

We finally have the windows open, with fresh air flowing through the house. Summer, I think, is finally here. The sun rises many hours before I'm ready to see it in the morning. The sun shines right through the house and into my room, which wakes me up very early. But it's nice to have the sunshine; it leaves us much too soon in the fall.

Summer activities are starting to perk up. The Manistique Paper Chase is scheduled for Saturday, July 8, starting at 9 a.m. for the 5K and 10K races. Check-in registration tables will open at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday at the Manistique Senior Citizens Center, at 101 Main Street, and will close promptly at 8:30 a.m. Maps and other information will be available to pick up when registering. The entry fees are: pre-registered \$12, UPRRC members \$10, late registration (for all) \$15, ages 14 and younger \$6. Pre-registration deadline is Saturday, July 1, at 5 p.m. Trophies will be awarded to all winners. All paid entrants will receive a T-shirt. The awards ceremony will be at the marina following the race. There will be male and female divisions in each age group. For more information, call Ron Rubick, race director at (906) 341-4640.

The Schoolcraft Medical Care Facility is still seeking donations of new and used fishing equipment in good condition, for use by the residents throughout the summer. For more information, call the facility at (906) 341-6921, or bring items to 520 Main Street in Manistique.

The Schoolcraft County Medical Transportation Program is still available to people who are unable to provide their own transportation to health-related appointments. Drivers are provided for people who need to travel distances to see medical specialists (in Marquette, for example) or for those people who live a distance from Manistique and need to come in to town for health-related purposes. This program is for people of all ages. Donations are appreciated to help keep the program running. If you need a driver to transport you for a health-related purpose, contact the Manistique Senior Center/Schoolcraft County Commission on Aging at (906) 341-5923.

If you have special recipes for bread, jams, or jellies, why not enter them in the Schoolcraft County Fair Thursday, August 3, through Saturday, August 5. Call (906) 341-3688 if you need more information.

Time for the duck races again Saturday, July 1. This event will take place at the Syphon Bridge in Manistique from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. First place prize is \$1,000; second place \$500, and third place \$250. Tickets are on sale at all stores in town. Profits are to fund "Project Petunia." Call members Chris Keener at (906) 644-2613, Gale Glendon at (906) 341-2021, or Sherri Kraus at (906) 341-6701.

It's never too early to announce the parade for the "Biggest Little Town Parade in Michigan" in

Curtis. This will be the 31st year for the parade and celebration in Curtis, where the population of approximately 650 swells to more than 15,000 each year on the Fourth of July. This year the theme will be "The Year of the Veteran." The day will be focused on paying tribute to our veterans, past, present, and future. Veterans will participate by walking, riding on a float or truck, sitting in the reviewing stand, or taking part in the color guard.

They're asking all veterans, young and old, to dig out the uniform and join the parade in Curtis. It really is the greatest parade around here. I moved up here from Detroit, and when I read the advertisement for the "biggest" parade, I thought they were just kidding. I've seen many parades down there, but nothing can compare to the Fourth of July parade in Curtis. Parades, music, entertainment, food, anything you would expect to see in Detroit, Chicago, or New York, will be in Curtis, but with more feeling.

There will be arts and crafts booths, and the famous Lions barbecue, along with other food booths and gigantic fireworks at dusk.

A young, fourth-generation veteran from the Upper Peninsula, serving in Iraq, has asked for help with a service program. Sammi Norman Jr. and a friend are asking for our assistance. They've selected the theme "Walk a Mile Barefoot" and ask that you bring new or good used children's shoes to the Curtis parade to donate shoes for the children in Iraq. There will be a float on the grounds to accept these donated shoes. Curtis will help in arranging the shipping of the shoes to Mr. Norman. For further information, or to take part in the parade, call Cap'n Bill Kelly at (906) 586-9433 or the Curtis Chamber of Commerce at (906) 586-3700. This may just be the best Curtis parade, ever.

We would like to congratulate Stu Hobbs at Engadine Consolidated Schools on being chosen for the position of the new superintendent. Mr. Hobbs will cover the administrative duties of the elementary, junior high, and high school as well as superintendent. Mr. Hobbs has been teaching since 1980, and has served as high school principal since August 1999. We wish Mr. Hobbs much success in his new endeavor.

Don't forget that the St. Ignace Car Show is Thursday, June 22, through Saturday, June 24. Great fun, see all the latest in cars and trucks. You will also get to see Cindy Williams, Anson Williams, and Donny Most of "Happy Days" fame, and Ms. Williams was also in "American Graffiti." The stars will also take part in the Down Memory Lane Parade.

Happy birthday to my sister-in-law, Rachel McNeil, and to Claudine Fisher, who will both celebrate their birthdays June 12, and Alissa Kenwabikise June 13. Hope you all have a great day.

Stay safe and stay well. See you next week.

Les Cheneaux

The weather for the past few days has been beautiful and, according to the weatherman, more of the same is on the way. What a relief it is not to have to shovel snow or wade through snow drifts. It seems such a short time ago that that was true. Sunday was a great day for a cookout, and that is exactly what our family had at our home with traditional potato salad, hamburger, soda pop, beer, and a good fire.

It was nice to see Bob and Marian Cox back for the summer, as well as Mary and Tom Flood. Many others have returned too, and so another busy summer is beginning.

On a sad note, we have just learned of the unexpected death of Marian Pladies, mother of Ann Lee, who has written to me and contributed to this column several times. Marian, who loved the Les Cheneaux Islands and their summer home on Haven Island, had just arrived to spend time here, feeling well and happy, when she suddenly passed away. Marian was 88 years of age. The Pladies, who are from Kentucky, first came up to the islands in 1955 and purchased Haven Island in 1964, where they have spent their summers ever since. Many will miss her.

Another unexpected death last week was that of Verne Shoberg. Verne, the son of the late Tigner and Frances Shoberg of Pickford, and a nephew of my husband, Con Shoberg, passed away on Saturday at his home in Globe, Arizona, where he had been working as a pharmacist for the past several years. He leaves a son, Clifford, in Kinross, and a daughter, Sandra Sumerville, who lives in Georgia.

The Lions Club winner May 30

was Stephen Sanney, who won \$100.

Another memory of times past, this one from Jack White who resides in Superior, Wisconsin, told of a vaudeville show that came to Cedarville many years ago for about three years. As he recalls, it was called The Bozo Show. It consisted of a group who performed in a big tent that was set up near the town hall in Cedarville. They sold candy in boxes and had a popularity contest. Jack recalls that as a young lad, he thought they were pretty good and kept the crowd entertained.

Jack also recalled that many of the young boys in Cedarville and Hessel made good money during the summer months caddying at the golf course, in the days before golf carts, for golfers from the Les Cheneaux Club. Several of the boys were able to go to college as a result of this great summer job. Jack, by the way, is a cousin of Blanche White Markey of Cedarville.

Our young track stars performed exceptionally well once again at the U. P. Finals in Kingsford last week. Many of these same young people are now enjoying many historical and unusual sights of the Orient as our outstanding high school band visits places of interest in China, where they were invited to perform.

The spring concert and art show at the Cedarville High School last week was wonderful and goosebumps were prevalent in the audience during the band's rendition of Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever." While introducing the numbers, band director Alan Jacobus said that the Chinese requested some American patriotic marches to be on the China program.

DeTour Area

School is out! School is out! The children are excited to be able to ride their bikes on these beautiful sunny days we have been having. Now is the time for all drivers to slow down while driving through the Village.

The Village has been bustling these days in preparing for summer activities. A new addition on Ontario Street is the Pilot House, a gift and antique shop. The Pilot House is next to Fishers Restaurant; you can't miss it as the Philo Leonard tugboat is alongside of the building.

The owners are Mary and John Kosteki and artisans will be there seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Since the devastating fire of the Cow Barn, the business has relocated to the property of the Dockside Café at the corner of Ontario and Elizabeth streets by the blinking lights. The Cow Barn has always been a popular place for favorite ice cream flavors.

The Mainsail owner, Terry Nelson, will be hosting the "Bles-

sing of the Bikes" Friday, June 9, and Saturday, June 10. Stop by and view the beautiful, well kept bikes.

A week from now, on Wednesday, June 14, the DeTour Homemakers will host their annual summer bingo at the DeTour Village Hall. As always, refreshments will be served as well as yummy desserts.

Wednesday, June 14, is Flag Day.

It was nice to see boaters in their lovely crafts arrive at the DeTour Marina this past weekend. The weather was perfect for water travel.

The DeTour Home and Garden Walk will be Saturday, July 22; when more information becomes available, it will be printed to enable you to make your plans for that day.

Many of us are still planting flowers in our gardens, while several are all through and enjoying the beauty of it all. Have a great summer day and enjoy!

A thought: Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June.

DEAL ME IN

Maximum Coins, Maximum Jingle

Dear Mark,
What is the benefit of playing the full coin amount in either video poker or slots?

Emily K.

Next time you're front and center of a one-armed bandit, give the payable a once-over and you'll note that when five coins are wagered, all winning hands, except for the royal flush, are paid out multiplied by a factor of 5. The royal, Emily, commonly pays mucho more.

By not playing the maximum coin amount on most video poker machines, your overall return is affected. For example, playing short reduces the long-term payback by up to 1.5% on a Jacks-or-Better machine. It's even worse on some double-pay Deuces Wild games where you receive double pay on four deuces, but only if you insert five coins. By playing less than the maximum coin amount on this machine, your long-term payback is hacked by over five percent.

As for slots, Emily, note on the payable the proportional difference in the size of your payoffs. Example: One coin inserted pays 500 coins; two coins bring back 1000; and for three coins, a whopping 4000 is returned. Your windfall, Emily, comes when three coins are played.

Playing the maximum coin amount almost always pays off better, overall, than any of the lower multiples. By pressing Max Coin, Emily, you receive the best payoff odds available on that particular machine.

Dear Mark,

I believe it is easier to beat blackjack as a single player, whereas a dealer told me it makes no difference how many players are on the game. Was she right?

Sheldon D.

She's bright and right, Sheldon. The number of players on a game makes a duck's egg difference in terms of the game being beatable. The house edge remains the same if there are one, two, three, or even five players on the table. However, because the speed of play slows with multiple players, you end up playing fewer hands per hour, and since the casino has a built-in edge on all play (except play by card counters), you will, theoretically, lose less money. So, Sheldon, for most players, a multiplayer game is more favorable,



Mark Pilarski

not less.

By the way, Sheldon, playing decisions made by other players at your table will not affect your expected return. If some nincompoop on third base splits tens, yep, it's annoying, but statistically it makes zero difference to you over the long haul.

Dear Mark,

In draw poker, why does it seem tough to catch an open-ended straight let alone an inside one? What are my chances of completing straights?

Alex B.

The arithmetic, Alex, says your inklings are incorrect. The proven odds of completing straights, such as drawing one card into an open ended straight, are 1 in 6. Drawing two cards into an open-ended straight has 1 chance in 23, while drawing a single card to make an inside straight racks up at 1 in 12.

As for that elusive straight, drawing one card to an open-ended straight flush is 1 time in 24 and drawing one card to a royal flush is 1 time in 47 tries.

Dear Mark,

Does a straight ever beat a flush in poker?

Doug L.

In poker, Doug, a flush outranks a straight with but one exception. In Three Card Poker a straight actually does beat a flush.

Gambling Wisdom of the Week:

"Whether he likes it or not, a man's character is stripped bare at the poker table; if the other poker players read him better than he does, he has only himself to blame. Unless he is both able and prepared to see himself as others do, flaws and all, he will be a loser in poker, as in life." - Anthony Holden, author of Big Deal (1990)

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.

Paintings Displayed at Alberta House

Watercolor paintings by Kathleen Marshall of Sault Ste. Marie will be displayed through Thursday, June 29, in the Olive Craig Gallery at Alberta House Arts Center in Sault Ste. Marie.

"Road Trip," an exhibit of oil paintings by Meegan Flannery of Marquette, will be displayed in Alberta House's mini gallery through June 29. Admission to the Arts Center exhibits is free of charge.

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