

Residents Can Report Unwanted Cell Phone Text Messages

Sheriff Scott Strait reports local residents have complained about unsolicited text messages coming to cell phones.

Unwanted messages, or "spam," can slow down a cell phone by taking up memory and lead to unwanted charges on a wireless service bill.

A 2003 law makes it illegal to send unsolicited commercial e-mail messages to wireless devices, including cell phones and pagers, without first receiving the consumer's permission.

There are a number of simple steps a person can take to prevent spam from controlling a cell phone, Sheriff Strait reports, including the following:

If receiving a spam text message, contact the wireless service provider immediately. This can sometimes help avoid unwanted charges on a cell phone bill and will ensure the providers are aware of the problem.

Activate spam filters. Contact

the wireless customer service representative and ask about blocking spam through the account's messaging preferences.

Change the cell phone's default e-mail address. Most cell phones come with an e-mail address, which is frequently a phone number. Changing the user name to something spammers are less likely to guess may reduce the amount of spam received.

Limit who has access to a wireless number and e-mail address. Do not display a phone number or e-mail address publicly in chat rooms, newsgroups, Web sites, or membership directories.

Understand how information can be distributed. Before submitting a wireless phone number or e-mail to any Web site, be sure to carefully read its privacy policy. Some sites allow a person to opt out of receiving e-mails or messages from partners. Do not give wireless number, e-mail

address, or any other personal information to a questionable site.

Be careful what you agree to. Free and inexpensive ring tones or downloads may put a person at risk for spam. The spam law does not apply if a "business relationship" with a telemarketer is established.

Register a cell phone number with the National Do Not Call

Registry at www.donotcall.gov. While the registry is designed to stop telemarketers from calling, not text messaging, it will limit the ability of telemarketers to contact a person without their permission.

File a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission by filling out form 1088, which is available online at www.fcc.gov/cgb.complaints, or call (888) 225-5322.

Mackinaw City Blood Drive Planned

An American Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25, from noon until 5:45 p.m. at Cedarbrook Village at 450 South Nicolet Street in Mackinaw City.

Refreshments and snacks will be offered by the Mackinaw Woman's Club.

Kinross Fundraiser Will Be Saturday

The Kinross Early Childhood Development Team is hosting a Stop-N-Shop fundraiser with various vendors Saturday, June 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Kinross Recreation Center. Ten percent of sales will be donated to the team for hosting family friendly events in Kincheloe.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wants Information From Sheriff, Prosecutor About Investigation

To the Editor:

Unauthorized entry into the locked offices of a nonprofit corporation known as the Mackinac Bands of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians (MBCOI) in Cedarville was made September 26, 2005, by a small group of dissident band members. Over a period of about three days, the perpetrators managed to remove all official records of the MBCOI as well as numerous items of personal property belonging to MBCOI officers and members.

On the date of initial unauthorized entry, the Mackinac County Sheriff's office was notified of the violation of a locked space. A deputy sheriff was dispatched to the location, ostensibly to investigate what on the surface appeared to be a blatant illegal act. I was personally involved in MBCOI activities, having volunteered many months of professional service in support of its efforts to attain federal recognition, and as such was concerned that some of the property removed, if used without my permission, would constitute a violation of my intellectual property rights.

In an effort to learn the status of the sheriff's investigation and any possible results, in late 2005 I contacted the office of the Mackinac County Prosecuting Attorney, once by telephone and another time by a visit to the office. I was unable to speak directly with the prosecuting attorney on either occasion, however was told each time by an office spokesperson that an investigation was ongoing. To date, and in spite of my obvious interest and expressed concern for the matter, the results of that investigation have not been conveyed to me.

It is now approaching three years since the MBCOI offices were broken into. In a final effort to gain some knowledge of the violation and the status of my intellectual property, I sent a certified letter dated April 26, 2008, to the Mackinac County Sheriff requesting a copy of the report of the deputy who conducted the initial investigation. Subsequently I sent the sheriff an e-mail requesting instructions on the submission of a Freedom of Information Act request, should such be necessary for the report to be released. The sheriff has not as yet responded to either my e-mail or my letter.

Not yet ready to give up on the Mackinac County law enforcement system, I sent a certified letter dated May 13, 2008, to the prosecuting

attorney, in which I conveyed essentially the same information and made the same request as I had in my earlier letter to the sheriff. The prosecuting attorney has not as yet responded to my letter.

It has always been my understanding that public servants' duties were to serve the public. I am beginning to believe that in Mackinac County, that understanding may not apply.

Charles Adams
Laughlin, Nevada

Roney Has Dedicated His Life to Care of Animals

To the Editor:

In response to all the talk about the Larry Roney case, I just feel some information should be clarified.

Mr. Roney has shown his animals a lot of love, and the love they have for him has not been mentioned. Caring for and rehabilitating animals has been his whole life. He was doing the best he could under the circumstances, and with what he had.

His whole life has been dedicated to the care and love for animals. All his life, people would bring stray and hurt animals to him, and this was well known because he would often have stray animals dropped off in front of his house with the knowledge that he would take them in. The blind dog that was shown in a television news report on his case was a dog he rescued off the side of the road, and had been rehabilitating for months. It was close to death when he found it in much worse condition than was shown on television. It was in such severe shape, it was a wonder it lived at all, and such bad shape like that takes a long period of recovery.

If people ran out of food for their pets and they needed it, they could come to him and he would give them food. He would also haul hay to area people who needed it for their animals.

He worked all day long, every day, to love and care for these animals for years. This heavy and constant work has definitely taken a toll on his body and his finances. All his money went to his animals, to the point he would go without. The love and commitment for his animals was truly outstanding and well known. He always tried his best.

He has deeply grieved over losing his animals, who were his family. He feels his family has been taken away, and he is still struggling with that. The animals loved and protected him, and that was obvious by how they responded to him.

Even with his failing health, he has always put his animals first. His love and commitment for animals, I can understand, because I have animals myself. I can understand people fighting for the love of animals, but where is their compassion for humans, and consideration for what the animals would want?

Rick Rooney
St. Ignace

Editor's Note: Larry Roney of Rexton was charged in 92nd District Court with one misdemeanor charge of animal abandonment and cruelty January 31. He pleaded no contest and was allowed to keep 25 of his animals, while 29 were adopted, and he has been placed on probation for a year, as reported in The St. Ignace News March 6. Mr. Rooney is a nephew of Mr. Roney.

St. Ignace News Policies

Letters:

All responsible letters will be considered for publication and may be edited. They must be signed and a telephone number must be included for verification. Personal thank-you notes, personal attacks against other people, form letters, and letters promoting political candidates are not accepted, although letters for or against ballot proposals are welcome.

Obituaries:

The St. Ignace News maintains a policy of not charging for obituaries and we do often add information or rewrite them for clarity and reader interest. Obituaries that the family wants published exactly as submitted can be placed in the newspaper for \$75. Photographs are welcome at no charge.

Weddings:

Weddings with photographs are published without charge within 45 days of the ceremony. After 45 days, a photograph can be included for \$35.00.

Internet:

The complete edition of The St. Ignace News is available online at stignaceneews.com.

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MICHIGAN POLITICS

By George Weeks



Groundwater: Public Trust, or Product for Sale?

That ex-Governors Bill Milliken and Jim Blanchard lack their former clout in Lansing is underscored as they and an outmanned not-so-now-merry band of environmentalists buck a tide of powerful interests in the Legislature's latest debate on water laws.

Republican Milliken and Democrat Blanchard both signed laws in the 1970s and '80s that recognized the public trust in Michigan waters. Last week, they jointly voiced support of legislation passed by the Democrat-ruled House that extends the trust to groundwater, commendably strengthening regulation of withdrawal for bottling.

The GOP-ruled Senate rejects this approach. Its version is supported by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), and the Michigan Farm Bureau. The latter said the House bill "erodes the private property rights of Michigan landowners, and opens the door for the state to weigh in on the reasonableness of a water use."

The former governors countered: "The public trust standard does not interfere with the reasonable use of our waters by Michigan businesses, farmers, and citizens. In fact, it's quite the opposite. The public trust protects these reasonable uses against claims by outside under NAFTA, other trade agreements, or federal laws that may be passed in the future."

In January, Milliken wrote lawmakers urging support of the public trust issue. While his pitch was hailed by such groups as the nonprofit Clean Water Action, it did not sway key Republicans in either chamber, including two who have been leaders on some past natural resources protections.

Patty Birkholz of Saugatuck, who chairs the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs committee, and Howard Walker of Traverse City, ranking Republican on the similar committee in the House, called to take issue with my late May column touting the House version. Each subsequently published forums in the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*.

Birkholz says extending the public trust doctrine "is unnecessary and serves only to cloud the issue of water regulation." Walker says the House bill is unnecessarily tied to Michigan's adoption of the eight-state Great Lakes Water Resources Compact, and "will enact tremendously strict and scientifically unsound limits for individuals and businesses needing to use water."

Blanchard said that when he joined other governors in signing the Great Lakes Charter in 1985, "Michigan committed to protecting water as a 'public resource held in trust' — referring to the Great Lakes Preservation Act he also signed that year.

Milliken said: "The state must be required to consider the public interest for any large withdrawals, especially private taking of water for sale. Without protecting the public trust in our waters, Michigan's sovereign power to safeguard our vital interests against outside forces will be diminished."

What alerted me to the pitch by the two ex-guvs was a call from Joan Wolfe, a Grand Rapids driving force behind earlier environmental successes who now, at age 79 as a retiree in Frankfort, is among those grassroots activists in an uphill fight for the House version.

Wolfe, who in 1968 started the West Michigan Environmental Action Council and ran it until her 1970s reign as a Milliken appointee to the Natural Resources Commission, said the Senate bill "must be improved and the House stand firm."

Odds are against that happening this week — when there could be a resolution — unless there is more public support than has been evident. First priority of such stalwarts as the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) and the National Wildlife Federation is on getting Michigan to approve the compact. It and Pennsylvania have yet to act.

Governor Jennifer Granholm has not gone to the mat for the version passed by fellow Democrats in the House.

Too bad. As noted here in May, holding firm on water as a public trust, not a product, is a correct notion.

As author Dave Dempsey, former environmental aide for Blanchard and ex-MEC policy adviser who now advises Clean Water Action and others, asks: "What is it about commercializing Michigan's water that is tempting Michigan lawmakers to cede control of the Lakes to outside interests who would treat, and sell, them as a product?"

George Weeks retired in 2006 after 22 years as political columnist for The Detroit News. His weekly Michigan Politics column is syndicated by Superior Features.

Great Start Seeks Parade Participants

The Mackinac County Great Start Parent Coalition is looking for parents and children to participate in the St. Ignace Car Show parade Friday, June 27, at 6:30 p.m., the St. Ignace 4th of July parade Friday, July 4, at 12:30 p.m., and the Curtis 4th of July parade Monday, July 6, at 11:30 p.m. Participants will be handing out candy and frisbees.

With the theme "Building a

Bright Future," participants are asked to bring construction-themed toys. People are also needed to decorate the float. Decorating for both St. Ignace parades will take place the night before at 5:30 p.m. at Stelzer's Garage on Charles Moran Road in Moran. The float will be set up while in line at the Curtis parade.

For more information, contact Heather Bird at 643-0096.

St. Ignace City Council Pay Reported

In May, payment to members of the St. Ignace City Council for attending meeting and events totaled \$1,310. Meeting salaries are set, while no rules constitute what events are eligible for payment.

Council members are paid \$70 for regular meetings, which are held on the first and third Monday of each month. They also receive \$60 for committee meetings and for gatherings when representing the city.

The mayor receives \$80 per council meeting and \$70 when representing the city at other events.

Council members attended the following meetings and events, and were paid the following amounts:

Mayor Paul Grondin
\$230 — Council, May 5 and 19; Downtown Development Authority,

May 9. The following were attended, with no pay: Mayor's Board of Director's Meeting, May 22; Memorial Day Service, May 26; Hospital Ground Breaking Ceremony, May 28; St. Ignace Area Hope Dedication, May 3.

Don Gustafson
\$260 — Council, May 5 and 19; Audit Committee, May 1; Recreation Committee, May 14.

Willie LaLonde
\$140 — Council, May 5 and 19.

Merv Wyse
\$140 — Council, May 5 and 19.

Paul Fullerton
\$200 — Council, May 5 and 19; Audit Committee, May 1.

Susan Tamlyn-Massaway
\$200 — Council, May 5 and 19; Audit Committee, May 1.

Tom Della-Moretta
\$140 — Council, May 5 and 19.

Animal Aid Plans Bake Sale Saturday

Mackinac Animal Aid Association will sell baked goods Saturday, June 21, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Glen's Market in St. Ignace.

Donated baked goods are welcome, and the proceeds from the sale will help homeless pets in the Mackinac County Animal Shelter in St. Ignace.

The St. Ignace News

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The quotation under the flag of *The St. Ignace News* on Page 1 is from the 10 triads written by Dr. Fred Newton Scott, creator and teacher of the first continuous course in journalism in the United States at the University of Michigan in 1890. The 10 triads are chiseled on the parapet of the Detroit News Building at 615 Lafayette Boulevard, Detroit. They were headed "Ideals of the Press" or "The Newspaper in a Free Society," and serve as a reminder of what a free press means to us.