

Tassiers Ship Syrup to U.S. Embassy in Moscow

By Jonathan Eppley

When the order was placed last month via e-mail, Deb Tassier didn't believe it was real; she thought it was some kind of scam. Someone in Russia had found the Web site for the Cedarville maple syrup company she owns and operates with husband Dan Tassier, Tassier's Sugar Bush, and wanted to order 50 gift-boxes of maple syrup and maple-flavored candies to be shipped to Moscow.

"They contacted me by e-mail and I was like, 'Hmm, yeah right,'" she said in disbelief. "There's a lot of maple syrup Web sites and a lot of them are in Michigan. I don't know why they chose us."

The e-mail from around the world was legitimate and the Tassiers were happy to fill it. The order came from the office of the U.S. Ambassador to Russia, John Beyrle, who is originally from Muskegon.

Other than the fact that Ambassador Beyrle is from Michigan, Mrs. Tassier doesn't know how his office found out about their syrup.

"It's a mystery. I really don't know," she said. "I know they asked for 50 gift-boxes and they knew what they wanted."

Ambassador Beyrle responded to an inquiry from *The St. Ignace News* Thursday, September 10, with a telephone call from Moscow, which is eight time zones ahead, while watching

streamed video of the Detroit Tigers versus the Kansas City Royals baseball game on the Internet; it was about 11 p.m. at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

He said he plans to give the gift-boxes from Tassier's to Russian officials as Christmas gifts.

"It's just something a little more than a card," he said. "It gives them a little taste of America and a little taste of Michigan."

He said he found Tassier's by researching maple syrup companies in Michigan online.

The large order caught Deb and Dan Tassier off guard and they had to hurry to fill the order, which needed to be "shipped as soon as possible." They had the syrup ready, but had to package it in 250-milliliter bottles at the ambassador's request, which they typically don't stock. They also had to quickly make 400 maple leaf-shaped candies, made from churned maple sugar, and 200 ounces of maple-glazed pecans. Mrs. Tassier said they don't typically stock those items in bulk because they have a shelf-life of about three months. The pecans were made by Wilderness Treasures in Pickford with the Tassier's maple sugar.

"We didn't have enough for the 50 crates. It's one of those we don't ever sell that large of an order at once. It's always, maybe, one or two or 10 that we have on stock," Mrs. Tassier said. "We've

been working steady for a week and we packed these all up [Monday, September 7], to get them all ready to be shipped."

The Tassiers have shipped their products to countries including Germany, Africa, Australia, England, and the Netherlands, as well as all over the U.S.

"Russia is probably the furthest we've shipped. We've done a lot of foreign countries before, but never Russia," she said. "It's not the largest order we've ever had, but it's the largest and furthest at the same time. We've had orders up to about 75 gift-boxes before."

The \$1,300 order is being shipped to New Jersey first, where it will then be processed through the U.S. State Department's mail system and sent across the Atlantic Ocean. Ambassador Beyrle said it will take about two months for the gift-boxes to reach Moscow, just in time for the holidays.

Ambassador Beyrle was appointed as the U.S. Ambassador to Russia in 2008 by then-President George W. Bush. He previously served as the U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria in 2005 until his appointment as Russian ambassador, which is a three-year term.

This year, Deb and Dan Tassier have harvested about 75,000 gallons of maple sap from 3,000 tree taps. That translates into about 1,500 gallons of syrup.



Deb Tassier of Cedarville holds a gift-box filled with a bottle of maple syrup, and packages of maple-sugar covered pecans and maple-sugar candies. Fifty of these gift-boxes are packed in the six large cardboard boxes on the floor next to her, headed toward Moscow. The U.S. Ambassador to Russia plans to give them as Christmas gifts to Russian officials.

Engadine Consolidated Schools

by Angie McArthur Superintendent

HOME OF THE EAGLES • KNOWLEDGE LETS YOU SOAR



Homecoming Week began with the Powderpuff Football Game and then the bonfire Monday evening, September 21. Students worked on floats Tuesday and Wednesday. Spirit Week culminates with a pep rally Friday. The Homecoming Parade will be in Engadine Friday, September 25, at 4:30 p.m. Cheer the Eagles on to victory at the game Friday night at 7 p.m. against the Powers North Central Jets. Go Eagles!

Our Lady Eagles continue on with a great season, traveling to

compete against DeTour Thursday, September 24. Good luck!

Tutoring services will begin in early October. Anyone interested in having their child tutored, please contact Lawrence Vincent at (906) 477-6313, extension 113.

Most students are making great efforts to meet the rigorous academic expectations of the Michigan Merit Curriculum and Grade Level Content Expectations. For those who are struggling, we want to provide early intervention services.

GLAD testing will be administered over the next few weeks.

This is a local assessment developed by our intermediate school district. It will be given to students in grades 1 through 8 as a pre-test in September, a progress monitoring in December/January, and a post-test in May measure. Please assist your student. A good night's sleep and a good breakfast is a great start.

Matelski Lumber has donated chips for the playground, wood for the bonfire, and materials for our industrial arts program. Especially in tough economic times, we truly appreciate their assistance.

Bake Sale To Help St. Ignace Family

Homemade bread and cinnamon rolls will be for sale Saturday, September 26, at 9 a.m. at Glen's Market in St. Ignace. Proceeds of the bake sale will go the family of Artie Boucha of St. Ignace for travel and medical expenses.

DeTour Girl Scouts Sign-up Is Monday

Girl Scouts of Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc. will host a registration for all girls in grades kindergarten through 12th grade at DeTour Elementary School Monday, September 28, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Stupak Offers Telephone Meeting

Congressman Bart Stupak will host a telephone town hall meeting Wednesday, September 30, at 6 p.m. The telephone town hall meeting will allow residents of the First Congressional District to ask questions on a range of issues, including health care and the econ-

omy.

Those who wish to participate can sign-up by visiting Congressman Stupak's Web site at www.house.gov/stupak and selecting "E-mail and Telephone Town Hall Sign-up" or by calling (800) 950-7371.

Commission Mulls Bike Path Request

Signs: From page 15

the area, she said, as more and more people are interested in visiting areas with bike paths.

The grant would defray 80% of the construction costs incurred by the path, Mrs. Brown said. The remaining 20% of construction and construction engineering costs would be obtained through fundraising. As the applicant to the grant, the road commission would be responsible for the maintenance of the trail. Maintenance costs would come from fundraising as well, she said.

Mr. Doty expressed his desire to help the committee, but was concerned about the road commission being held accountable for the path's maintenance. If the committee dissolved, the commission would ultimately be responsible for paying for the path's upkeep.

"I don't want to see the project stalled, but I want to protect the funds that we have," he said.

Mr. Heckman suggested examining how Emmet and Charlevoix counties approached the funding of their bike path in light of Mr. Doty's

concerns, and the commission will do so before making a decision. He agreed the Les Cheneaux bike path is an excellent project, but the road commission lacks the funding to shoulder it.

Shop Truck Purchased

A shop truck was purchased for \$3,990 for the east district garage on St. Ignace Road near Hessel, Mr. Heckman said. The truck will carry road construction tools, reducing the need to return to the shop to retrieve needed equipment.

7th Annual

OKTOBERFEST!

Sat., Sept. 26th
Noon to Midnight
Portage Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, MI
(between Ashmun St. and Gov. Osborn Blvd.)

Fire Dept. Open House & Dedication of New Truck

Farmer's Market
Interesting & Unique Vendors
Food & Beverages All Day

Downtown Restaurants and Taverns will be Serving on the Street

Fun Activities for Kids of All Ages.
Live Music 4 p.m. - Midnight

Come Celebrate the end of Summer in Downtown Sault Ste. Marie!

SCHEDULE A FREE RETIREMENT REVIEW.

Bill McLeod
Financial Advisor
939 East Portage Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
906-632-4985

www.edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

For additional information or to register as a vendor, contact Lee at 906-635-6973

Why buy from Wheeler Motors?

NO GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS

UP TO \$4500 FOR YOUR VEHICLE

CASH FOR CLUNKERS

Still happening at Wheeler's on new & used vehicles

NEW & USED VEHICLES APPLY

PUSH, PULL OR DRAG IT IN!!!

0% APR for 72 months

09 Chevy Impala

09 Chevy Avalanche

Leasing is BACK!

2010 Chevrolet Traverse

\$299/mo.*

\$1499 cash or trade down

Great Used Car Deals... all these at \$6,995

03 Ford Windstar #4470P

03 Chevy Cavalier #4486A

04 Chevy Impala #9388A

03 Hyundai #4456A

September is Customer Appreciation Month

Best Rates Guaranteed... as low as 0%

Purchase any new or used vehicle and let us find you the very best rate available!!!
No hassle On-the-Spot financing.
All applications accepted.
Call or stop by to see Ami
231-627-7126 • 800-422-1601
Coupon expires 9-30-09

10% OFF of any Rental Rate

Present this coupon and receive 10% off of your rental. Daily, weekly, monthly rates available.

Shop local.

Coupon expires 9-30-09

10% OFF Accessories

Present this coupon and receive 10% off any accessory purchase. Personalize your vehicle by adding splash guards, spoiler kits, bigger wheels, and remote starters. Check out gmaccessorieszone.com for ideas.

Call us for a quote
231-627-7126 • 800-422-1601
Coupon expires 9-30-09

\$50 OFF your Deductible

Present this coupon and receive \$50 off your deductible for any work done in the collision department.

Coupon expires 9-30-09

FREE GPS

Present this coupon and receive a GPS system with the purchase of any new or used vehicle. Never ask for directions again!!

Coupon expires 9-30-09

Winter Inspection with Oil Change Special \$19⁹⁵*

(Reg. \$26.95) Must Present Coupon

- Anti-freeze
- Cooling system
- Battery
- Lights
- Wiper blades
- Windshield washer fluid
- Tires
- Oil
- Oil change
- Oil filter change

**Additional charges apply for diesel & synthetic. Shop charges & taxes not included. Up to 5 qts. oil*

Coupon expires 9-25-09

Upcoming Event

Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon

Friday, October 9, 11am - 2pm • Live Music & Prizes

Watch the Cheboygan Tribune & Shopper's Fair for more information

Wheeler Motors
Chevrolet - Buick

Your **Tires for Life** Dealer

11401 N. STRAITS HWY., CHEBOYGAN, MI 49721
(231) 627-1266
(800) 422-1601
wheelermotors.com