

Senior Lunches Returned to Main Room; Road Contracts Signed by Clark Twp. Board

By Amy Polk

A rare night meeting Friday, April 13, of the Clark Township Board of Trustees drew an audience of 40 to recognize the Cedarville High School basketball team for winning the state title. Players and coaches received resolutions from the township board and a plaque from the Mackinac County Board of Commissioners, presented by Commissioner Mike Patrick.

The Trojans won the 2007 Class D State Championship March 24.

The township's resolution recognized the team as the first in the Eastern Upper Peninsula Conference to win a Class D title in at least 56 years, for posting an undefeated 26-0 season, the only Michigan team to do so, and for setting a new state championship record with 11 three-point field goals in the final championship game.

Cedarville Trojans Coach Dave Duncan was recognized for leading boys basketball teams to nine EUP Conference titles, nine district crowns, five regional championships, and a new Cedarville High School record of 26 straight wins.

Road Work

In other business, trustees signed contracts with Mackinac County Road Commission for three road projects, sign replacement, and pur-

chase of calcium chloride for dust suppression. This year's work will cost approximately \$174,400. Trustee Dana Leach, who voted against the action, wondered if the projects deviate from the township's Road Committee recommendations. Supervisor Linda Hudson said there is not enough money for all the recommended projects. Her recommendations, which were approved 3-1, will pick up work that was not completed last year and will not exceed the \$184,072.95 road budget.

Swede, Blindline, and Chard roads will be improved. The township's share for the Swede Road work is \$13,400. Its share of Blind Line is \$120,000, and its share of Chard is \$20,000.

The township will also pledge \$10,000, to be matched with \$10,000 from Mackinac County to buy crushed gravel, hot mix wedging, and pavement preservation work. Under a cooperative agreement, the road commission will contribute \$10,000 in materials and labor.

Senior Lunches

Senior citizen lunches will return to the Community Center main room, following complaints of poor acoustics and cramped quarters in a side room. The smaller room was used this winter to save on heating.

Seniors use the Community Center three times a week for lunches provided by the Community Action Agency.

Quarters were cramped, especially with as many as 34 people attending this winter, said Brad Smith, representing the Les Cheneaux Seniors at the April 13 meeting. The seniors also said the restrooms were not heated, and cooks had to keep their coats on in the morning before the kitchen heated up.

The board has sought an estimate on repairing and improving duct work in the Community Center, Supervisor Linda Hudson said, and that should remedy the problems.

Treasurer Katie Carpenter and Mrs. Hudson had lunch with the seniors in March, and Mrs. Carpenter said she found several of the complaints valid. With as few as 19 people in the room, "the noise level was surprisingly loud, and made communicating difficult," she said.

"I felt it was not a comfortable solution for us to ask the seniors to dine in the small room during the cold months," she added. "I don't feel the level of discomfort to the seniors is worth what we would be saving in heat expense."

Trustee Mike Lofdahl said he also had lunch there this winter, and found the same conditions.

Beaver Dams

Clark Township was going to spend up to \$1,000 to blast beaver dams that obstruct the flow of Pearson Creek, but no dams have been found Mrs. Hudson reported at a subsequent meeting April 30. Dave Windsor of Hessel was hired by Clark Township to destroy the dams before the township's spring wastewater discharge into the creek, which flows into Cedarville Bay. Because of the dams, the discharge floods Elvina Firack's property. Mr. Windsor found no dams upon inspection this spring, Mrs. Hudson said, but Clark Township workers will inspect the property periodically this summer for signs of obstruction.

Clark Township secured a letter this month from Mrs. Firack, giving workers permission to access the creek through her property. Mrs. Firack told *The St. Ignace News* that she was not opposed to township workers coming onto her property. Referring to the incident discussed by the board March 26, she said the people on her property last fall were not identified as Clark Township workers and were not in Clark Township trucks, and she only recognized one as a township employee.

Marina Waterways Grant

The township board pledged a 50 percent match to a \$12,612

Michigan Waterways Grant for Hessel Marina dock improvements. Trustees allocated \$4,306 from the Marina and Beach Fund, and can apply a \$2,000 discount from Flotation Docking Systems for the work on the marina's finger piers.

Bike Trail

Trustees adopted Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission as its fiscal agent for the North Huron Scenic Pathway project. The commission will administer Clark Township's share of the pre-engineering study for the non-motorized trail from St. Ignace to Drummond Island.

The study will be completed by Northwest Design Group (NDG) of Petoskey this summer, but later than Clark Township had hoped for

piggy-backing engineering of a sidewalk in Cedarville. Mrs. Hudson had hoped the township could save money by getting NDG employees to perform the work while they were in the area for the

bike path project.

The township will now seek competitive bids for the sidewalk project from NDG, Gourdie Fraser of Traverse City, and C2AE of Gaylord.

Dangerous Substance Stolen From Chippewa County Animal Shelter

A theft of a dangerous substance at the Chippewa County Animal Control Building has led police to seek information through the Crime Stoppers program. Cash and a bottle of concentrated animal tranquilizer were stolen from the facility on Mackinac Trail south of Sault Ste. Marie between April 17 and April

24. Even a small amount of this concentrated tranquilizer could be fatal if taken by a human.

Those who may have information about this crime are asked to call (800) 465-7867. Callers to Crime Stoppers may remain anonymous and tips leading to arrest could earn up to \$1,000.

Families Enjoy Movie Night at the Old Gymnasium



Nearly 40 children enjoyed time with their friends and families during a family movie night in Cedarville Friday night, April 20, at the Old Gymnasium at Les Cheneaux Community Schools. The showing of the cartoon "Over the Hedge" was offered free to the public by the School Activities Advisory Committee. All proceeds from concession sales at the show will help pay for SAAC activities, like its recent purchase of six air pumps for Les Cheneaux Elementary School. The pumps were donated to each of the classrooms so staff can inflate balls for students.

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LC Schools: Student Aide Positions Will be Eliminated in '08

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and audience that this isn't entirely Lansing's problem," Mr. Goehmann said. "When you have a drop from 371 to 332 [students], obviously we're going to get less revenue."

Ten years ago, Les Cheneaux Community Schools had 433 students. An enrollment forecast commissioned in 2001 by the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District predicted that Les

Cheneaux would have 435 students this year.

Suggestions from residents included being more vocal in promoting public school funding reform, fundraising, and engaging local government in bringing jobs to the area. Cedarville teacher Joanna Izzard complimented the board and staff for adopting a team approach to solving funding problems.

"I love the idea that we're working together here as a team, and I'm glad you are deciding to retain teachers, because with the state's new educational standards and requirements, it will be harder to implement all the changes," Mrs. Izzard said.

In other business, trustees gave permission to Les Cheneaux Preschool to continue using a room in the elementary school for instruction, and to use the cafeteria

and halls for its annual Holiday Craft Bazaar Saturday, November 24.

Mr. Goehmann will research the possibility of refinancing its rental house after Jim Mertaugh rescinded his bid to purchase it. Mr. Mertaugh's was the only bid received when trustees tried to sell the house this winter.

"I think we need help, and it should be listed with someone who has the resources and the time to work on selling it," President Dan Burrows said.

In its first meeting since the Class D State Finals in March, the board commend boys varsity basketball coach Dave Duncan and the varsity boys basketball team. High School Principal Randy Schaedig also recognized student Emily Feldhake for receiving a Michigan High School Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete Award at the

MHSAA State Finals in East Lansing.

Mr. Schaedig reported that the high school is nearing compliance with the federal Highly Qualified Teacher requirements of the No Child Left Behind act. The requirement is for teachers to have a bachelor's or higher degree in their teaching field, and be fully certified and endorsed for their teaching assignment. There are more specific criteria for each subject taught, and for different grade levels.

He further reported that Michigan's Department of Education guidelines for student aides will eliminate nearly all student aides in the school next year.

"This has, in the past, provided students with valuable experience, but also provided a lot of assistance to staff and other students," he said. "This will require making sure we have course offerings for all of these students."

Elementary Principal Eric Cardwell announced that two new trash cans have been purchased for the playground, and a playground sign and infant swing will be ordered in May. Vern and Jackie Malkowski of Cedarville are donating another child swing to the playground, he reported. The couple lives across from the playground, and Mrs. Malkowski works in the school's food service department.

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