

Two Teacher Resignations Accepted, Playground Fence Approved

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plans to contract with War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie or seek a replacement through college job placement services to fill the position.

The board awarded Straits Building Center a \$7,390 bid to replace carpets in the high school office, two middle school classrooms, and possibly the middle school office. The school has not received an update from the state government regarding funding levels for the upcoming school year, making the district's financial plans tentative, but Mr. Springsteen said the carpet project is "definitely something we can afford to do." The school plans to replace carpeting little by little, and only in areas where it is most needed.

Jim West of St. Ignace received a \$9,500 bid to continue roofing work above the middle school gymnasium. Last summer, Mr. West re-shingled and fitted part of the roof with a shield to prevent water from leaking into the building. Owing to higher-than-expected snow accumulation during the winter, the roof continued to leak. If left unchecked, it may have eventually damaged the gymnasium floor, Mr. Latva noted.

In other business, an elementary school playground fencing project was approved by the St. Ignace Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). The fencing

will separate the playground from the woods.

The school's community resource committee is studying a proposal by a group called Straits Area Shooters Paintball, to create an arena for the sport on school grounds. The group had previously sought space in Moran Township. The municipal government expressed concern over potential liabilities, but Mr. Springsteen said, "I do not see any red flags," noting that the school already hosts sports such as football and track. Once an area for the activity is approved, the group plans to purchase coverage through Cheeseman Insurance, said Phil Ruegg, a member of Straits Area Shooters.

"Hopefully this leads to a [school] sport," Mr. Ruegg said. A couple of years ago, no one would have expected bowling to be a school sport, he added.

School business manager Kathy McLeod said its new auditors, the Traverse City-based Harris Group, will arrive Monday, July 23.

Since the district has not received a state funding update for 2007/2008, "we are going on a guess," she said, regarding the proposed budget.

The financial plan is based on the same per-pupil funding rate as last year: \$7,108 per student.

The district may not be notified of changes in its per-pupil

allowance until October, Mr. Springsteen said.

Jane Weiss will serve as president, Rick Litzner as vice president, Kathy Campbell as secretary, and Mike Grogan as treasurer of the school board for the 2007/2008 school year.

Monday was the first official meeting for school board members Sean Arthur and Kathy Campbell, who were nominated for several committee positions. Each committee is composed of two or three board members. Groups focus on regional and local school matters and make recommendations to the full board, which rules on issues that affect the district.

Mr. Grogan and Mr. Litzner will sit on the high school improvement committee, Mrs. Arthur and Ms. Massey on the elementary/middle school committee, and Mrs. Weiss and Mrs. Campbell compose the district-wide committee.

Mr. Grogan, Mrs. Campbell, and Ms. Massey will sit on the policy committee; Mr. Litzner, Mr. Latva, and Mrs. Arthur on the community resources committee; Mr. Grogan, Mrs. Weiss, and Mrs. Campbell on the finance commit-

tee; and Ms. Massey, Mr. Latva, and Mr. Litzner will compose the personnel committee.

The board selected *The St. Ignace News* as the district's official newspaper. Mr. Latva called on Mr. Springsteen to continue writing columns for publication, citing them as important assets to the community.

The board voted to designate First National Bank as its depository for various school funds, including the general fund, activities fund, debt retirement fund, capital projects fund, and Quality Zone Academy Bond fund. Central Savings Bank was selected for the building and site fund.

The board authorized Mr. Springsteen to invest district funds held at First National Bank of St. Ignace and Central Savings bank with the Michigan School District Liquid Assets Fund, the Michigan Assets Pool, and the Bank of New York.

Meeting times for the St. Ignace Area School's Board of Education have been changed from 7:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The meetings are open to the public and will remain on the second Monday of each month.

Fishermen's Memorial To Be Dedicated July 28 in St. Ignace



Jim Artis of Midland was the sculptor of the 48-pound stainless steel whitefish sculpture that is the centerpiece for the Fishermen's Memorial. Mr. Artis is a friend of St. Ignace artist John Herbon.

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Lora Brown of the Chamber of Commerce board. A water dunk tank will give people the chance to dunk some of St. Ignace's well known citizens and officials.

Tickets will be available to purchase at the marina's pavilion to enjoy food, beverages, and games.

A few artisans will be featured at the event. Members of the non-profit organization Touch of Craft will feature items made by senior citizens and Sally Oeffner will display photographs she took of the

St. Ignace area.

A beer and wine tent will be set up on the marina dock Saturday from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., and at 6 p.m., musical entertainment will be provided by the folk music band Pub Runners. A collectible Fish Feast wine glass will be given to those who purchase wine from the tent.

Volunteers are still needed to run the various games and other stations during the Fish Feast. Call the St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce at 643-8717 to volunteer.

Suicide Prevention Group Forming

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are often reluctant to ask directly for help by calling mental health hotlines," she said, "but they often display warning signs by things they say or do."

People considering suicide may simply talk about it, she explained, adding that they often speak of feeling helpless or worthless. After talking about suicide, they may become happier or calmer. Other signs include phone calls to people they care about, who they may not have spoken to for a while, and people considering suicide also may give belongings away, owing to a sense of "setting things in order," she added.

"A Sense of Life" will work with the Department of Human Services, Hiawatha Behavioral Health, Mackinac Straits Hospital and Health Center, the Diane Pepler Resource Center, area police departments, school employees, ministers, and area residents.

Mrs. Stelmaszek said anyone aware of a person who may be contemplating suicide can call Hiawatha Behavioral Health at (800) 839-9443. Even if the situation does not warrant intervention by Hiawatha, the organization may be able to provide referrals.

For more information about "A Sense of Life," call (906) 632-5467.



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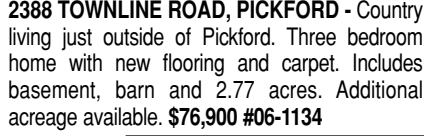
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Family Research Program Offered Tues.

A session on researching and remembering family history will be led by Kathy Hollowell Tuesday, July 24, at Les Cheneaux Historical Museum in Cedarville.

Starting at 7 p.m., Mrs. Hollowell will share her own experiences with learning her family's history, and will give research and genealogy tips. She has gained extensive knowledge about family background resources and methods after researching her own. She has a strong personal interest in

Windquest Is First Yacht Race Finisher

Windquest, a yacht owned by Doug DeVos of Grand Rapids, crossed the finish line between Round Island Lighthouse and Windermere Point on Mackinac Island Sunday, July 15, at 6:54 p.m., making it the first to finish the Chicago to Mackinac race for the second year in a row. The Max Z86

Gamblers Anonymous To Meet Tuesdays

Gamblers Anonymous will meet Tuesday, August 7, at 7 p.m. in the basement of St. Ignatius

Loyola Catholic Church in St. Ignace. The group will continue to meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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