

Les Cheneaux School Board Expels Student for Sept. Bomb Threat

By Amy Polk

A student was expelled from Les Cheneaux Community Schools Monday, December 19, during the school board meeting for making a bomb threat in September. No other information about the student has been released by the school district.

According to federal, state, and school policy adopted in 2004, personally identifiable information about students who are suspended or expelled can no longer be released or revealed during public discussion. Information that would identify the student also cannot be included in the minutes of the meeting. The federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act also prohibits disclosure of information such as grades, behavior, and discipline pertaining to a student.

The student who was expelled has been identified as "Student B" in the action. Student B is at least in sixth grade, as Superintendent Rod Goehmann said the school code pertaining to discipline for a "bomb threat or similar threat" applies only to students in grades six through 12. Mr. Goehmann would not reveal any additional information about the student.

The student was involved in a bomb threat that was made in September, and was one of two bomb threat incidents that occurred

within the same week, Mr. Goehmann said. Both threats were immediately determined to be hoaxes.

The student that was involved in the first threat, "Student A," was expelled earlier this fall.

Student B wasn't expelled until now because it took this long to get an admission of guilt from the student. The student apparently wrote a threatening message on a restroom stall in the school, which was discovered and reported by another student. Mr. Goehmann, Elementary Principal Eric Cardwell, and school counselor Pat Feldhake investigated the incident.

"Had we been able to act sooner, we would have, but gaining an admission of guilt was a timely process," Mr. Goehmann said.

The student has been expelled for the remainder of the school year and can reapply for admission next fall.

Mr. Goehmann distributed a population change map showing how population patterns have changed over the past decade. He noted that the population of Mackinac County has increased by 2.1 percent, but that most of the new residents are of retirement age. Young people and those of child-bearing age are decreasing in number.

The number of people ages 18 to

44 has declined by 6.2 percent in the last decade, while the number of people ages 45 to 64 has increased by 21 percent. The 65-years-and-older segment has grown by 16 percent. The segment that includes school-age children (younger than 18), has shrunk by 15.5 percent.

"This, in a nutshell, explains declining enrollment," Mr. Goehmann said. "We're bringing in the retirees. This paints a picture of the rural areas and Upper Peninsula."

Mr. Goehmann's map shows growing younger populations in the suburban Detroit and Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, and Traverse City regions. The numbers of school-age children drop in places like the Upper Peninsula, the eastern Lower Peninsula, and the counties along the southern state border.

Elementary Principal Eric Cardwell reported that the school received a \$3,000 grant from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for its Jump Start summer school program. The eight-day program is in August and gives students the opportunity to review skills before the upcoming school year.

"Without their financial support, this program would not be able to occur," Mr. Cardwell said. "Our elementary school is thankful for the Tribe's support."

The school library raised \$500 during a used book sale November 26, which will be used to buy a couch, chair, and end table for the elementary section of the library.

Mr. Cardwell announced that the Student Activity Advisory Council bought kickballs for all the elementary school classrooms. The organization also hosted its second annual Winter Break Movie Thursday, December 22, in the Old Gymnasium at the school. The organization provided popcorn and water for all the students, and presented a holiday movie as a treat before students went on holiday break.

High School Principal Randy Schaedig updated the board on the new, more stringent high school graduation requirements proposed by the State Education Director Mike Flanagan. The proposed requirements, including four credits of English, four credits of mathematics, three credits each of science and social science, two credits of a foreign language, and one credit each of arts and physical education, were approved and

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Students enjoy popcorn and a movie

Les Cheneaux Elementary School students enjoyed popcorn, beverages, and a movie the last day of school before Christmas break Thursday, December 22. The food and movie were provided by the Student Activities Advisory Council as a holiday treat for the students.

Survey Shows City Residents Want More Organized Recreation, Pool Improvements

By Ryan Schlehuder

St. Ignace residents say they would like to see skate park and swimming pool improvements and more organized recreation in a city survey that garnered 158 responses. The suggestions will be included in the city's new Recreation Plan, being prepared by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to assure eligibility for state grants.

The survey, posted in *The St. Ignace News* and distributed in several classrooms, generated responses via e-mail, drop boxes, and the mail, and from eighth and 10th grade students at St. Ignace Area Schools and eighth grade students at Moran Township's school, Gros Cap.

"We are already addressing most of the issues brought to our attention," said DDA Director Deb Evashevski. "That was good to know."

The recreation survey is one of the steps required for the recreation plan update, which is due April 1, 2006. Neighboring communities which support the city recreation program will also be asked to contribute to the plan, then a public hearing will be held before the revisions are adopted.

Projects already in the works are a fishing pier, which will be constructed at the old railroad dock this summer, a hiking and biking path from St. Ignace to Drummond Island, which is being spearheaded

by Clark Township, and Silver Mountain's disc golf course, created as a public service by Steve DuFresne last summer.

Many of the eighth-grade students asked for soccer programs for older children. Mrs. Evashevski said eighth grade is the cut-off for the city's recreation summer soccer programs, so the city will look into expanding it for older students and even adults.

Desired most among the survey respondents are improvements and additions to the skate park, which is set up in the overflow lot for Little Bear East Arena and Community Center, improvements to the city's swimming pool at LaSalle High

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Winter comes to the garden...

Heavy snows in mid-December created this postcard scene of snow-covered Adirondack chairs under snow-laden spruce trees at a Lakeside Road home in Cedarville. The picture was taken Sunday, December 18, after days of snowfall. Winter started in earnest in November, with significant snowfall that blanketed the Eastern Upper Peninsula, much to the delight of winter sports enthusiasts.



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Your donations are needed for the homeless pets waiting for adoption at the Mackinac County Animal Shelter.
\$25 helps provide food • \$50 helps provide medical care
\$75 helps provide spay & neutering
\$100 helps provide for the Frank A. Horn storage building memorial fund.
Mackinac Animal Aid Association is a tax deductible all volunteer group which raises funds for the shelter. 100% of the money raised is spent benefiting the pets and 90% of the money is spent right here in Mackinac County. Mail your donation and/or membership dues to: MAAA, P.O. Box 92, Moran, MI 49760

Dog Kennel Care Subject of Twp. Dispute

Wendy Frosland of Moran Twp. Must Find Homes for Six Dogs

By Paul Gingras

Wendy Frosland of Moran Township can be described as a dog advocate. She likes caring for dogs so much she has 20 of them in her kennel, some of which were rescued from animal shelters in Mackinac and Luce counties. Stepped up enforcement of local ordinances, however, has caught Mrs. Frosland in a dispute with neighbors and township authorities concerning the number of dogs allowed at a given residence. The result could be the end of 13 years of taking in, training, and finding homes for abandoned animals.

Since she was seven years old, Mrs. Frosland has raised long-haired Dachshunds, and although she no longer shows them, some of the dogs on her property on Old Portage Road remain among the top show dogs in the United States, she said.

Her passion for dogs, however, goes beyond breeding and showing. Mrs. Frosland also works with Mackinac County Animal Shelter and Luce County Animal Shelter by taking in and rehabilitating down-and-out dogs.

"It is my life's passion to rescue dogs," she said, "but I don't just collect them."

Mrs. Frosland takes in, house-breaks, grooms, and teaches dogs basic obedience. The combined effort, she said, is to make them

better candidates for adoption.

"A well-mannered animal," she added, "is much more likely to find a home."

From 1997 to 1999, Mrs. Frosland's kennel was the official animal shelter for Mackinac County. She calls her current operation a "fostering service."

When she originally moved to Mackinac County in 1992, rules governing kennels were lax, she said.

"I approached local authorities to get a kennel permit," she said. "I was told that a permit wasn't necessary, but I came from a place where they were required, so I insisted on a large kennel permit."

The permit allowed Mrs. Frosland to kennel 25 dogs on her property, and she did so for the next 13 years.

During that time, she found homes for approximately 430 dogs and has shared her dog care training methods with Ginger Valentine, who now manages the Mackinac County Animal Shelter.

"I provide motivational training," she said, which involve physical punishment only in extreme circumstances.

Mrs. Frosland's kennel is an indoor operation. The dogs are housed in a system of crates inside her two-car garage. They have access to her home and two fenced-in yards, also, but she said

most dogs like to stay close to their owners, so they spend much of their time inside with her.

"They are not allowed out until 10 a.m.," she said, "and they are brought in before 10 p.m."

For years, Mrs. Frosland housed more than 20 dogs at a time in Brevort Township, and later in Moran Township.

In 2002, Mrs. Frosland sought to renew her large kennel permit, and this is when her problems began.

County officials, she said, told her a permit wasn't necessary.

"They told me not to bother," she said. "Such a large kennel license would be too expensive, they said. A 10-dog kennel permit would be sufficient."

Further, according to Mrs. Frosland, she was told that local laws governing the number of dogs housed in kennels were not enforced.

Jim Durm, Moran Township supervisor, agreed that kennel zoning was not strictly enforced before 2004, but in an effort to keep up with township development standards, board members began examining their zoning ordinance in 2004. They hired private consulting firm Gosling-Czubak to help them upgrade zoning laws.

Mr. Durm said that Mrs.

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