

# St. Ignace Kiwanis Club Presents Gifts to Community, Just in Time for Christmas

By Karen Gould

Three days before Christmas, St. Ignace Kiwanis Club representatives presented gifts to residents at Long Term Care, \$500 to the St. Ignace Food Pantry to buy food for distribution, and \$250 to the city Recreation Department to purchase helmets for those learning to skate.

It was the second year Long Term Care residents at Mackinac Straits Hospital received holiday gifts from the club. The bags of goodies, including a certificate to the hair salon, proved so popular last year the organization decided to continue the program, said Lynne Piippo, club president.

"We do a lot of things for children through the year," said Mrs. Piippo, "and this gives Kiwanis a chance to respect our elders."

The salon certificate is helpful for those on limited budgets, said Mrs. Piippo. The service is not covered by other programs and this gives the residents a chance to get a haircut or other salon service.



The St. Ignace Kiwanis Club contributes \$250 to help purchase helmets for the Learn to Skate program at Little Bear East Arena Monday, December 22. The program is offered Mondays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Pictured (from left) are Kiwanis Club member Janet Peterson, Helen Thibault of the arena, and Lori Strich, Kiwanis Club treasurer.

The gift packages were assembled by St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce junior ambassadors Morgan Ray and Sharman Colegrove, who volunteered for the

project. The sixth grade girls assembled 63 gift bags that included hand lotion, a card, salon certificate, and candy.

"It just gives me a good feeling," said Miss Colegrove after working on the project.

Miss Ray agreed.

"I find it kind of fascinating to



Gift bags and money to pay for a salon visit were given to Mackinac Straits Hospital Long Term Care residents Monday, December 22, from the St. Ignace Kiwanis Club. Pictured are (from left) St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce junior ambassadors Morgan Ray and Sharman Colegrove, joined by Recreation Therapist Treasa Paquin, Kiwanis Club Secretary Janet Peterson, President Lynne Piippo, and Treasurer Lori Strich.

help out others," she said. "It makes me feel all warm inside."

At the Food Pantry, coordinator Tom Schenkel was surprised and appreciative when club secre-

tary Janet Peterson and treasurer Lori Strich presented the organization with a \$500 contribution to buy needed food. The pantry distributes the food to families in

need of assistance.

"This year," said Mr. Schenkel, "we can really use this. So many people are hurting this year."

Across town at Little Bear East Arena, Helen Thibault of the recreation department was pleased to receive the \$250 to buy helmets for students taking skating lessons.

The Kiwanis Club raised money for the gifts at a variety of local fundraisers throughout the year, including fish dinners and book sales.

## Tribe Offers New Home Buying Plan

A new program will help low income tribal members save money for the purchase of their own home, and information sessions are scheduled in St. Ignace, Sault Ste. Marie, and Newberry next week to explain the program. Offered by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the program will match people's savings deposits in a home ownership account. Tribal members who live in Chippewa, Mackinac, and Luce counties may participate.

Sault Tribe Housing Authority's "Let's Save" program will allow members to deposit \$50 to \$75 into a special savings account, called an individual development account, to work toward the purchase of a home. Participants' savings deposits will be matched 2.5 to 1 to help families willing to save regularly for two to three years.

Upcoming information sessions will be held at the following times and dates to explain the program:

Chi Mukwa Hospitality Room, Sault Ste. Marie: Tuesday, January 6, at 6 p.m.

Newberry Community Center, Newberry: Wednesday, January 7, at 6 p.m.

Kewadin Shores Conference Room, St. Ignace: Thursday, January 8, at 6 p.m.

Sault Tribe Housing Authority will build four new homes in the St. Ignace area within the next two years. Families interested in these homes must be eligible and signed up for the Let's Save program.

The program is part of a new and innovative approach to combating poverty that focuses not just on meeting the most immediate needs of low-income families, but also on the long-term benefits of helping working poor families acquire a modest but decisive stake in their communities, the tribe reported. The program is supported by Central Savings Bank, which will be the depository for each participant's savings account.

To qualify, participants must meet income guidelines (annual income of less than \$42,900 for a family of three, for example), and must have some regular source of earned income. In addition, all program participants take part in a 12-part personal finance and money management workshop series. This personal finance workshop series is presented with assistance from partner banks.

More information is available from Sault Tribe Housing Authority.

## \$9,000 Raised So Far for New Veterans Van, DAV Reports

Billie Clark of Moran reports that \$9,000 of the necessary \$15,000 has been raised to buy a new van to transport veterans to and from the Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center in Iron Mountain.

A fish fry is being planned in the spring to continue fundraising. Other fundraisers have included a fish fry in October, a "Forget Me Not" drive at the St. Ignace Car Show in June, and a bake sale on Veterans Day.

The current van has turned 128,000 miles in its two years of service, picking up veterans throughout the Eastern U.P., transporting them to Iron Mountain, then taking them home after their medical appointments. There is no cost to veterans for the service.

Iron Mountain is 396 miles round trip from St. Ignace, and the van's 30-gallon tank holds just enough fuel to make that journey.

The VA supplies gasoline at its Iron Mountain facilities, plus \$25

gas cards should more be required.

There are six unpaid volunteer drivers: Ron Dahms, Christopher Stearns, John McKinnon, and Joe Thibault, all of St. Ignace, Wayne Harding of Rudyard, and Gino Giordani of Moran.

Veteran status is not necessary to be a driver, Mrs. Clark reports. "We need drivers," she said.

Some drivers log 600 to 800 miles a day transporting vets from Cedarville, Sault Ste. Marie, or Drummond Island.

Mrs. Clark, adjutant and treasurer of the St. Ignace Disabled American Veterans Chapter 93, is the scheduler, matching drivers and veterans with the veterans' appointments.

Donations to the program, sponsored by St. Ignace DAV Chapter 93, may be made by calling 643-9369. Checks should be written to DAV Chapter 93 and mailed to P.O. Box 42, Moran, Michigan 49760.

## 92 Enjoy Christmas Luncheon at Fenlon Center



Workers at Mackinac County Community Action Agency in St. Ignace hosted 92 people for the annual Christmas luncheon Monday, December 22, serving roast beef, mashed potatoes, asparagus, and several side dishes, with cheesecake for dessert. The Mackinac County Christmas Toy Drive donated \$200 to admit elderly residents to the meal at no charge. Those who helped serve the lunches were (front, from left) Sheri Gould, Darlene Brown, Patrick McCrory, Donna Robach; (back) Don Wright and Al Stempki.

## Laninga, Brey of Mackinaw City Take First Police Assignments

### 83 New State Police Recruits Join Force

Eighty three new Michigan State Police troopers began their new jobs across the state Monday, December 22, all graduates of the first group of recruits to join the force since 2004. Two Mackinaw City men were among the group. Adam Laninga has been assigned to the L'Anse satellite police post, and Jacob Brey will join the Cadillac post. No new recruits have been assigned to police posts in *The St. Ignace News* coverage area.

The 121st Trooper Recruit School began August 10, 2008, and accepted 101 prospective troopers selected from more than 4,000 applicants.

The recruits were trained for 19 weeks at the Michigan State Police Training Academy in Lansing.

Training includes patrol techniques, report writing, ethics, first aid, criminal law, crime scene processing, firearms, water safety, defensive tactics, and precision driving.

Of the class of 83 graduates, 79 members are male and four are female. Fifty-nine have college degrees, 14 have served in the United States military, and 19 have prior law enforcement experience, including nine who previously served as Michigan State Police motor carrier officers.

The class was graduated Friday, December 19, at the Lansing Center.

With the addition of these troopers, there are 1,084 troopers assigned to posts statewide.

## Lights Out for Some as Weather Brings Down Trees, Power Lines

### 150 in Brevort Without Electricity Sunday

Cloverland Electric Cooperative and Edison Sault Electric attributed power outages in the county to a series of storms that traveled through the region last week.

Extreme weather conditions, including rain, freezing rain, snow, and high winds, brought down trees and power lines, said company representatives Monday.

About 1,000 customers were without power Sunday, December 28, said Wendy Malaska, a spokeswoman for Cloverland Electric Cooperative. The outages were the result of downed wires and trees falling on wires.

Crews began responding to outages early Sunday and by 9 p.m. power had been restored to most customers. During that time, about 150 customers in Brevort were without power.

As winds increased to about 30 miles per hour in the Straits Monday afternoon, December 29, the company began responding to new outages across the region.

Cloverland Electric serves 19,000 customers in Mackinac, Luce, Chippewa, and a portion of Schoolcraft counties.

A couple of downed wires caused sporadic minor power outages in St. Ignace over the weekend of December 27 and 28, as a result of the weather, said Craig Davidson, manager of Edison Sault's St. Ignace division, including an outage at Maverick Construction's building on North State Street. No residences were without power for more than a moment or two.

"There was nothing major," he said. "We've been pretty lucky. Extensive tree trimming has been very helpful."

## Les Cheneaux Students Perform Carols



The Les Cheneaux Elementary fourth grade class sings a traditional Canadian Christmas carol during the district's Winter Music Program Wednesday, December 17. Elementary music teacher Betty Struble (seated at right) conducts the students. (Photograph by Amy Polk)