

# War in Iraq Dominates Discussion as Congressman Stupak Visits St. Ignace

Also Touches on Soo Locks, Postal Service

By Ryan Schlehuder

The war in Iraq dominated discussion at a town hall meeting with U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak at Community Action Agency's Fenlon Center in St. Ignace Saturday morning, April 28, which drew about a dozen people to address any topics of interest with the congressman. He also touched on issues such as autism programs in Michigan, upgrading the Soo Locks, and success in keeping the Gaylord post office operating.

Congressman Stupak believes it is time for Congress to install a checks-and-balances system with its funding of the war in Iraq. He said by creating reasonable benchmarks in spending on war efforts and reviewing spending every quarter, the government can then begin preparing to make necessary changes, with the most important goal being getting troops back home.

He also believes a more strict review process should be implemented on lawmaking.

"We need oversight with passing of laws because, if the administration is not checked, they can do what they want and interpret it how they want," said Congressman Stupak.

He considers the conflict in Iraq a civil war and is in favor of bringing troops home, however, he asked, "Should all troops be taken out, or should just combat troops be brought back? Even if we left Iraq tomorrow, there would still be Americans there helping with reconstruction."

The issue was brought up by Anabel Dwyer, a member of a small anti-war group called Straits Area Concerned Citizens for Peace and Justice, which also supports abolishing nuclear weapons.

She questioned how the government has been spending tax money to fund the war. She believes private businesses are profiting tremendously through contracting with the government.

"We do want to have better knowledge of where the money is

being spent," said Congressman Stupak. "The military uses private contractors because it's cheaper, and the Army doesn't have enough people" to perform all of the work.

"If we believe we have a moral responsibility to reconstruct Iraq, then let's be sure we are spending the money right," he added.

Gia Lopez, a dentist for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, asked Congressman Stupak about more educational programs and funding for autistic children in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. She has a daughter who has the disorder.

Mr. Stupak said under the government's "pay-go," system, where it "pays as it goes," politicians in Washington need to find funding in the existing budget if they want to support a cause such as autism services.

"There is no immediate answer, but we are working on it," he said. "It's a matter of trying to find money in different parts of the budget."

Representatives from the Gaylord Post Office, which

Michigan Congressman Bart Stupak talks with a dozen people at a town hall meeting at Community Action in St. Ignace Saturday, April 28. Mr. Stupak briefly discussed several issues, including the war in Iraq, Canadian trash coming into Michigan, and efforts to support autistic children in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. (Photograph by Michael Porter)

processes mail for the Eastern Upper Peninsula, thanked Mr. Stupak for his work and support in keeping local mail for the Eastern Upper Peninsula from being transferred to Traverse City or further down state. Mr. Stupak was also informed that 20 new full-time employees were recently hired at the Gaylord post office.

The federal government conducted a study last year to see if it was beneficial and less costly to move the processing of mail to

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## Preservationists Explore Island May 3 to May 6

Experts in the field of historic preservation will explore the national and state historic landmark Mackinac Island while sharing preservation information during their annual conference at Grand Hotel. National preservationist leaders will speak to members of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network May 3 through May 6.

A pre-conference community event is open to the public with featured speaker Timothy Kent, an historian, author, paddler, and lecturer.

Mr. Kent is scheduled to speak Thursday, May 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Grand Theatre at Grand Hotel on the "Rendezvous at the Straits: French Fur Trade Activities Throughout the Great Lakes Region."

During the conference, preservationists will learn about marketing programs for historic sites, historic restoration, and history of the region.

Attendees will tour historic landmarks and structures on Mackinac Island and attend lectures. National and state preservationist leaders speaking at the conference include keynote speaker and former Director of Preservation of the Executive Office of the President of the United States Lonnie Hovey, who will discuss his work at the White House.

Guest speakers include Timothy Kent, Dr. William Anderson, director of the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries; Vice President of Travel Michigan George Zimmermann; Chairman of the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs Craig Ruff; President of Preservation Action Heather MacIntosh; Director of the Michigan Historical Center Sandra Clark; and Director of Mackinac State Historic Parks Phil Porter.

Chairman of the event is Frank Pompa, a Mackinac Island summer resident with a master's degree in historic preservation.

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network was established in 1979 to promote the protection of Michigan's irreplaceable historic sites, including structures and open spaces. The nonprofit organization has approximately 2,000 members.

## Forest Clean-up Is Planned for May 12

Volunteers will gather to clean up the St. Ignace District of the Hiawatha National Forest Saturday, May 12, at 9 a.m. at the parking lot of Castle Rock in St. Ignace. Volunteers will meet rain or shine, and all are welcome to participate.

More than 51 illegal dump sites have been eliminated from the forest in 10 years of clean-up efforts, and 1,000 tons of garbage have been removed from the forest.

Questions can be directed to Kari Stanley at the U.S. Forest Service at 643-7900 or Tom Briggs at 643-6185.

## Students Take in Court Proceedings at LaSalle

By Paul Gingras

A serious atmosphere pervaded the LaSalle High School gymnasium Wednesday, April 25, when high school students heard the proceedings of the 92nd District Court. The cases, which involved criminal sexual conduct, window peeping, and drunk driving, were not specifically selected for the students. It was a regular day in court, the only difference being the location, said Judge Beth Gibson.

Following court, students engaged in a question and answer session with the judge and Mackinac County Prosecutor Fred Feleppa.

"It was very informative," said LaSalle senior Lewis Mullins. His mother works at the Court House, and he has seen proceedings there, but the school event demystified aspects of the judicial process for him and other students, he said.

Student Council president Allison Brown, also a senior, agreed. The event explained what happens to people in court for second or third offenses, she said. How the court system responds to repeat offenders was a focus of student questioning after the proceedings, she said.

One case involved a man in jail for repeated drunk driving. Another involved a woman caught driving while drunk in Mackinac County. While out on bond, she had received a separate drunk driv-

ing charge in Emmet County, outside the local court's jurisdiction.

Mr. Mullins said leniency for first-time offenders is appropriate.

"Some people learn from their mistakes," he said, but something has to be done about repeat offenders, especially if they put others in danger.

"It was good for students to see that people do get caught," Miss Brown said. Understanding the consequences of their actions may make kids think before they act, she noted.

The first defendant on the docket was accused of having sexual intercourse with a girl between 13 and 16 years old, said Mary Ann Mullins, District Court clerk. Judge Gibson said the purpose of the arraignment was to advise him of the charges he faced and to explain that he could be incarcerated for up to 15 years.

He did not plead guilty or not guilty, because District Court does not process felony cases, Judge Gibson explained. As LaSalle students looked on, he was scheduled for a pre-trial conference at which the details of the case are examined. The matter will be decided by a higher court, the judge said.

The students also witnessed the sentencing of a defendant to 50 days in jail for "disorderly person, window peeping." The defendant pled guilty.

The third case involved a man

accused of driving drunk for the second time. He was caught by Michigan State Police driving on a suspended license and received a minor in possession of alcohol charge. He pled guilty and received 180 days in jail.

Students witnessed a woman plead guilty to driving drunk. She was given the option of serving 30 days in jail with a \$1,169 fine, or serving 93 days in jail with no fine.

The judge also issued a bench warrant for a defendant who did not appear in court.

Mr. Mullins and Miss Brown said the proceedings appeared to be fair. Several defendants asked for fines instead of jail sentences, but the court did not make special deals, they noted.

Proceedings were taken seriously by students, Miss Brown and Mr. Mullins said, pointing out misbehavior at student assemblies is common, but at this event, students behaved, paid attention, and wanted to know more. Mr. Mullins called it a "good function" that he hopes takes place at LaSalle every year.

Miss Brown said that seeing the full arsenal of the court contributed a stark sense of reality. The presence of the judge, the prosecutor, a State Police officer, the county sheriff, defendants in jail clothing, and a defendant with a lawyer, left an impression on them, she said.



LaSalle High School students watch the proceedings of the 92nd District Court Wednesday, April 25, at the school's gymnasium. Seated are (from left) a defendant, Judge Beth Gibson, clerk Mary Ann Mullins, and court reporter Kelly Moran. Seated at the table to the right is Fred Feleppa, Mackinac County prosecutor.

## Delinquent Taxes Delay Island Business Licenses

By Karen Gould

A slight decrease in both on-Island and off-Island businesses applying for a license to operate on Mackinac Island became evident during the Island's annual licensing meeting Monday, April 16, as did the increase in the number of businesses with delinquent personal property taxes.

While 109 on-Island and off-Island 2007 business licenses were approved during a special meeting by the Mackinac Island City Council, 40 previous business license holders won't be able to open their doors until delinquent personal property taxes are paid.

License renewals, compared to last year at this time, dropped by 43 requests from a total of 152 in 2006. The number of businesses with delinquent tax bills increased this year by 10, to a total of 40. Thirty business-

es made the list last year.

In 2005 and 2006, business licenses increased following efforts by the city to locate businesses operating without a license. While in 2004, business licenses totalled 275 for the year, that number jumped to 291 licenses for 2005 and remained nearly steady, at 292, in 2006.

During Monday's meeting, 78 on-Island business licenses were issued and 31 off-Island businesses were approved. No new business license applications were submitted for council's approval. Two new business licenses were issued last year during the special licensing session.

An on-Island business license renewal fee is \$55, with an off-Island renewal costing \$150. A new business license fee, which includes an inspection of the location, is \$400.

Business owners still plan-

ning to apply for a license have until May 1. After that, in addition to renewal fees, a late fee of \$10 is assessed on each application. After June 1, the late fee jumps to \$20.

In other business during the brief meeting, Council approved the transfer of a liquor license for Chippewa Hotel from Robert Benser and Frank Nephew to Chippewa Properties, Inc. of Gaylord.

A two-day temporary motor vehicle permit was issued to Belonga Plumbing of St. Ignace to move a trailer from the Arnold Dock to the Iroquois Hotel and back. Remodeling work is in progress at the hotel.

A temporary motor vehicle permit was issued to Richard Coates for a tractor to be used for clean-up work on his property on Greenshed Lane. The permit is good through May 4.

## Carl Faust, 100, of Mackinaw City Recalls Early Years in Area

By Paul Gingras

In 1927, Carl Faust looked out over the churning waters of the Atlantic Ocean. He was 19 years old, a craftsman from Germany on a boat to Canada. As his ship cut through the watery divide, he turned 20, a milestone on a journey that gave him time to consider his future. Mr. Faust was following in the footsteps of friends, young men who emigrated before him, seeking new lives, new experiences, leaving their homeland for an unknown future.

Now invisible behind him was his village, Gehau, an agricultural community of about 40 houses. Ahead was North America, in particular, the City of Detroit, where he would eventually begin his new life.

Mr. Faust now lives in Mackinaw City, having traded Detroit for northern Michigan in 1947, said his daughter, Annamarie Buggell of Novi.

A hearing impairment makes conversation a challenge for him, she added, but it didn't stop her father from celebrating his 100th birthday Monday, April 23, at the Mackinaw Senior Center, where dozens of residents turned out to honor him.

Mr. Faust communicated by writing on a board, showed off a little by straddling chairs backwards, and demonstrated the sense of humor he is known for, said his goddaughter, Mim Schneider of Mackinaw City.

In the midst of hugs and slaps on the back, people would occasionally speak to him directly, and he would respond with a jovial "I hear you not," and laugh.

Mr. Faust's original home of Gehau was a typical German village, Mrs. Buggell said. The houses varied in size and shape, but something set the Faust house apart from others: It was the first with a telephone. In 1914, the phone rang and the family was told that World War I had begun. Carl was sent to inform the mayor, and like a town crier, the mayor announced the onset of the war to the village.

Mr. Faust lived with his father and mother, Wilhelm and Anna Martha, who were farmers. He had an older brother, Georg, and a younger sister, Annemarie. The family owned a small grocery store, guest house, and pub.

After completing eighth grade in Germany, Carl went on to trade school and became a cabinet maker. He was an active young man who participated in gymnastics and a rifle team, Mrs. Buggell said.

The German custom for the oldest son to inherit the family home was probably part of his decision to emigrate, she added.

Sponsored by a Canadian farmer, Mr. Faust made his way to



Carl Faust of Mackinaw City celebrated his 100th birthday Monday, April 23. Mr. Faust, originally from Gehau, Germany, has been active in the community since 1947. He is highly regarded by Mackinaw City residents and members of the St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Cheboygan, where he has been a member since 1948.

Ontario, where he worked to pay off his passage across the Atlantic. He was the only member of his family to leave Germany, but he was happy to come to North America, where he eventually crossed the border to the United States and took a job as a model maker for Fisher Body, a division of General Motors.

In Detroit, he met Fred Grebe, who had immigrated from the German village of Machtlos, near Gehau and had also paid his passage by working on a Canadian farm. The two men had not met in Germany, but their families almost certainly knew of each other, Mrs. Schneider said.

When Fred and Pauline Grebe were married, Mr. Faust was invited to be an usher in the wedding.

He met Amalia Pshigoda in Detroit and the two married in 1835 at her the home of her aunt and uncle in St. Joseph. Their daughter was born in 1945.

It was the Grebes who first decided to migrate north, where they received the Fausts as visitors for several years. In 1947, the Faust family followed. Mr. Faust built Spruce Lodge on US-23, between Cheboygan and Mackinaw City. There, the family settled into what Mrs. Buggell describes as a life of hard work and serious responsibility.

Mr. Faust's decision to move was engendered, in part, by his frequent visits north, Mrs. Schneider said. Small communities were probably more appealing than big cities, both for Mr. Grebe and Mr. Faust, owing to their upbringing in small villages, she added.

The Fausts' daughter joined

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