

# Genealogical Research Program Is Hoped To Link Local Families to Marquette Mission

By Karen Gould

A free program that begins this month invites residents to trace their family lineage with the eventual goal of revealing the history of St. Ignace. Through that history, Judi Engle hopes to document the area's national significance, linking people and events to artifacts that are part of the collection at the Fort de Buade Museum.

Filling a gap in the area's history in the mid- to late-1800s by documenting the lineage of residents to early settlers, and connecting them to the history of the fur trade and the relics at the State Street museum, she said, will help secure state and federal grants. The Straits of Mackinac region was the center of the fur trade, and that has national significance, she said.

Ms. Engle, a genealogist, will lead the 11-month program, which seeks to discover "what happened here in St. Ignace through our family histories."

She is the president of the Michilimackinac Historical Society and director of the city-owned museum.

The historical society has a contract with the city to operate the museum.

The project is called the Straits Area Genealogical Acquisition, and Ms. Engle will assist anyone who wants to research their family history. Work tables have been set up at the museum and some research books sit on shelves, awaiting those who seek to discover their ancestors.

"I'm doing it to help the history of our town, the museum, and peo-



Director of the Fort de Buade Museum Judi Engle shows an antique spinning wheel from Chief Satago's home. The use of the wheel, she said Friday, November 14, shows how other cultures were integrated into the Native American lifestyle.

ple," she said. "I want little kids to grow up here and have a book in the library that they can pull out and say, 'Hey, that's my family"

and be proud of who they are and know where they came from.

"It's important," she added, "and if we don't do it now, we'll



Tintypes of Chief Satago relatives from his family album are on display at Fort de Buade Museum. The local chief passed away in the early 1900s and researching the family will provide valuable genealogical information, said Museum Director Judi Engle.

lose it forever."

Ms. Engle will be at the museum from Tuesday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. Weekly workshops will be Wednesdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Round table discussions with all participants will be held the second Thursday of each month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and will offer those attending a chance to exchange notes and stories and possibly provide others with needed information to further their research.

She seeks to trace area families to those here when Father Jacques Marquette established a mission at St. Ignace in 1671.

"When we study back to them, we're going to find the whole history back to the 1600s. Once I prove that on paper, and make a record of it, this museum and those artifacts in it become nationally historic."

The work will be done by comparing family stories with historical records, sorting fact from fiction. The records can be found in libraries, Mackinac State Historic Parks, and from birth, marriage,

and death records kept by the counties and local parishes. Canadian and French records will also be consulted.

"It's putting all these little things together to find your history," she said.

Eventually, those histories will be put together to tell the story of the early residents of the area, who they were, and how they were interconnected. The information

Turn to page 11: Museum

## Students Learn Benefits of Showing Kindness to Others

### Circulate Coupons in St. Ignace Area

By Karen Gould

Kindness coupons are circulating around the community as part of a project underway by students at St. Ignace Elementary School. Children in kindergarten through sixth grade are performing random acts of kindness while distributing coupons that encourage others to take up the practice.

Anyone can receive a coupon, said Anne Cowell, the cultural technician at St. Ignace Area Schools for the last eight years. She is leading the program.

The coupons are handed out when a good deed is performed, and offer instructions reading, "You have just received a random act of kindness, please pass it on, along with this card. Together we can change the world — one person at a time."

The project was designed to help build character and develop self worth, said Mrs. Cowell. When preparing this program and others for students, integrating many world cultures, including Native American, helps students learn that they are important and their actions affect others, she said.

"In the classroom, I don't want to zero in on just one culture. I pull them all in and use the cultural beliefs to light a fire in their hearts to get them to know that when you look out at the world, there should be value in what you see," she said. "I want them to have a burn-



Spreading kindness and circulating kindness coupons is the goal of St. Ignace Elementary School students. Some of the students participating in the program and ready to hand out more coupons Friday, November 14, are (back row, from left) Tucker Shepard, Brian Harju, Anton St. Andrew; (front) Connor Fitzgerald, Tessa Shepard, and Laci Soblaskey.

ing desire to be a voice for innocent children, animals, and older people, because sometimes they don't have a voice."

The students say they enjoy

performing the acts of kindness, which can be spontaneous or planned in advance.

"I feel good," said second grade student Tucker Shepard, who

washed dishes for his grandmother. His grandmother, he said, appreciated the help.

Also in the second grade, Laci Soblaskey said she likes making people happy and hopes her acts of kindness help people be kinder to others. So far, she gave a hug to her teacher, Helena Shepard, and now has four more coupons to give to others when she is kind to them.

The program is proving successful, said Mrs. Cowell, as some of the students have run out of coupons and have gotten more.

As part of the Thanksgiving season, Mrs. Cowell said she is preparing students for the next lesson, which will be about thankfulness. Students will be learning about the many things their parents and guardians do that affect them, things the students may not be aware of, including paying utility bills, making car payments, and helping them with sports and other extracurricular activities.

For this program, she is challenging students to leave a thank you note on the pillow, bathroom mirror, or some other obvious place to be discovered by their parents.

Some students already have started leaving thank you notes, she said, including Tucker Shepard, who left his mother a message on her pillow.

## Island's Mission Barn To Operate Another Year

By Ryan Schlehner

Bob Benser, owner of Mission Street Condominiums, received a one-year extension to his zoning permit from the Mackinac Island Planning Commission Thursday, October 16, to complete the third of three homes in his site condominium project.

The third home will take up turnout space used by the Mackinac Horsemen's Association (MHA) at the adjacent horse barn on Truscott Street. The Mackinac Horsemen's Association (MHA) hopes to build a new horse barn near British Landing, and Mr. Benser said he asked Planning Commission for permission to delay his third condominium until next year to allow the organization more time to raise money and complete the new barn.

An aluminum fence will be installed along Heriot Trail, that will deter visitors and snowmobiles from coming onto private property.

John Anding, whose home is

just south of the Stonebrook subdivision, and lives near the trail, also known as "Washout Road," received permission from Planning Commission to build the fence.

His request, which was tabled from Planning Commission's September meeting, was originally for a 40-foot-long, 48-inch-high fence on the back corner of his property, abutting a corner of Heriot Trail, but commissioners were concerned that the fence would deny access to other property owners.

He was allowed to build a fence on each side of the easement that runs along his and neighboring properties. The fence will include an additional nine-foot section and a three-foot gate on his side yard.

The McKay and Chrisman families were approved to build a barrier-free bedroom addition to their single family home on Truscott Street.

Sandra and Debra Orr received final approval on a variance to install external basement doors to

their new home on Cadotte Avenue. A variance was needed because the addition exceeded the allowable lot coverage for the house. The variance was granted by the city's Zoning Board of Appeals, and Planning Commission bestowed the final zoning approval.

Planning Commission approved the building of an accessory building for the Puttkammer family in Hubbard's Annex.

The Commission tabled discussion on Terri and Jack Armstrong's request to reclassify their Cannonball Drive-in business near British Landing from Non-Conforming Class B to Non-Conforming Class A. The discussion was tabled owing to objection from the Mackinac Island State Park Commission.

The Park Commission is arguing the reclassification will open up more possibilities for changes to the business that is in a single family zoned area, without public notification and input.

## Northern Michigan News Roundup

The news in brief from communities around the U.P. and northern Michigan

Compiled using information published in various community newspapers.

### Luce County Loses Animal Control Department

After voters in Luce County turned down a request for animal control millage November 4, Luce County will no longer operate an animal control department. It will have no shelter, no animal control officer, and no assistant as of November 29.

Animals housed in Luce County are being transferred to other shelters, according to the county sheriff, and while police can write tickets to owners of nuisance animals, they will not take nuisance animals away, as there is no place to put them.

Seven years ago, Luce County commissioners established an animal control board there, taking the responsibility away from the sheriff's department. Perhaps this year voters assumed that if the millage did not pass, animal control duties would revert back to the sheriff's department, Sheriff Kevin Erickson speculated in a published report, but he pointed out that is not going to be the case.

Mackinac County Animal Shelter in St. Ignace is able and willing to accept a few dogs from the Luce County shelter, Jo Ford of Mackinac Animal Aid Association told *The St. Ignace News* November 14.

— *The Newberry News*

### 50th Anniversary Commemorates Loss of the Carl D. Bradley

In Rogers City, a week of special events is planned to commemorate the sinking of the *Carl D. Bradley* November 18, 1958. Events began Saturday, November 15, and continue through Sunday, November 23. Thirty-three lives were lost and two were saved when the ship went down in northern Lake Michigan. Most of the seamen were from Rogers City.

The former publisher of the *Presque Isle County Advance*, Harry Whitely, recalls in a report published last week that he was crossing the center span of the Mackinac Bridge, heading north to an Upper Peninsula deer camp, at the same time the *Bradley* passed below the bridge west-bound on November 14, 1958. A friend traveling with him remarked, "There goes the *Bradley* on her last trip," meaning the last trip of the season. She sank on her return trip to Rogers City.

This year's annual bell ringing ceremony Tuesday was moved to the Rogers City High School gymnasium in anticipation of a large crowd. For the first time, the original *Bradley* bell, recovered from the ship in 2007, was to be rung by a family member of each person lost on the ship, while the image of each lost sailor was projected on a large screen. The annual ceremony is organized by the Great Lakes Lore Maritime Museum.

— *Presque County Advance*

### Northern Michigan Tribe's \$120 Million Debt Puts It on 'Vulnerable' List

With \$120 million in debt, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians is listed among companies considered "vulnerable to default" by Standards & Poor's business analysts. The northern Michigan tribe is one of 181 global companies listed as "weak links" in the debt market. The list was published in *Business Week*.

The tribe's competition from the Grand Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians' new facility and a lack of diversity in its gaming operations were reasons given for the rating. Analysts are "highly concerned" about the tribe's ability to generate enough earnings to make its payments, and gave it a low B- rating among industries in the gaming sector.

The tribe's chairman is Frank Ettawageshik.

— *Petoskey News-Review*

### Is It Snowmobile Season Yet?

An eight-inch snowfall in the Gaylord area over the weekend of November 8 and 9 prompted a flurry of phone calls asking whether the snowmobile trails are now open, the Gaylord Area Convention and Tourism Bureau reported last week.

"We're getting our hopes up" for the season, said bureau director Paul Beachnau in a published report.

Snowmobile dealers in that area have reported brisk sales this fall, and long range weather forecasts suggest a favorable upcoming winter for the sport.

Trails throughout northern Michigan officially open December 1.

— *Gaylord Herald Times*