

# Gardeners, Cooks, Crafters Offer Wares Every Saturday Morning at St. Ignace Marina

By Michael Ayala

Fresh fruit, vegetables, and homemade bread are available at the St. Ignace Farmers Market at the city marina every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Other vendors, such as deer hunter Aaron Schultz, sell handmade tools and crafts.

Mr. Schultz displayed his collection of arrowheads, longbows, knives, and arrows at the June 13 market. All of his wares are handmade. A hunter for 50 years, Mr. Schultz has crafted his own equipment for 40 years.

Timothy LaJoice of St. Ignace is among the market vendors. Mr. LaJoice sells his children's books about beavers and other natural wildlife found in the area. A college children's literature project propelled Mr. LaJoice into the writing world while also working as a park naturalist at Historic Mill Creek near Mackinaw City. Mr. LaJoice's project impressed his peers so much they suggested he should try publishing books, he said.

"I didn't know I had it in me," Mr. LaJoice said.

Mr. LaJoice has been selling his self-published books at the farmers market for three seasons. Some are printed in color, while others are in black in white for children to color



St. Ignace restaurant cook Ray Amacher is a vendor at the St. Ignace Farmers Market, selling his homemade sauces and glazes. Mr. Amacher has also sells his wares through several restaurants in town.

themselves.

Becky Simmons of St. Ignace sells a variety of jewelry and crafts made from stones, glass, and even fish vertebrae. Ms. Simmons specializes in working with natural materials, some of which she finds in other nearby areas, such as Traverse City. She sometimes finds it hard to part with her handmade jewelry, she said, rather than to keep it for herself.

Some vendors have been able to

use the market to introduce their new products. Ray Amacher, a cook for the Driftwood Restaurant in St. Ignace, sold bottles of his homemade sauces and glazes at the June 13 market. He uses many of the same sauces at the restaurant. When he thinks of a sauce flavor combination that could be tasty, he whips up a batch and tests it out, he said.

Many of the vendors have reported successful sales since the



Aaron Schultz (right), a hunter for more than 50 years, sells handmade hunting equipment and arrowheads at the St. Ignace Farmers Market June 13.

Saturday market began May 23. Eleanor Wark of St. Ignace nearly sold out of her homemade bread, while Lylene Hillman of Sault Ste. Marie sold all of her duck eggs within an hour.

Karen Carrington, an herb vendor, said while she was unable to sell anything last year at the St. Ignace Farmers Market, this year, sales have been excellent for her stand. She believes the lamppost



Timothy LaJoice of St. Ignace, a park naturalist and substitute teacher, has sold many of his children's books at the St. Ignace Farmers Market.

banners that promote the market downtown contribute to her sales surge.

The St. Ignace Farmers Market will continue throughout the summer, opening each Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. More fresh produce and products will become available as the growing season progresses.

## Farm Market Revived in Pickford on Thursdays

Sixteen vendors from around the Eastern Upper Peninsula gathered to sell fresh produce, eggs, fish, herbs, and handcrafted goods Thursday, June 25, at the first week of the revived Pickford Farmers Market. The market is scheduled for Thursday evenings from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. through October.

Market Master Sheila Bergdoll said about 125 people attended the market at the Pickford Township Hall parking lot.

"The market is about forming relationships with the people who grow your food," she said. "Customers can ask specific questions about how the food was grown. This is food security for the seller and the consumer."

Vendors at the market included Dale Kriesche of Rudyard, selling fresh produce and plants; Karen Carrington of Sault Ste. Marie, selling perennial plants and planters; Harvey O'Brien of Kinross, selling Maple Syrup and plants; Amy Polk of Cedarville, selling fresh herbs, soaps, and dog treats; Alyson Obermiller of Kincheloe, selling



Robert and Betty Fairchild of Goetzville sell honey at their vendor table during the Pickford Farmers Market Thursday, June 25, at Pickford Township Hall. (Photograph courtesy of Sheila Bergdoll)

handmade jewelry; Eleanor Wark of Trout Lake, selling baked goods; Frank Blissett and Lylene Hillman of Bruce Township, selling chicken and duck eggs, and dog treats; Robert and Betty Fairchild of Goetzville, selling honey; Cheryl Stevens of Sault Ste. Marie, selling handcrafted pottery and jewelry; Orv Kabat of Rudyard, selling

inspected bison meat; Harrison Bosley of Pickford, selling fresh produce; Rory Parrish of Brimley, selling fresh fish; Daniel Shurland of Kinross, selling handcrafted iron work weathervanes; John and Cindy Dutcher of Raber Township, selling chicken and eggs; Diane Rector of Fibre, selling organic produce, and Neil Hinton of Pickford, selling fresh produce.

Biz-E-Bee Enterprises of Pickford sold food and refreshments during Thursday's market, while Ryan Harrison of Cedarville played guitar and sang. The market is enjoying a revival after dissolving a few years ago owing to lack of support from customers and vendors.

## Secretary of State Offices To Be Closed

All Secretary of the State branch offices will be closed Friday, July 3, Saturday, July 4, and Monday, July 6. The traditional observance of Independence Day will also include a mandatory state employee furlough day, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land announced Thursday,

With the exception of holidays, branch offices are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Smaller branch offices may close for the lunch hour. Wednesday, most offices are open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## Editorial

### Needed: An Extra Large Thinking Cap

By Ken Drenth  
Eastern Upper Peninsula  
Intermediate School District

Someone recently asked me if I thought the state would eventually mandate school consolidation. I responded by saying, "No, they don't have to mandate it, as finances will drive the decision."

The "C" word carries "politically deadly" connotations and even local school board members are reluctant to use the word for fear of being "non-supportive" of the local school and community.

The fact that the question was raised made me realize that some people, especially in smaller communities, who are reading about the finances of the local schools, are starting to understand that having a local school as we now know and love may soon not be financially feasible. It is very difficult now and if current projections are correct the problem is going to get more difficult,

much more difficult. I am writing this article as I am convinced that having a basic understanding of what is presently happening with school funding will place this issue in a clearer perspective and set the stage for some serious planning. The forecasts are too dire for us to think we can continue business as usual. It also takes time and thought to develop and implement any proposed changes and our time is running short!

Since 1994 (Proposal A), public school districts in Michigan are paid based on the number of students enrolled. Each district receives a "Foundation Grant" which is multiplied by the number of enrolled students. That Foundation Grant varies slightly from district to district, depending what the district was spending in 1993. The money for this Foundation Grant comes from two primary sources. Each

homestead property owner pays 6 mills, which are forwarded to the state. Additionally, non-homestead property owners pay another 18 mills, which are all kept locally. When enrollments are known, they are then multiplied by the Foundation Grant. If the 18 non-homestead local mills do not generate enough money to cover the Foundation Grant, then the state (from the 6 mills and other sources) makes up the difference.

According to the state's present revenue projections, it does not have enough money to make up the difference needed for this year, which ends June 30. To make up this shortfall, the state is using Federal Stimulus Funds. For the 2009-10 school year, the state is proposing to use a much larger portion of the Federal Stimulus Funds, as well as cut-

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## New Roof Approved Over Bar's Deck at Hessel

By Jonathan Eppley

The Clark Township Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) approved a variance for a roof over the deck at the Islander Bar in Hessel Tuesday, June 23. The non-conforming roof would have likely been approved at a May zoning meeting, but was postponed owing to a vacancy left by former zoning inspector Frank Sims, who left the township's employ May 14.

The addition of the roof is part of a refurbishing project at the Hessel restaurant and bar and is the only non-conforming part of the project to require approval from the ZBA. The cooler and storage area

at the establishment will also be torn down and rebuilt, projects previously approved by Mr. Sims.

Islander Bar owner Greg Bohn said he started the work without ZBA approval because he wanted construction to be completed before his busy season of July and August.

"We started only because of the time frame," he said. "Because of the lack of having an inspector, I thought that it was just going to take too long for me to have that done. I didn't want to be under construction in the middle of my busy season."

He said the addition of a roof to the deck will protect patrons from

the weather and act as a sound buffer for neighboring properties. He informed the zoning board that he contacted neighboring property owners to get their consent before going ahead with the project.

Mr. Bohn assured the zoning board he was aware there could be repercussions, but took a chance and started the work, anyway.

"I thought we were going to have a zoning meeting June 2 to get things to go ahead, but we had lost Frank [Sims], and I heard the next meeting wouldn't be until now," he said. "I didn't want to be under construction during the two months that I can make money, so I rolled the dice, hoping the zoning board would approve the variance, and I went ahead and did it."

The board had no objections to the roof, or its premature construction, and unanimously approved the variance as a non-conforming use.

"I think that Greg [Bohn] got caught in the middle of a situation that wasn't of his creation because of Frank [Sims] quitting; we didn't have a building inspector on board to do things. I think we [the ZBA] probably would have voted on this weeks ago," said Mike Lofdahl, Clark Township board's liaison to the zoning board. "The time delay wasn't his fault and he said he had to get things done."

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**Happy Independence Day!**

All Soo Co-op Credit Union Offices will close at 1:00 P.M. on Friday July 3rd, and will remain closed on July 4th. SCCU will re-open Monday July 6th for regular Business hours.

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