

Community Calendar

St. Ignace

•Tuesday, January 10: **Volunteer Mentor Training Session** for Robert H. Nitz Mentoring Program, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Straits Evangelical Free Church. For more information, call Leigh Miller at 643-6122.

•Monday, January 16: **Straits Area Sportsmen's Club Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge (please use rear entrance). New members welcome.

•Thursday, January 19: **St. Ignace Public Library Morning Book Club Meeting**, 9 a.m. at the library. New members welcome.

•Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: **St. Ignace Food Pantry** open for donations from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 950 Huron Street.

•Wednesdays: **County Veterans' Office Open** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Room 110, Court House Annex at 100 North Marley Street. More information is available from John Monville at 643-9411.

•Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays: **Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings** Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at St. Ignace Loyola Church at 120 Church Street, and Thursdays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Straits Area Group, at 389 McCann Street.

•Wednesdays: **Preschool Story Time**, 3 p.m., St. Ignace Public Library.

Les Cheneaux

•Tuesday, January 10: **American Red Cross Blood Drive**, noon to 5:45 p.m., Les

Cheneaux Community Center in Cedarville.

•Thursdays: **Open Studio Painting**, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Les Cheneaux Community Library in Cedarville. No instructor; bring your own supplies.

•Saturdays: **Children's Story Hour/Crafts**, 10 a.m., Les Cheneaux Community Library in Cedarville.

•Wednesdays and Thursdays: **Les Cheneaux Sportsman's Club Trap Shooting** until dusk; trap and clay shooting Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the clubhouse east of Cedarville. The public is welcome.

•December: **Artists Among Us: Exhibit of Betty Patrick's oil paintings, Christina Thompson's wildlife paintings, and Mary Altmaier's stained glass**, Les Cheneaux Community Library.

Rudyard

•Wednesdays: **Preschool Story Time**, 10 a.m. at Turner-Howson School Library. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Pickford

•Thursday, December 29, Friday, December 30, and Saturday, December 31, Sunday, January 1: **Horse-Drawn Sleigh or Wagon Rides**, 6 p.m. to 9:45 p.m., Northwoods Christian Camp. Call (906) 647-6101 to reserve a place and date.

•Saturdays and Sundays: **Collection of Food and Nonperishable Items for Hurricane Relief**, 11 a.m. to 5

p.m. at Pickford Township Hall. Sponsored by Iron Mountain Police Department with Sault Ste. Marie City Police Department. For more information, call (906) 635-0556 or 647-6223.

Goetzville, Raber

•Sundays: **Raber AmVets Auxiliary Bingo**, 6 p.m., Raber Township Hall, Goetzville.

Strongs

•Mondays: **Non-smoking Bingo Games** at Strongs Town Hall on M-28, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Kincheloe

•Friday, January 13: **American Red Cross Blood Drive**, 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., KCF Training Center.

Mackinaw City

•Thursday, January 19, through Saturday, January 21: **13th Annual Winterfest**. Amateur and professional snow carving, sleigh rides, poker walk, outdoor ice skating, euchre tournament, and ice fishing tournament.

Cheboygan

•Friday, January 20: **American Red Cross Blood Drive**, 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Cheboygan Memorial Health Center.

•Mondays: **Gamblers Anonymous Meetings**, at 1 p.m., Harbor Hall at 520 North Main Street, Number 106.

Sault Ste. Marie

•Wednesday, December 28: **Caregiver Support Group**

Meeting, 2 p.m., Avery Square Center, 510 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie.

To submit your group's infor-

mation for consideration in this space, fax information including complete date, time, and location to (906) 643-9122 or call The St.

Ignace News at (906) 643-9150. Please submit information at least two weeks prior to scheduled event.

Court Report

The following dispositions are from 92nd District Court in St. Ignace, December 20 and 21, Judge Beth Gibson presiding.

•Patrick Kincaide, 58, of Gladstone, pleaded guilty to operating while intoxicated. He was assessed a fine of \$1,100, 12 months probation, and 30 days in jail. (Michigan State Police)

•Robert Harmon, 40, of St. Ignace, pleaded guilty to non-suffi-

cient funds check under \$100 and must spend 60 days in jail on that charge (Michigan State Police); pleaded guilty to assault and battery and must spend 93 days in jail on that charge (St. Ignace City Police); and pleaded guilty to operating while intoxicated, for which he was assessed a fine and attorney fees of \$500, 12 months probation, and 93 days in jail. (Michigan State Police)

•Steven Frazer, 43, of Ruby, pleaded guilty to driving with license suspended (second offense) and must spend 90 days in jail or pay \$1,000. (Mackinac County Sheriff's Department)

•Randy Marsh, 37, of Moran, was bound over to Circuit Court on one count of controlled substance, delivery/manufacture (narcotic, cocaine) less than 50 grams. (Michigan State Police)

St. Ignace City Police Receive 3 Percent Raise

St. Ignace police officers have a new three-year contract that includes a new retirement clause and a three percent across-the-board raise, effective January 1, 2006.

City Council approved the contract at its regular meeting Monday, December 19, for the six-member police force.

Under the new contract, police officers upgraded their retirement plan to base retirement benefits on an averaged previous three years, not five years, of salary. Officers, not the city, will pay for the upgrade in the retirement plan, said City Manager Gary "Pete" Heckman.

The six-member local force, said Mr. Heckman, wanted to have a better retirement plan and are will-

ing to pay for it.

A three percent increase will raise hourly wages for a patrolman to \$16.88, and for sergeants to \$17.39.

Police are Sergeant Mark Wilk and officers Bruce Bigger, Tom Tarnutzer, Merlin Doran, and Ryan Deihl.

Negotiating were local union representative Merlin Doran, Police Officers Labor Council representative Jerry Caster, and the city's Negotiations Committee, which includes city attorney Prentiss M. Brown, Mayor Pro Tempore Don Gustafson, and Councilmen Willie LaLonde and Paul Grondin.

Police Chief Tim Matelski is not part of the police union and must negotiate his contract directly with the city, which he has yet to do.

Legislators Plan Snowmobile Tour in North Country

Legislative leaders from around the state plan to explore northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula on snowmobiles next month, witnessing firsthand the economic impact created by winter tourism. State senators Jason Allen of Traverse City and Tony Stamas of Midland will lead the tour.

"I look forward to this trip every winter," said Sen. Allen. "Snowmobiling is one of the best ways to get out and see the beautiful scenery of our state. I enjoy getting out on the trails and experiencing Michigan's winter wonderland."

Beginning and ending in Grayling, the tour begins Wednesday, January 4, and ends Saturday,

January 7. Legislators will visit Gaylord, Lewiston, Atlanta, Onaway, Cheboygan, Mackinaw City, St. Ignace, Cedarville, Pickford, Kinross, Sault Ste. Marie, Paradise, Alanson, and Indian River.

Joining the ride will be former Speaker of the House Rick Johnson, Representative Tom Caspersen, Rep. Geoff Hansen, Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer, and members of the Michigan Snowmobile Association.

Michigan has more than 6,000 miles of groomed trails offering a terrain of forest and field to both residents and visitors. With almost 400,000 registered snowmobiles, riders contribute more than \$1 billion to the state's economy every year.

Public Meeting Calendar

Following is a schedule of open public meetings. This listing is for governmental and similar entities. Meetings of social and civic groups that are open to the public are listed in the Community Calendar.

Wednesday, December 28

•Clark Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., Township Hall

Thursday, December 29

•Mackinac County Board of Commissioners, 1:30 p.m., Courthouse Annex Building

Tuesday, January 3

•Brevort Township Board, 7 p.m., Township Hall

•St. Ignace City Council, 8 p.m., City Hall

Wednesday, January 4

•Mackinac County Planning Commission, 3 p.m., County Courthouse

•Moran Township Board, 6 p.m., Township Hall

•Mackinac Island Ordinance Committee, 4 p.m., City Hall

•Mackinac Island City Council, 5 p.m., City Hall

Thursday, January 5

•Mackinaw City Village Council, 7 p.m., Village Hall

•Hudson Township Board, 7 p.m., Township Hall

Monday, January 9

•Mackinac Straits Hospital Board, 4 p.m., Airport Conference Room

•Public Safety Meeting, 3:30 p.m., City Hall

•St. Ignace Area Schools Board, 7:30 p.m., Middle School

Tuesday, January 10

•Portage Township Board, 7:30 p.m., Township Hall

•Clark Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m., Township Hall

•Pickford Township Board, 7 p.m., Township Hall

•Mackinac Island Planning Commission, 3 p.m., City Hall

Wednesday, January 11

•Newton Township Board, 7 p.m., Township Hall

•Recreation Advisory Committee, 7:30 p.m., Little Bear East Arena

•Bois Blanc Township Board, 7 p.m., Township Hall

Thursday, January 12

•Mackinac County Board of Commissioners, 1:30 p.m., County Courthouse

•St. Ignace Township Board, 6:30 p.m., Township Hall

Friday, January 13

•St. Ignace Downtown Development Authority, 8 a.m., City Hall

Monday, January 16

•St. Ignace City Council, 8 p.m., City Hall

•Les Cheneaux Community Schools Board, 7 p.m., Cedarville High School

•Garfield Township Board, 6:30 p.m., Township Hall

Wednesday, January 18

•St. Ignace City Planning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall

•Mackinaw City Public Schools Board, 7 p.m., Mackinaw City High School

•Mackinac Island Ordinance Committee, 4 p.m., City Hall

•Mackinac Island City Council, 5 p.m., City Hall

•Thursday, January 19

•Clark Township Board, 7 p.m., Township Hall

•Mackinaw City Village Council, 7 p.m., Village Hall

Wednesday, January 25

•Clark Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., Township Hall

•Hendricks Township Board, 7:30 p.m., Township Firehall

Thursday, January 26

•Mackinac County Board of Commissioners, 1:30 p.m., County Courthouse

•Mackinac Island Public School Board, 6 p.m., Mackinac Island Public School

Red Letter Days

Major Community Events in the Coming Year

February 2006

•I-500 Snowmobile Race, February 4, Sault Ste. Marie

•Snowsfeet, February 17-19, Les Cheneaux

April 2006

•H.O.M.E. and Garden Show April 21 - 22, St. Ignace

June 2006

•St. Ignace Red Hat Convention, June 2 - 4.

•Lilac Festival, June 10 - 19, Mackinac Island

•Kids' Fishing Day, June 11, St. Ignace

•Antiques on the Bay Classic Car Show, June 16 - 17, St. Ignace

•St. Ignace Car Show Weekend, June 22 - 24

August 2006

•Les Cheneaux Antique

Wooden Boat Show & Festival of Arts, August 12, Hessel

•Straits of Mackinac Underwater Treasure Hunt, August 13, St. Ignace

•St. Ignace Salmon Derby, August 25 - 27

September 2006

•Arts & Crafts Dockside, September 2 - 3, St. Ignace

•Labor Day Mackinac Bridge Walk, September 4

•Mackinac Island Road Race, September 9

•On the Waterfront Toy Car Show & Swap Meet, September 16 - 17, St. Ignace

•Richard Crane Memorial Truck Show, September 16 - 17, St. Ignace

DEADLINES



ADVERTISING
Display Ads - 5 p.m. Friday
Classified - 1 p.m. Monday

NEWS ITEMS and SOCIAL NOTES
1 p.m. Monday

LETTERS to the EDITOR
Noon Monday

OBITUARIES
Noon Tuesday

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POLICIES

• News of public meetings and events is printed without charge. Submissions a week in advance are advisable.

• Letters to the editor must be signed and include address and phone number. Names are withheld only in exceptional circumstances. Thank you letters are required to be placed as paid personal notes.

• Wedding photos will be printed only within 45 days after ceremony.

Yule Foolery

ACROSS

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DOWN

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OBSERVER Crossword

Find the Solution to Last Week's Puzzle on the Classified Pages.