

Becky McDonoff Hired To Fill Vacant 4-H Position in Chippewa County

By Amy Polk

Becky McDonoff wants to spend as little time in her office as possible, preferring direct contact with people, rather than telephone conversations. The Rudyard native started last month as the new 4-H program associate for Michigan State University Extension in Chippewa County, coordinating more than 20 youth clubs.



Becky McDonoff

She likes the hands-on work. "I just want to be out there and I want to be a resource for information and a facilitator," Ms. McDonoff said. "I'm thrilled because this job gets me out into the community, talking with people and getting information out to the people. I love it!"

The daughter of Tom and Mary Ellen McDonoff of Rudyard, she was involved as a 4-H club member and teen volunteer for more than 15 years. She raised market beef and lamb, participated in fairs, and was a former Chippewa County Fair queen.

She earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and counseling from Lake Superior State University and, for the past three years, was a substitute teacher and coordinated after school programs at Rudyard Area Schools. Her degree, she said, is well suited to her new job.

"I never dreamed a job like this would ever open up here," she said.

"I have known Becky for a long time, and she is bubbly, fun, and very positive," said her former Girl Scout leader, Mary Couling. "She is a leader, and is great with children."

Ms. McDonoff's new post has been vacant for 2.5 years, since the departure of Carrie Stark. Chippewa County eliminated funding for the position last year to help balance its budget, but some club

members and parents protested the cut at rallies at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie.

"The reason 4-H has survived is because of the efforts of our volunteers and the tireless hours they have committed to educating the public on the importance of returning 4-H as the premiere inclusive youth program to Chippewa County," said Chippewa County Extension Director Jim Lucas. "They talked to anyone who would listen about the importance of 4-H in their lives and the desire to have this for their children."

As a result, the county commission, Bay Mills Indian Community in Brimley, and MSU Extension have raised the money to fund the position.

In addition to 4-H coordination, Ms. McDonoff will work with the Boys and Girls Club of Bay Mills and organize the Rudyard Friends of the Library Summer Youth Program.

The Rudyard Library program starts at the Turner Howson Elementary School Library in

Rudyard, Wednesday, June 29, and will continue for eight weeks, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is for Eastern Upper Peninsula children, preschool through elementary school age and includes book sharing, crafts, nutritional information, and snacks.

Chippewa County clubs offer shooting sports for children, raising and marketing livestock, horse training and riding, and sewing. Ms. McDonoff said a group is trying to launch a 4-H sewing club in

Pickford, and a Sault Ste. Marie quilter is interested in leading a quilting club.

Her former 4-H leader, Elaine Love, said she believes Ms. McDonoff "will do an excellent job as our 4-H Program Associate."

"It is nice to see someone in this job that has grown up in our area and is familiar with local programs and people," she said.

In her free time, Ms. McDonoff enjoys traveling and camping. She plans to camp at the Chippewa

County Fairgrounds during the annual County Fair at the end of August, one of the busiest times for 4-H members.

Ms. McDonoff can be contacted at the MSU Extension Office in Sault Ste. Marie, at 300 Court Street. Her telephone number is (906) 635-6368 and her e-mail address is mcdonoff@msu.edu.

MSU Extension will host an open house reception for Ms. McDonoff at the Extension office Monday, June 13, from 4 p.m. to 7

p.m. Chippewa County established a 4-H program in 1928 to bring rural youth a place to learn about the practical arts of farming and home economics, Mr. Lucas said. The national 4-H program is 103 years old and continues to teach young people community service, social and practical skills, and leadership. The "4-H," symbolized by a four-leaf clover, stands for the pledge to develop one's head, heart, hands, and health.

Cedar Cove Hosts Open House Sat.

Cedar Cove Assisted Living Community will host an open house Saturday, June 18, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., at which the public can tour the new, 20-unit facility and meet staff and organizers of the project.

The facility is at 266 Mary L. Street, behind the old Hudson Hardware building in Cedarville.

LaSalle Class of '75 Plans Reunion

The LaSalle High School Class of 1975 will host a reunion Saturday, July 2, at the St. Ignace Golf Course.

Organizers are trying to contact two classmates, Randy White and Lorraine Rolston Harmon. Those with information on their whereabouts are asked to call Marty Davis at 643-9246.

Circus Comes to Hessel June 23

The Bailey Brothers Circus will present a circus in Hessel Thursday, June 23, at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Albert J. Lindberg Airport.

Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce is selling advance tickets, and they can be ordered by calling the Les Cheneaux Welcome Center in Cedarville at (906) 484-3935, or purchased at the Welcome Center, 680 West M-134.

Transfer Station Summer Schedule

Waste Management's St. Ignace transfer station is now open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and open Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. It will be closed on the weekends.

There is a minimum charge of \$11.50 for items up to 200 pounds and a 5¢ per pound charge for items over 200 pounds.

Caregiver Support Group To Meet

The Chippewa County Caregiver Support Group will meet Wednesday, June 29, at 2 p.m. in the second floor conference room at Avery Square Center in Sault Ste. Marie.

DEAL ME IN

C-A-R-D-S! 'TEN-SHUN! COUNT OFF!



Mark Pilarski

Dear Mark, I have a couple questions regarding cards on a blackjack game. When the decks are placed on a game, do pit bosses check them beforehand to see if they are all there? I'm always afraid that some of the aces will be missing. Do they check them when they come off the game? Also, when a pit boss changes decks, why does he replace a red deck with a blue one?

David A.

You betcha they check 'em before they spread 'em. The Blank would really hit the fan if the Gaming Commission were to come in unannounced (as they do), randomly pull a deck off a game (which they do), and find cards missing. BIG WHOPPING NO-NO.

Before cards ever touch the green felt, a games supervisor inventories them, making darn sure he didn't make the mistake of leaving an ace or king in the box. Yep, David, it can happen, especially when a pit boss hustles a new deck on the game. Because cards come in a collated order, certain cards (generally an Ace of spades and King of hearts) could be left sticking to the two jokers. Though uncommon, it does occur. It behooves all players that anytime a new deck is spread, to make sure all the cards are introduced into the game. You need those aces for your blackjacks. Of course, your question shows you knew that.

Next, the pit boss skims through the entire deck, making sure every card is there, and then checks the backs looking for manufacturing defects like discoloration and uneven borders. Upon completing that inspection, the pit boss will spread the deck on the insurance line, so the dealer can double check the amount and quality of cards introduced.

Once playing cards are removed from the table they are always counted to make sure fifty-two cards are coming off the game. Some casinos require that you also count down the aces separately, since a crossroader would most likely remove an ace. One casino I worked in had dealers sort the

cards and reconstruct them into the order they were in when they came out of the box every time we left the game. The dealer coming in replacing me brought in his or her own cards. I got so fast at whizzing them into order that it took me less than a minute. You do it expeditiously because the routine was eating into your sacrosanct 20?minute break. Try that at home.

The final step in the inventory process involves writing some information on the inside flap of the box. The information that is usually required is: the date, the table number, dealer on the game, the time the cards were taken off of the game, and the pit boss's initials. If there ever is a dispute on the game, that documentation, along with "rolling the tape", goes a long way in resolving it and - maybe -- pinning a card cheat.

When replacing decks on a live game, there generally isn't a choice of which color to use. Though not all casinos use cards that have blue and red backings, you do replace decks with the alternate color the casino uses in order to nullify any attempt by a charlatan to hold out cards from the old deck.

Gambling quote of the week: "There are people whose sole job is to design casinos, from the carpet colors to the type of lights to the slot?chair upholstery. The mission is always the same ??seduce the player into leaving his previous life behind, abandoning whatever constraints his real life imposes, trick him into gladly and happily shoveling his money into casino vaults."

~Barry Meadow

Got a question about gambling? Write to: Deal Me In, P.O. Box 1234, Traverse City, Michigan 49685 - e-mail: pilarski@markpilarski.com • To order Mark Pilarski's "Hooked on Winning" audio cassettes-laminated win cards package (\$12.95 plus \$2 S&H) call 1-800-WINNERS.

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