Growth Partners
  - Approval of Contract Amendment with DSGW

Feb. 10

Chairman Newland was absent due to obligations in D.C. The only report given was that of the tribal manager.

In the tribal manager’s report, Bedell noted the down payment had been made to Four Seasons. The MSU Extension Health Educator Position was to be posted, and that he is still waiting to hear back from the BIA about the fire crew. Interviews have been done for the utility operator with a job offer made. The Emergency Response Plan has been drafted.

In Old Business, the following items were tabled:
- Cooperative Agreement between the BIA and BMIC for Wildland Fire Management: Tabled waiting for a response from BIA.
- Pharmacy Wholesaler Agreement with McKesson: Tabled as attorneys were not in house for discussion.

In New Business, the following items were discussed:
- Health Center Quality Improvement Plan for 2020: They will be meeting eight measures this year. Many of the projects are the same from prior years and set by the agencies involved. Staff is looking at retention rates and reducing the amount of uninsured individuals by five percent. They are also monitoring the cost of health care overall. The plan was approved.
- Health Center Strategic Plan 2020-2022: Looking at patient satisfaction and missed appointments. Health Center does have transportation available, but looking at a wheelchair accessible van. Sixteen percent of appointments missed in the past were due to a lack of transportation. Also working on the immunization plan and improving external and internal communication. The plan was approved.
- 2020 Ambulance Fee Schedule: This was tabled by council to look at billing rates for other local communities.
- Reaffirmation of Poll Votes:
  - Approved a $300 donation for Austin Kronemeyer – UP Football All-Star
  - Approved Resolution No. 20-2-3A – ICDBG BMIC/Boys & Girls Club of Bay Mills Public Facilities Project.
Bay Mills News
February 2020

**Chairman’s Update**

**General Tribal Council – The power is in your hands**

By Bryan Newland/ Bay Mills Tribal Chairman

Prior to serving as your Tribal Chairperson, I worked as an attorney in private-practice for a number of tribes across the country. Each of them had a unique culture, community, and form of government. Most of my tribal clients had elected governments, and some would host annual “Membership Meetings.”

I recall having a conversation with a tribal council member for one of my clients, who was particularly stressed about making a presentation at the annual Membership Meeting. I remember chuckling inside as I explained that my own tribe convenes four meetings each year where the elected tribal council members are accountable to the entire tribe, and might even have their actions overruled by a vote of the people. The thought of being accountable to tribal members every three months would make a lot of elected tribal council members shudder in many other tribes.

But, it is something we take for granted here at Bay Mills.

Under our Tribal Constitution, the supreme power of our tribal government does not rest in the hands of the people who run for office. It rests in the hands of our tribal members themselves, through the General Tribal Council.

The General Tribal Council is comprised of every single adult Bay Mills member; and, our Constitution requires it to meet at least four times every year. The GTC can take any action it wishes – from adopting new tribal citizens, to enacting laws, to rescinding decisions of the Executive Council. It can also exercise oversight of the Executive Council by asking questions.

But, the GTC can only exercise its powers when there is a quorum of members present, which is comprised of one-fourth of the adult tribal members who live on the Reservation.

As our tribe has grown in membership, it has been more difficult to achieve a quorum at GTC meetings. In my brief tenure in office, we have achieved a quorum in only two out of nine meetings. This has made it difficult to advance some important tribal objectives, and has created a backlog of adoptions.

In other settings, many politicians, elected leaders, and business executives would be happy to avoid oversight and tough questioning. It isn’t easy to listen to criticism or skepticism. But, that is an important part of leadership, and it strengthens the bond between tribal government and tribal membership.

One of the reasons Bay Mills Indian Community has avoided a lot of the structural challenges that face other tribes – from constant recall elections to disenrollment – is because we gather four times each year to share in the exercise of our governmental responsibilities. As an elected tribal leader, I look forward to the opportunity to answer questions, share information, engage in dialogue, and get feedback. This is an important tool to ensure that the Executive Council performs its job well, and is in-sync with our citizens. GTC meetings are also a great opportunity to discuss the tribe’s commercial enterprises, since sharing financial and development information on social media can give other Tribes and businesses a commercial advantage.

I recognize that GTC meetings can be a chore, and that we all lead busy lives. That is why we are working to make them relevant and efficient. I encourage you to attend our next GTC meeting, to bring your kid(s), and ask your tough questions.

On other fronts, we have begun a planning process for our long-term land use and development plan. We will provide opportunities for Bay Mills citizens to provide your ideas and insight, so that we can develop a sustainable community for our tribal nation for the coming generations. In addition, we have undertaken a massive expansion of the tribe’s commercial enterprises. This work represents a big investment in diversifying our tribal economy, and providing different opportunities for our tribal citizens to have fulfilling jobs here at home. The Executive Council was able to provide an overview of this expansion at our most recent GTC meeting, and I intend to provide an update at our next GTC meeting in April.

I am honored to be entrusted to serve Bay Mills in this role, and it is exciting to work with so many talented Bay Mills citizens and community members to benefit our people. Please check out our tribal website, and my official Tribal Chairman Facebook Page for regular updates about what is going on here at Bay Mills. And, please don’t hesitate to call, email, or stop-in to share your thoughts, questions, and concerns with me – I work for you. Miigwetch!

*You can reach me at 906-248-8100 or bnewland@baymills.org. My official Facebook Page is “Bay Mills Indian Community Tribal Chairman.”*
By Sharon M. Kennedy

Like many readers, I don’t know what to say anymore when it comes to the mess in Washington. We’ve been pulled in so many different directions, we have no idea who’s telling the truth and who is lying. The polarization created by both parties is an abomination to our democracy. Every day we’re bombarded with reports of “fake” news, politicians going off the rails, and a president who sticks his fingers in the affairs of the judicial branch. By the time you read this, anything I say will be outdated so I’ll keep my opinion generic.

Lately I’ve been watching some PBS interviews on YouTube and as unbelievable as it sounds, Steve Bannon says the one person responsible for the in-your-face attitude of Trump is none other than Sarah Palin. I couldn’t believe what I was hearing until he explained it was her down-home manner that won over the voters. Bannon said she never apologized for her stupidity, her ignorance of basic geography, her inability to grasp simple concepts of government, and her outspoken nonsense about seeing Russian planes flying over Alaskan airspace.

Anybody with an ounce of sense knows McCain brought her on board as a last ditch effort to pump up his campaign. When I watched her deliver the keynote address at the 2008 Republican convention, I knew every male was sitting on the edge of his chair and wishing his wife or girlfriend was just like Sarah. With her long, curly hair and her attractive short skirt, she exemplified the perfect woman. She was feminine, yet strong. She was slender and sexy without being overtly profane. Her eyeglasses showed she wasn’t ashamed of her need for them and saw no reason to insert contact lenses like everybody else on the campaign trail.

The woman exuded self-confidence. She delivered the prepared speech like a pro and took the audience by storm. From the first moment on, McCain walked in her shadow. She was as ill-prepared for the job as Trump, but she never backed down from a fight. She relished confrontation and called for a populist revolution that eventually resulted in the formation of the Tea Party. This mere slip of a woman with her “take no prisoners” attitude and her incredible ability to connect with the crowd was the beginning of the end of politicians as we know them. At least that’s Bannon’s opinion.

And it makes sense. No presidential candidate had ever chosen such an unqualified person as his running mate. Palin was a show horse, an anomaly in the political arena, a homespun conservative who captured the imagination of folks who were looking for an alternative to a traditional politician. She had no response when asked what newspapers she read, and it was Katie Couric who took the beating for “picking” on poor ignorant Sarah, although it was obvious Sarah lacked the ability to give an intelligent response or even to quip, “I read Mad Magazine and the Sunday funnies.”

So is it possible one rogue woman from the hitherto unheard of tiny town of Wasilla, Alaska is responsible for the mess we find ourselves in today? Is she the one who sewed the first seeds of outright contempt for our two-party, checks and balances system? If so, congrats, Sarah. You single handedly began the dismantling of democracy in the United States. Well done, old girl. You paved the way for the flood gates to be opened for any and all of our adversaries to sail through and be welcomed, even embraced, by the president.

Is this giving her too much credit? I don’t know. What’s your opinion?

Kennedy is a freelance writer who resides in Brimley. She is also the author of Life in a Tin Can, available on Amazon. Kennedy can be contacted at sharonkennedy1947@gmail.com.
EVERY PERSON
In Michigan
Deserves Access To
Good HEALTHCARE

To fund life-saving programs like MIChild, urgent care, Medicaid and Medicare YOU and YOUR FAMILY must be counted in the 2020 CENSUS this spring.

The 2020 CENSUS is quick and EASY to fill out. Use it to count EVERYONE in your home. And by law, it is 100% CONFIDENTIAL

For more information go to www.mivoicecounts.org
OCS announces Spotlight Readers for January

Kindergarten
Christian was chosen as Spotlight Reader because of his drive to read and his willingness to learn new words. He is always ready for reading groups and to increase his reading abilities. - Ms. Heikkinen

First Grade/Second Grade
Larry has been improving his reading skills greatly over the last few weeks. He is always willing to dive into his reading. He loves to be challenged and loves to learn new techniques to figuring out a word he doesn't know. - Mrs. Dell

Third Grade
Tobias Tyson is the third grade spotlight reader for January. When Tobias becomes interested in a book, it's almost impossible to get him to put it down. He has a true passion for reading that is clear to anyone who knows him. Not only is Tobias an avid reader, he also is an excellent reader and often volunteers to read aloud in the classroom. Keep it up Tobias! -Mrs. Bowen

Fourth Grade
The fourth grade spotlight reader for January is Max Heyrman. Max has improved tremendously in his reading skills this school year. He has put a lot of effort into becoming a better reader and it shows. Max is truly focused when he reads and has really put focus on comprehending what he is reading. Way to go Max! -Mrs. Bowen

Fifth Grade
Reilly often shares animal facts and other information with his classmates, when you ask where he learned it, he will gladly tell you "from a book!" Reilly enjoys reading and can often be found choosing to spend his free reading, he is a good example of what a dedicated reader does. - Mrs. Ennes

Sixth Grade
Clay enjoys reading biographies and books about history. During school he reads studiously and he continues his love of reading at home by reading e-books on his tablet. Congratulations Clay on being our Spotlight Reader! - Mrs. Ennes

2020 North American Indigenous Summer Enrichment Camp to be held July 12-16 at CMU

The Office of Native American Programs at Central Michigan University invite all Native American students interested in exploring life at college to apply for the week-long North American Indigenous Summer Enrichment Camp.

Native American students entering the 8th -12th grades in Fall 2019 are eligible to apply. The first 20 students who return completed applications will be accepted into the program.

Students will be housed in a residence hall and involved in activities within Central Michigan University’s campus.

NAISEC aims to expose young Native people to higher education and improve participants’ understanding and perceived ability to succeed in a college setting.

- Students will learn how to take proper notes, prepare for exams and how to use the University library for research.
- Students will receive lessons on Anishinaabe language and history, contemporary issues in Native American communities and cultural leadership skills.
- Students will attend workshops with admissions, career services and financial aid.

To learn more, visit https://www.cmich.edu/ess/cid/NAP/Pages/NAISEC.aspx

Michigan Indian Elders offer education incentive

A Student Incentive Program is being offered by the Michigan Indian Elders Association to recognize students who achieve all “A’s” for a marking period as well as students who achieve perfect attendance for a marking period. In the event that the number of qualified entries exceeds the funds available, the winners will be determined by lottery.

TO QUALIFY:
- The student must be an enrolled member or be a direct descendant of an enrolled member of one of the MIEA constituent tribes/bands.
- The student must be in Grades 1-12 at a public or private school. Home schooling is not eligible.
- A student can qualify for both the perfect attendance and straight “A’s” for both marking periods. For example, straight “A’s” and perfect attendance for both marking periods would mean four (4) chances to win.

Brimley Area Schools announces
January Students of the Month

Davyn Olmstead is a very responsible young man who remembers to follow directions at all times. He never has to be reminded to take care of his things and he does it promptly. During lessons, he is always listening and learning. He is a very dedicated student who is always on task and modeling excellent behavior for his peers. I can count on him to produce neat, quality work! As a result of his hard work, he excels in all areas. We are lucky to have such a kind, hardworking boy in our class. You should be proud! Awesome job, Davyn! - Mrs. Hill

Aden Hilborn is a very respectful student who is always following Bays Ways. Aden is always ready to learn and does his best at his work. Aden has a fun personality that we always appreciate in our room. Aden has shown so much growth so far this school year both academically and socially. Aden is helpful to the teacher and his classmates. We are so lucky to have him in our class.

Great job Aden! - Mrs. Leep

Iris Garvon is an outstanding student who takes her work and school very seriously. She goes out of her way to help a friend if needed. Whether it is holding a friend’s hand in the hallway, giving them a quick hug to get their day started, or making sure a peer has everything they need. Her behavior is excellent as is her attitude toward the importance of school. Congratulations, Iris. - Mrs. Castagne

Not only does Louise Duvall have superb behavior, she sets an excellent example for her classmates to follow and learn from. I can always count and rely on Louise to help me out. Her eagerness and positive attitude towards school shows in commitment to her work. She always gives 100 percent, no matter what she tackles. Congratulations, Louise! - Mrs. Castagne

Logan Barnes gives effort daily and loves learning! Logan is respectful in school and on the playground where he waits his turn, raises his hand when he wants to be heard, and has a level 0 voice in the classroom, hallway, and bathroom. Logan has become a terrific mathematician where he is using critical and problem-solving skills. He is kind and always willing to lend a helpful hand in our classroom and at school. We love having Logan as an important member of our classroom family and enjoy his kindness everyday. - Ms. McPherson

Hannah Tremblay comes to class every day with a smile on her face and a desire to learn. She can be counted on to put her best effort in everything she does. Hannah is a kind and caring student who is always willing to lend a helping hand to a classmate. She actively participates in group discussion and can often be relied on to know the answer to a difficult question.

Keep up the great work, Hannah! - Mrs. Gross

Josie Leapley is a very sweet girl who tries her best every day at school. She is very kind hearted and enjoys working with and helping her classmates as much as possible. She is becoming quite an excellent reader who is able to capture her audience through her amazing expression and smooth reading abilities. I have really enjoyed getting to know Josie this year and learning about her love of dance. She is going to achieve great things in life! Congratulations Josie!-Mrs. Schaedler

Leena Jones brings sunshine, joy, and kindness into our classroom. She walks into the classroom each morning with a smile on her face. She is a wonderful classmate to all of her peers. She works well with every student and is always willing to help whoever is in need. If one of her classmates is having a bad day, she does everything that she can to cheer that student up. Leena puts forth a lot of effort into her work and always completes it on time. Great job, Leena! We are very fortunate to have you in our classroom! -Ms. Peller & Miss Grandfield

Ben Yacuone is a great student who is super funny, kind to others, and always follows the Bays’ Ways. Ben is focusing well on his learning and always does his best in and out of the classroom. Keep up the outstanding work, Ben! - Mrs. Alexia Jarvi

Makenna Cameron’s fun-loving energy brightens our classroom daily! Makenna always puts forth her best effort on each assignment and activity. S Makenna is always willing to lend her teachers and classmates a helping hand. When called upon to nominate a classmate for student of the month, Makenna’s fellow 4th Graders expressed that they believe she deserves to be our Student of the Month for January because she is a great friend, always does her best, and follows Bays’ Ways. Congratulations, Makenna! Way to go! We are so proud of you!- Mrs. Dettloff

Hailie Bator is a hard working lady who always makes sure to get her work turned in on time and on time. She puts in her best effort and is willing to help her classmates. Whenever they aren't quite sure or need a different explanation or way of looking at things Hailie does a great job of helping them out! She is kind and respectful with an easy smile and a big heart. She has a great reading voice filled with lots of feeling that helps our stories come alive. I love how she perseveres in math and really puts a great effort into the tough story problems. Congratulations Hailie on earning SOTM for January! Keep up the good work. -Mrs. Rogers

Aiden Nichols is an amazing student who always tries his best. Aiden is on the Honor Roll, as well. Aiden works hard on his assignments and is always willing to help other students in need. Aiden isn't just a great student, he is also a great friend to those in our classroom. His smile can make anyone's day happy and bright! Keep up the good work, Aiden! - Mrs. Rutledge

Shemida LeBlanc has been chosen as Student of the Month because of her strong work ethic, organization, and pure goodness. Shemida is an exemplary student because she always has her work neatly done and on time. Daily, Shemida is one of the first to be ready to learn, as well as, one of the first to finish her work because of her constant dedication to learning! Shemida is a great role model who sets goals for herself regularly, and doesn’t stop working until she accomplishes them. In addition, Shemida is a student that her classmates and I can always count on to be helpful, to be focused, and to be following the Bays’ Ways. Great job Shemida and keep being great! Your future is very bright, and we are very proud of all that you do!- Mrs. Stacy

This month’s student of the month for Mr. Conley’s has been rock solid all season long. An avid athlete and student, this student is able to do an amazing job at both. Always taking class discussions further this student has a great academic curiosity and always wants to expand her learning. Always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need of help this student is not only a great student, but a teacher as well. It is my honor to announce that this month's student of the month for January in Mr. Conley’s class is Tallulah Slabosheski. - Mr. Conley
By JOSHUA VALIQUETTE
Capital News Service

LANSING — Requiring college-bound students to submit a one-time Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) would increase completion rates across the nation, according to the Center for American Progress, a Democratic-leaning research and advocacy organization in Washington, D.C.

Currently, students need to apply annually. “FAFSA is a gateway to all financial aid and a necessary part of applying to college,” said Angelo Vozza, the college advisor at Holland High School, where only 50 percent of students complete their applications.

Vozza said he educates students about the FAFSA process and helps those who need assistance filling out the form.

Only 55.9 percent of the state’s 2019 high school graduates completed their FAFSA applications, down from 56.8 percent the previous year, the Michigan College Access Network said.

Michigan ranked 25th among the states in FAFSA completion rates, with both Illinois and Ohio ranking higher, according to the National College Access Network.

State Rep. Darrin Camilleri, D-Brownstown Township, a first-generation college graduate, said that over $100 million is being left on the table because Michigan students don’t know the aid is there or because they don’t think they’ll qualify.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has challenged Michigan students to reach the goal of a 75 percent completion rate for 2020, a goal that only Louisiana and Tennessee reached in 2019, according to the National College Access Network.

A one-time application for low-income students would give them access to financial aid like Pell grants, a federal subsidy of up to $6,195 a year, as well as loans, for their entire college career.

Only 31 percent of 1.8 million low-income high school seniors will arrive at college with Pell grants, said the National College Attainment Network, a nonprofit group in Washington, D.C.

In Michigan, approximately 48 percent of students are eligible for Pell grants, meaning 24,800 seniors who may have received a grant did not receive one, according to the Michigan Education Association.

FAFSA now requires a new application every school year to confirm that student and family incomes haven’t changed. The 2018 Center for American Progress study said the incomes of 70 percent of those eligible for Pell grants didn’t change by $500 or more from year to year.

Camilleri has introduced a bill that would require high school students to complete a FAFSA application to graduate. It’s being amended to allow students to opt out of the mandatory application for any reason.

The bill was modeled on the 2018 Louisiana law that requires students to do the same and has led to a 25 percent jump in completion rates in that state, Camilleri said.

If Camilleri’s bill passes, he predicts a similar jump in completion rates like Louisiana could follow and achieve Whitmer’s goal of 75 percent completion rate.

The Michigan Association of State Universities, which represents the state’s 15 public universities, says it supports the concept of the bill if it allows students to opt out with no questions asked.

The bill is in the House Education Committee.

Meanwhile in Congress, Sens. Lamar Alexander, R-Tennessee, and Doug Jones, D-Alabama, introduced legislation in October to address problems they say are preventing low-income students from completing FAFSA.

Their bill would streamline the process for applicants who have already demonstrated their need to the federal government. It would also make it easier for families to see if they are eligible for aid.

One-time FAFSA application could increase participation, report says
Grant provides BMCC students with unique lab experience

BAY MILLS — Thanks in part to a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, students at Bay Mills Community College will be able to get hands-on experience with a high-tech mercury analyzer while working in the classroom.

The Direct Mercury Analyzer (DMA-80) will allow students to collect their own samples to check for mercury concentration, process them, and evaluate the data. BMCC is working with Bay Mills Biological Services, which allows students to evaluate the mercury levels of fish from the local area. In the past, sample material had to be sent to British Columbia for mercury testing. Students enrolled in the general science program are the first to utilize the new analyzer, which will be incorporated into more courses next academic year.

“The DMA is being used for student capstone projects, investigating mercury levels in Lake Superior walleye, as well as in supermarket fish. Part of this work is tied into ongoing BMCC research through a National Institute of Food and Agriculture funded project,” said Dr. Diana McKenzie, BMCC science department chair.

Students began using the new equipment in early January and have been enthusiastic about the results.

“From sample collection to troubleshooting, this really gives students ownership of their work,” said McKenzie. “And the quality of the data is coming out really good.”

BMCC has been upgrading equipment in the science teaching labs throughout the past year. Updates include new light microscopes with HD camera attachments, analytical scales, and probe sensors for chemical and physiological uses.

The new equipment rivals that of major universities and will not only enhance the lab experience for students, but also will improve tribal capacity and research opportunities.

McKenzie hopes the science lab upgrades will also get more students interested in the sciences, providing them a different type of experience in the classroom.

Apply for the Michigan Indian Leadership Program

The Michigan Indian Leadership Program is a one-week indigenized summer experience co-sponsored by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) and the Office of the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education at MSU.

MILP is designed to give Native American youth in grades 8-12 the opportunity to learn about college, experience college life on the university campus and explore the many exciting educational opportunities available at Michigan State University as well as the many career opportunities available in the agricultural, food sciences, natural resources and related fields. MILP strives to help prepare Native youth for college. There is a balance Daily activities include academic, social and cultural activities and presentations. The mornings consist of SAT test preparation and afternoons consist of tours and presentations by various departments, majors and colleges.

Although the program is not limited to Native American youth, the program content is based on issues of relevance to Native American students. The program is open to 30 participants annually.

The program runs from July 19 to 24. Deadline to apply is April 17. For more information, or to download the application, visit https://www.canr.msu.edu/academics/pre_college/.
BMIC Chairman selected to serve on Michigan Advisory Council for Environmental Justice

BAY MILLS — Bay Mills Indian Community Tribal Chairman Bryan Newland is one of 21 Michiganders that have been selected to the state’s first Michigan Advisory Council for Environmental Justice. The council will operate under the direction of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

“Since taking office, I’ve been deliberate and focused on protecting our Great Lakes, cleaning up our drinking water, and combating the real-life impacts of climate change,” said Whitmer. “To address ongoing environmental justice issues, it was absolutely critical that those impacted daily have a seat at the table. We must ensure that the implementation and enforcement of environmental protections, regulations, and policies in Michigan will be fair and meaningful to all Michiganders, regardless of geography, race, color, origin, or income. Actions like these will help to further rebuild trust in our state government.”

Regina Strong, the state’s Environmental Justice public advocate, is leading the Interagency Environmental Justice Response Team. The MAC EJ will provide public and impacted community input for the directors appointed to the Response Team. The Response Team is also planning regional roundtables around the state to ensure that as many people as possible are at the table on environmental issues.

Newland is one of two Native Americans to serve on the council. He will work alongside 20 other individuals, including John Petoskey, of Northport, is a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

“I am honored for the opportunity to serve,” said Newland. “Too often, Indian country is not at the table when decisions are made that affect our environment. I'm grateful that the Governor wants to hear our voices in these discussions, and I look forward to bringing an important perspective to the council.”

Michigan AG files brief, challenges court decision involving Line 5 tunnel law

LANSING – With a brief filed on Jan. 16 in the Michigan Court of Appeals, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel continues to challenge the constitutionality of the law that provided for the 2018 agreement between Gov. Rick Snyder’s administration and Enbridge Energy to build a tunnel beneath the Straits of Mackinac to house the energy company’s Line 5 pipeline.

Public Act 359 of 2018 was rushed through the Legislature to amend Public Act 214 of 1952, which allowed for the construction of the Mackinac Bridge. The brief filed today argues that the 2018 act violates Article 4, Sec. 24 of the Michigan Constitution, referred to the Title-Object Clause, which provides that “No law shall embrace more than one object, which shall be expressed in its title.”

In response to questions raised by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Nessel issued a formal opinion in March 2019 that concluded Act 359 was unconstitutional and the agreements based upon it made between the Snyder administration and Enbridge should likely be considered void.

In June 2019, Enbridge Energy countered by suing the State in the Michigan Court of Claims seeking a declaration that the Act is constitutional, thereby making the December 2018 tunnel agreement valid. The Court of Claims agreed with Enbridge and ruled in the energy company’s favor on Oct. 31, 2019.

The brief filed by the Michigan Department of Attorney General asks the Court of Appeals to reverse the Court of Claims decision because Act 359 violates the Title-Object Clause by not providing fair notice of the content of the law, and embraces two unrelated objects – a utility tunnel to carry oil beneath the Straits and the Mackinac Bridge to carry motor vehicles above.

Separately, on Jan. 16, a panel of the Court of Appeals denied, by a 2-1 vote, the State’s motion for stay pending appeal. Had it been granted, the stay would have delayed the effect of the Court of Claims decision until the Court of Appeals reached its decision on the constitutionality of Act 359. Instead, Act 359 currently remains in effect during the appeal. The State is reviewing the order.

This case is separate from and not related to the Attorney General’s lawsuit that seeks to shutdown Enbridge’s existing pipelines in the Straits.
Ojibwe Charter School recently chose their January Students of the Month. Ojibwe Charter School uses the Seven Grandfather Teachings for their Student of the Month program along with TRIBE. TRIBE is a positive system of following school wide rules. TRIBE stands for; Treat others kindly, Ready to learn, I need to listen, Be safe, and Everyone tries their best. The Grandfather Teaching for January is Truth/Debewin.

Truth is represented by the turtle as he was here during creation of Earth and carries the teachings of life on his back. The turtle lives life in a slow and meticulous manner, because he understands the importance of both the journey and the destination. Truth is to know all of these things.

Lena Sue LeBlanc - Kindergarten: Ms. Heikkinen
January’s Student of the Month was Lena Sue. The Grandfather teaching was truth and that is something she always is, truthful. She is always ready to learn and following TRIBE. Great job Lena!

James Trudeau - 1st/2nd Grade: Mrs. Dell
James will always be honest and tell you what is going on. He is great at helping around the classroom and helping around the school with anything possible. James has grown this year and learned how being truthful and honest can help everyone. Great job James!

Kyra Annand - 3rd/4th Grade: Mrs. Bowen
The student of the month for third and fourth grade is Kyra Annand. Kyra sets a great example of what it means to cooperate with others, to be a kind friend, and to be the best third grader she can be. She always encourages her classmates to be the same way. Kyra strives to know the difference between what is right and wrong and to always do the right thing. She chooses to be kind every single day, even when she isn't having the best day herself.

She is quick to share what she has with others and is always willing to help a classmate in need. Kyra is grateful, honest, and a caring friend. Keep up the good work Kyra!

Troy Shimmons - 5th Grade: Mrs. Ennes
Troy has been working hard on following TRIBE expectations and shown a tremendous amount of growth this quarter. He works hard in class, continues to contribute thoughtfully during lessons, and is eager to help staff members. I am extremely proud of Troy and am eager to see him continue to work to his full potential.

Gaibreal Tyson - 6th Grade: Mrs. Ennes
Since day one Gaibreal has been great to have in class. He contributes a sense of humor in most things and puts a lot of effort into displaying good citizenship. Gaibreal stays on top of turning in his work on time, and is a dependable friend for his classmates. Congratulations Gaibreal, keep up the good work!

HOMECOMING CELEBRATED!- Students at Brimley Area Schools celebrated homecoming in February. At left, crowned King and Queen are Dayton Parish and Jaymie Cameron. At right, sisters Audrey and Justina Massey show off their gowns.
Hiedi Marie Lupu

Hiedi Marie Lupu, 59, of Owosso passed on to Heaven unexpectedly on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020 at her home.

A Mass of Christian Burial took place on Feb. 1 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Owosso, with Fr. Dieudonne' Ntakarutimana officiating.

Hiedi was born Dec. 28, 1960 in Sault St. Marie, Mich., the daughter of Frank and Lieselotte Hugo. She was born of Chippewa/Ojibwe (Native American) and German descent.

She graduated from Sault High School and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a minor in political science from the University of Michigan.

Hiedi enjoyed playing pool, the outdoors, camping, and sports. She also loved to travel with her husband and family. She loved vacationing and especially taking vacations to Bay Mills Indian Community, where she was a lifelong community member. She was an avid Pittsburgh Steelers and University of Michigan fan. She really loved spending time with her many Grandchildren. Her family was her life, and she took an especially important role in the lives of her children and most of her grandchildren.


Hiedi retired as a supervisor with the United States Postal Service.

She is survived by her husband Jim; children Tano and (Josilyn)Anishinaabe, Rico Lupu, Tasia and (Edward) Sumbera III, Tania and (Terry) Cornelius, Abbi, Dez, Micah, Tano II, Nala, Emmy, Aiyanna, Alayah, Whitney, Malayla, Megan, Yewe, Makita, Ambrose, Sophia, Trenton, T'Riq, TraMar and True, Anthony, Kile, Khloe, and Ethan. Survived by her Sister Frieda and (Joel) Cremer; In-Laws Walt and (Laurie) Lupu, Traian Lupu, Ralph and (Vicki) Lupu, Anna and (Dave) Mogg, Ken and (Lori) Lupu, Robert Lupu, Dan Sr. and (Linda) Lupu, Ray and (Sherry) Lupu, Mona and (Traul) Pfeiffer and Tavi and (Nick) Lupu; Many nieces and nephews and other loving family and friends.

Hiedi was predeceased by her parents Frank and Lieselotte Hugo; sisters Charlotte and Liebe Hugo; father and mother-in-law George and Ann Lupu; brother-in-law George Lupu; and best friend Reta Soper.

Betty Loretta Elliott

Betty Loretta Elliott, 79, of Bay Mills, Michigan passed away Wednesday morning, Jan. 29, 2020, at her home.

Betty was born on May 29, 1940, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, the daughter of the late Merlin and Thelma (Alcorn) Taylor. Betty graduated from Brimley High School with the class of 1958. She later attended Bay City Community College. On December 9, 1961, she married Donald R. Elliott in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. She was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and attended Brimley Congregational Church.

Betty enjoyed playing cribbage and being out in her yard gardening. She was a great baker and cook. She also enjoyed sewing and for years she made all of her children’s clothes.

Betty is survived by her husband: Donald Elliott; two children: Dale (Tashina) Elliott of Bay Mills, and Marcy (Brian) Steele of Brimley; 10 grandchildren: Tiffany, Allan, Shaylah, Zander, Tim, Mike, Rebecca, Kaitlyn, Brian Jr., and Emma; and ten great-grandchildren: Ava, Kendrick, Kinley, Brooklyn, Jayden, Noah, Ava, Chloe, Domonic, and Lily. She is also survived by two sisters: Sally Cremer of Sault Ste. Marie and Nancy Hascall of Bay Mills.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, a brother: William Taylor; and a sister: Carol Taylor.

Services took place at the Brimley Congregational Church with Pastor Rod Case officiating.

Burial will be at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens on a later date.
Trade West Construction awarded Phase One funding for new Soo Lock

SAULT STE. MARIE - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, announces that the first phase of construction on the new lock at the Soo has been awarded to Trade West Construction Inc. of Mesquite, Nevada.

The much anticipated mega-project will be constructed in three phases. Trade West Construction will receive almost $53 million to complete this first phase of construction, which involves deepening the upstream approach channel to a depth of 30 feet. Construction will begin in spring 2020 and will take approximately two years to accomplish.

"This is an exciting time for the Corps and the Great Lakes. We look forward to working with the contractors and meeting all the milestones in this first phase of the project, which is critical to the success of the entire project," said Lt. Col. Greg Turner, district engineer.

Phases two and three of the project are still in design phase and involve rehabilitation of the upstream approach walls and construction on the new lock chamber, respectively. Upstream approach walls construction, phase two, will stabilize the existing approach walls to allow for modern vessels to tie up and wait their turn to pass through the new lock. This phase of the project will be advertised for bid in February 2020. The third phase, construction of the new lock chamber, will include rehabilitating downstream approach walls and is expected to be advertised for bid in spring of 2021.

"Contingent on efficient funding, the new lock at the Soo project, estimated to cost nearly $1 billion, could be complete in as few as seven years from the start of construction," said Mollie Mahoney, project manager.

The Soo Locks are situated on the St. Mary’s River at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and allow vessels to transit the 21-foot elevation change at the St. Mary’s Falls Canal. More than 85 percent of commodity tonnage through the Soo Locks is restricted by vessel size to the Poe Lock. This new lock project will construct a second Poe-sized lock (110' by 1,200') on the site of the existing decommissioned Davis and Sabin locks. According to a 2015 Department of Homeland Security study on the impact of an unexpected Soo Locks closure, the Soo Locks are nationally critical infrastructure and the reliability of this critical node in the Great Lakes Navigation System is essential to U.S. manufacturing and National Security.

Record high water levels to continue in 2020

DETROIT- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, announces that January 2020 water levels were higher on all lakes than they were in January 2019, and are expected to continue that trend into the spring and summer.


“It is likely that water levels on lakes Michigan and Huron will set new monthly mean record high levels over the next six months,” said John Allis, chief of the Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology Office, Detroit District. “This sets the stage for coastal impacts and damages in 2020 similar to, or worse than, what was experienced last year.”

The Corps urges those impacted by the high water levels of 2019 to prepare for similar or higher levels again in 2020. The most recent six-month forecast of Great Lakes water levels shows water levels continuing to be well above average and near record high levels over this period.

The Detroit District monitors and forecasts Great Lakes’ water levels and provides the data and analysis on their Website www.lre.usace.army.mil.

Several natural factors contribute to the record high lake levels. Persistent wet conditions across the Great Lakes basin continue to drive high water levels. Many cities across the basin set records in 2019 for the wettest period on record. The warmer than normal temperatures in January led to greater runoff and reduced evaporation across much of the Great Lakes basin.

Late winter and spring is a period of seasonal rise on all of the Great Lakes due to increased rainfall and runoff. Water levels typically peak in the summer or early fall. Significant erosion continues in many locations as water levels remain extremely high. Strong storm systems and resulting large waves have led to substantial erosion along much of the Great Lakes coastline.
Sturgeon season lasted less than six hours this year

CHEBOYGAN - This year’s sturgeon season on Black Lake (Cheboygan County, Michigan) ended at 1:40 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1 – not quite six hours after the day’s 8 a.m. start.

The fishing season, which included spearing or hook-and-line fishing, was scheduled to run Feb. 1 to 5, or until the harvest quota had been reached. This year's allocation of sturgeon for Black Lake anglers was seven fish, although Department of Natural Resources officials set a harvest quota of six fish to reduce the risk of over-fishing.

There were 472 registered anglers on the ice Saturday, the highest total since the inception of the open sturgeon fishery. People of all ages again participated, and from a number of states.

According to the DNR, three of the six sturgeon harvested were males ranging from 44 to 60 inches in length, and 16 to 51 pounds in weight. The three females ranged from 47 to 75 inches long, and 19 to 100 pounds in weight.

DNR fisheries biologist Tim Cwalinski said that three of the six fish had been captured before by Michigan State University and the DNR during spring spawning runs in the Black River:

- 60-inch male originally was captured in the 2011 spring spawning run, and then recaptured in 2013, 2015 and 2019.
- A 65-inch female had been captured and tagged during the 2007, 2015 and 2019 spawning runs.
- The largest fish, a 75-inch female weighing 100 pounds, had been captured and tagged during the 2004 and 2008 spawning runs.

Participating anglers were notified of the season’s end in a variety of ways: text alerts to those who provided cell phone numbers, a fishing telephone hotline, UAW Black Lake Conference Center siren, and ice shanty visits from DNR personnel. All methods were used within minutes of the final fish being harvested. DNR fisheries and law enforcement officials were embedded in the on-ice fishing communities and were able to quickly report harvested fish and contact all participating anglers about the season’s close.

“We allow for any licensed angler to participate – as long as they register – so we need to have a significant on-ice presence to protect the population of lake sturgeon in Black Lake from overharvest,” said Cwalinski. “This year was another successful season for angler participation.

Members sought for EUP Advisory Council

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is soliciting applications for open volunteer positions on the Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council.

The council is designed to advise the DNR on regional programs and policies, identify areas in which the department can be more effective and responsive, and offer insight and guidance from members’ own experiences and from the public.

A Feb. 28 deadline has been set to apply for membership to the council. Three vacancies are currently available. The council meets every other month, with meeting agenda items addressed set by council members. Council recommendations are forwarded to the DNR for consideration in policy-formation and decision-making processes.

Council members, who are required to have their primary residence located in the U.P.’s easternmost five counties, represent a wide variety of natural resource and recreation interest groups or the citizenry at large. Members are selected for the council based on a variety of factors. The eastern U.P. council includes roughly 20 members, each of whom reside within Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac or Schoolcraft counties.

Application forms and more information about the councils are available online at Michigan.gov/UPCAC or by calling the DNR’s Marquette Customer Service Center at 906-226-1331.

Completed applications may be faxed to 906-228-9441, emailed to dahlstromk@michigan.gov, or mailed to DNR, Attn: CAC, 1990 U.S. 41 South, Marquette, MI 49855.
Ice conditions may prompt early removal of fishing shanties

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources reminds anglers that changing ice conditions could require removal of fishing shanties before required removal dates. This is a possibility every year, as all shanties must be removed once ice can no longer safely support them.

People venturing onto the ice should use extreme caution as temperatures begin to rise or fluctuate. The repeated thawing and refreezing of ice weakens its integrity, decreasing its ability to support additional weight of people, snowmobiles, ORVs and shanties. Deteriorating ice, water currents and high winds increase the probability of pressure cracks, which can leave anglers and others stranded on ice floes or at risk of falling through the ice.

"Regardless of the required date, ice shanties must be removed before the ice becomes too weak to support them," said F/Lt. Jason Wicklund, DNR Law Enforcement Division. "It’s the angler’s responsibility to safely remove their shanty before it falls through the ice."

Shanty owners whose structures fall through the ice are subject to penalties of up to 30 days in jail, fines of $100 to $500, or both. If a shanty is removed by a government agency, the court can require the owner to reimburse that agency for an amount of up to three times the cost of removal.

If ice conditions don’t warrant early removal, these are the final dates for shanty removal:

**Lower Peninsula**
- Ice shanties on Lake St. Clair, located northeast of Detroit, must be removed before sunset Sunday, Feb. 23.
- Shanties in the northern Lower Peninsula must be removed by midnight Sunday, March 15. Counties include Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Bay, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Crawford, Emmet, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Isabella, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Montmorency, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon and Wexford.
- Ice shanties in the remaining counties of the Lower Peninsula must be removed by midnight Sunday, March 1.

**Upper Peninsula**
- On Michigan-Wisconsin boundary waters, ice shanties must be removed by midnight Sunday, March 15.
- All other bodies of water in the Upper Peninsula must have ice shanties removed by midnight Tuesday, March 31.

Daily use of ice shanties is permitted anywhere in Michigan as long as ice conditions permit and if the shanties are removed from the ice at the end of each day.

"No ice is ever considered safe," Wicklund reminded. "Anyone venturing onto the ice should always wear a personal flotation device."

Mackinac Bridge painting project wins second award

ST. IGNACE- The Mackinac Bridge tower painting project, now entering its fourth and final year, has won a second national award. Representatives of Seaway Painting of Livonia, the contractor performing the work on the bridge, accepted the E. Crone Knoy Award this week from the Society for Protective Coatings, an industry group focused on protecting and preserving concrete, steel, and other industrial and marine structures.

The E. Crone Knoy Award "recognizes an outstanding achievement in industrial or commercial coatings work that demonstrates innovation, excellence in craftsmanship, or the use of state-of-the-art techniques or products to creatively solve problems or provide long-term service."

"Anyone who is familiar with the scale and size of the Mackinac Bridge can understand the planning and effort required to clean and repaint the towers," said Mackinac Bridge Authority Executive Secretary Kim Nowack. "The awards our contractors have won are a testament to the excellent work that is being done to preserve the bridge."

Last summer at the Structural Engineers Association of Illinois 2019 Excellence in Structural Engineering Annual Awards, Ruby+Associates took home the Best Neighboring State Project Award for the bridge painting platforms used in the painting project. The movable scaffold system was designed by Ruby+Associates of Bingham Farms, fabricated by Moran Iron Works of Onaway, and used by Seaway Painting.

The south tower contract is for just less than $6.5 million, with Seaway required to complete the project by Dec. 31. The contract to repaint the north tower was just less than $6.3 million. Installation and removal of the platforms has required brief closures during the overnight and early morning hours on several occasions. The original paint is lead-based and Seaway is required to contain 100 percent of the paint as it is removed and ship it to an appropriate landfill facility. The new paint, which is zinc-based, is expected to last at least 35 years, with periodic maintenance.
Gigiigoo’innan Study: EARN $135
If you are an adult (18 years of age or older) member of a CORA tribe (Sault Tribe, Bay Mills, Little Traverse Bay, Grand Traverse or Little River Band), we invite you to participate.

You are invited to participate in an important study regarding fish consumption in our community. If you choose to participate you will record your fish consumption on a user-friendly web-based database once a week for eight weeks. This study will help us gather important information we can use to best educate and inform healthy fish consumption practices. The whole study will be conducted online, and you can complete the entire process from your home or on your phone! Completion of the study will also earn you $135. If you wish to participate, there will be two monetary incentives dispersed. You will receive a $60 gift card after completing one month of the study and another $75 gift card after completing the second month along with a short survey. To get started, please follow this link to the online recruitment form: https://is.gd/Gigiigoo’innan_Study. After consenting to the study online, you will receive an email with further instructions. Please note, this study is limited to one participant per household.

If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to contact Amy Poupart (apoupart@glitc.org) at 715-588-1077 or email the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan fishappcoordinator@itcmi.org. For any technical support questions, please contact Tom Chelius (tchelius@mcw.edu) at 414-955-8040.

SnowSnake Competition planned
The 5th Annual SnowSnake Competition is planned for March 5, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. outside of Ojibwe Charter School. This fun event is open to all ages. No experience is necessary to participate. For more information contact Jesse Bowen at 906-322-9266.

Report water issues online or via phone
Bay Mills water customers can now report if they are experiencing issues via phone or online. The number to report issues is 906-248-8179. You can also utilize the online reporting form available at www.baymills.org on the upper left side of the page.

Changes to the food pantry
The Bay Mills Commodity Food Department has taken over the Food Pantry located at the Waishkey Center. Since the food pantry is located in a different building than our office, clients must call to make an appointment. Based on our current schedules clients may not get an appointment until the next day. The Food Pantry is for emergency needs only.

This program will now be an income based program; the Feeding America Guideline will be used; however, we will no longer be purchasing food through that program. Participants must be a Bay Mills Tribal member or have a Tribal member living in the household. The service area will be Chippewa and Luce counties.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Commodity Food Department at (906) 248-2528.

Make your own bow
Bay Mills tribal elder and custom bow maker Webster Kinney has come across some paduke, a blood red piece of lumber that would make a beautiful riser (handle) for a long bow. There is enough material to make approximately seven bows. He has been working with the Carrick family recently to help create new bows. He just received an order for more glass laminations and now has enough material to make 2 more reflex longbows. These will be the last bows Kinney assists in making. Cost is $240 for the project. For more information, please contact Webster Kinney at is 248-6668 or w.kinney@bmcc.edu.

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

Tribal member addresses needed
If you are a Bay Mills tribal member and have recently moved, please contact Phyllis Malloy in tribal enrollment to confirm your address. She can be reached at 906-248-8131 or by email at phyllism@baymills.org.

Enroll in text message reminders
Bay Mills Health Center patients can now get appointment reminders via text messaging. This text messaging reminder system allows patients to receive text messages instead of phone call reminders. Patients can respond confirming, rescheduling or canceling appointments with a short text message response.
To enroll simply complete a text message opt in/out form at your next appointment or print it out and return it to the health center.