

Injured on Volunteer Mission, Dave Davis Finds Friends Willing To Help at Home

Benefit Dinner Planned Wed. for St. Ignace Family

By Ellen Paquin

A benefit dinner is planned Wednesday for Dave Davis, 38, of St. Ignace, who became seriously ill following a November trip to Mississippi to repair houses ravaged by hurricanes. While working as a volunteer there, tearing out ceiling tile in a flooded house, Mr. Davis got a wood splinter and drywall dust in his eye, which led to an infection, ultimately causing viral meningitis. He was hospitalized for 10 days.

Friends are helping the Davis family meet medical expenses and will host an Italian buffet meal December 28, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Little Bob's Frontier Restaurant on Mackinac Trail. Proceeds from the \$10.95 meal will offset Mr. Davis' medical bills and lost income, as will donations made to the family through First National Bank. The Davis family has no health insurance.

"I am feeling much better now," said Mr. Davis Wednesday, December 21, "but I still have residual headaches and I do get fatigued easily."

Mr. Davis, who missed two months of employment, said he is glad to be able to go back to his regular work schedule for the first time this week. A certified nursing assistant, he is employed in the emergency department at Mackinac Straits Hospital and as a substitute teacher for area schools. He also serves as part-time pastor at Glen Memorial Baptist Church.

He and his wife, Jessica (nee Foote), have five young children, Immanuel, 13, Bethany, 11, Gabriel, 8, Micah, 6, and Keshia, 6. Mrs. Davis operates the Shear Happiness hair salon on Stockbridge Street in St. Ignace.

Pastor Mike Lane of Glen Memorial and Jonathan Wyse of St. Ignace were with Mr. Davis on the Mississippi trip, organized by the St. Ignace church and church-

es in Vicksburg and Gulfport, Mississippi.

"It was a quickly planned scouting trip to see how we could best help the people there," Pastor Lane said. The three men spent one week sleeping in a church and repairing homes for four uninjured families, knocking out dry-wall, tearing down a water-soaked house trailer, disinfecting buildings to remove mold, hanging new drywall and cabinets, and doing finish carpentry work using donated materials.

"One home we worked on was far from any flood zone, yet it had four feet of water - in the upstairs," said Pastor Lane. "We also worked in a little town called Pearlinton, just five miles from the coast. That small town was just wiped out. Two months after the hurricane, they still were hoping to get electricity back. Families were staying in trailers set up in fields, about 1,000 trailers in one field, and they still will be for months. Anything along the coastline that had been developed was just gone. It was quite devastating."

"The amazing thing is, there is no shortage of work to be done," Pastor Lane added. "You can just go down there, and where you see someone working, start helping them. The three of us were able to feel like we got a lot accomplished."

Just as he had travelled to Mississippi to help families in need, once home, Mr. Davis found people in the St. Ignace community have been eager to help his family during his illness.

"People have been extremely generous," Mr. Davis said. "We have received many cards, gifts from several different churches, and people have brought food. Mackinac Straits Hospital delivered a complete Thanksgiving dinner. Darwin Huey has offered to host a benefit dinner at his restaurant. It's been incredible. Much of this has come from people who really had no reason to help us. We've been really grateful. We are thanking God."

Following his hospitalization at Northern Michigan Hospital in

Petoskey, part of which was in the Intensive Care Unit, Mr. Davis said he is facing at least \$30,000 in hospital bills, with more to come.

Now that he is regaining his strength, Mr. Davis is thinking again of all the work that remains to be done in the hurricane region. While he won't be able to make a return trip to Mississippi, he said, he is helping make plans to send another group of volunteer workers from the St. Ignace area, tentatively set for February.

"We are trying to get a bigger work crew together," Mr. Davis said. "Anybody can participate, not just members of our church. I would ask anyone who would like to help to call me."

Those who would like to learn more about the project may call Dave Davis at 643-6191 or Pastor Mike Lane at 643-8608.

Those who wish to contribute to the fund for the Davis family may contact Merv Wyse at First National Bank at 643-6800.



In Pearlinton, Mississippi, volunteers helped families rebuild their homes. Pictured are Dave Davis (from left), homeowners Nick and Sherry Starky, homeowners Shirley and Zach Hunt, Mike Lane, and Jonathan Wyse.

Grand Hotel Gets OK for Restaurant Renovation; Public Hearing Planned for Mapleview Dormitory Conversion

By Karen Gould

The Mackinac Island Planning Commission, meeting Wednesday, December 14, approved outside renovation for Grand Hotel's new restaurant, The Gate House, and set a public hearing on Ira Green's request to convert the Mapleview employee housing dormitory to a hotel. Commissioners noted that both projects could add safety features to the buildings.

The Gate House restaurant on the corner of Cadotte and Mahoney avenues, was formerly operated as The French Outpost. Plans include a gravel and landscaped bike parking area north of the patio, which should reduce traffic congestion on the sidewalk and the street in front of the restaurant. Building inspector Dennis Dombroski noted that bicycle parking interrupted street traffic, at times, to the point where emergency personnel have had to get out of their vehicles and move bikes before they could continue down the road.

"I think what the Grand is doing is really positive," said Mr. Dombroski. "That is a busy corner."

"I think that off-street bike parking can do nothing but good," agreed Commissioner Kay Hoppenrath.

Commissioners approved both interim and final plans for the restaurant's outdoor eating area, pending approval by the city's architect in a 6-to-1 vote. The dissenting vote came from Bruce LaPine, who did not like the esthetics of the planned canvas covering, which he said looked like a tent.

Interim plans call for a canvas awning from the restaurant to the outside covered pavilion, to be used for the coming tourist season, said architect Tamara Burns of

SmithGroup, an Ann Arbor company. The canvas would be removed in the winter. Next fall, the canvas roof would be extended to encircle a clear glass and steel structure enclosing an eating area by the outdoor fireplace.

A public hearing for the Mapleview hotel proposal will be Tuesday, January 10, at 2 p.m. Mr. Green would like to convert the Mapleview, a 110-bed employee housing unit on Main Street near Mission Point Resort, to a 26-room hotel. The hotel would have 22 guest rooms, two staff rooms, and a manager's apartment. The planning commission could vote on the use change without a public hearing, City Attorney Tom Evashevski noted, but Mr. Green requested a hearing.

Mapleview is in a single family residential (R-1) zoning district. The structure was built in 1902 and was included in a high-density residential (R-3) district in the 1950s. When the city rezoned the area to R11 in the 1980s, a grandfather clause allowed Mapleview's continued use as a boarding house.

The building carries a non-conforming "A" designation, which means a change of use can be allowed if the change does not cause more non-conformity than already exists. Mr. Green contends that using the building as a hotel, however, would require the building to meet stricter building codes, making the building safer.

Mr. Green said he is considering seeking two other variances later, if he gets the use change. The variances include a side yard setback variance and a lot coverage variance for proposed alternatives to the building.

Commissioners also approved a proposed addition to the back of the home of Frank Nephew's sin-



The Mapleview as it appears today.



The Mapleview would have a new look if a proposed change of use and two variances are approved.

gle-family residence in the Mission area. Mr. LaPine voted against the building plans because of concerns for potential snow build up in a back window. Plans indicated two roof lines meeting above the window and Mr. LaPine was concerned that snow run-off

from both roofs might block a potential fire exit. Mr. LaPine's concerns could not be addressed because Mr. Nephew did not attend the meeting.

The planning commission next meets Tuesday, January 10, at 3 p.m.

County Gets New Auditor

Anderson Tackman Company, PLC of Kincheloe will take over Mackinac County auditing from Stewart, Beauvais and Whipple of Port Huron, whose contract expired this year. The decision to change auditors was made during the Thursday, December 1, Mackinac County commission meeting.

Commissioners awarded the contract for one year at \$17,500. Auditors will meet with commissioners Thursday, December 29, and plan to begin the 2005 audit process in February.

"They put forth a proposal for three years and we decided that we would like to let it out for one year to see how Anderson Tackman performs," said

Commissioner Jim Farero, who was on the audit committee that made the recommendation to the board.

Sitting on the committee with Mr. Farero were Commission Chair Dawn Nelson, County Clerk Mary Kay Tamlyn, and Chief Deputy Treasurer Sue Dionne. The committee's recommendation was made based on a scoring system that rated the three submissions, each containing three year proposals. Anderson Tackman Company's three-year bid totaled \$53,000 in increments by year of \$17,500, \$17,500, and \$18,000. Rehmann Robson of Cheboygan bid \$51,000, and Stewart Beauvais Whipple of Port Huron bid \$78,000.

Pickford Graduate Kimberly Curtis Works To Help Eradicate Polio in India



Kimberly Curtis (center) helps a Rotary National team immunize children in India.

Kimberly Curtis, the daughter of Paul and Luann Curtis of Pickford, was a member of a team that recently won a business strategy competition and donated the prize money to a Rotary International program to eradicate polio in India. Miss Curtis traveled to New Delhi, India, to deliver the donation over the Thanksgiving holiday and witnessed the efforts of the disease eradication project first-hand.

Miss Curtis is a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, sponsored by the Sault Ste. Marie Rotary Club, and is studying in Australia for a master's degree in business administration. She was selected to serve on a team representing Australia's Brisbane Graduate School of Business (BGSB) while attending the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad, India (IIMA).

IIMA invited 33 universities from around the world to participate in a five-day strategy competition, called Confluence, which pairs established and aspiring leaders and managers to create foundations for tomorrow's business

enterprises, according to the Institute. Represented universities are Harvard, Stanford, Berkeley, UCLA, Dartmouth, University of Michigan, INSEAD, London School of Economics, and MIT.

Other Brisbane team members were Jim Efthimiou and Justin Robinson of Australia and Utkal Patra of India.

The team received first place in the Marketing Today and Tomorrow competition.

The BGSB team decided to donate the first-place prize money of 25,000 rupees (about \$500) to Rotary's Polio Plus program to eradicate polio in India. Workers in the Polio Plus program have a goal of eradicating polio, and in three years the number of cases has dropped from 1,600 in 2002 to 52 in 2005. Complete eradication is predicted by 2010.

After delivering the donation to the program, Miss Curtis journeyed through the slums of New Delhi with Rotary staff administering the vaccine to children.

"My eyes are wide open with awareness of the responsibility that comes with opportunity and abili-

ty," Miss Curtis said. "It is both heart-wrenching and promising to hold a child, knowing that providing a simple vaccine can make a world of difference in their life. I will never forget this feeling."

More than one million Rotary members have donated time or money to immunize two billion children in 122 countries. In 1988, Rotary efforts were the catalyst for a global eradication drive joined by the World Health Organization, Unicef, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. In 2000, Rotary teamed up with the United Nations Foundation to raise \$100 million in private money for the program. An article in *The Wall Street Journal* this year marked the 50th anniversary of the Salk vaccine and commented that Rotary's polio eradication effort deserves the Nobel Peace Prize.

Miss Curtis, a 2002 graduate of Michigan Technological University with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, will be graduated from Brisbane Graduate School of Business in April 2006 with a master's degree in Business Administration.