

Cedar Cove Residents Enjoy Boating at Les Cheneaux

Charter School Status Eyed at Curtis



Top, left: Thirteen residents of Cedar Cove Assisted Living Community enjoy pontoon boat rides offered by Jim and Madge Berryhill of Cedarville. The two boat rides were July 18 and July 20. On one of the boats, Madge and Jim Berryhill (at the rear of the boat) drive residents and friends (from left) Margaret Wilhelm, Mary Smith, LaVerne Natharius, Silas Dunn, Clara Johnson, and Grace Dunn. (Photographs supplied by Cedar Cove)

Above: A group of Cedar Cove residents participating in the pontoon boat outing are (from left) Clarence Nayback, Bob Sutton, Dorothy VanderKooi, Ray Salo, and Helen Wilson, while Jim Berryhill operates the boat.

At left: On one of the Cedar Cove pontoon boat outings through the Les Cheneaux Islands, residents, caregivers, and friends (front row, from left) Sally Seiler, Jason Sayles, Harold Burgess; (back row) caregiver Peggy Patrick, Nancy Pollard, caregiver Chrystal Sayles, and Betty Patrick are driven by Madge and Jim Berryhill.

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Lake Superior State University, and Central Michigan University have reached the maximum number of charters that they can provide, Mr. Clock said.

The State of Michigan allows its universities to authorize a total of 150 charter schools, Mr. Pistulka said. If a charter school under the auspices of a given university closes, the Portage group could apply at that university. The group could also seek another authorizing entity, such as a community college, he added.

Once the Portage group locates an authorizer, that authorizer appoints a school board. Interested residents would apply for school board positions. The authorizer's board of education would consider these applicants and determine who receives seats on the Curtis school board, he said.

There are several retired educators in the area who could serve as board members, including members of the now-defunct Portage School District Board of Education, Mr. Ferris said.

"I think having the school here is a vital part of our community," Mr. Clock said at the township meeting, adding that the presence of a school in Curtis is a strong draw to potential residents.

The sentiment was echoed by

Township Treasurer Nancy Kister, who has attended seminars regarding the development of rural communities. When searching for a place to settle, one of the first things potential residents look into is how far their children will travel for schooling, she said, citing a seminar called "Can Small Towns Be Cool?"

Charter school status may be a more likely way to keep Curtis Elementary open than deconsolidation, which was considered earlier this year, Mr. Ferris said. If the township were to try to extract Curtis Elementary from Tahquamenon Schools by deconsolidating, it would have two options. After seeking legal advice, he reported that residents of Portage Township could vote to do so, or the EUPISD could call for a vote by all residents of the Tahquamenon district. The township's lawyer said both methods would be unlikely to succeed, Mr. Ferris reported.

Changes are already in place at Curtis Elementary. To save money, its fifth grade has been moved to Newberry Elementary School and Curtis Elementary's third and fourth grades have been combined. Its janitor will work fewer hours this year, and Newberry Elementary is handling phone calls for the Portage Township school.

DEAL ME IN

A Machine That Is Due Is A Glittering Myth

Dear Mark: A slot attendant in a UP casino (what Larry refers to with "UP" is a casino in Michigan's Upper Peninsula) advised me to play a particular one-dollar progressive video poker machine because it was due to hit. It didn't, and I ended up losing my evening's allotted bankroll. Did she really have a clue on the machine's ability to hit a royal flush?

Larry L.



Mark Pilarski

across the street where the 6-to-5 game allows splitting, re-splitting, doubling down on anything, etc. It's much more like a game of blackjack should be. And, with these liberal rules, I suspect the odds are favorable if not the very best.

John O.

If the slot attendant told you that you could save a ton money on your car insurance by switching to GEICO, maybe after fifteen minutes (actually it takes around 40, I've tried it), she might be right. But her prognosticating powers are limited to parroting television commercials, and not to when a royal flush is due. But you knew that all along, eh?

No matter how long it has been since that machine had last hit a royal flush, the random number generator used to shuffle the cards lacks memory, and it certainly doesn't know that some poor schlub's aboard, in desperate need of the progressive jackpot to make their readjusted sub-prime mortgage payment. The probability of a royal flush on each and every hand remains the same, approximately 40,000 to one.

What you are doing right, Larry, is having the discipline of an "allotted bankroll" for your single gambling session. No player should ever bring his or her entire bankroll to any one session. Players should always divide their bankroll into the number of days they'll be gambling, then divide each daily bankroll into the number of sessions they will be playing each day.

As for a session bankroll, I recommend at least 200 bets, but it also depends upon several factors: The game you're playing, denomination of the machine, session length (how many hands), quality of your video poker play, and how much you're willing to lose. But you knew that all along, too, eh?

Dear Mark: Referring to your column in the Reno Gazette-Journal June 7, 2007 about the poor odds offered by a 6-to-5 payoff for a blackjack: Most casinos in Reno, if they offer a single deck at all, have enough "rules" to change the odds from an ordinary single deck game so that they are grossly in favor of the house. For example, Harrah's offers a single deck game, and they may pay 3-to-2 (I can't recall), but you cannot double down on anything but a 10 or 11.

It's a lot more fun for us geezers to play the 6-to-5 game offered

Two decades ago when I was pitching cardboard on a single deck game, even then you couldn't double unless you possessed a 10 or 11. My beef, John, in that June 7th column, was that casinos were offering single-deck blackjack games that pay a natural blackjack 6-to-5 instead of the traditional 3-to-2. This variation of single-deck blackjack being offered to the unmindful was taking a house edge as miniscule as 0.18%, and with one slight rule variation, abracadabra; the casino advantage became 1.45%. I believe this enormous 800% increase in the house edge is far too prohibitive. And even if you were to add up all the rule benefits you may get down the road, you are still not quite at that 0.18% house edge offered on a single deck, or even on a multi-deck game with liberal rules.

That said, I will without end recommend that blackjack players always play in a casino that offers the best playing conditions. Look for the following combination of rules favorable to the player: A single deck game (one that doesn't pay off 6-to-5 for a blackjack), and on a multiple deck game; surrender, both early and late, doubling down allowed on any two cards, doubling allowed after splitting pairs, multiple pair splitting allowed, re-splitting aces, dealers that stand on a soft 17, and deep-deck penetration. That's pretty much what you geezers should be searching for, and getting 7-to-5 for your snapper.

Gambling Wisdom of the Week: "I simply don't subscribe to silly superstitions, but I do wholeheartedly believe in my instincts. When I gamble, I take along my most trusted friend. I never gamble with a fool." John Gollehon, Strike The Casino With Winning Strategies

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.

DeTour Area

By Barbara Buschbacher
297-8075 bbann@sault.com

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Members are: Red Adams, Fran Goetz, Carl Roggow, Julie Rucker, and Bill Scott. The museum operates entirely with the help of volunteers, and relies on donations or loans from current or former area residents who have items of historical significance to the DeTour area they're willing to share. The museum is a nonprofit organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

Coming up is the seventh annual Bob-O Classic Saturday, September 1, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at "The Rock" on Drummond Island. The game is a two-man scramble, 18 holes, \$65 per person. There will be prizes and other specials. All proceeds go to the Bobby Glasser Memorial Scholarship Fund at DeTour High School. For more information, call Linda or Alex Fisher at (906) 297-2101.

The DeTour Senior Club extends an invitation to seniors 55 and older to join in potluck get-togethers, which are held on the second Thursday of every month at the DeTour Village Hall at 5:30 p.m. Participants are asked to bring a dish to pass, plus dinner plate and tableware. After dinner, the bingo cards

come out. The group usually plays about 12 rounds at a cost of 50 cents for three cards. The limit is nine cards.

The club is planning a picnic in the park for Thursday, September 13. For more information, call Kathleen Shiplett at (906) 297-6003.

Good luck and best wishes to Jim and Barb MacLaren, who will be closing the doors at the end of the month to their newspaper, the *Community Voice*. The MacLarens will be moving downstate to enjoy retirement.

Food for thought: A boy doesn't have to go to war to be a hero; he can say he doesn't like pie when he sees there isn't enough to go around.

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2003 Explorer Sport Trac, 4.0 V6, auto, AWD, hard tonneau cover, cruise, tilt, A/C, CD player. \$13,995
2002 Mercury Mountaineer, AWD, 4.0 V6, auto, Dual A/C, Keyless entry, CD player, 3rd seat. \$5,750
1999 Ford Explorer XLT, 4x4, 4.0 V6, auto, OVD, A/C, power seat, cruise, tilt, stereo, CD, 58,000 miles. \$6,995
1999 Ford Expedition XLT, 4x4, 4.6 V-8 auto, A/C, cruise, tilt, AWD, power windows/locks. \$4,995
1997 Ford Explorer XLT, 4 dr., 302 V8, auto, A/C, 80,000 miles, AWD, full power, 1 owner. \$5,995

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