

# Brown Bag Campaign To Provide for Northern Michigan Foster Care

By Paul Gingras

Foster homes for abused children are being spotlighted in a newspaper Brown Bag Campaign this week, sponsored by Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc., a nonprofit coalition of community human services agencies. Now in its 17th year, the campaign

seeks to raise awareness about foster care while soliciting donations to help provide for children's needs.

This week's issue of The St. Ignace News contains a Brown Bag Campaign envelope that readers can use to donate to the program.

The organization is seeking foster parenting, particularly in the

Upper Peninsula, where Child and Family Services has no registered homes.

The foster care system helps children who have suffered abuse or neglect and gives adults the opportunity to be parents to children who need them.

Denise Rolfe and Nelson Thompson of Mackinaw City were certified last April and, by May,

the engaged couple had two children in their home and have found it to be a rewarding experience.

"The kids are doing great," Ms. Rolfe said. "They're growing like weeds."

One of the children recently learned to ride a bike, and both enjoy feeding the couple's donkeys, ducks, and chickens. The entire family enjoys the outdoors,

she added. Some children in the foster care program will eventually be reunited with their parents. Others are legally available for adoption.

Whenever siblings are involved, Ms. Rolfe said, the agency tries to keep them together.

"It's hard enough for them to be pulled out of their homes," she said, "so they avoid splitting up siblings at all cost."

To ensure that potential foster parents are eligible, the agency conducts background checks, gathers biographical information, and analyzes the family environments in which potential foster parents grew up.

This not only helps the agency determine who is capable of being a foster parent, it also helps make long term "good matches," which is important, because some foster parents adopt the children they care for.

Eventually, Ms. Rolfe and Mr. Nelson plan to adopt children. Prior to becoming foster parents, they looked into private adoption agencies, only to find them too expensive.

To make matters easier for

potential foster parents, Child and Family Services pays for parenting classes, home studies, provides Medicaid for foster children, and provides a stipend to pay the bills that children inevitably generate.

The agency, however, can't pay for everything. This is where drives such as the Brown Bag Campaign come in. Not only do children need stable, affectionate, and disciplined parenting, they also need clothing, school supplies, transportation, and the "extras," such as music or dance lessons.

In its 16 years of operation, the Brown Bag Campaign has raised \$120,000, benefiting newborns to 18-year-olds. On any given day, about 180 northwestern Michigan children are cared for in out-of-home placement through Child and Family Services, excluding children in other foster care agencies such as through the state's Department of Human Services.

Ms. Rolfe emphasized that foster children sometimes come from chaotic backgrounds that require extra patience or vigilance on the part of parents.

## Sand Bay Is Host to Annual Kayak Event for Women

More than 100 kayak enthusiasts will gather at St. Ignace for a Women's Kayak Symposium Thursday, August 17, through Sunday, August 20. Instructional courses, workshops, and demonstrations will be offered to registered participants, and some demonstrations will be open to the public.

Activities are planned at Sand Bay, but weather conditions may move the workshops to Kiwanis Beach or American Legion Park, said Glen King of St. Ignace, who has helped coordinate the event with sponsor Down Wind Sports of Marquette.

Full-day and half-day kayak trips are planned for participants, as well as a range of beginning, intermediate, and advanced water classes. Activities begin at 9 a.m. Thursday, continuing each day until 8:30 p.m., through Sunday. Kayak gear will be demonstrated to participants and the public Saturday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to noon. A slide show presented by Jessie Hadley of Woods and Waters Ecotours of Hessel at 8:30 p.m. Thursday will be open to the public.

This is the symposium's third year, and the first time it has visited St. Ignace.

Cost of the symposium is \$160, or \$150 for American Canoe Association (ACA) members. For those registering on or before August 10, the cost is \$95, or \$89 for ACA members. Additional fees are required for kayak tours.

Registration forms and more information about the schedule are available from Mr. King at the Quality Inn of St. Ignace.

## Celebration of Water Purity Is Festival Focus

Preservation and awareness of water in the Great Lakes region is a responsibility, said Seth Bernard of Earthwork Music, one of many musicians to perform at the Water Festival in Mackinaw City Saturday, August 19. The festival is free of charge and sponsored by Earthwork Music, Seeds, and the Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce.

From 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Conkling Heritage Park will be the scene of the water-based celebration, which will combine music and environmental education. Ten to 15-minute talks about the Great Lakes will take place between performances, and participants can learn about water at informational tables.

The Water Festival is intended to kick off a series of events across the region concerning environmental stewardship "in a way that builds community," Mr. Bernard said.

Seeds is a nonprofit institution dedicated to developing sustainable social and ecological movements. Earthwork Music focuses on cultivating artistic communities through music.

Tip of the Mitt Watershed council will be one of the presenters. Others include the Little Traverse Conservancy, The League of Conservation Voters, Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation, and a Great Lakes fisherman.

It will be a day of music provided by Madcat Ruth with The Freshwater Dolphins, Sweet Water Women, Kirby, Robin Lee Berry and Jen Sygit, Drew Howard, Breathe Owl Breathe, Phil Wintermute, and Susan Fawcett.

At 6 p.m. there will be dinner and a discussion break prior to "Music in Mackinaw" concert series performances by Daisy May and Seth Bernard at 8 p.m.

Mr. Bernard said the event is "about having a good time, and saying 'I can help and I will help.'"

## Tall Ships Visit Straits

The tall ships *Niagara* and *Royaliste* tied up at St. Ignace Sunday, August 13, on their way to Port Huron for a tall ship festival August 18. They have been among 20 traditionally-rigged vessels participating in the summer-long American Sail Training Association Tall Ships Challenge, which ended last weekend in Chicago.

The 71-foot *Royaliste*, a privately-owned reenactment gunboat and bomb ketch from California, will stop at Port Huron on her way to Lake Erie, where she will be prepared for overland shipment back to California. She participates in historic naval battle reenactments and has flown French, British, and American flags from the French and Indian Wars through the Revolution and has appeared in documentaries on the Discovery and History channels.

The U.S. Brig *Niagara*, 198 feet long with spar, was reconstructed in 1988 as the warship on which Oliver Hazard Perry, September 10, 1813, won the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. In St. Ignace, she was flying Commodore Perry's battle flag emblazoned with Captain James Lawrence's dying command, "Don't give up the Ship," in a battle lost to the British at Boston earlier that year. In his report of the Lake Erie victory, Commodore Perry wrote his own famous line, "We have met the enemy and they are ours..."

*Niagara*, owned by the state of Pennsylvania, will be berthed for winter exhibition at Erie, Pennsylvania.

Another Challenge ship, the 1812-era Clipper *Pride of Baltimore II*, passed through the Straits this week on her way to Port Huron, but will return to St. Ignace for public tours over the Labor Day weekend before head-



The *Royaliste* at the St. Ignace marina.



*Niagara* at the head of the Arnold Dock in St. Ignace.

ing back toward her home port in Chesapeake Bay. She is owned by the state of Maryland.

The Tall Ships Challenge will be held next summer along the East Coast.

## Les Cheneaux Slammin' Salmon Derby Aug. 19

By Amy Polk

The Fifth Annual Islander Bar Slammin' Salmon Derby is this Saturday, August 19, and offers \$3,000 in prizes to anglers who catch the largest fish. This is the only salmon fishing tournament offered in the Les Cheneaux Islands this year. The tournament committee will pay seven places for the top seven fish caught and will award more money for each place than in previous years. A \$1,000 cash prize will be awarded to the angler who catches the biggest fish.

The tournament is only one day, starting at 6:30 a.m. Saturday, and ending at 4 p.m. An awards ceremony will follow the end of the tournament at the Islander Bar on Pickford Avenue in Hessel.

The derby is open to Chinook or King salmon only, with prizes for the seven largest fish and the largest combined weight recorded by a fishing boat.

Tournament coordinator Bill Mudloff of Cedarville said the committee wanted to offer prizes to more people who place in the tournament, so they dropped the mystery weight prize in favor of adding two more places this year.

Mr. Mudloff said fishing has been great in the Les Cheneaux Islands and Straits of Mackinac, with anglers catching salmon at the west and east entrances to the Les Cheneaux Islands, at the yacht entrance between Government and Boot islands, and near Mackinac Island off Mission Point.

"Mackinac Island has been

very productive for fishermen," he said.

Elsewhere, on the outside of the Les Cheneaux Islands, Mr. Mudloff received a report of an angler catching an 18-pound salmon 60 feet down, in 120 feet of water.

He said he and other local anglers have been marking bait fish in the deep water around the islands, so there appears to be an ample food source for the salmon, compared to the previous two years, when alewives virtually disappeared from the screens of fish finders.

Anglers are also catching many lake trout, while inside the islands people are catching a lot of pan fish like yellow perch and sunfish. "Pan fish catches have been unbelievable," Mr. Mudloff said. "It's incredible how much fishing has turned around here since the cormorant control started."

The Islander Derby is limited to 60 boats to keep the event manageable and to avoid conflicts with other tournaments.

There are no fishing boundaries, however, all boats will be inspected before they leave the marina.

Tournament boats will leave from and return to the Hessel Marina. Fish can be weighed at the marina as they come in.

A \$550 prize will be awarded to the angler who catches the second largest salmon; \$450 for the third largest; \$350 for the fourth largest; \$250 for the fifth largest; \$100 for the sixth largest, and \$100 for the

seventh largest. A \$500 prize will be awarded to the crew of the boat that catches the six largest salmon in the tournament.

Anglers must register for the event by Friday, August 18, and all boat captains are required to attend the Friday night captains' meeting at the Islander Bar in Hessel at 7 p.m.

It costs \$100 per boat to enter the contest.

Fish tags will be provided, and each boat captain is responsible for tagging the six largest salmon caught by the crew before they arrive at the dock. Six rods are allowed on each boat.

Additional rules, regulations, and safety precautions will be reviewed during the captains' meeting.

Participants who come into shore during the tournament and are not finished fishing will have their coolers sealed until they leave the dock again and return to fishing.

Anglers can register by calling the Islander at (906) 484-3359.

## Singles Dinner To Be Held Aug. 19

Single people age 40 and older from across northern Michigan are invited to a Singles for Christ monthly dinner Saturday, August 19, at 7 p.m. at Northern Lights Sassy Loon Restaurant on M-119, midway between Harbor Springs and Petoskey.

Reservations are required by calling Frieda at (231) 347-5747.

## Recreation Board Reviewing City Pool Staff Supervision

Search for New Recreation Director To Begin

By Ryan Schlehuber

Supervision of the St. Ignace city pool staff at LaSalle High School is under review by the city's Recreation Advisory Committee after a 15-year-old female lifeguard was allegedly assaulted by an out-of-town teenager Friday, August 4. The incident, still under investigation by the St. Ignace City Police Department, was discussed briefly by the committee at its regular meeting Wednesday, August 9, and while the city will continue to employ minors to supervise the pool for the remaining two weeks of the season, City Manager Eric Dodson told the board that, in the future, the city may need to hire adult supervisors.

In other business at the meeting, Mr. Dodson said it is time to hire a city recreation director, a position he has filled for the summer to save money.

Three lifeguards have been on staff at the pool this summer, all of them under the age of 18, which makes them minors under state and federal labor laws. Minors must work under adult supervision, according to the state Labor and Economic Growth Department's Wage and Hour Division, and supervision means "being on the premises to direct and control the work of minors and to be available to render assistance in case of an emergency."

Mr. Dodson told *The St. Ignace News* that the lifeguards are checked on occasionally by other city employees, although, he admitted, there may be times that they are working alone. He said parents and swimming instructors are at the pool much of the time it is open, and lifeguards have an emergency telephone and a contact number on hand.

No adult was present during the time the young lifeguard was

allegedly punched in the face by a male student from New York, he said.

A group of New York students, comprising a drum and bugle corps, were camping in the LaSalle High School gymnasium at the time of the incident and practicing their music at the school, said St. Ignace Area Schools Superintendent Mike Springsteen, but he said Tuesday, August 15, that he was not aware of the incident at the pool, which is on school property but operated by the city. The school board, meeting Monday, August 14, did not discuss the matter.

Michigan allows minors ages 14 and 15 to work between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. The pool is usually open each day at 8 a.m. and stays open as late as 9 p.m. on Wednesdays for open swimming.

The three city-employed lifeguards are certified in rescue, first aid, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, Mr. Dodson said.

With less than three weeks to go until the pool is closed for the summer, Mr. Dodson said the city will not seek to hire someone else, although he noted there will be changes made next summer. "We'll make sure this never happens again," he told *The St. Ignace News*.

The assaulted lifeguard gave notice and left her job, and Mr. Dodson said her time will be made up by the two remaining lifeguards and by swimming instructors.

The committee authorized Mr. Dodson to begin advertising for a new recreation director, which has been vacant since April. Mr. Dodson said the city has held off on hiring a new director for the summer to save money, since the city is in debt. Now, he said, it has been long enough and the position needs to be filled so that person can keep recreation programs

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## M.J. Bishop Returns Home To Perform Concert Aug. 16

M.J. Bishop will be featured in a Locals on the Bay concert Wednesday, August 16, at 7 p.m. at St. Ignace Marina. Ms. Bishop was born and grew up in St. Ignace, and has been writing and performing around her hometown of Seattle, Washington, for nine years. Making her second Michigan tour to promote her new CD, "Feel Good," Ms. Bishop performs her own style of folk, country, and blues music.

Also at the marina, The Overtones will perform Thursday, August 17, at 7 p.m. at Bayside Live! This six-man, acapella singing group performs gospel, love songs, contemporary, holiday music, and generational favorites. They have donated their time to many organizations in the Traverse City area.

Both concerts are free of charge.



M.J. Bishop