



Epstein controversy could sink Starmer

INSIDE, 4A



THE SAULT NEWS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 | SOO EVENING NEWS.COM

SAULT STE. MARIE, MICH. | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

BMCC celebrates top honors for local students

Jillian Fellows
Sault Ste. Marie News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two local students at Bay Mills Community College were recently named as the school's Students of the Year for 2026.

According to a college announcement, Nicole Maleport has been named the American Indian College Fund (AICF) Student of the Year, while Victor

Chugunov has been selected as the BMCC Student of the Year. Both students will be honored at the BMCC commencement ceremony in the spring. The AICF Student of the Year will also be honored at a ceremony in Bismarck, North Dakota in March.

"We are thrilled to congratulate Nicole and Victor on this well-deserved honor," said BMCC President Dr. Duane

See **BMCC**, Page 2A



Bay Mills Community College students Nicole Maleport (left) and Victor Chugunov (right) recently received prestigious recognition as Students of the Year for 2026.

PROVIDED BY BAY MILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

U.S. has a looming sewage problem



A fence separates the path from the C&O Canal where millions of gallons of untreated sewage were being diverted in Cabin John, Maryland, on Feb. 16. A section of the Potomac Interceptor, a sewage pipe, collapsed on Jan. 19.

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Wastewater systems often receive a 'D' grade

Dinah Voyles Pulver
USA TODAY

Officials and engineers have warned for decades of a growing crisis with the aging systems that handle the billions of gallons of water flowing from toilets, tubs and washing machines across the country every day.

So when news broke of the untreated wastewater spill into the Potomac River in January, it wasn't a surprise to industry experts.

"When you think about the number of miles of wastewater pipes in the ground, and the age of them, and the fact that for many, many years they have been underfunded, it's not surprising that things like this can occur," said Darren Olson, a professional engineer who

See **SEWAGE**, Page 2A



In August 2025, intense rain in Milwaukee led to 5.14 billion gallons of untreated wastewater from the city's combined sewer being discharged into nearby waterways and Lake Michigan. CAITLIN LOOBY/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL FILE

MSU, UM among top recipients of foreign funding

Karly Graham
Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan State University and the University of Michigan rank in the top 100 universities throughout the country receiving funding from foreign countries, according to a recently published report.

The U.S. Department of Education recently launched a database showing where different institutions of higher education reported receiving foreign funding from.

Schools are required to disclose gifts and contracts valued at more than \$250,000 to the DOE and must make the disclosures available for public inspection, according to the report.

The department said universities have typically underreported foreign funding gifts, estimating that 60% of "reportable foreign gifts and contracts are now being accurately and timely reported." It is unclear where that estimate comes from.

A total of \$67.6 billion in foreign funding was disclosed by institutions throughout the United States, across 124,180 reports from 555 institutions.

The database specifies how much funding came from specific countries and in what number of transactions,

See **FUNDING**, Page 2A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to sooeveningnews.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 2026 | No. CLXVI
To subscribe
906-632-2235

©2026

\$1.25



8 02722 98185 4