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August 2013

Attendance policy being changed at Brimley

By Shannon Jones
Bay Mills News

BRIMLEY — Brimley Area Schools is looking to improve student attendance and approved a modification to the current district attendance policy during the regular meeting held on Monday, July 25.

According to Brimley Superintendent Alan Kantola, the School Improvement Team looked into what other schools are doing and came up with the new policy, hoping to curb the number of absences in the district.

Effective this coming school year, students who miss five days of school during a semester, for any reason, excused or unexcused, will be contacted by the school through a letter. Those who miss more than 10 days in a semester will receive a phone call from the school and a mandatory meeting will be required between the parents, student and teacher or counselor.

Any absences, excused or unexcused, beyond the allotment of 10 in a semester will be considered unexcused unless extenuating circumstances are involved. The principal will be the sole determinant in each situation and the decision will be considered final.

Pre-arranged family vacation request forms can still be obtained from the school office, but these excused absences also count towards the total number of absences. All unexcused absences beyond 15 will fall under the Chippewa County Truancy Protocol.

Board member Jim LeBlanc said he thought the policy "seemed kind of cold" and noted he would like to see more flexibility.

Kantola pointed out that previously students who missed school with an unexcused absence were unable to get any credit for work missed. The new policy allows students to receive up to 60 percent credit for work made up in the event of an unexcused absence. However, if a student missed class and a test was given that day the student is required to take the test on the day they return to school.

The new student handbook will clarify the attendance policy, which, according to Kantola, will be followed by all teachers from kindergarten to grade twelve.

The board also took action to hire a new middle school/high school secretary. Jenna Caraccio will begin her position this fall. Other positions were filled at the meeting in preparation for the upcoming school year.

Amanda Lounds was hired as the playground aide, transferring over from the kitchen to this part-time position. Kim Carrick was hired as a part-time bus driver. Carrick has subbed previously for the district. Shelly Deuman-LeBlanc was hired as the JV volleyball coach. She was hired as the one-year replacement for Sally DeMolen who is currently on a leave of absence.

The next meeting of the Brimley School Board will take place on Monday, Aug. 19, at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

LeBlanc wins singing competition in Jackson

By Rachel Osborn
For Bay Mills News

BRIMLEY — Ever since Caitlin LeBlanc was old enough to talk, she's been singing.

LeBlanc has always enjoyed music and growing up around musical family members encouraged this passion, she explained.

"My grandma used to sing to me when I was a baby," LeBlanc said. "I grew up around music. It makes me really happy when I sing."

Flash forward more than a decade and LeBlanc is still pursuing her musical dreams. Over the years she's picked up a few instruments — the guitar, piano, banjo, ukulele and mandolin — and honed her stage presence.

The 14-year-old Brimley High School freshman, and daughter of Jason and Mariah Wanic, has been publicly performing as much as possible for the last three years, most recently winning the American 1 Teen Idol competition in Jackson, Mich.

After learning about the contest a year prior, LeBlanc was eager to take the stage. Though she missed out on the 2012 competition — her family was on a trip — LeBlanc anxiously awaited for the 2013 try-outs to begin.

"I've always loved doing competitions," she explained. "I wanted an opportunity to get out and perform."

After auditioning at the Michigan Theatre in Jackson around the first of May, LeBlanc

was contacted by contest officials two weeks later. She was a top-10 finalist and the youngest performer to be a part of the competition. In all, 50 13- to 19-year-olds auditioned.

On July 12, LeBlanc belted out her first song of the night "Want To" by Sugarland, in front of a crowd at the Jackson County Fairgrounds.

LeBlanc then found out she made it to the top five, where she performed "Someone Like You" by Adele.

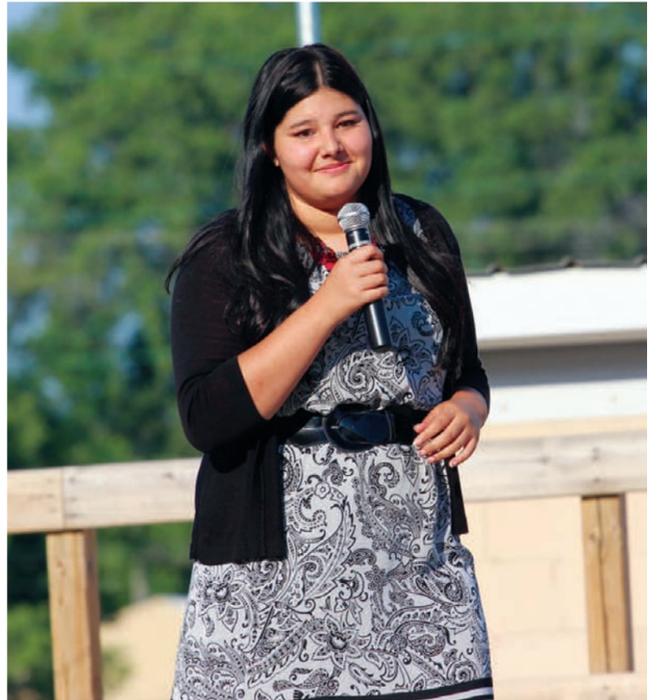
Though she was "kind of nervous," LeBlanc had no reason to be. She stole the show, winning the competition and a whole slew of prizes: \$1,000, an Ipad 2, a gift bag filled with a variety of products and a trophy.

After securing the big win, LeBlanc performed an encore song — "Over You" by Miranda Lambert.

"I'm a big fan of Adele, Sugarland and Miranda Lambert," she said. "They're three of my favorite artists and I thought the songs suited my voice well."

Members of LeBlanc's extended family filled the audience, coming out to support their superstar. If LeBlanc had learned of the contest several years ago, there's a chance she wouldn't have participated.

"I was really excited and jittery (this year)," LeBlanc said. "I always wanted to sing in front of people, but I was nervous when I was younger. Once I got a guitar I got more comfortable. [At this con-



test] I learned how to have a better stage presence."

Now, LeBlanc can't imagine doing anything else.

"It's my first option for a career," she said. "If I had to pick one career, being a professional musician, that would be it."

After graduation, LeBlanc hopes to attend the University of Michigan for performing arts or possibly Julliard.

LeBlanc will open next year's competition with The National Anthem and a song of her choice. Until then, she'll be doing smaller-scale performances and working on her first album.

Since late 2012, LeBlanc has written two songs — mostly about "life experiences and whatever comes to mind." It's her first

attempt at song writing, a skill she hopes to continue gaining experience at.

LeBlanc said she is thankful for all of her sponsors, donating money that contestants were required to raise. Because she won the competition, LeBlanc got to pick a charity of her choice — where a portion of event proceeds would be donated to. LeBlanc selected The Ronan Thompson Foundation, which is actively pursuing a cure for neuroblastoma.

LeBlanc will finish out the summer by working as an office assistant at the charter school offices.

For more information about LeBlanc and her music, visit www.facebook.com/cmusic99 or www.youtube.com/caitlinleblancmusic.

Child Development Center back in business

By Sharlene Myers
Bay Mills News

BAY MILLS — The sequester dealt them a heavy blow, but Bay Mills Indian Community's Child Development Center is once again open for business, after having to close their doors for the month of July.

Facing a 5.27 percent cut in funding for both the Early Head Start and Head Start programs, Andrea Shaw, center director since 1999, had to make a tough decision. Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan receives the federal funds and subcontracts with the tribe, she explained, covering salary and fringe benefits for employees, with BMIC covering the rest of the program. With reduced federal funds, her only recourse was to cut salary and fringe.

Several options were discussed between Shaw, ITC Head Start Director Ann Belleau and Tribal Administrator Sharon Teeple, with a complete closure for one month the final decision. Many had asked her why the tribe couldn't help out, but an expense of that scope had not been included in the tribal budget. "To run the programs in full for one month, would cost about \$91,000," said Shaw.

Staff and parents were kept informed "every step of the way," Shaw said, and a letter sent in March announcing the July closure, in hopes the advance notice would give parents ample time to make alternate arrangements for their children's care.

Other Head Start programs across the nation solved the problem by reducing the number of children they would serve, or dropping employees to 32 hours with a four-day program, Shaw said, "putting 100 percent of the cut on employees' backs." By closing for the month, her 29 employees could collect unemploy-

ment and recoup some of their lost wages, she added.

"We have not cut staff nor services and continue to strive to maintain a high level of quality services."

Unfortunately, this will be a permanent occurrence, Shaw said, as the funding will not be restored at a future date. She has already written a four-week closure into her renewal grant application for the next year but plans to do it later in the school year.

The anticipated closure will begin July 24, 2014, with staff having their mandatory weeklong in-service the end of August and programs starting up after Labor Day. Shaw believes this will make an easier transition for those children going into kindergarten from the program. Parents would continue to be kept informed through the revised parent handbook, orientation program and monthly parent meetings.

On the bright side, the program is returning to a new facility, located on Lakeshore Drive next to the Armella Parker Senior Center. They moved into it in May and only enjoyed it for a month before closing. The original building had stood empty for several years before being renovated into classrooms and a 105-foot extension added with more classrooms, a laundry room and expanded kitchen. A grant through Bay Mills Community College funded the addition.

The larger building has enabled Shaw to offer a better ratio of teacher to children. "Now we have one teacher and aide for every 10 kids. We are seeing so much better behavior and they are learning more," she said.

Three of the Head Start teachers have bachelor's degrees, with one having an associate's degree. Half



of the Early Head Start teachers have associates degrees with the other five having Child Development Associate credentials. Aides also have CDA credentials or are in the process of acquiring them.

Early Head Start has 40 children, ages 0 to 3, while Head Start has 36 children, ages 3 to 5. The program follows the Creative Curriculum and performs ongoing assessments on the children, through play not through testing. Parents are met with four times a year to see what their kids have accomplished.

From 7:45 to 2 p.m., the center

offers the free Early Head Start and Head Start programs, which include diapers, wipes and formula. From 2 to 5 p.m., day care services are available for \$2 per hour. All children receive a free breakfast, lunch and snack, with a second snack at 4 p.m. for those in the day care program. Free transportation is also provided.

Shaw said the program is full for the 2013/2014 year but she continues to take applications for waiting list status. Preference is for low income or Native American kids. Call 906-248-8700 for more information or to apply.



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Enjoy a homemade taste of tradition at Nokomis' Kitchen

By Sharlene Myers
 Bay Mills News

BAY MILLS — Frybread has long been considered a traditional food of the Ojibwe and that tradition lives on through the culinary skills of Bay Mills Indian Community member, Tammy Hundiak.

For three years, she has been selling her homemade frybread at a roadside stand across from Bay Mills Resort & Casinos on Lakeshore Drive, nestled in a grove of trees on the property of her parents, Bob and Maxine Jerman. She had been selling frybread at the BMIC pow wows for many years and customers kept encouraging her to open her own place. So, she set up Nokomis' Kitchen, making ingenious use of a storage shed and a tarp covering two tables and chairs.

Nokomis is the Ojibwe word for "grandmother," and Hundiak said her five grandchildren all call her some version of the word. One of her granddaughters, 4-year-old Sophia, assists her some days. She has her own tip jar and has already accumulated around \$30 towards her "college fund."

Mostly Hundiak handles the stand herself, working from May to October, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., weather permitting. She takes Wednesday and Thursday off, as those are also the days off for her husband, Frank, maintenance supervisor on the midnight shift at the Resort.

Besides serving a generous portion of frybread, Hundiak has all the "fixins" to make Indian tacos, blanket dogs, pulled pork sandwiches and the appropriately named "The Pig," an invention of her nephew, Jacob Kinne, that involves a blanket dog with bacon and cheese topped with pulled pork. "The only low-cal

offering I have is chicken and rice soup," she said.

Everything is made from scratch. She even boils and mashes pinto beans with her own seasonings so she can offer vegetarian Indian tacos. She also sells freshly baked loaves of bread.

This is not a new enterprise for Hundiak. She was born in Sault Ste. Marie and has lived on and off the reservation over the years; at one point, she was augmenting her salary at Bay Mills Health Center by selling bread. She was also raising four children as a single mom, was part of the ambulance corps and taught a class in Ojibwe arts and crafts.

In 1996, she moved to the Sault and began working at Kewadin Casino, where she met her husband; they moved to his hometown of Harrisville some time afterwards. When he was laid off from his airplane mechanic job, the couple returned to BMIC where Frank found employment at the Resort. Due to health issues, Hundiak is unable to work full-time and instead, opened her own business, doing what she excels at — making bread.

When she and Frank first returned to BMIC, they lived with her parents and opened the frybread kitchen at that location. Now they have their own home, but kept the business at the same site, convenient to the casino, golf course and campground.



FRYBREAD FRIENDS — Locals and international frybread lovers alike stop by Nokomis' Kitchen to try what Tammy Hundiak is cooking. L-R Billy Schill, Hundiak and Brian Wolsey smile together before the two men, from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, head back to the nearby campground to enjoy the frybread meals they just purchased. They said they often eat here and enjoy their stay in the campground, close to the casino and golf course.

The house of her late grandparents, Edmund and Beulah Teeple, once sat on the property and her grandmother also made extra money by selling baked goods to local businesses.

Many of Hundiak's customers stop by from the nearby campground and come from all over the country as well as from such faraway lands as New Zealand, England and Spain.

"I only wish I'd started a log book like they have at the Dancing Crane," she said, "to show all the different places people have come from."

Once they try it, they come back for more, said Hundiak.

"I get a lot of repeat business from tourists and the RV park."

She also has her regulars, people who work at the casino or other local businesses who stop by for lunch or a take-home evening meal. She will make large orders for special events as well, only needing advance notice.

Call or text to 906-322-1244 to place orders, or just stop by for a taste of fresh, homemade Ojibwe tradition.

Historical Society is raising funds

The Bay Mills-Brimley Historical Research Society is continuing to raise funds for future projects. One of the projects in the works is the annual quilt raffle. At right, President Janet Russell and member Paula Badder (L-R) pose with the quilt being raffled off this year. They were on hand at the Arts Festival selling tickets and will continue to sell tickets until the October 12 drawing which will take place at the Wheels of History Museum.

Other events planned this year include:

Hobo Day

Bay Mills/Brimley Historical Society will host a Hobo Day on Saturday, Aug. 31 at Wheels of History Museum in Brimley from noon to 4 p.m. Come have a learning experience: Learn about hobo symbols; listen to stories about hobos' travels on railroads and old-fashioned music about railroads; and, play old-fashioned kids' games. There will also be a hobo costume contest, a



The quilt pictured above will be raffled off on Oct. 12.

SHANNON JONES/BAY MILLS NEWS

50-50 raffle, and plenty of food. Come and enjoy this free event!

Benefit spaghetti dinner

Willabees Restaurant and Bay Mills/Brimley Historical Society will offer a joint venture on Monday, Sept. 8. A benefit spaghetti dinner will be held at Willabees on 6 Mile Road by the Waishkey River bridge in Brimley from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Proceeds will go towards the repair of the train car at Wheels of History Museum in Brimley.

Pre-purchase tickets by Sept. 2 through any Historical Society member at the following prices: \$9 for adults and \$4.50 for kids 5 to 12, or purchase them at the door for \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 5 to 12. Children under 5 eat for free.

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UNDEFEATED — Dylan Carrick, Tryston Lyons, Hunter Lipponen, and Marcus Harris were undefeated in their division and each brought home a trophy as part of the "Pizza Ballerz" team, sponsored by Little Caesars.

Local youth place at Gus Macker basketball tourney



MACKER SMACKER — Four girls from Ojibwe Charter School toughed it out at the Gus Macker 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament the weekend of July 20. As first-time players, the team walked away as the Toilet Bowl Champs, winning 12-2 and earning Good Sportsmanship medals. Members of "Small Town Funk," left to right: Lily Parish, Madison Carrick, Brecklin Williams and Malory Parish.

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TOURNAMENTS

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- \$8,000 Spin to Win - Hessel September 6-8, 2013
- \$15,000 Video Poker - Sault Ste. Marie September 13-15, 2013
- \$15,000 Keno - St. Ignace September 20-22, 2013
- \$30,000 Blackjack - Sault Ste. Marie September 27-29, 2013
- \$8,000 Spin to Win - Christmas September 27-29, 2013

Kewadin Party Pits

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- Tournament starts at 6 p.m.
- *Northern Rewards Club hours vary by site.*

OPINION

Will we learn from Zimmerman?

By Al Demroske

The George Zimmerman second degree murder trial presented us with a series of events loaded with could haves, should haves and what ifs.

Trayvon Martin could have chosen to run like hell once he perceived that he was being followed by a “creepy cracker.” He most certainly would have outrun Zimmerman assuming Zimmerman would not have shot him as he fled. But had Trayvon fled, that would have confirmed in Zimmerman’s mind what Zimmerman already assumed — these punks always get away.

True, while Trayvon would have been guilty in Zimmerman’s mind, although he was doing nothing illegal, he would have still be alive had he fled. There is no doubt there was a confrontation, although who started it will never be known. The shooter claims to have been attacked without provocation. The only other witness is dead and that leaves the version of events up to Zimmerman, the shooter.

Zimmerman could have followed the instructions he was supposed to abide by as a member of the Neighborhood Watch Program. “It should be emphasized to members that they do not possess police powers and they shall not carry weapons or pursue vehicles. Members should never confront suspicious persons who could be armed and dangerous.”

And had Zimmerman also followed the direction of the police dispatcher, who told him specifically not to follow Trayvon, maybe the situation would have been different. Juror B-37 even came out in an interview and noted that Zimmerman shouldn’t have even gotten out of his car.

What if this confrontation had



not taken place? The Martin family would not have to grieve over the loss of their son. Their son would have enjoyed the sporting event he was looking forward to watching with his father, Skittles candy and soft drink in hand.

Zimmerman would not have been put on trial. And although he was exonerated legally, he is probably broke and will likely spend the rest of his days looking over his shoulder. His life will never be the same again and his legal woes may not be over just yet. And what about the death threats coming from the left and the right targeting anyone who had anything to do with this trial?

What if a person shoots and kills another person and there are no other witnesses? Do we just take the shooter’s word for it and that is that?

Will anyone learn from this all around tragedy? Probably not. But the really important question is how would you feel if

Do we just take the shooter’s word for it and that is that?

this happened in Michigan? Michigan has its own “stand your ground” law, which was passed in 2006.

It reads:

Sec. 2 (1) An individual who has not or is not engaged in the commission of a crime at the time he or she uses deadly force against another individual anywhere he or she has the legal right to be with no duty to retreat if the following applies:

The individual honestly and reasonably believes that the use of deadly force is necessary to prevent the imminent death of or imminent great bodily harm to himself or another individual.

Some confrontations can become very heated and a physical altercation occurs. You get the short end of the fight. There are no witnesses around and in a fit of anger you pull your weapons and shoot to kill. Now what? You are facing a murder charge and long sentence in prison. Do you tell the truth? Or do you fabricate a story?

Demroske resides in Brimley.

What if your car had a black box?

By Danny Tyree

Maybe you were never told. Maybe you just forgot. But you probably don’t think about your car “spying” on you.

According to the *New York Times*, there is a growing controversy over the fact that 96 percent of new vehicles sold in America (and 150 million older vehicles) contain an event data recorder, commonly referred to as a “black box.”

If the National Highway Safety Administration has its way, starting in September 2014, 100 percent of new vehicles will be equipped with the devices, which activate in the few seconds surrounding a crash or air bag deployment and collect a wealth of data about speed, brake position, seat belt use, whether you were mangling the words to “Blinded By The Light” and “Purple Rain,” etc.

The black boxes are invaluable for helping automakers make safety improvements and fine tune their advertising (“A real turn-on for chicks who dig spontaneous combustion”) and for settling court cases in which there is no eyewitness, but privacy advocates are squeamish about the possibility of abuse by law enforcement agencies, insurers and other third parties.

It does seem that if the manufacturers and feds were proud of the devices, they would brag about them upfront, instead of burying news of their existence in a few obscure paragraphs of your owner’s manual, along with other stuff you never read, such as “Yes, it’s a state-of-the-art sound system, but the people in the retirement home five blocks over probably don’t share your musical tastes, jack-ass.”



Probably most of us at some time have momentarily exceeded the speed limit by five miles per hour while daydreaming, so it’s creepy to think about the temptation for regulators to collect more data for longer periods of time. Of course some drivers overreact. (“I’m afraid the insurance company will twist the data to imply that I ALWAYS drive with my feet and moon busloads of nuns while approaching a one-lane bridge...”)

Conspiracy theorists really come all unglued about the possibilities. Their fears are probably groundless. On the other hand, if the commercials are all shot on a soundstage somewhere in the desert, the windshield wiper fluid is pure fluoride and the vehicle veers toward grassy knolls, all bets are off.

Many of us have a different idea for using black boxes. Given that we’ve had more than a century to perfect mass production of automobiles, and given that we still get recall notices such as “By golly, somehow or another our Quality Control department

overlooked 400,000 units that just might eject the driver’s seat when you empty the ash-tray...,” maybe we should put the black boxes on the AUTO COMPANY EXECUTIVES to determine what it is they’re doing wrong.

Let us not underestimate the ability of software glitches to invalidate the results of the recorders. Black box advocates are quick to cheer the graduation from an era of “he said, she said” controversies to an era of “he said, she said or the piece of electronic junk that someone programmed on a Friday afternoon while watching the clock for the start of a wild weekend said.”

Overall the recorders are a blessing and are here to stay, but no wonder some people would like to apply the brakes to the whole matter.

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Marriage is alive and well — for some

By Tom Purcell

Boy, are some Americans losing interest in marriage these days.

According to a National Center for Family and Marriage Research (NCFMR) study, the U.S. marriage rate is on the decline.

Whereas 92 out of 1,000 single women married in 1920, only 31 out of 1,000 are marrying today.

In a 2011 study, the Pew Research Center found that 51 percent of Americans were married, compared to 72 percent in 1960 — the marriage rate has declined by 60 percent since 1979.

Social scientists offer a variety of reasons for the shift. Younger people are much more likely to cohabitate than marry. Some prefer to remain single and focus on their careers and themselves. And the down economy has caused no small number of couples to delay their wedding day.

And then there is the “soul mate” factor, a modern construct.

Brad Wilcox, director of the National Marriage Project, explained to *The Associated Press* that single people today have a high degree of “expressive individualism.” They are demanding an unrealistic level of fulfillment from their mates.

It wasn’t so long ago that a fellow could get by without movie-star looks and a captivating personality — even a bald, chubby guy could win the affections of a nice lady, so long as he had a good heart and was a CPA.

But nowadays, many single people are holding out for the perfect person — perfect looks and personality — and the good-hearted CPA isn’t likely to make the cut.

The fact is, no one person can ever live up to our high soul-mate ideals — so, many people remain single.

Which doesn’t bode well for single men or women — though single women fare far better than single men do.

Married men are physically, emotionally and financially healthier than their single counterparts. They avoid risky behavior.

They’re much less likely to wake up in a pile of dirty laundry, still clutching the tequila bottle they began drinking from just before the party broke up.

The fact is, marriage is good.

Married people produce happier, healthier children. Marriage produces stable, thriving communities. Happily married people enjoy more gratifying sex lives.

Married men live longer than single men — though their wives may tell you it only seems longer.

And there’s something to be said for having a lifelong partner to support, and be supported by, as you go through life’s rough patches.

Mark Twain said there is no greater beauty and sweetness than the closeness and camaraderie of a husband and wife who hold deep affection for one other — a closeness single people are without.

Interestingly, the NCFMR study found that the most educated Americans still champion marriage.

In the last five decades, there has been only a modest decrease in the number of college-educated people getting married — which likely correlates with the down economy.

The biggest marriage drops have come among those who do not hold even a high school diploma — those who may be likely to lose government benefits if they do choose to marry.

In any event, though marriage rates are declining overall, marriage is doing very well among the college-educated.

So enthusiastic are they about the benefits of marriage, they spend every waking moment trying to pair up single people.

They push single women at us single men tirelessly — oftentimes, not very attractive single women.

I understand it’s worse for single women. Their mothers, aunts and married sisters tell them their biological clock is ticking, they’re going to turn into spinsters and they’ll end up old and lonely and die of a broken heart.

Married people can be so heartless.

©2013 Tom Purcell. Tom Purcell, author of “Misadventures of a 1970’s Childhood” and “Comical Sense: A Lone Humorist Takes on a World Gone Nutty!” is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist and is nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc.



DNR looking into revamping Father Marquette Memorial

By Shannon Jones
Bay Mills News

ST. IGNACE — The site of the Father Marquette Memorial in St. Ignace has become overgrown and remains nearly vacant since a lightning strike took down the museum in 2000.

Currently about 17,000 people visit the day-use area each year, also the site of the Rendezvous at the Straits Pow Wow. But the original intent of preserving local history and Marquette's legacy was mostly lost with the structure, as today only interpretive hiking trails and a picnic area remain.

In an effort to revitalize the area, the Department of Natural Resources held an open house in St. Ignace on Aug. 8 to gather input from residents and concerned parties about what to do with the property, along with the northbound I-75 Welcome Center across the highway from the park.

Approximately 40 people came out to hear what the DNR and Michigan Department of Transportation had to say and express their thoughts, including members of the St. Ignace City Council, local tribal members and representatives from various historical preservation groups. The group almost unanimously agreed, no matter what action takes place, the area needs to be revamped, formally establishing Straits of Mackinac as the gateway to the U.P.

Marquette, a French Jesuit missionary, established Michigan's earliest European settlements at Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace in 1668 and 1671. The very name St. Ignace originated with the Jesuit missionaries who christened the community in honor of the founder of the Society of Jesus, St. Ignatius Loyola.

The St. Ignace mission was originally located on Mackinac Island. From there Marquette joined Louis Jolliet in his expedition to explore and map a navigable route to the Pacific Ocean, which resulted in the French discovery of the Mississippi River.

Marquette died in 1675 in present-day Ludington, Mich., rumored to have been making his way back to St. Ignace. Although he was originally buried in Ludington, his followers moved his body to the chapel of the mission he established at St. Ignace. When he died, he spoke six tribal languages.

Commemorating Marquette's historical expeditions and the importance of the Straits of Mackinac in those travels was first discussed as far back as 1965 by then Michigan Gov. George Romney. The current Father Marquette Memorial was designated in 1975 by the National Park Service

with the museum later constructed and opening in 1980 until the fire in 2000 destroyed the structure. The Aug. 8 meeting was described as "the first step to taking the first step" by organizers, who noted that public input will weigh heavily on how the future of the Marquette/Welcome Center property unfolds.

Richard Hill Jr., who works within the DNR Parks and Recreation Division, said no site plan or drawings exist currently, noting the importance of public input prior to moving forward in that direction.

Ideas expressed by those in attendance include construction of a new museum that highlights the Native American history of the area and Marquette's contributions; creating a pedestrian village to connect the properties; creating a destination location with easy access to the park; and modernizing the Welcome Center. The current Welcome Center is housed in a building that was considered "temporary" more than 40 years ago. Officials noted they are well aware the site needs an upgrade.

"More than 480,000 visitors stop at the Welcome Center annually," said John Batchelder of the MDOT's Newberry office. "We would like to improve the facilities, double the size."

Comments from meeting participants were collected and will be reviewed before any proposed structural or site plans are created. The process will move forward with additional meetings being held in the future.

The current day-use area at the Father Marquette Memorial remains open for visitors, as well as the Welcome Center.

LSSU board approves budget

SAULT STE. MARIE — Lake Superior State University's Board of Trustees approved the university's \$37.6 million budget during its regular meeting on Friday, July 26. In addition, the board discussed enrollment and fundraising, listened to reports on academic affairs and charter schools, and elected officers for the coming year.

In his remarks at the beginning of the meeting, LSSU President Tony McLain lauded the Michigan Legislature for approving the construction phase of LSSU's \$12 million remodeling of South Hall, a former Fort Brady barracks-turned-classroom that will be home to the Lukenda School of Business. The building, which has housed many university departments over the years, will be completely remodeled, using \$9 million in state funds and \$3 million raised through donation.

The board approved a \$37.6 million general fund budget, approximately a third of which comes from a state appropriation. The budget includes an increase to tuition and room-and-board costs of 3.32 percent and 2.94 percent, respectively, as well as a \$10 increase to the student activity and media fee that students pay each semester. The increase brings the cost of tuition to \$9,960 and room and board to \$8,728, annually. The SAM fee is now \$60.

In his enrollment report, LSSU Vice President of Enrollment Services Bill Eilola said while enrollment appears as if it will be down somewhat this year — final counts will not be available until mid-September — several programs, including business, engineering and nursing, are seeing more interest from students. He also said LSSU is increasing its marketing efforts in the coming year.

Trustee Patrick Egan said the search for a replacement for McLain, who is retiring within the year, is continuing on schedule. A search committee named during the spring has hired a firm that specializes in assisting universities with finding candidates. Egan said a web page with more details on the search will soon be available through the university's website, lssu.edu.

In his report on academics, LSSU Provost Morrie Walworth had encouraging news on LSSU's teacher education program, saying that visits from state governing organizations noted marked improvements in the program. Walworth said current pass rates for LSSU education students taking the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification are above state requirements. As a result, LSSU expects to be able to soon reinstate fields of study in the program that were discontinued in recent years while the program was revamped to improve student success.

In his report on fundraising, LSSU Foundation Director Tom Coates said the Foundation is closing in on what may have been its best year in the 30 years it has been in existence. Final numbers will not be available for a few weeks, but as of the end of May, the Foundation had raised \$2,433,120, which is a 46 percent increase over the previous year.

At the end of the meeting, the board elected officers for the coming year. Egan will replace Jenny Kronk as board chair, while trustees Scot Lindemann and Ann Parker will be first vice chair and second vice chair, respectively.



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Proposed animal abuser registry has been dropped in Michigan

LANSING (AP) — A bid to make Michigan the first state with an animal abuser registry akin to one that shames and identifies sex offenders has been dropped by lawmakers over concerns about cost and other issues.

Instead, the state could soon require that criminal background checks be done on every would-be pet adopter at Michigan animal shelters. The \$10 fee for each check would be waived for shelters under revised bills being drafted.

Judges would have to order defendants convicted of crimes against animals not to own or possess animals for at least five years.

Cracking down on those who abuse or neglect animals generally has broad support, though a recent committee hearing on the issue got heated when some dog breeders voiced opposition to the legislation.

The measure is named for Logan, a Siberian husky that died last year, four months after an unknown assailant dumped acid on his face inside a backyard kennel in Wales Township outside Port Huron. His owner, Matt Falk, says people from around the globe are buying "Logan's Law" T-shirts and pushing similar measures in other states and countries after seeing his Facebook page that tracks the Michigan bills.

"There's a lot of connection between animal abuse and human abuse," Falk said, "and I'd like to see these bills passed not only for the safety of animals but for the further safety of our human friends."

Because the proposed registry has run into resistance from state police officials and others who fear it would be expensive and cumbersome, legislators in the House and Senate are pursuing an idea they hope becomes law by year's end. Shelters could use the Michigan State Police's Internet Criminal History Access Tool, or ICHAT, to check if people wanting to adopt a pet have abused or neglected an animal in Michigan.

"Why not simply make this a free service for most of these organizations who have very little money, go month to month sometimes struggling to keep their doors open, and allow them to do a criminal check before they adopt out an animal?" said Sen. Rick Jones, a Grand Ledge Republican who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee. "We want to try to stop that. No more victims being adopted out."

He pointed to the 2012 conviction of a former Michigan State University medical student who killed at least a dozen greyhound puppies.

The student's case, however, indicates potential loopholes that may not be able to be addressed in the legislation.

Andrew Thompson bought the dogs from out-of-state breeders and had them shipped to him. Those businesses couldn't be subject to doing background checks. Neither would in-state breeders under the bills.

"It's a start. Would I like it to be in law that no breeder or pet store would sell animals to someone who had been convicted? Absolutely. But we're looking for something we can get passed, and I think this is a good step," Jones said.

Sen. Steve Bieda, a Warren Democrat sponsoring the legislation with Jones, said which entities would have to conduct background checks is still a point of discussion and depends in part on feedback from breeders. Helping shelters and humane societies first is positive because they "tend to be the source of a lot of animals that are abused because they tend to be a little bit lower cost to begin with," he said.

Breeders seem receptive to changes coming to the legislation but still have concerns.

For one, they contend it's unfair to waive the ICHAT fee for non-profits only and say the move could cost the state hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars in lost fees.

"Mandating tens of thousands of criminal background checks on law-abiding citizens who merely wish to acquire a pet from a shelter is absolutely unwarranted when there are less than a dozen convictions for animal abuse in the state

per year," said Anne Hier, a North Branch breeder who also serves as legislative director for the Michigan Association for Pure Bred Dogs.

Statewide arrests for animal cruelty averaged 122 annually in the past five years, according to the state police.

During a Senate committee hearing last week, supporters of the legislation were angered by a smaller contingent of dog breeders opposing the bills, one of whom questioned how strong the link is between animal abusers later becoming serial killers like Jeffrey Dahmer.

"Before these people poo-poo these organizations who are doing everything in their power to help these helpless animals, they ought to spend a week in the streets," said Norman Van Etten of Detroit Dog Rescue, which rounds up loose dogs in the city and finds them homes. "I can't tell you ... the cruelty, the carelessness that we see every day."

Strange Michigan laws remain on the books

By Jarrett Skorup

A man seducing and corrupting the moral purity of an unmarried woman is a felony with possible prison time. Throwing a few bucks into the office college basketball tournament pool is illegal gambling. And playing the national anthem for people to dance to is a misdemeanor.

Though routinely broken and ignored by citizens and government officials, these laws and more are on the books in Michigan. In fact, there are so many statutes in the state code that it is likely every resident would be considered a criminal if the codes actually were prosecuted.

State and federal laws are being added so quickly that the average citizen commits three felonies per day and cannot possibly figure them all out, said attorney Harvey Silverglate.

"Many laws are indeed routinely broken," he said. "Since no individual can keep track of what is illegal, every citizen is in danger of being singled out for prosecution simply because he or she has come within the sights of a law enforcement official. This makes us all vulnerable to official power."

Silverglate is the author of the book, "Three Felonies A Day," and estimates that there are 4,000 federal criminal statutes with countless more state and local regulations.

In Michigan, some of these laws seem crazy, archaic or both.

Authorities would have to prosecute within a year, but if they do, Section 532 of an early 1930s law criminalizes "any man who shall seduce and debauch any unmarried woman." The act is a felony, punishable by up to five years in prison or a \$2,500 fine.

Michigan's law regarding the national anthem is Act 328 of 1931. It prevents the "Star Spangled Banner" from being "played, sung or otherwise rendered ... except as an entire and separate composition or number and without embellishments ... nor be played as a part or selection of a medley of any kind ... nor be played for dancing or as an exit march."

Another statute involves low-level gambling. Though state law allows an exception for card games played at home in which there is no money taken by the house, it remains mostly illegal to make monetary bets — even on minor things. While an estimated 50 million Americans fill out March Madness brackets, those putting money in a pool are breaking state law, which prohibits betting on college sports.

Other acts prohibited in the state include having an unlicensed dog (the sheriff is required to kill the animal), adultery (a felony), mocking a person for refusing to duel, exhibiting deformed human beings, marrying an inmate girl from the Adrian training school without the permission of the superintendent, and cursing or blasphemy.

And while these may sound crazy, some are occasionally prosecuted.

In 1998, a man dubbed the "cussing canoeist" was convicted of violating a 105-year-old law for swearing after he fell out of a canoe on the Rifle River. The 1897 statute "prohibited using indecent, immoral, vulgar or insulting language in the presence or hearing of women or children." While the ACLU eventually had the law struck down by the Court of Appeals, a separate Court of Appeals case from 1996 held that "the fact that a statute has not been recently enforced does not mean that it has been repealed de facto." The case, *Stopera v. DiMarco*, cited *Washtenaw Co. Rd Comm'rs v. Public Service Comm. (1957)*, which states "statutes do not wither by disuse."

Many of the laws on the books in Michigan may be considered unconstitutional if ever actually prosecuted. And while the regulations are mostly forgotten, ignored or unknown, there they sit for whenever the state or another citizen wants to go after someone.

"An excess of laws is very bad for society," Silverglate said. "It saps the vitality of a state or nation for citizens to have to spend so much time figuring out if they may or may not take a certain action — with a misjudgment at their peril."

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Michigan Dept. of Corrections acknowledges 'failure' in recordkeeping

DEARBORN (AP) — The Michigan Department of Corrections acknowledges it made a record-keeping mistake that prevented police from looking for a man who is charged in the slayings of two Dearborn discount store workers.

Lavere Bryant is a convicted sex offender, but he never self-reported after being released from prison two years ago. That's because prison officials made an error, failing to change information on the state's sex offender registry that would have let law enforcement know he wasn't imprisoned.

Now, state corrections officials are conducting an internal investigation to figure out how the mistake happened.

"Obviously there was a failure there," department spokesman John Cordell told the newspaper.

Bryant, 34, is charged with two counts of first-degree murder and two counts of felony murder as well as armed robbery, unlawful imprisonment, felon in possession of a firearm and felony firearm charges.

Police and prosecutors say he's responsible for the deaths of 20-year-olds Brenna Machus and Joseph Orlando, who were both Family Dollar Store employees. Machus disappeared July 15, the same night Orlando was fatally shot in the store. Her body was discovered in a wooded area less than 2 miles away.

"I did not murder the victims," Bryant said as he left a Dearborn courtroom following his arraignment Wednesday. He was ordered held without bond and requested a court-appointed attorney. Authorities have not disclosed a motive in the killings.

Bryant in 1999 pleaded guilty to second-degree criminal sexual conduct. He was sentenced to jail time and probation and had to register as a sex offender, according to a court filing and the Michigan State Police.

Two years later, Bryant was locked up on an assault charge. He was transferred to the Ionia

Correctional Facility in 2011 from a prison in Marquette and was released days later, Cordell said.

The records office at the Ionia prison, though, neglected to change Bryant's address on the sex offender registry.

"It appears that a failure to note a change of address resulted in him not being active on the registry," Cordell said.

Had law enforcement been aware that Bryant was released, he would have been required to report to a police agency every July and January, said state police Sgt. Bruce Payne with the sex offender

registry unit.

Bryant, who is to be listed as a sex offender until 2057, never reported. That would have triggered police to begin looking for him.

When Orlando and Machus were killed, Bryant still was listed on the registry as being in prison.

Machus' brother, Ryan, said he was disappointed to find out that Bryant's information was not updated on the registry.

"It makes me very sick to my stomach to know that our systems are failing us," Ryan Machus said on July 27.

LSSU South Hall reno to be completed in 2015

SAULT STE. MARIE — Lake Superior State University's long talked about refurbishment of historic South Hall for its School of Business has cleared its final legislative hurdle and is on track to open for students in spring 2015.

The \$12 million construction project was approved by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder earlier this month, with the state providing \$9 million of the total cost and LSSU securing private donations for the remaining \$3 million.

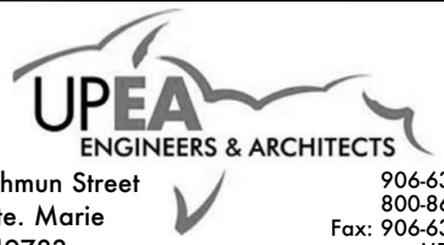
"We now have full approval for the state's share of the funding for the renovation of South Hall, and we expect to start the project on our original timeline," LSSU President Tony McLain told the university's board of trustees during its recent meeting on campus. "This was the only state building authority-financed construction that was approved this year, and it will be the university's first major capital project in more than 10 years."

Construction is scheduled to begin in spring semester 2014 and conclude the following spring. It includes two components. The first is renovation of the existing 32,000 sq. ft. building with original portions dating back to the early 1900s. The renovation will include much needed infrastructure upgrades, as well as classroom and office renovations. The project will include an addition of approximately 12,000 sq. ft. to connect the building's original two wings and form an atrium that creates an interactive commons with an expanded café, new program rooms, and support space.

LSSU Vice President for Finance Sherry Brooks said now that the project has been authorized for construction, it moves to the final design phase with architect/engineering firm Cornerstone Architects of Grand Rapids. The project's construction manager is DeVere Construction Co.

McLain said the university owes its thanks to many people in Lansing for their assistance in getting the project approved.

"Our thanks go out to Brett Henderson and David Gregory of Kelley Cawthorne for their work in representing the university on this project as well as Rep. Frank Foster for his support and especially to Sen. Howard Walker for guiding us through the legislative process. Sen. Walker did a lot of the 'heavy lifting' as this project was caught between two governors' administrations."



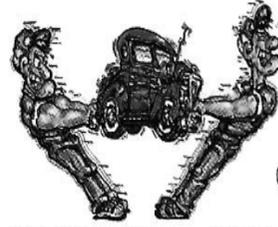
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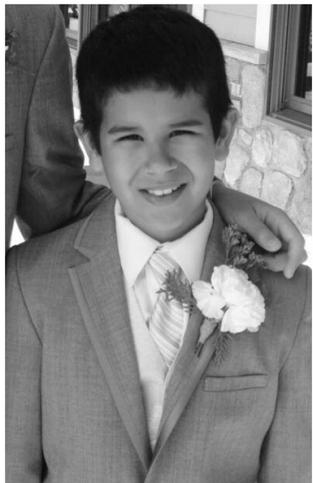
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NAMES & FACES

Jamie Lynn Benoit, daughter of Jerry Benoit and Connie Benoit, and John Paul Lufkins, son of L. John Lufkins and the late Veronica "Roni" VanSloten, were married July 5, 2013. The ceremony took place at Wild Bluff Golf Course and was officiated by Shannon Belk, sister of the groom. The bride's grandfather, Louis Benoit, escorted her down the aisle. The couple's children — John Lionel, Radly and Summer — stood proud as bridesmaid and groomsmen. A reception followed at Bay Mills Resort & Casinos with friends and family from near and far.

Benoit-Lufkins



Happy belated 8th birthday on Aug. 6, Radly Davis Kinney! You's a BIG boy now! Love, Mom, John Paul, John Lionel and Summer



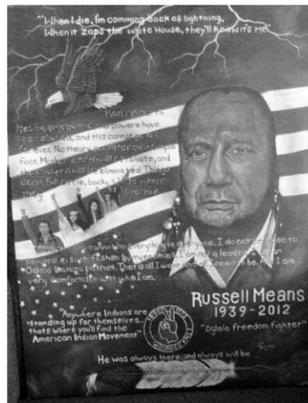
Happy 15th birthday to Gabe on Aug. 28. Shaken, not stirred in Jamaica! Love, your family

BIRTH

Caleb A. Parish was born July 9, 2013 at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., weighing 6 pounds, 10 ounces and 20 inches long. His parents are Wesley J. Parish and Heather A. Kinne of Bay Mills. Grandparents are Judy Bedell and Duane Bedell, both of Bay Mills, Thomas Fegan of Brimley, Valerie J. Parish of Brighton, and Arnold A. Parish Jr. and Pamela Martel, both of Lansing. Great-grandparents are Geraldine Parish of Bay Mills and Judy Tadgerson and Merlin and Barbara Fegan, all of Brimley.

THANK YOU
A special thank you goes to the ambulance crew who transported my son, Gary Payment, from Grand Rapids to his new residence in St Ignace. Gary is closer to his family now and would love to have visitors or receive cards or calls. He is in Room 202 at Evergreen Living Center, 1140 North State Street, Building B in St. Ignace MI 49781. Visiting hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and the phone number is 906-643-0427. We would both be so grateful for some company for him. — Ruth Parish

THANK YOU
The family of Ciarah Carrick wants to thank everyone who helped and participated in the raffle. The raffle was a success and the money raised a major help for our daughter. Ciarah will be up for her next eye surgery soon. Thank you again, friends and family, for everything you did to help. — Craig and Lynette Carrick



Lawrence Clor, a member of Bay Mills Indian Community, recently

had two of his artworks on display at this year's art show at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor: "Freedom Fighter," a representation of Russell Means, founder of the American Indian Movement and a pencil drawing, "In Memory of My Beloved."



Fire truck 'push-in' tradition explained

Emergency services personnel have received many questions as to why the fire truck was being pushed into the new fire hall during the open house ceremonies on July 13. The traditional "push-in" is an event called a "housing ceremony," which comes from a fire service tradition that dates back to the 19th century when apparatus was horse-drawn. The ceremony is conducted when a department receives a new apparatus, pushing it into the station — thus the term, push-in or housing. When it is used to open a new fire house, the first apparatus out (the first truck to leave the fire house on a call) is pushed into the new hall. The ceremony is used as a way to join the past to the present. — Darryl Cameron

Correction: In the July 2013 issue of *Bay Mills News*, in the article "Work being done to preserve Old Indian Burial Ground," it should have read as follows. Philetus Foster married Rose Ann Boudrie in 1900 on Sugar Island. Their daughter Gladys married Francis "Pontie" LeBlanc in 1929 and many of their descendants still live in Bay Mills Indian Community.

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11. Regular Game
12. Regular Game
13. Regular Game
14. Regular Game
15. Special Game: Letter T \$200
16. Regular Game
17. Regular Game
18. Regular Game
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21. Bonanza
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RENDEZVOUS IN THE SAULT — Sault Ste. Marie celebrated its long heritage in the very area where the first European settlement in Michigan was created in 1668. The two-day Rendezvous in the Sault, was held on July 27 and 28, on the lawn of the city hall. The annual event features historic home tours, living history demonstrations and other presentations about daily life between 1668 and 1840. The festivities were held on the banks of the St. Mary's River, where organizers say the Sainte Marie du Sault mission was founded. Before that, it was the main gathering place of Native Americans. SHANNON JONES/BAY MILLS NEWS

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Cannon to challenge GOP U.S. Rep. Benishek in 2014 election

State Sen. Walker announces he will not seek re-election

LANSING (AP) — A retired sheriff and former military officer is planning to run for a northern Michigan congressional seat that was one of the country's most hotly contested campaigns in 2012.

Democrat Jerry Cannon on Tuesday, Aug. 6 announced his campaign for the 1st District seat held by second-term Republican Rep. Dan Benishek.

Cannon said he's frustrated with Washington and that Benishek isn't creating jobs or working for the middle class. Benishek is a surgeon from Crystal Falls and said he welcomes Cannon to the race.

Benishek said he hopes Cannon's proposals reflect the values of northern Michigan and not party leaders.

Cannon is a Vietnam veteran

who later joined the Michigan Army National Guard. He also was sheriff in Kalkaska County.

Cannon lives in Fife Lake with his wife. They have four children.

In other election news State Sen. Howard Walker, R-Traverse City, has announced he will not seek another term.

"After much soul-searching and many discussions with my family, I have decided not to seek a second term in the Senate," Walker said in a statement published by Gongwer News Service.

"Family has always been my first priority and while I have thoroughly enjoyed my service to the state, the time has come for me to focus all of my energy on my wife and daughter and our life in northern Michigan."

Walker served in the state House from 2002-2008 and won election to the state Senate in 2010, handily defeating Democratic candidate Bob Carr. He was widely expected to seek re-election next year.

As of press time it is unclear who will run for the seat.

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For more information, please call Andrea Shaw or Christel LeBlanc at 248-8700.



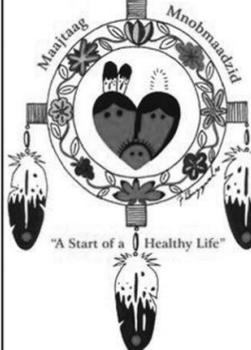
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The Bay Mills Healthy Start Program held its annual Breastfeeding Walk on Aug. 9 at the Bay Mills Ball Diamond. The walk is held annually to bring awareness to community members about the benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and child. Pictured at left are Dani Donnay and her son Dalton who came out to participate in the event.

The walk was held in collaboration with the Journey to Healing program, run by Anna Rogers-Stott and Ruby Hatfield. The Healthy Start team is Joann LeBlanc, Erica Carrick, Candice Leapley and summer program aide Cassie Leapley.

Employee Summerfest 2013




BAY MILLS — The Bay Mills Employee Summerfest was held on Sunday, July 28, giving employees and their families the chance to enjoy picnic-style food and an abundance of activities from a fun run to a hot dog eating competition.

The box car competition raised monies for local scholarship. Dan Tadgerson, above left, earned first place in the hot dog eating competition, devouring nine hot dogs.

This year there were 21 participants that walked or ran in their race of choice: 1 Mile, 3K, or 5K. It's a non-competitive event, with some random draw prizes. Here are the results as they crossed the finish line!

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| 1) Dayton Parish, 1 Mile | 7) Clay Palosaari, 1 Mile | Willis (the youngest competitor at age 3), 1 Mile |
| 2) Brooke Carrick, 1 Mile | 8) Paula Walden, 1 Mile | 18) Logan Carrick, 5K |
| 3) Justin Carrick III, 1 Mile | 9) Jazlyn Walden-Parker, 1 Mile | 19) Kendra Carrick, 5K |
| 4) Ceara LeBlanc, 1 Mile | 10) Riley Parish, 1 Mile | 20) Devon Palosaari, 5K |
| 5) Cian Parish, 1 Mile | 11) Shelby Noyce, 1 Mile | 21) Kevin Schietler (the oldest competitor at age 57), 5K. |
| 6) Sandra Walden, 1 Mile | 12 & 13) Joyce and Justin Carrick Jr, 1 Mile | |
| | 14) Delaney Walden, 3K | The annual event is put on by the Bay Mills Human Resources Department. |
| | 15) Mitchell Willis 5K, | |
| | 16 & 17) Brenda Clor and Marie | |



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State has first case of West Nile Virus confirmed for 2013

LANSING – Michigan health officials have identified the state's first confirmed human case of West Nile Virus for 2013 in a man from St. Joseph County, and are reminding people to protect themselves against mosquito bites. West Nile can cause serious neurological illnesses, such as meningitis and encephalitis. Last year, 202 WNV illnesses and 17 fatalities were reported in Michigan.

"We have clear evidence that West Nile Virus is present in the state again this summer," said Dr. Matthew Davis, Chief Medical Executive at the MDCH. "Taking a few minutes to protect ourselves and our loved ones from mosquito bites can make a big difference."

Statewide, eight birds have tested positive for WNV so far this season, including six crows from Saginaw (4), Bay (1) and Midland (1) counties, one wild turkey from Gratiot County and one Coopers hawk from Wayne County. No WNV positive mosquito pools have been detected. Infected birds and mosquitoes can provide an early warning of WNV activity in a community, re-enforcing the need for residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Citizens can report sightings of sick or dead birds on the West Nile virus website at www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus.

Michigan residents are encouraged to take the following steps to avoid WNV:

- Maintain window and door screening to help keep mosquitoes out of buildings.

- Empty water from mosquito breeding sites such as buckets, unused kiddie pools, old tires or similar sites where mosquitoes lay eggs.
- Use nets and/or fans over outdoor eating areas.

- Avoid being outdoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.

- Wear light colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.

- Apply insect repellents that contain the active ingredient DEET, or other EPA approved product to exposed skin or clothing, always following the manufacturer's directions for use.

Choose a repellent concentration rated for the time you will spend outdoors. When applying repellent to children, apply it to your own hands and rub them on the child. Avoid the eyes and mouth and do not apply to children's hands because they sometimes put their hands in their mouths. Do not apply repellents to infants under 6 months of age and instead place nets over strollers and baby carriers.

Most people bitten by a WNV infected mosquito show no symptoms of illness. However, some become sick three to 15 days after exposure. About one-in-five infected persons will have mild illness with fever. About one in 150 infected people will become severely ill. Symptoms of encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and meningitis

(inflammation of the spinal cord and brain linings) include stiff neck, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, muscle weakness, convulsions and paralysis.

People 50 and older are more susceptible to severe WNV disease symptoms. Physicians are urged to

test patients for WNV if they present with fever and signs of meningitis or encephalitis, or sudden painless paralysis in the absence of stroke in the summer months. For more information and surveillance activity about WNV, visit www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus.

Mich. has high rate of parents refusing vaccines

EAST LANSING (AP) – Public health officials and doctors who worry that not enough Michigan children are immunized against diseases must combat a trend not helpful to their cause: More parents are simply refusing to get their kids vaccinated.

Michigan has the country's fourth-highest rate of parents getting religious or philosophical waivers to vaccine requirements, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

About 7,300, or 5.5 percent, of the state's roughly 125,000 kindergartners had medical, religious or philosophical waivers on file last school year. That's up from about 6,900 the year before and 5,700 in 2010-11.

Three in four of the exemptions were for philosophical reasons. Parents may be skeptical that vaccines are essential, fear they carry their own risk or believe in older vaccines but question newer shots. Others may take pause at the sheer number of shots and wonder if the cumulative effect has been studied enough. By the time most children are 6, they will have been stuck with a needle about two dozen times.

One reason Michigan has a high number of exemptions is it allows philosophical waivers while roughly 30 states do not.

"We have maybe a little more liberal view of what qualifies as a waiver than other states. And so I think more and more people have taken advantage of that," said Bob Swanson, director of the state's Division of Immunizations. "That's where we need to really voice the importance of making sure kids are vaccinated and that only legitimate waivers are being utilized."

Some parents may have no philosophical opposition but find it easier to file a waiver after forgetting to schedule a vaccination before the school year starts, said Jevon McFadden, an epidemiologist with the CDC who is based at the Michigan Department of Community Health. He took part in a recent news conference to help raise awareness about immunizations and newly released statistics causing concern among the state's medical community.

"An event like this is very, very important because it's to remind parents that school season is coming up and now is the time to start thinking about getting your kids up to date on vaccines," McFadden said.

Less than 72 percent of young children and 63 percent of Michigan adolescents are fully immunized, according to the Michigan State Medical Society.

To attend a public or private school, kids must be vaccinated against a number of diseases and medical conditions depending on their age: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, chickenpox and meningitis.

Particularly alarming to doctors is the prevalence of whooping cough and measles. Before vaccines became widely available in the 1940s, about 200,000 U.S. children became sick with whooping cough each year, leading to 9,000 deaths. While between 10,000 and 25,000 cases a year are reported now, with 10 to 20 deaths, they have risen in the last 30 years.

The trend is largely attributable to better testing, reporting, waning immunity and other factors, according to the CDC. But in Michigan, which had nearly 850 whooping cough cases last year — including the death of a 3-month-old — officials say immunization can make such deaths entirely preventable.

"It's scary. ... We had a decline but not enough of a decline to satisfy the medical community that we're doing the right thing," said Kenneth Elmassian, a Lansing anesthesiologist and president of the Michigan State Medical Society.

The group plans to organize more awareness events across the state this month.

There is no talk of asking Michigan lawmakers to restrict or eliminate waivers from immunization requirements, though one lawmaker has introduced legislation to prevent the state or schools from adding the flu vaccine to the list of required immunizations.

In the case of an outbreak, the state health department or local health agency has the power to exclude unvaccinated children from school.

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Stressing the importance of a will

By Shannon Lindquist

MSU Extension- Chippewa County

Where did mom keep the will? Is there a will?

My parents both passed away suddenly and our family never experienced the "sit down and talk about end of life issues" talk. Mom lived many years after dad passed away and rather than a formal discussion she "threw out" information regarding an upcoming appointment to write her will, or mentioned that a certain document was kept in the safe and where the keys were.

We knew my brother was listed on the checking account, that she wanted a bag-piper at her funeral and how we should divide her collectables. We were lucky; mom had been the executor of her uncle's estate and knew about putting things in order. Not every family is so fortunate. Many families avoid having this emotionally charged discussion.

By not knowing what has been put in place, families are faced making many decisions at an uncomfortably fast pace. Planning ahead can lead to peace of mind for parents and grown children.

The most important piece of this process is communication and specifically, communication with all family members. Once a member of the family feels left out of decision making conversations, trouble starts. We live

in an era of accessing each other through conference calls, email and text messages. Decisions need not be made without all family members. Siblings need to be patient and respectful of others reactions and feelings. During these conversations, tendency is to slip into the same roles we had when growing up together. Keep this in mind when the oldest starts to seemingly boss everyone around or the youngest whines that no one tells her anything. Focus on the end result, honoring your parent(s).

When is the best time for a meeting? It might be easier to list when not to hold a meeting. Stay away from holiday visits, family reunions or at the end of a hospital bed. Set a specific place and time for this important conversation and don't forget to include your parent(s). Once the meeting is set, address the following points:

- Where are all the important papers kept? Is there a safe, shoebox, drawer or a safe deposit box at the bank?
- Is there a will? Where is a copy kept?
- Have steps been taken for someone to make decisions if your parents cannot? Is there a living will?
- Does your parent have a lawyer and a financial advisor?
- Where are insurance policies kept?

•What about a financial advisor and is contact information readily at hand?

•Are there files on a home computer?

•Social Security numbers

All these documents may already be in order and readily accessible. But what about the books, coin collection or jewelry? Are there instructions on how these items are to be divided? Did dad put names on the bottom of certain items?

An excellent resource for non-titled property is a program through the University of Minnesota Extension called "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate." The workbook from this program is available for purchase and can walk you through the transfer of personal items. Ordering is done through www.extension.umn.edu/family.

Hopefully your family can sit down together and begin the task of finding out what your parents want to have done when they pass. For many, it's time to start a conversation with your own children. Pre-planning will help alleviate some of the stress families experience when a loved one passes away.

For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

Walking on

Sara Lee Aikens

Sara Lee Aikens, 75, of Sault Ste Marie, Mich. died unexpectedly at her winter residence in Punta Gorda, Fla. on July 6, 2013. She was born on April 6, 1938 in Sault Ste Marie to the late Harold and Enid (Bushman) Saunders and joins her beloved beagle, Puppies.

Sara is survived by one brother, Joseph (Barbara) Sharp of Mass.; and her five children, Bernard (Terry) Aikens of Orlando, Fla., and Laura (Bill McKay) Kempfert, Leslie (Henry) Boulette, James (Andrea) and Brent Aikens, all of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Dustin Schmitt, Ian Aikens, Katie (Randy) Matheson, Keil and Emma Kempfert, Rece Boulette, Areka (Jason) Blain, Jayson Aikens, Christopher Person, Stephanie Carrick, and Carrie, Amber, Brent Jr., Tommy, Autumn and Victoria Aikens; great-grandchildren, Clayton Matheson, Eva, Rowan and Violet Blain, Christina Person, and Iris Aikens; beloved grand-pets Riley, Princess, Ellie Mae, Simon, KitKat and Sammie; and many nieces and nephews. She also leaves behind her pride-and-joy beagles, Mandy and Jody, who will miss her constant companionship.

The family requests no flowers, but condolences may be sent to the family at P.O. Box 1503, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Walter G. Albrough

Walter G. Albrough of Brimley, Mich. died at Hearthside Assisted Living in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. on Aug. 3, 2013. He was born in Brimley, on Jan. 31, 1922 to Walter and Bertha (Campbell) Albrough.

Walter was a member of Brimley V.F.W. as well as past Commander. Walter served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1943 until 1946. He worked at Soo Welding for 40 years until his retirement in 1983.

Surviving Walter are his wife of 74 years, Martha, whom he married Sept. 18, 1939; two sons, Gerald (Kathy) Albrough and Roger Albrough of Brimley; three daughters, Sharon (Max) Menerey of Brimley, Carol Page of White Lake, and Judith (Robert) Smith of Sault Ste. Marie; and sister, Beverly (Raymond) Nesseth of Barron, Wis.

Also surviving are grandchildren, John (Irina) Albrough, Chris (Cindy) Albrough, Jenny (Russell) Burley, Donald (Rachel) Menerey, Kenneth (Cristie) Smith, Erin (Rodney) Green, Danielle Bagby, and Kellie (Robert) Green; and great-grandchildren, Veronika, Kyle, Natalie, Savannah, Garrett, Preston, Max, Connor, Cason, Makenna, Brylee, Harper, and Emily.

Walter was preceded in death by his brother, Ralph Albrough; two sisters, Donna Wieland and June Streeter; and granddaughter, Shawn Ullom.

Memorial services have taken place with burial will be at Hillcrest Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to the Hearthside Activity Fund or the First Congregational Church Building Fund.

Jane M. Homminga

Jane Marilyn "Granny" Homminga, 73, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. died Aug. 2, 2013, at her home. She was born on March 2, 1940, the daughter of the late George and Rita (Hatch) Bouschor.

She had worked in many facets for the Sault Tribe. She managed the original Sault Tribe Bingo, and was also the first manager for the Sault Tribe Art Gallery. She truly loved her crafts and would often have a craft stand at pow wows, where she displayed porcelain dolls and all forms of bead work. Not only was she a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, but she was also a member of St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church where she was on the council and was in charge of fund raisers. She was also an elder of the Bahweting Singers.

Jane is survived by five children, Gary (Louise) Homminga, Vern (Christine) Homminga, Debbie (Ed Cook) Ailing, Chris (Pauline) Homminga, and Cathy Boling, all of Sault Ste. Marie; several grandchildren, including her oldest grandson and caregiver Josh (Sarah) Homminga; and several great grandchildren. She is also survived by two brothers, Pat (Michelle) Bouschor and Bernard (Laura) Bouschor, both of Sault Ste. Marie; two sisters, Bernadette (Roger) Azeveto of Sugar Island and Beverly (Sandy) Bouschor of Brimley; and a sister-in-law, Darlene Bouschor of Sault Ste. Marie.

Jane was preceded in death by her lifelong friend, James Baron; two sons, George and Mike Homminga; and three brothers, Bill, Raymond "Micky", and Alvin Bouschor.

Services took place at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church with Brother John Hascall as celebrant. Burial took place at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to help the family with funeral expenses. Arrangements are being handled by C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Edward J. Boudreaux

Edward J. Boudreaux of Brimley, Mich. died at his home on July 28, 2013. He was born in Crowley, La. on May 23, 1936 to Edward and Pearl (Trehan) Boudreaux.

Ed was a member of the Brimley V.F.W. as he was a veteran of the Korean War serving from 1953 until 1959. He married Clara June Cook in 1958 and they enjoyed 55 years together laughing, camping and traveling. Ed was proud of his Cajun heritage and loved to tell stories of life in "Cajun, La." He always said that he was born a Cajun and would die a Cajun.

Surviving Edward are his wife of 55 years, Clara June; sisters-in-law, Betty Lou (Bob) June of Sault Ste. Marie, and Beverly Jean Hensley of Kincheloe; and brother-in-law, Morton J. (Lois) Cook of Juneau, Alaska. Also surviving are several cousins in Louisiana, and nieces and a nephew.

Preceding Edward in death are his parents, and his son, Edward Boudreaux.

Funeral services were held at Hovie Funeral Home on Aug. 1, 2013 with Father Augustine Jacob officiating. Burial took place at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens. Memorials may be left to the Hospice House of E.U.P. or the charity of your choice.

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Bonnell takes Best of Show at Annual Sault Arts Festival

By Jean Jones
Sault Area Arts Council

SAULT STE. MARIE — The 41st Annual Sault Summer Arts Festival was held Tuesday, Aug. 6, on the grounds of the Sault City Hall. The displays were, if anything, even more colorful, creative and interesting than usual with exhibits that were just plain fun to look at. There was also a strong bent toward using discarded or less than perfect natural materials to form beautiful, sometimes quirky and imaginative items.

Best of Show winner was Janet Bonnell, known for making exquisite coiled fiber basket and wall hangings, most of pine needles although she uses other fibers as well. Her designs are often flowing and free form and embellished with stone, wood, beads and other materials. The Olive Craig Best of Show is given by the Olive Craig Gallery. Janet Bonnell summers on Sugar Island and winters in Arizona. Her work is displayed on her web-site: www.pineywoodsbasketart.com.

The Best of Crafts Award went to Jayne and Mike Schroeder of Suttons Bay for their Petoskey stone carvings. The Best of Crafts Award is given jointly by the Eastern Upper Peninsula Craftsmen and National Office Products and Printing.

Sault artist David Bigelow won the Painting Award for a pastel painting titled "Big Barn," which depicted a barn in the Goetzville area. Bigelow first entered the Sault Summer Arts Festival in 2004 and won the Painting Award again in 2008. He won the Aarre Lahti Design Award in 2005, the Judge's Choice Award in 2007, 2008 and 2010 and the Graphics Award in 2011 and 2012. The Painting Award is given by the Le Sault Artists Guild.

The Judges Award went to Sault artist Jeanne Tubman who just returned from winning Best of Show in Cheboygan. Tubman is a member of the Le Sault Artists Guild, the International Society of Marine Painters, the International Guild of Realism and the American Artists Professional League of New York. She is also an official Coast Guard Artist. She recently completed a new mural for the River of History Museum.

The Aarre Lahti Design Award went to Kimball, Mich. metal worker Paul Mason. Mason has combined discarded metal objects with a vivid imagination to create an assortment of cavorting critters, improbable insects,

flowers and a host of other items to enliven gardens and lawns and whatever else needs a jolt of whimsy. The Design Award is given by the Sault Area Arts Council.

The Jewelry Award is given by Ryan's Jewelry. It was won by Karen Reece for her lamp work glass bead jewelry, which she markets under the name of Beadkrap. She is originally from Sault, Ontario.

The Fiber Arts Award was won by Sault artist Shirley Harrer. You can't miss Harrer's site because there are usually one or two large wacky moose or bears to catch your eye. Her booth is crammed with jointed, stuffed animals; coiled baskets formed from recycled cloth; shirts and jackets embellished with embroidery, buttons and scraps; mittens and slipper socks crafted of old sweaters and knitwear and much more — lots of practical and whimsical items with her special touch in utilizing recycled material. Leanne and Gary Deuman give the Fiber Award.

The Graphics Award, given by Cooper Dental, was won by Zoey Wood-Salomon for the fourth time. She first entered the festival in 2006 and won the Best of Show that year. Wood-Salomon is an Odawa Indian who lives in Sault, Ontario and paints in the traditional Woodland Indian style. She had original paintings on display along with a wide assortment of beautiful note cards—cards which have repeatedly taken Graphics Awards.

The Pottery Award, is given by Soo Co-op Credit Union. Schmidt-Marken Pottery won it; they won it in 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2010 as well. Karen Marken grew up in the Sault. She and her husband, Doug Schmidt, now live in La Porte, Ind. where they make wheel-thrown stoneware.

Attorney Bryce Winnick gives the Wood Award, which went to show veteran Jerry Wygant. Wygant's intricate inlaid wood bracelets and earrings are crafted of a variety of exotic, often colorful wood. He has been a show regular since the 70s and has been a frequent award winner in both the wood and jewelry categories. Wygant lives in Pentwater, Mich.

The Yvonne Peer Glass Award

"Stalwart Forgotten" By David Bigelow



went to festival newcomers, Dennis and Debbie Hines of Hemlock, Mich. who do business as Kaleidoscope Illusions. They displayed a colorful variety of vessels and trays created of fused glass.

The Award for Best Display went to Mary Stroba of the Sault. Stroba's well arranged and compact display featured a large, striking organization of colorful oil paintings. Mary is a



Wood Jewelry by Jerry Wygant

member of the Le Sault Artists Guild and will be exhibiting with them in Alberta House next month. The Art Store, a long-time Sault Summer Arts Festival supporter, gives the Best Display Award.

Honorable Mention Awards went to Anthony Strublic of Marinette, Wis. and Ben Musielak of Paradise. Last year's festival was Strublic's first and he won an Honorable Mention Award that year too. He displayed detailed pencil drawings of Great Lakes freighters and has a big Alberta House exhibit scheduled for October of this year.

Musielak is a retired Sault fireman who only began displaying his work in May. Under his canopy were many photographs of local scenery, most enhanced by the beautiful cloud formations and play of light in the background.

The festival judge was Maureen Mousley, the Chairman of the Gallery Board. Mousley is both a painter and a craftsman, an art teacher and a frequent exhibitor and an almost constant award winner.



Ben Musielak of Paradise earned an Honorable Mention in this year's show. He is pictured above with a photo he showcased of Point Iroquois Lighthouse. Musielak takes photos of local scenery and began displaying his work this May. SHANNON JONES/BAY MILLS NEWS

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Green disposal of a green menace

By Leslie Mertz
Great Lakes Echo

Great Lakes beachgoers want sand underfoot, not the inches-thick mats of slimy Cladophora algae that can wash onto shorelines throughout the summer.

Truckloads of the stuff are hauled to landfills every week or so, but beach managers want a greener and cheaper method of disposal.

"Algae removal is sort of a routine beach-grooming thing that we do, but because it's wet and heavy, it can be expensive to dispose of," said Cathy Breitenbach, director of Green Initiatives for the Chicago Park District, which is responsible for 26 miles of lakefront in the city. She's hoping to find an alternative that saves taxpayers money and is more sustainable than taking it to the dump like the district does now.

Composting may seem like an obvious solution, but it's not as simple as it sounds, say algae experts. Cladophora mats can harbor large concentrations of bacteria, including some potentially dangerous varieties.

"We have evidence to show that E. coli bacteria are found in very high densities in Cladophora mats," said Murulee Byappanahalli, a research microbiologist at the U.S. Geological Survey's Lake Michigan Ecological Research Station in Porter, Ind.

"Sometimes the numbers can be much higher (in the mats) than what you find in raw sewage, when you look at a volume-by-volume basis for comparison purposes," Byappanahalli said.

While most E. coli strains are harmless, some are human pathogens, he said. "And there is some evidence that pathogenic E. coli strains, and also the bacteria Shigella, Campylobacter and Salmonella, are often found in the algal mats. If these bacteria are present, there is a greater chance for human swimmers coming into contact with these bacteria and perhaps getting exposed."

These pathogens can lead to such symptoms as diarrhea and stomach pain.

Cladophora, is about 90 percent water and would have to be dried for composting, said Richard Whitman, chief of the Lake Michigan Ecological Research Station. "You couldn't do it on the beach," he said, citing both the potential pathogens that would flourish in the sunbaked and moist mats, as well as "all of the flies that would come in."

"It's unsightly, and it smells just terrible," he said. "It smells like rotten eggs."

Nonetheless, composting can be done, according to Mary Seaman, senior lecturer in the biology department at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

She and her students studied how best to compost Cladophora mats for use in flower beds in Door County on the west shore of Lake Michigan.

"The people in (the town of) Bailey's Harbor actually harvested the Cladophora off of the beach and then trucked it over to me at the Ephraim Wastewater Treatment Plant," she said. She and her students found that a mix of 75 percent algae and 25 percent wood chips is best for

composting. Mixes with other organic waste, such as grass clippings, might also work well, she said.

The students tracked moisture, temperature, pH, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium content as it decomposed. "We determined that this composted material would be good for flower gardens, but since we didn't test for bacteria, I would not suggest using it on a vegetable garden," Seaman said.

Byappanahalli and Whitman are a little more cautious.

"Definitely through composting, we can reduce the microbial load, but there are still some nasty organisms that might persist," Byappanahalli said. "Usually with composting, most bacterial vegetative cells die off, but spore-forming bacteria, such as Clostridium botulinum, can survive."

That bacteria is responsible for avian botulism, a paralytic disease that has killed thousands of birds in the Great Lakes over the past few years.

And there are other problems. Extremely toxic methylmercury has been found in high concentrations in Cladophora mats.

In typical garden or farm applications, it probably wouldn't be an issue in the compost, said Dave Krabbenhoft, research hydrologist and geochemist at the USGS Wisconsin Water Science Center in Middleton, Wis. In gardens and farm fields, soil microbes would likely break down methylmercury.

"And from what we know, terrestrial plants don't accumulate methylmercury from the soil anyway, so produce grown with the compost would not likely pose a health risk to eat," he said.

One important exception: Unlike terrestrial plants, aquatic plants such as rice can take up methylmercury, which can then get into the grain, he said. "In much of China, for instance,

the biggest source of methylmercury exposure is actually not from consuming fish (which do accumulate methylmercury), but from the very large amounts of rice they eat."

Overall, however, Cladophora compost would work well, he said. "So long as it's being tilled into the gardens or agricultural fields, I can't see where there would be much concern over the mercury and methylmercury content."

It would just take a little more investigation to give Cladophora compost a thumbs up or thumbs down, Whitman said. "There is definitely potential for using decomposed mats as a biofertilizer, but first we need to know if there are any chemicals and pathogens that are dangerous."

"It wouldn't be a big investment in time and research. We're talking about two or three years of work. We're not alarmists. We're just saying that we've got to do some experiments."

Other researchers are studying whether Cladophora can be used for fuel, said Julie Peller, associate professor of chemistry at Indiana University Northwest. "Certainly, macroalgae such as Cladophora has oils that are important, and there are research groups out there that have shown that you can extract these particular compounds and then make simple chemical transformations to turn them into biofuels," Peller said.

Back in Chicago, the Cladophora disposal quandary looms. "We are looking into options for composting, but I can't tell you that we've figured out anything yet," Breitenbach said. "In concept, we'd love to be able to find a way to divert this waste stream from the landfill. Everybody wants to be green, but there has to be a place to take it that is a reasonable distance and there's no commercial facility in Chicago where we could take it."

"It has to make economic sense."

Elk viewing stations recently installed

The Department of Natural Resources has announced that three elk viewing stations were recently installed in northeast Michigan.

Volunteers from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and DNR staff members worked together with the Cadillac Career Technical Center on a project to improve awareness of elk and their management in Michigan. An important part of this outreach project is to help visitors get a chance to see an actual elk.

"We are really excited to help folks view Michigan elk in their natural habitat," said DNR wildlife technician Katie Keen. "Elk viewing is very popular in the fall, and we want to help increase wildlife watchers' chances of seeing this large animal."

A viewing station is an information board with elk history, biological facts and management information, placed in an area where elk may be seen. The station also includes a map indicating other areas where elk can be frequently found. Roads are named and GPS points are listed to help navigate parts of the Pigeon River Country State Forest and nearby areas.

Elk in Michigan are managed in an area of Otsego, Montmorency, Presque Isle, and Cheboygan counties, in the northeast Lower Peninsula. Elk can be found on public and private land, although the DNR works hard to provide all habitat requirements for elk on public land to help reduce social conflicts that can arise with a large plant-eating animal.

Wildlife viewing is part of a growing eco-tourism concept that many small communities currently benefit from.

"Michigan elk can only be found in this area," said Dan Collard of RMEF. "And the best way to appreciate such an awesome animal is to get a chance to see it – and if you're lucky, you might even get to hear it!"

While there are never guarantees that elk will visit a particular place at a particular time, the viewing stations were placed in areas of substantial elk activity and where the DNR has made the habitat attractive to elk.

An elk viewing brochure, with the viewing map included, has also been produced as part of this project. To download this brochure, go to www.michigan.gov/elk.



PICNIC PIG ROAST — About 50 Bay Mills Indian Community elders enjoyed a pig roast supper to round out the month of July. The pig was cooked up by Levi Carrick, head of the elder's council, and his son Dennis.

SHANNON JONES/
BAY MILLS NEWS

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Don't forget hunter education course requirements before hunting this fall

Michigan residents considering hunting in 2013 who need to complete a hunter education course should enroll in a class prior to Oct. 1, when offerings are plentiful. Classes are held year-round, but April, May, August and September are the traditional times when classes are most available.

"With summer winding down and the focus turning to getting the kids ready for the school year, parents should consider that part of that 'back to school' routine should be enrolling in hunter education for any child 10 years old or older who wants to hunt this fall," said Sgt. Tom Wanless, hunter education program supervisor for the Department of Natural Resources. "Waiting until the last minute before you go deer hunting this fall can often translate into difficulty finding a class or an instructor available for a field day if you are planning to take the home-study or online course."

Michigan has three types of hunter education courses — a traditional classroom, a home-study and an online version. Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1960 is required to complete the course before buying a Michigan hunting license or taking an out-of-state hunting trip.

Exceptions are made for youths under the age of

10 hunting under a mentored youth hunting license or hunters older than 10 hunting with an apprentice hunting license. Hunters can hunt under the apprentice program for two years before they are required to take hunter education.

The traditional classroom course is a minimum of 10 hours and includes both classroom and field work with an instructor. The home-study course features a workbook to complete classwork and requires a field/skills day.

Michigan also offers two approved online hunter education courses, at www.hunter-ed.com/Michigan and www.huntercourse.com/usa/michigan. Students who opt for the online course complete their classwork online, and then have a field/skills day with an instructor and take a written exam.

Additionally, the DNR is seeking those interested in becoming hunter education instructors. There is a strong need for instructors in southeast Michigan. For more information on becoming an instructor in southeast Michigan, contact Specialist Peggy Ruby at rubby@michigan.gov or call 586-405-5359.

For more information about hunter education or to find a class in your area, go to www.michigan.gov/huntereducation.

Transitioning a farm across generations

By Dennis Stein
MSU Extension - Chippewa County

Do you have an action plan to transfer the farm family business?

Transitioning a family farm from one generation to the next can be assisted with a written plan of action. Because each farm family has unique needs and issues, each family business transition plan is different. This makes it impossible to develop one plan that fits all, or even most situations.

The practical approach starts with a basic understanding of the process of transitioning the authority to make management decisions. Building your understanding may include prepared resources series from the University of Minnesota (<http://www.cffm.umn.edu/Publications/pubs/FarmMgtTopics/TransferringTheFarmSeries.pdf>).

Another very good action step is attending a farm business transition meeting in your area that extension often hosts. Group meetings are often helpful, as they allow individuals to interact with others in various stages of the business succession process. Having the opportunity to ask questions, or even better yet listen to the questions

that are asked by others enables them to start addressing issues that they are finding in their plan development.

One very important foundational step is building the detailed farm business inventory of assets and liabilities (balance sheet or net worth statement). A good habit to form is building an inventory on the same date each year and updating its yearly. The balance sheet provides a place for current, intermediate and long term assets along with the current, intermediate and long term liabilities.

One problem that is identified on many farms is the lack of current balance sheet reports. It is recommended your farm has one on file every year on December 31. Another problem that is rather common is the lack of detail and inaccurate information that is posted on balance sheets. Just leaving last year's numbers alone without annual adjustment for current market conditions can render the value of the annual balance sheet inaccurate and of limited value.

It takes time to build a good balance sheet but it is one of the foundations to start any farm transition plan. Keep in mind that if you have an incomplete

or inaccurate inventory you will have an incomplete or inaccurate transition plan.

Steps to get your farm transition plan in place:

1. Complete essential paperwork — a will and/or trust.
2. Make sure you are maintaining a current and very detailed balance sheet inventory.
3. Are members of the family farm business setting goals?
4. Develop a vision for the farm business that focuses to a transition plan.
5. Balance farm and non-farm issues that impact the farm business transition.

Farms are often treated as a part of a farm family's tradition that is often handed down from one generation to the next. Every family farm situation has a little different set of circumstances so there is no universal plan that will fit every situation. Additional resources and information can be found on the MSU Extension FIRM web site (<http://firm.msue.msu.edu/>)

For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, please visit the website: <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).



TALL SHIPS ENROUTE — Tall ships making their way from the Duluth Tall Ships Festival were spotted on Lake Superior on Aug. 2 headed towards Chicago. The *Niagara*, at right, made stops in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace with its 40-member crew to get supplies and change out crew members. The *Niagara* is a replica of a tall ship used in the War of 1812. The ship was built in 1988 and hails from Erie, Pa. The ship also picked up scientists at its two stops who were making the voyage to Chicago to study the levels of plastic in the lakes along the way.

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Wild rice mounts a comeback for culture and ecology

By Leslie Mertz
Great Lakes Echo

Native wild rice is revered by the Ojibwe, Pottawatomi and Odawa tribes as part of the prophecy that brought them to the Great Lakes region.

But it has nearly disappeared from Michigan waters. Once common in the state's rivers and lakes, sizable beds of the tall grass have dwindled to less than a dozen, the result of invasive species, higher water levels from dams, and lakefront property owners seeking to clear the way for water recreation.

To help bring back this culturally valuable and ecologically significant aquatic species, Native Americans and ecologists are working on restoration projects throughout the state.

The path to recovery isn't easy, said Barb Barton, an endangered species biologist who is part of the Native Wild Rice Coalition. The coalition has promoted the restoration of wild rice in Michigan since 2007.

"We're still compiling information on where the rice beds were historically, but when you look on the landscape now and what we have mapped out, with the exception of maybe five or six sites in the Lower Peninsula that I'm aware of, there really aren't any vast beds anymore," Barton said.

To make matters worse, one of the largest beds in the Lower Peninsula is now seriously threatened, she said.

The East Tawas City Council in April approved a special assessment district to pay for the removal of "weeds," including rice, on a portion of Tawas Lake in the northeastern Lower Peninsula. The action followed a request for the tax by lake property owners who complained that the vegetation impeded their boat access. "You can't use the lake, it's so thick," said Tawas Lake Association president Michael Merluzzi.

He said the rice currently covers about two-thirds of the 1,700-acre lake, and boats with smaller motors have difficulty navigating through it. "You might as well row, and you can't even do that because the rice entangles the oars," he said.

The destruction of rice in the state underscores a major issue: Although wild rice is protected in Minnesota

and Wisconsin, only one threatened variety of rice (*Zizania aquatica aquatica*) is protected in Michigan, Barton said. The rest is vulnerable.

Currently, the rice removal on Tawas Lake is on hold pending an analysis to determine whether it is the threatened variety, according to City Manager Ron Leslie. "The wild rice was checked a number of years ago and found not to be the threatened (variety), but we need to retest," he said.

If the city gets the go ahead, 70 acres will be cut, and additional cutting will continue for up to five years.

The Native Wild Rice Coalition hopes to change Michigan regulations so that all wild rice is protected, but it must first educate people about the plant, she said. "One of the biggest challenges is that outside of the tribal communities and old duck hunters, most people don't even know about rice in Michigan, and that includes people who work with natural-resource agencies," she said. "I call it ecological amnesia. People don't remember it, and therefore they haven't been putting a lot of energy or effort into restoring it because it's just not in their minds."

Roger LaBine, chair of the conservation and cultural committees for the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians in the western Upper Peninsula, is spreading the word about wild rice's cultural significance through programs called rice camps. They teach traditional harvesting and tell the "migration story" of how rice brought Native Americans to the Great Lakes region. The story begins on the East Coast, where LaBine said his ancestors were given seven prophecies, the third of which directed them to migrate westward to where the sun sets.

"The prophecy said that we would know we were home when we came to that place where the food grows on the water," he said.

That food, the wild rice the Ojibwa call manoomin, became and remained one of their staple foods for many years.

Members of LaBine's band settled around Lac Vieux Desert, a lake southeast of Lake Gogebic on the

Michigan-Wisconsin border, and continued to harvest wild rice from the lake until a hydroelectric dam, operated by the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, raised the water and flooded out the rice, he said. A court battle followed, and the band in 2002 was granted a 10-year test period to restore wild rice in the lake at lowered water levels.

"In 2002, we had 15 acres," LaBine said. "In 2011, we had 107 acres, and although we went down a little bit in 2012, we still have two established rice beds now on Lac Vieux Desert."

Despite the success, he fears that the power company will petition to return to the higher lake level. "If that's the case and if they win, it's going to wipe out our rice again."

Their contingency plan lies in other western Upper Peninsula restoration efforts.

The tribe has established rice beds on the Ontonagon River, Crooked Lake and Sucker Lake, and has been harvesting rice from the sites for each of the last five to six years. Some of the protein-rich rice is consumed as food or saved for ceremonial purposes, and the rest is used to reseed existing or to establish new rice beds.

Nineteen other lakes in the western U.P. have been identified as suitable habitat for rice, and will be heavily seeded in 2013 and 2014, LaBine said.

Restoration is in progress in the Lower Peninsula, too. Melanie Manion, natural resources management supervisor of Ottawa County Parks and Recreation, worked with Barton, the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians (also known as the Gun Lake tribe) and others to survey the southwestern Lower Peninsula county for wild rice. They concentrated on the Grand and Pigeon rivers and their bayous, looking for the threatened variety of native wild rice.

"We found more than 10 sites, and at least three of them were larger than an acre, which is really exciting," Manion said.

For these populations, the major threat to the rice is the invasive common reed called Phragmites, which can take over habitat where wild rice

grows, she said. The Ottawa County Invasive Phragmites Group will begin treating Phragmites with pesticides in the fall. Manion will then collaborate with the Gun Lake band, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and others in the summer of 2014 to identify waterways suitable for wild rice stands.

"In the fall of 2014, we'll collect the seed (from current stands) and disperse it in any of the new sites that we think can support the rice, and then do that again in 2015," she said.

Barton is excited about the restoration and not just by its cultural aspect.

"The ecological benefit of wild rice is absolutely incredible," she said. "Wild rice beds are biodiversity hotspots. They're known in particular in the coastal wetlands for their stopover habitat value for a lot of the migrating waterfowl, like the wood ducks, mallards and teal."

"Bitterns and herons and tons of birds utilize the rice. They also provide nesting areas for muskrats, nursery areas for fish species, and there are frogs and other small fish that use those areas as well," she added.

Wild rice beds are indeed favored duck habitat, said Jason Hill, south-

east Michigan program coordinator for Ducks Unlimited. "Wild rice is an excellent, high-energy source of food in the fall for ducks. It's also important during the breeding season for wildfowl. It's great protective cover for brood rearing, and also provides a protected area for adult ducks when they're molting."

Barton hopes wild rice will get another boost at the Stewardship Network's annual conference next January at Michigan State University. In addition to presentations on restoration, it will discuss the need for regulations in Michigan to protect existing rice beds.

In the meantime, restoration and educational programs continue. Native American communities can have a great impact with both, LaBine said. "We need good tribal people who are going to step forward and have the knowledge and an interest in bringing back this very valuable gift that was given to us by the Creator. We need people to have in their hearts a desire to bring wild rice back to their communities."

"A lot of other tribes have been open and receptive, and are participating. I think we're successful in this effort."

Sale of wolf hunting licenses postponed until Sept. 28

The Department of Natural Resources has announced that it has postponed the sale of wolf hunting licenses – originally scheduled to begin Aug. 3 – until Sept. 28 to ensure that license-sales technology is able to handle the expected high demand.

"We anticipate that there will be a lot of people trying to buy a very limited number of licenses in a short timeframe," said Adam Bump, DNR bear and furbearer specialist. "This is a first-come, first-served purchase, unlike other limited-license hunts that require an application and drawing process, so it presents a new challenge for our retail sales system. We want to make sure the system is equipped for the high volume so sales go smoothly and everyone has an equal chance to get a wolf license."

Bump said that, in addition to ensuring that technology is up to speed, the DNR is working to put adequate Saturday staffing in place to make the license-buying process as fair and efficient as possible.

A total of 1,200 wolf licenses will be available for purchase beginning Sept. 28 at noon EDT (11 a.m. CDT) until Oct. 31, or until the license quota is met. Wolf licenses cost \$100 for residents and \$500 for nonresidents.

Wolf hunting season still will begin on Nov. 15. For more information about regulations, see the 2013 Wolf Hunting Digest, available online at www.michigan.gov/dnr/digests or at any location DNR licenses are sold.

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Announcements

Labor Day Fish Boil

The Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society will be hosting its annual fish boil on Saturday, Aug. 31 at the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum at Whitefish Point. Cost is \$12 per person and proceeds will benefit restoring the Motor Lifeboat House. The fish boil is from noon to 3 p.m. and includes a meal by Escanaba Chef John Anderson serving up boiled whitefish, boiled potatoes, vegetables, soft rolls and an array of desserts and drinks. Music will also be provided by Great Lakes Balladeer Carl Behrend and outdoor artists will be on site exhibiting their work.

Maritime Art Class

An art class will be held on Sunday, Aug. 18 emphasizing graphite drawing techniques using the complex stanchion system of the historic 1861 Whitefish Point Light Tower. Instructor is maritime artist Anthony Strublic. Lunch will be provided. Class begins at 10:30 a.m. Call 800-635-1742 to register.

Paradise Blueberry Festival

The festival will be held from Friday, Aug. 16 through Sunday, Aug. 17. Enjoy music, concessions and a variety of foods throughout the weekend.

Museum speaker

On Saturday, Aug. 24 the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum will host a maritime speaker at Whitefish Point. "First Impressions: A Decade of Undiscovered Shipwrecks on Lake Huron," featuring diver and shipwreck hunter Rick Heineman. Talk begins at 7 p.m. with a \$5 admission. This event is open to the public.

Bow making class

Traditional bow making classes are scheduled to begin the week of Aug. 18. For more information on times or to sign up contact Webster Kinney at Bay Mills Community College's West Campus, 906-437-1011, ext. 207

Summer Fun Day

On Saturday, Aug. 17 Bay Mills Healthy Start Program and Boys & Girls Club are hosting a Summer Fun Day at Bay Mills ball field starting at 3 p.m. Bring your own chair or blanket and take part in games, prizes, popcorn, snacks and beverages. Barbecue runs from 5 to 6 p.m. and an outdoor family movie starts at 9:45 p.m.

Also, Healthy Start Program is accepting donations of baby items, which can be dropped off at Bay Mills Health Center by Aug. 16.

GED program changes

The GED program at Bay Mills Community College is undergoing several major changes in the next year, the most visible of which is a move to computer-based GED testing. While the program works to determine how some of the proposed changes will take place, all current GED students must complete their studies and tests before Jan. 1, 2014. On that date, all previous GED work, including tests and classroom hours, will be purged from the official record. If you plan on

completing the required work to receive your GED, it is very important that you contact the GED coordinator, Brady Waybrant, at 906-248-3354.

Women's Health Days schedule

Women's Health Day is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 17. Please call 906-5527 to schedule an appointment.

Sports PE Days planned

Sports Physical Exam Days will be held at Bay Mills Health Clinic for student athletes on Aug. 20 and Sept. 12. If your child is involved in an organized program, please see the coach for any forms they may want to use. Appointments can be scheduled by calling Bay Mills Health Center front desk at 248-5527.

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Lock It Up Project

Lock boxes for prescriptions are available for free from the Bay Mills Pharmacy window. Any adult Bay Mills Indian Community member may receive either a large lock box or a small lock bag one time only by providing tribal identification. This service is provided by the Bay Mills Social Services Department, in conjunction with Bay Mills Pharmacy, with support from BMIC Executive Council.

Theater events

Soo Theatre Project, located at 534 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie is offering the following events: On Thursday, Aug. 22 at 2 p.m. — Dance Camp Showcase and at 7:30 p.m. — Children's Ballet Theatre. On Thursday, Aug. 29 at 7:30 p.m. — Mike Dempsey & Friends, "Encores!" On Saturday, Sept. 28 at 8 p.m. — Sault Symphony Orchestra, "Kaleidoscope."

Hobo Day

Bay Mills/Brimley Historical Society will host a Hobo Day on Saturday, Aug. 31 at Wheels of History Museum in Brimley from noon to 4 p.m. Come have a learning experience: Learn about hobo symbols; listen to stories about hobos' travels on railroads and old-fashioned music about railroads; and, play old-fashioned kids' games. There will also be a hobo costume contest, a 50-50 raffle, and plenty of food. Come and enjoy this free event!

Benefit spaghetti dinner

Willabees Restaurant and Bay Mills/Brimley Historical Society will offer a joint venture on Monday, Sept. 8. A benefit spaghetti dinner will be held at Willabees on 6 Mile Road by the Waishkey River bridge in Brimley from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Proceeds will go towards the repair of the train car at

Wheels of History Museum in Brimley.

Pre-purchase tickets by Sept. 2 through any Historical Society member at the following prices: \$9 for adults and \$4.50 for kids 5 to 12, or purchase them at the door for \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 5 to 12. Children under 5 eat for free.

Lyons Memorial Golf Scramble

The 9th Annual Jason "Farley" Lyons Memorial Golf Scramble will be held Friday, Sept. 13 at the Wild Bluff Golf Course in Brimley, with a 5 p.m. shotgun start. The cost of \$200 for a four-player team (\$50 per player) includes nine holes with cart, burger/brat buffet after the tournament and lots of prizes. Lyons was murdered in 2004, leaving two sons behind. All proceeds are donated to the Jason Thomas Lyons Children's Trust for their college education. To register, contact Rob Lussenhop at Wild Bluff Golf Course, 11335 Lakeshore Drive, Brimley MI 49715 or by phone to 906-248-5860.

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DNR to host meeting Aug. 15

The Department of Natural Resources' Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Council will meet Thursday, Aug. 15 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Comfort Inn in Newberry, located at 13954 State Hwy. M-28.

The meeting will take place in the motel's conference room.

Agenda items will include:

- DNR division reports by staff
- New revenue update
- Limited U.P. wolf hunting season update
- U.P. Deer Advisory Team update
- Recreation Passport program
- Public comment (for public comment instructions, see www.michigan.gov/upcac)

The Eastern Upper Peninsula and Western Upper Peninsula CACs are 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 constituencies.

The council members represent a wide variety of natural resource and recreation stakeholders and interest groups. Agenda items are set by the council members and council recommendations are forwarded to the DNR for consideration.

CAC meeting are open to the public. Anyone interested in being considered as a future CAC member should fill out the nomination form found on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/upcac.

For more information, contact the DNR Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator's office at 906-228-6561.

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