

Hay Days Bring Pickford Community Together To Honor Heritage

Hay Days: From page 1

dent. As they proceed through town, they will pass the society's crowning achievement, the two-story Pickford Area Historical Museum. It is a project Mr. Schmitigal has helped develop and oversee.

The museum is the hospitality center for Hay Days, where people can come in and talk to volunteers about Hay Days events.

The museum is fast becoming a centerpiece in town, Mr. Schmitigal noted.

As a member of the Pickford Quilters, Mrs. Schmitigal and her peers are often seen through the windows, sewing quilts for raffles to support the museum. Their activity draws people from the sidewalk, Mr. Schmitigal said, to see the building's display of artifacts, documents, and pictures of history of the area.

Development of the Historical Society and its projects have been Mr. Schmitigal's passion since his retirement from Sault Area High School in 1993, where he was an English and world geography teacher. He was drawn into the fledgling historical society by Dr. Richard Morrison, who asked him to help form the board of directors.

A lot of satisfying work has ensued since, he said. The nine-member board set up bylaws, achieved tax-free status, and provided a place for people to peruse artifacts.

It is amazing to learn about what people did in the late 1800s and early 1900s, Mr. Schmitigal said. Not so long ago, "people worked a lot differently," he said.

Mr. Schmitigal is veteran of the Korean War, and the museum's display honoring veterans is among his favorite projects. He gives credit to several residents who helped produce its wall of more than 700 names of area veterans of conflicts dating as far back as the Civil War. The display is divided by each war and theater. It includes name tags for the veterans, pictures, and mannequins representing the conflicts.

Mr. Schmitigal has also helped develop displays of logging tools, a school room, an old-time kitchen, and farming artifacts, notably a forge owned by a farmer who repaired equipment for residents who lived too far from town to access its blacksmith services.

Methodist and Presbyterian churches have created displays, also.

Not far away from the site of the Flower Power parade stands

the Schmitigal home, known for its bright flower gardens. A project created and maintained by Mrs. Schmitigal, it includes gardens as well hanging baskets that adorn the porch, drawing hummingbirds.

Mr. Schmitigal grows a garden, but the flowers are Mrs. Schmitigal's project. In the winter, she takes many blooms indoors, keeping alive reminders of the summer that Hay Days is celebrating, full swing, this week.

Hay Days Schedule

Wednesday, July 30: 7 p.m. Singspiration in the park, sponsored by Pickford area churches.

Thursday, July 31: 7:30 p.m. Softball game at the park, featuring Pickford versus the Kinross Fire Department.

Friday, August 1: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Arts and Crafts Sale at Pickford Township Hall. For more information, contact Arlene Portice at 647-2582.

Noon Ping Pong Tournament at Pickford United Methodist Church for children 10 years old and older.

6:30 p.m. Line up for Kids Parade, east of bridge on Main Street.

6:30 p.m. Hay Bale Races on Main Street.

7 p.m. Kids Parade. Contact Rae Ann Reinhart at 647-8000 for more information.

7:30 p.m. Coronation Ceremony, outdoor stage at the township hall.

7:45 p.m. Hay Days Program. Featuring local talent on the outdoor stage at the township hall.

9 p.m. to midnight Street Dance, including music by disc jockey Brent Edington.

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Live Music at the Sundown Lounge with The Flipside.

Saturday, August 2

7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Lumberjack Breakfast at the township hall, sponsored by Northwoods Christian Camp.

9 a.m. 10K Run, 5K Run, and 2K Fun Run/Walk, beginning on Main Street. Registration is from 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

9 a.m. Chainsaw Artist Dan Johnson will be at Wilderness Treasures until noon. At 2 p.m., he will be carving at the township park.

11 a.m. Hay Days Parade. Line up at the township park by 10:30 a.m. Use West gate. To register, contact Dr. Richard Morrison at 647-9395.

11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pickford Lions Lunch at township hall basement

Noon Firemen's Competition
Noon Children's Art Activities in the Park, Sponsored by the Pickford Community Library

Noon Softball Tournament. For more information, contact Ryan Fountain at 495-5533.

Noon Three-on-Three Basketball. Registration forms available at the Pickford Market and at Dr. Morrison's.

12:30 p.m. Beach Volleyball Tournament at the township park.

1 p.m. Horse Pull at the township park.

1 p.m. Lawn Tractor Pull at the township park. For more information, call Bob Rye at 647-6210.

1:30 p.m. Kids Games and Foam Treasure Hunt at the township park

2 p.m. Wood carving by Dan Johnson at the township park.

2:30 p.m. Open Horseshoe Tournament at the township park. This includes two-person teams, for \$10 per team. For more information, contact Debra Chapman at (906) 297-6562, or arrive early.

2:30 p.m. Checkers Tournament at Mama Maloza's. All ages may participate.

3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Pickin' N' Grinnin' at the township hall. Local musicians, featuring The Bait Shop Boys.

4 p.m. Youth 8 Ball Pool Tournament at the township hall, ages 9 to 18. \$1 entry fee.

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Live Music at the Sundown, featuring The Flipside.

Sunday, August 3

Final Games of Softball Tournament: Times are to be announced.

Work Begins on New Arena Room



The footings were poured Friday morning, July 25, for the new cardiovascular exercise room at Little Bear East Arena. St. Ignace Department of Public Works (DPW) crew Dennis Brown (from left) and Chuck McCall were joined by Recreation Department Director Scott Marshall as the men worked to level the three yards of freshly poured concrete. The block foundation will be added next by volunteer workers with help from the DPW crew. The room will hold cardiovascular equipment, including treadmills. The television will be connected to cable service, which is free to the city as part of an agreement with the area's service provider. Depending on volunteer hours and weather conditions, the room is expected to be completed by fall.

Evangelist Will Visit Hessel Church

Evangelist Charles Kempf will visit Lighthouse Baptist Church in Hessel Sunday, August 3, through Friday, August 8.

Services will be at 6 p.m. Sunday and at 7 p.m. each weekday.

DeTour Marina Concert Is Saturday

The next Music at the Marina Concert in DeTour will be Saturday, August 2, after the spaghetti dinner benefit for Emergency Services, with the DeTour Band performing. All concerts are from 7:45 p.m. to 10 p.m. and participants may bring lawn chairs.

The Donny Hartman Band will play Saturday, August 16.

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.

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Michigan Politics

By
George Weeks



Environmentalists Urge Caution on Great Lakes Compact

The summer ride of Dave Dempsey underscores his rising role as the Paul Revere of the Great Lakes, sounding battle cries against those who menace their waters. His lantern is the written word.

An environmental adviser to ex-Governor Jim Blanchard, former policy director of the Michigan Environmental Council, current communications director for Conservation Minnesota, he is author of previous and two timely new lakes books, and helped assemble last week's Michigan League of Conservation Voters Scorecard on all three branches of state government.

I recently noted Dempsey's provocative book, "Great Lakes for Sale: From Whitecaps to Bottlecaps" from the University of Michigan Press and Petoskey Publishing of Traverse City. Its foreword by U.S. Representative Bart Stupak (D-Menominee) warns, "Commercialization of Great Lakes water is a dangerous threat."

As of this writing, Stupak, second to none as guardian of the lakes, had not decided whether he will be a Michigan delegation holdout on approval of the Great Lakes Compact, which such critics as Traverse City attorney Jim Olson say fails to protect the public trust on groundwater.

Dempsey said Friday: "The Compact should not be defeated, but Congress should consent to it only with express reservations and conditions that nothing in the consent can be interpreted to undermine public trust protections or commercialize water."

While Great Lakes guru Dempsey is on the frontlines of today's political water wars, he also is co-author, with photographer David Lubbers, of an extraordinary reflective book for the ages, "The Waters of Michigan" from Michigan State University Press.

"Water defines Michigan," writes Dempsey, who notes it as an avenue for arrival of Native American and European settlers, and its importance to lumber, fishing, agriculture, and other industries. "...Water is the power of eternal forces. In its presence, we touch the eternal. In its misuse, we betray the eternal."

In the foreword of the book, ex-Governor William G. Milliken said water "has been central to Michigan political life. Its use and misuse have shaped the state's political history and will play an even more important role in the future of Michigan."

(There are pictures with commentary from about 30 Upper Peninsula sites, including several from Paulding and the Seney Wildlife Refuge.)

Conservation Scorecard

"Michigan is no longer considered a conservation leader among the states," the Michigan League of Conservation Voters (LCV) said in presenting its environmental 2008 scorecard. "The bipartisan consensus that Michigan conservation is too important to be politicized has broken down."

The League gave a negative review to the Michigan Supreme Court, and mixed reviews for Governor Jennifer Granholm and the Legislature.

Consider, for example, northern senators. In 2003, LCV gave them fairly good marks — all were above 50% in support of bills LCV then deemed important to the cause. Not so for 2007-08, except for Senator Michael Prusi (D-Ishpeming), who scored at 100.

Republican Senators Jason Allen of Traverse City, Michelle McManus of Lake Leelanau, and Tony Stamas of Midland all scored a mere 11% on the League's favored legislation.

Presidential Campaign Surrogates

Two veteran Michigan congressmen were enlisted last week by the presumptive presidential nominees to preside on national media conference calls attacking the other side.

The campaign of Democrat Barack Obama used Stupak, chairman of a House subcommittee with clout on energy issues, to criticize Republican John McCain's TV ad in Michigan and elsewhere blaming Obama for high gas prices.

McCain's campaign featured Representative Pete Hoekstra of Holland, ranking Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, in a conference call criticizing Obama for his "untenable" position that he would be willing to meet with the leaders of Iran, Syria, Venezuela, Cuba, and North Korea without preconditions.

Given Michigan's importance as a swing state, McCain and Obama will be around enough to respond to these and other issues.

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*.

Rental Rehab Proposed at St. Ignace Meeting Is Wednesday for Interested Property Owners

A Rental Rehab Program designed to help improve and make available more rental housing in St. Ignace could provide financing for owners of up to 75% of the total per-unit project cost, or a maximum of \$25,000 per unit to renovate, or \$35,000 to create, rental housing.

Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) of Mackinac County, in partnership with the City of St. Ignace, will host an informational meeting on the Rental Rehab Program Wednesday, July 30, at 3 p.m. in City Council Chambers at City Hall on State Street. The meeting is open to landlords, property owners, those who may want to be landlords, and anyone interested in learning about the idea.

The program is designed to encourage the creation and/or renovation of rental units within the city. By increasing the number of attractive, high quality housing units, said Lori Pieri, executive director of HOME, the city seeks to create a vibrant and successful business environment and provide affordable housing for downtown employees and other residents.

If funding is awarded by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), she said, the assistance would be in the form of a five-year forgivable loan. If all requirements are met for the five-year period, the lien would be released and no repayment would be necessary.

Under the program, the owner would be required to finance at least 25% of the total project cost per unit.

For more information, contact Mrs. Pieri at 643-6239.

St. Ignace Salmon Derby Cancelled

The St. Ignace Salmon Derby set for Saturday, August 23, has been cancelled for this year as a result of a lack of participation, according to the Chamber of Commerce.

Sparrow Project Will Meet August 14

Sparrow Project will meet Thursday, August 14, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Glen Memorial Baptist Church in St. Ignace. A guest speaker will discuss Social Security.

Sparrow Project is a support group for parents and grandparents of special needs children.

The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

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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.