

Duncan Honor, Hakola Resignation, Off-campus Learning Are Topics for Les Cheneaux Board

By Amy Polk

Cedarville girls varsity basketball coach Sonja Paquin Duncan will be inducted into the Upper Peninsula Sports Hall of Fame in Escanaba next year. She was nominated for basketball and track achievements while a student at Cedarville High School, and college achievements like earning an All-America Basketball honorable mention while at Saginaw Valley State University in 1986. She earned several other athletic distinctions while at Saginaw, and went on to coach girls basketball at Rudyard and Pickford before coming to Cedarville last year. She joins Pickford baseball coach Dan Rambo of Sault Ste. Marie, and Newberry football player Clifford "Red" Erickson on the list of 2008 inductees.

Randy Schaedig announced the pending induction and congratulated Mrs. Duncan Monday, September 17, during a scheduled meeting of the Les Cheneaux Community Schools Board of Education, which did not have a quorum. The board lacked a quorum with the absence of three trustees and the resignation of another, Tony Hakola. Without a quorum, trustees could not take any action, but they reviewed several information items, including Mr. Hakola's resignation letter.

In his letter, Mr. Hakola said a busy schedule that now includes coaching girls junior varsity basketball is compromising his ability to

serve on the board. His four-year term was to end in the spring, Superintendent Rod Goehmann said.

"I'll be looking forward to teaching the game I love the most," Mr. Hakola wrote in his letter about coaching basketball.

Applicants for the board seat must turn in a written letter of interest to the superintendent's office, with a short biographical sketch and reason for wanting to serve on the board.

Les Cheneaux Enrollment May Dip Again

With early estimates at 330 students, the district may have even

fewer students than expected, said Mr. Goehmann. A decline in enrollment means the district will get less state aid, and it further compounds the district's budget problems.

"We were hoping for 348 this year," Mr. Goehmann said. "That's what we budgeted for."

The official student count will be taken Wednesday, September 26.

Parents Compliment Sonja Duncan

Trustees read a letter from Val and Cory Masuga, who supported and endorsed Sonja Duncan and her coaching method. The letter was sent in response to letters the board received last month that criticized her coaching. The Masugas wrote that their son learned a lot from Mrs. Duncan, and they believe he has

done a great job as a player on the team she coached.

"Not every student gets an A, and not every player gets to play," they noted.

Standardized Test Preparation, Results

Mr. Schaedig reported that the high school is scheduling test supervisors for the second Michigan Merit Exam administered by the district, since Michigan abandoned the high school Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) test in favor of the Merit Exam. Sections of the exam will be given to seniors in the fall, and juniors will be tested on the entire exam in March.

The Merit Exam has three parts, including an American College Test (ACT) exam, the WorkKeys job

skills assessment, and Michigan assessments in mathematics, science, social studies, and writing. The sections are measured against both Michigan education standards and the federal standards for Adequate Yearly Progress.

"Students who didn't pass all sections last year have already received their voucher to take another free shot at it," Mr. Schaedig said.

Juniors who take the Merit Exam must pass all academic testing sections by earning a I or II score on the sections. Students who earn a III or IV on any section of the test must take the entire test over again. Fortunately, Mr. Schaedig said, Michigan allows students to retake the test free of charge. Michigan's

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Painting Earns Kozma 2nd Place Ribbon at State Fair



After Cedarville art teacher Joanna Izzard convinced her student, Eric Kozma, to save the colored pencil and pastel picture he had made in her class, Mr. Kozma's art went on to win top awards at the 2006 Chippewa County Fair and a second place award at the 2007 Michigan State Fair.

By Amy Polk

When Eric Kozma received his returned entry from the Michigan State Fair two weeks ago, he was surprised to find a ribbon with his award-winning picture.

The Hessel resident won second place in the 2007 state fair's art show.

Not bad for a piece of work he nearly destroyed. His art teacher, Joanna Izzard, convinced him to spare the piece, which he had made in her class. The mixed media image was made with colored pencils and pastels, and depicts a waterfront village with brick towers and canals. His mother, Colleen Kozma, said the picture reminds her of Venice, Italy. The picture was an assignment that was to incorporate architecture and mixed media, but after working on it for weeks and getting frustrated, Mr. Kozma said, "I was ready to burn the picture."

Thanks to Mrs. Izzard's intervention, Mr. Kozma not only saved the picture, but went on to enter it in the Chippewa County Fair's youth art show last year. He won Best of Show in the youth art show and a Gold Award, which qualified him to enter this year's state fair community arts show.

The Gold Award is a special distinction given at a county fair for excellence in a particular division, such as art. Winning the award qualified the piece for competition among other Gold Award winners from around Michigan. People who choose to enter their work in the state fair in Detroit can send their items to the fair by August 1, then fair staff will prepare the piece for showing. After judging, items remain on display until prepared for mailing back to the owner. The Kozmas received the piece

back September 13, two weeks after the fair closed.

"We didn't know he won, until we opened up the package and saw the award lying on top," Colleen Kozma said.

The family is thrilled with the recognition of what Mr. Kozma says is just a hobby for now. He is a junior at Cedarville High School, and is starting to think about what he wants to do in the future.

"I don't think I'm going to pursue a career in art, but I don't think I'm ever going to stop doing it," Mr. Kozma said.

Artistic talent appears to run in the Kozma family, where Eric is the youngest of Colleen and Darrell Kozma's four sons. His father creates custom-made gun stocks and loves watercolor painting, while his older brother, Mark, is pursuing a fine arts degree at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant.

Aside from the family influence, however, Mr. Kozma's mother and his art teacher say he has developed his talent on his own.

"Eric is really self-motivated, and he takes things on outside of school art class," Mrs. Izzard said. "He thrives on difficult projects, and it seems the more difficult the assignment, the more he relishes it. He pursues things on his own, like entering this picture in the fair."

He also entered another six projects in this year's Chippewa County Fair, and earned blue ribbons for all of them.

Fairs are little known outlets for local creativity, Mrs. Kozma said, and she had no idea the state fair had competitive opportunities for artists. Many think the fair is limited to livestock and produce, but local and state

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Boardwalk's New Section Is Finished

By Karen Gould

Another section of the St. Ignace waterfront boardwalk has been completed, with 1,150 feet of new walkway extending out to Wawatam Lighthouse along the old Railroad Dock.

The recent \$227,000 project came in \$1,389 over budget, said Deb Evashevski, executive director of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) at its September 14 meeting. Some of the additional cost was the result of making more openings in the fenced walkway for emergency access. The additional openings, however, made it easy to reach the undeveloped track elevator once was used to raise the tracks to the Chief Wawatam railroad ferry. So a new wood fence was constructed to keep pedestrians out of that area, which also contributed to the cost overrun.

Funding for the project came from the DNR Trust Fund and the Department of Environmental Quality Coastal Management grant program.

The proposed development of Wawatam Park, adjacent to the boardwalk, will take precedence over the final phase of the Huron Boardwalk project, which eventually will link Wawatam Park to American Legion Park. The new park will include a fishing platform approximately 150 feet long by 10 feet wide on the southern side of the dock, which will be handicap accessible. A planned children's playground has been scaled down to a children's educational area. A planned brick walkway will now be made of decorative concrete.

If grants are obtained, the project could begin as early as next spring, with completion estimated for fall 2009.

The park is estimated to cost \$210,000, with \$134,000 requested from the DNR Trust Fund and \$38,000 requested from a Coastal Management grant. Another \$38,000 will be provided locally, including \$10,000 each from the DDA and Mackinac County, \$5,000 each from the city and the Kiwanis Club, \$3,000 from the Lions Club, and \$5,000 in in-kind work from the Department of Public Works.

DDA members also learned that a \$90,000 offer has been received for its house at 3 Glashaw Street. If the sale moves forward, revenue from the sale of the house will be used to fund repairs at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture.

Museum Director Shirley Sorrels said attendance was down at the museum, although revenue was up slightly. She is working on the budget and plans to present it to the board at the November DDA meeting.

A committee of retailers will consider the advantage of keeping stores open later during the summer. Authority member Pat Ramsay said visitors are looking for things to do in the evening, and not all stores are open. The board also discussed looking into extending museum hours to 8 p.m. next summer.

"Part of our job is to continue to make our downtown alluring so people will want to come down here all times of the day and evening," said Mrs. Evashevski, "and then hopefully the stores will follow suit."

The DDA next meets Friday, October 12, at 8 a.m. in City Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall.

LMAS: Dependence Occurs in the Best of Families

Local Treatment Services Are Offered

Dependence on alcohol and drugs is the most serious public health problem in the nation, reported Luce Mackinac Alger Schoolcraft (LMAS) Health Department September 10, and it is prevalent among rich and poor, in all regions of the country, and all ethnic and social groups. LMAS offers local services to help people recover from dependency.

Millions of Americans misuse or are dependent on alcohol or drugs. Most of them have families who suffer the consequences, often serious, of living with this illness.

Drug or alcohol dependence disorders are medical conditions that can be effectively treated. Millions of Americans and their families are in healthy recovery from this disease.

Most individuals who abuse alcohol or drugs have jobs and are productive members of society, creating a false hope in the family that "it's not that bad," LMAS reports. The problem is that addiction tends to worsen over time, hurting both the addicted person and all the family members. It is especially damaging to young children and adolescents.

People with this illness really may believe that they drink normally or that "everyone" takes drugs. These false beliefs are called denial, and this is a part of the illness.

If someone misuses alcohol or drugs, the first step is to be honest about the problem and to seek help.

Treatment can occur in a variety of settings, in many different

forms, and for different lengths of time. Stopping the alcohol or drug use is the first step to recovery, and most people need help to stop, LMAS reports. Often a person with alcohol or drug dependence will need treatment provided by professionals, just as with other diseases. A doctor may be able to guide the process.

Getting a loved one to agree to accept help, and finding support services for all family members are the first steps toward healing for the addicted person and the entire family, LMAS reports.

When an addicted person is reluctant to seek help, sometimes family members, friends, and associates come together out of concern and love, to confront the dependent person. They strongly

Reading Tutoring Program Beneficial at Gros Cap, Superintendent Says

By Paul Gingras

The Reading Recovery program at Gros Cap School, funded by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, is proving to be beneficial for students and has drawn the interest of the intermediate school district, which may use Gros Cap as a model to help other local districts implement the program, reported Superintendent Bill Peltier Monday, September 17, at a board of education meeting.

Reading Recovery is a one-on-one tutoring system for first grade students with literacy difficulties.

At Gros Cap, teacher Mary Cullen is tutoring the four first

urge the person to enter treatment and list the serious consequences of not doing so, such as family breakup or job loss. This is called "intervention." When carefully prepared and done with the guidance of a competent, trained specialist, the family, friends, and associates are usually able to convince their loved one - in a firm and loving manner- that the only choice is to accept help and begin the road to recovery.

People with alcohol or drug dependence problems can and do recover. Intervention is often the first step.

If you know of someone needing help, contact Community Health at LMAS District Health Department, which has specialists able to help in their recovery. The department can be reached at 643-1100, extension 112.

graders who are having the most difficulty in reading and writing. They receive personalized help 30 minutes a day for 20 weeks.

"The [students] that I have now definitely love coming," Mrs. Cullen said. "They ask for certain books and constantly want to show me what they can write."

Receiving special tutoring is not viewed negatively by other students, she said. Students in Reading Recovery tell their classmates about their tutoring sessions, which has caused several to ask to take part, she said.

"We are hoping that, in the long run, this will help with reading and

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Mackinac Straits Hospital Staff Earns Governor's Award

For the third consecutive year, Mackinac Straits Hospital and Health Center in St. Ignace received the Governor's Award of Excellence from Governor Jennifer Granholm. Mackinac Straits Hospital was recognized for its excellence in collecting and reporting data, and in improvement for health information technology for the 2006 fiscal year.

The award was given at a Michigan Peer Review Organization banquet in Kalamazoo Monday, September 10. Hospital CEO Rod Nelson and Director of Nursing for Emergency

Department and Acute Care Tamie Hartwig attended the banquet and received the award on behalf of the hospital's staff.

Awards are based on excellence in clinical areas that are designated as national health care priorities by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Michigan Peer Review Organization (MPRO) is Medicare's quality improvement organization for the state of Michigan.

"This is a good indication of the high quality of care our physicians and staff provide for our community," said Mr. Nelson. "Mackinac

Straits Hospital continues to implement processes to improve the care we provide at our facility."

The staff has been able to provide great personal care and attention for their patients, Mrs. Hartwig said, and the state has recognized and commended them for it.

"This is a small town hospital and we're able to give personalized care to our patients," she said. [Staff members] "go over and above what is expected of them. Nurses and physicians here have worked hard to be sure patients are getting the highest quality of care at Mackinac Straits Hospital."



Mackinac Straits Hospital and Health Center received a Governor's Award of Excellence from Governor Jennifer Granholm during a banquet in Kalamazoo Monday, September 10, for improving patient quality care. It is the third consecutive year Mackinac Straits has been given such an award. Pictured (from left) are Nick Lyon of Michigan Department of Community Health; Colleen Cieszkowski, RN, senior vice president of operations; Tamie Hartwig, director of nursing for acute care for Mackinac Straits Hospital; Rod Nelson, Mackinac Straits Hospital CEO, and Pam Yager, policy advisor of health care and financial services for the Office of Governor Granholm. (Photograph courtesy of Michigan Peer Review Organization)