

Master Gardener Conference in Petoskey September 10

A Master Gardener fall gardening conference will be at the Emmet County Fair Grounds in Petoskey from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, September 10. The conference is sponsored by Michigan State University Extension (MSUE).

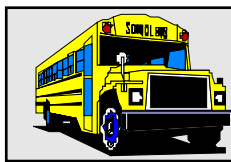
The conference will include expert speakers and workshops, morning refreshments and lunch, book signings, and gardening vendors.

Speakers include Janet Macunovich, a gardening author and landscape designer, Steve Fouch of the Benzie County MSUE, who will

speak about shrubs, and Tony Dunske of North Central Michigan College, whose topic is digital photography. Jennifer Geib, a landscape architect, will speak about landscape renovation, and Linda Zulski, a floral designer and master gardener, will hold a Rosemary and Topiary workshop.

The conference will be in the new Community Center on 1129 Charlevoix Avenue in Petoskey.

For more information, call MSUE Master Garden Coordinator Martha Lee at (231) 343-1770.



NEWS FROM ST. IGNACE AREA SCHOOLS

By MIKE SPRINGSTEEN, SUPERINTENDENT

St. Ignace Schools Addressing Student Drug Use

At the August school board meeting, the issue of student drug use was addressed. A parent came to the board meeting stating that it is her belief, after talking with her son, that as many as 95 percent of his classmates are involved in illegal drug use. This parent was addressing a concern about the well being, safety, and education of her son. She has every right to be concerned, as illegal drug use threatens not only our educational mission, but the very foundations of our family and community structure.

I am not sure whether 95 percent of all students are actively involved in illegal drug use, but I am relatively certain that 95 percent of all high school aged youth know where, how, and have the ability to obtain a variety of illegal drugs in this community. It is the nature of youth to experiment. Unfortunately, experimenting with drug use can have lasting effects.

One-and-a-half years ago, we administered a student survey. At that time, students indicated that approximately 25 percent were illegally using drugs or alcohol on a weekly basis. Across the entire country – not just in St. Ignace – illegal drugs and their availability have reached epidemic proportions. Forty years ago, drugs were not readily available. Today they are very available, and regardless what the older generation says, many of the younger generation are going to experiment with some of them at some time in their youth. If we believe what we are told by our surveys, there is a ready supply of marijuana, prescription drugs, and other drugs. Any youth that desires to do so, knows who to contact to obtain whatever he or she wants.

We as parents don't want our children exposed to drugs. We as a

school don't want them in the school. We know that when young people become entangled in regular drug or alcohol use, they are more likely to get into trouble with the law, they lose interest in school, and the patterns in their brain that facilitate learning become altered. They become what we term "at risk students."

As we look at how we can best address this problem, it is important to realize that when we say that the school has a drug problem, we are perhaps misstating the problem. Consider this: "If there are no drugs in town, there are none in school. Before any drugs get through the school door, they first must be available in the community."

The school is a reflection of the larger community. A student who comes to school using or possessing drugs is symptomatic of a greater community problem. And this issue is not unique to us. It is nationwide. Even if you don't go to school, if you live and reside in a community you are going to be exposed to the effects and pressures of illegal drugs.

While at school, students are supervised quite closely most of the time. There is very little evidence that much illegal drug use occurs at school. What is far more likely to occur is a drug transaction or arrangement for a transaction to occur.

As a school, we are aware that this problem exists and have, over the years, taken action. What we have done to date includes: 1) developing and integrating an extensive drug alcohol component

in our health education programs; 2) bringing in outside resources, such as DARE, to address our youth about the dangers of drug and alcohol use; 3) providing in-service with our teaching staff to give them more knowledge about the dangers involved, as well as how to detect students who may be involved in substance abuse; 4) utilizing the State Police drug dog to sniff student lockers and cars in the parking lot; 5) closing the campus at noon time to lessen opportunity for such actions to occur as well as to provide more supervision.

As a method of taking further action, we are looking at the legal issues that surround random searches and drug tests. The consequences of using, possessing, or selling drugs while at school are as follows: Students who are caught possessing or using drugs are suspended from school for at least five days and must undergo a drug education

program. A second offense would result in expulsion from school for the remainder of the year. Students who sell drugs are expelled from school on the first offense.

As a school system, we need to do whatever it is that is possible to help ensure that no drugs come through our doors. Regardless of what we do as a school system, it does not address the bigger issue of what happens out on the streets at work, in the restaurant, at the community, or anywhere else in the community. The ultimate solution is that we need drugs out of our community. Until then, they will be a part of the growing up experience. This is something that no one wants to see.

Our high school improvement committee is looking for suggestions on ways to further address this problem. We are looking for people that are interested in volunteering their thoughts, time, and energy to the cause of solving the problem. If you are interested in helping, the next high school improvement committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, at 3:30 p.m.. The meeting will be held in the high school library.

Greg Jacobs Presents Program at Seney National Wildlife Refuge

Seney National Wildlife Refuge will present two entertainment programs at the end of this month. Greg Jacobs will present an original blend of nature poetry and comedy Friday, August 26, at 7 p.m.

Marsh Madness will be Saturday, August 27, from noon to 4 p.m. Singer and songwriter Corinne Rockow will be the featured performer, and nature photographer and teacher Scot Stewart

will be the featured speaker.

Ms. Rockow is a beloved musician and storyteller who will share her songs and stories with the audience. She has performed at various schools, nature centers and festivals for more than 20 years. She will perform at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. that day.

Mr. Stewart has an enormous collection of insects that he will show during the program, including a few live specimens. He will speak at 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.

A journaling hike will be offered at 2 p.m.

Seney National Wildlife Refuge is off Highway M-77, five miles south of Seney or two miles north of Germfask.

Additional information can be obtained by calling the Refuge Visitor Center at (906) 586-9851, extension 15.

Tribe Suspends Enrollment

More than 4,000 applications flooding the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians enrollment office prompted the tribe's board of directors to suspend open enrollment August 20 to allow time to process the current applications on hand.

All applications on file with the tribal registrar's office by 5 p.m. that day will be processed, according to the tribe. No other applications will be accepted until the board opens enrollment again.

Since the tribe opened the rolls last October 19, 54 applicants have been approved.

For more information regarding special enrollment, contact the Enrollment Department at (800) 251-6597 or (906) 632-8552. The Enrollment Department is at 2428 Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie.

MACKINAC ISLAND

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"DADDY, I WANT THE GOLDEN TICKET"

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FUDGE SHOP, MURDKIN'S FUDGE & RYBA'S FUDGE
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INN AT STONECLIFFE

FUDGE DINNERS
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Sault Ste. Marie - St. Ignace - Hessel - Christmas - Manistique

OVER \$50,000 IN CASH PRIZES

Hammer Out Some Cash at Kewadin

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Saturday & Sunday, September 3rd & 4th, 2005
Draw times 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday
Draw times 4 p.m. - 10 p.m. Sunday

\$50,000 IN CASH PRIZES

Random draws. Must be actively playing with Northern Rewards card to win. Players must be present to win.

1-800-KEWADIN
WWW.KEWADIN.COM

All promotions subject to cancellation at Management's discretion. Promotions cannot be changed without prior review and approval by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Gaming Commission.

You're Invited!

Judy, Dick, David, and Larry
Cordially Invite You

To celebrate Elma's 90th Birthday at the St. Ignace Golf and Country Club, U.S. 2 West, on Sunday, August 28, 2005 from Two to Five P.M.

No Gifts
Casual Dress

WHEN WE CLEAR OUT THE ATTIC, SHOPPERS CLEAN UP.

Join us for our Attic Sale this Labor Day Weekend, Friday, September 2 to Monday, September 5 from 10 am to 5 pm.

CHINA • SILVER • GLASSWARE • DRAPES • TABLECLOTHS and many other items will be on sale. You don't have to be a Grand Hotel guest to attend the sale. In fact, with a purchase of \$10 or more, you'll receive a **Free Guest Pass** for the day to Grand Hotel. grandhotel.com 1-800-33GRAND