

Focus Will Be on 1890s for McGulpin Lighthouse Museum

By Michael Ayala

Creating an 1890s atmosphere in McGulpin Point Lighthouse is one of several plans that Jim Tamlyn, chairman of the Emmet County Board of Commissioners, has for the Mackinaw City destination. Mr. Tamlyn detailed his ideas during a speech made to the Mackinaw Area Historical Society Monday, November 9, at the Mackinaw Area Public Library.

The 1890s will be the era depicted because the lighthouse offers a greater visual history than, Mr. Tamlyn explained to *The*

St. Ignace News. Many written documents from when the lighthouse was established in 1869 are available, he said, but the photographs of the 1890s can offer visitors an idea of what the lighthouse and the keepers who stayed there looked like.

Filling the lighthouse with authentic 1890s furniture and other items is part of Mr. Tamlyn's goal. A couch, pottery, and potbelly stove from that era have been donated to the lighthouse, and a family from Indianapolis, Indiana, donated a pipe organ, as well.

The lighthouse also received a

flat rock donation, something that was used in that era for warmth. People then were afraid of leaving their stoves on in fear of their houses burning down, Mr. Tamlyn said, so flat stones were placed by the stove throughout the day and heated. When people retired for the night, they brought the heated rock with them to bed to keep them warm.

As the lighthouse site is developed, it will show visitors what life was like in Mackinaw City in the 1890s. Seeing an 1890s Christmas could be charming, he told the crowd, so the lighthouse

will be open during the Christmas in Mackinaw event. Christmas in Mackinaw takes place in Mackinaw City Friday, December 4, through Sunday, December 6.

Also under discussion is how to use the lighthouse during the off season for fundraisers, Mr. Tamlyn said. Offering a Thanksgiving raffle where a winner and his family could be treated to an entire Thanksgiving dinner at the lighthouse is one idea, for instance. The raffle idea has not been formally explored yet, Mr. Tamlyn said.

Promoting the site is a double-

edged sword. Preserving the lighthouse and its history is important, but money must also be raised to maintain and promote it.

"This is not about turning a dollar, but it is," he said.

Visitation to the lighthouse has been steady in its first year as a public museum. It was opened to the public May 30. The chamber received many calls asking about the lighthouse, and visitors have added it to their list of destinations, according to the chamber of commerce. Numbers of tour guests weren't counted, Mr. Tamlyn said, but four guest regis-

tration books were filled by the end of the season.

"It absolutely added to the flavor of the area," said Dawn Edwards, executive director of the Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber members have handed out brochures about the lighthouse, she said, and have promoted visiting it since it was opened to the public this year. Mrs. Edwards noted it is popular with lighthouse enthusiasts and those looking for "hidden treasures" while visiting Mackinaw City.

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Asian Carp Have Breached Electric Barrier, Tests Show Invasive Species Threatens Great Lakes

Conservation groups called for immediate measures to close all Illinois gateways and locks with access to Lake Michigan in a last-ditch effort to keep the destructive Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes after it was learned Friday, November 20, that carp have likely advanced past the electric barrier designed to keep them out and are present just six miles south of Lake Michigan. Carp DNA, but not actual fish, has been detected in water samples taken past the electric barrier, the Army Corps of Engineers acknowledged Friday. This puts the species about 20 miles closer to Lake Michigan than previously thought.

Even as researchers learned the carp had likely breached the barrier, an emergency plan is being made to treat six miles of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal with a fish-killing poison to avert a Great Lakes invasion by the oversized Asian carp. The plan is to be put in place December 2.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will shut down the southernmost of two electric barriers in the canal for routine maintenance on that date. Erected to keep Asian carp out of Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes, the barrier was turned to high voltage earlier this fall to ward off carp that have been drawing ever nearer.

Working in concert with the corps, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources plans December 3 to treat six miles of the canal between the barrier and the Lockport Lock and Dam with rotenone, a pesticide that is deadly to fish but does not present a risk to people and wildlife.

The pesticide is needed to prevent any fish from reaching the weaker northern barrier – the final stop before the Asian carp gain passage to the world's largest surface freshwater system. Water quality experts with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will be monitoring downstream of the application zone to ensure the waters of the state are protected, and the chemicals do not move beyond the designated application area.

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College Partners With Great Waters Center 3 College Courses Will Be Offered in St. Ignace

North Central Michigan College, based in Petoskey, will offer three college-level courses in St. Ignace starting January 18, 2010. The courses will be offered at LaSalle High School.

"Communications 170 - Interpersonal Communication" will be Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:20 p.m. Designed to develop communication skills in the context of interpersonal relationships, small groups, and society as a whole, course will include writing, speaking, collaborative and independent learning, role playing, independent research, and written reports.

"English 111 - English Composition I" will be Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 8:20 p.m. The course emphasizes language skills, particularly essay writing, reading, speaking, and listening. Reading and writing are explored in the general categories of description, narration, exposition, argumentation, and writing on demand.

"Business 161 - Introduction to Business" will be Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. The course will introduce students to business topics, activities, and problems, including capitalism, communism, socialism, the stock market, bond market, banking, insurance, management, labor relations, accounting, and business ethics.

Courses are part of the general education curriculum at North Central and are transferable to other colleges and universities. Registration requires enrollment in North Central. Students should go to the college's Web site, www.ncmich.edu, and click on the Student and Community Portal to register. Registration begins Wednesday, November 18, and continues through January 15.

To offer the classes, the college is partnering with the Great Waters Center for Lifelong Learning, an initiative in St. Ignace that seeks to bring college courses, GED, vocational training, and community enrichment programs to the area. For more information about the Great Waters Center, contact the St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce at 643-6545.

Appeals Court Upholds Samphere Case Decision

The Michigan Court of Appeals upheld the conviction and sentencing of Kevin Samphere of St. Ignace November 10, ruling that he has been appropriately sentenced to 15 years in state prison in a 2006 child abuse case in which a four-year-old boy suffered burns in a bathtub of hot water at Mr. Samphere's home.

The case was tried by jury in 2007 in 11th Circuit Court in Mackinac County before Judge William Carmody. Mr. Samphere appealed the case in a Marquette courtroom May 12, 2009, and the appeals court released its decision November 10.

Although Mr. Samphere's lawyers raised the question of whether there was sufficient evidence to support an intent of child abuse in the case, the panel of three appeals court judges upheld the jury's decision. The appeals court did rule that it was inappropriate to consider the hot water as a weapon in this case, a finding that does not change the outcome or the sentencing, said Fred Feleppa, Mackinac County prosecutor, who also argued the case before the appeals court. The finding will be noted in court records.

The time frame between the trial and the appeal, and between the appeal and the decision, is typical in Michigan courts, Mr. Feleppa said.

The only other court where the case could be appealed at this point would be the Michigan Supreme Court, if it were to be asked to hear the case and if it would agree to hear it.

Mr. Samphere is serving a five year to 15 year sentence at Parnall Correctional Facility, a minimum-security prison at Jackson.

St. Ignace Children Practice Handwashing To Fight Flu

Health Dept. Team Visits Local Schools

By Mark Tower

Students at St. Ignace Elementary School received a fun, participatory tutorial on hand washing and germ control on Wednesday, November 4, from the "flu fighters" of the Luce, Mackinac, Alger, and Schoolcraft (LMAS) District Health Department.

This germ-fighting program is being offered to all school districts in the area and, through group activities and a short video, educates students about what germs are, how to cover coughs, proper hand washing, and the use of hand sanitizers. In St. Ignace, students from kindergarten through fourth grade participated.

Children in the United States catch 6 to 10 colds each year and nearly 22 million student school days are lost each year to the common cold, according to LMAS.

The interactive, one-hour presentation is aimed at students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

Jennifer Hubble, Scott Barr, and Linda Smith from LMAS helped students at St. Ignace understand how germs are spread and the importance of hand washing. The trio used visual aids to communicate their message, like using a water spray bottle to show how coughs and sneezes propel germs into the air.

The students made armbands to mark the spot where they should cover their face when they sneeze.

Second and third graders passed around little germ bean bags covered with white powder to illustrate how long germs stay on their hands and how only a thorough hand washing will eliminate the danger.

"They had fun," Mrs. Hubble said as Mrs. Shepard's second grade class left the room. "That's what they need to do - have fun. Not be lectured."

St. Ignace is the second stop for the "flu fighters" after a presentation in Manistique Monday, November 2. This week, a stop is planned in Munising, though no other districts have yet signed up for the educational program.

School districts interested in receiving a visit from the "flu fighters" can call the LMAS District Health Department at (906) 341-4110.

At right: Linda Smith from LMAS Health Department helps second and third-graders at St. Ignace Elementary School trace their hands and color germs on paper. The activity was part of the "flu fighters" presentation given by LMAS to students through fourth grade. Children learned proper hand washing techniques and to cover their coughs and sneezes. The health department has offered these classroom sessions to districts across the service area. After Manistique, St. Ignace was the second district to receive the classes.



Scott Barr from Luce, Mackinac, Alger, and Schoolcraft (LMAS) Health Department shines an ultraviolet light on second-grader Austin Hepker's hands Wednesday, November 4, to reveal any dirt and germs he may have missed while washing his hands. The demonstration was part of a presentation given by the representatives from LMAS at St. Ignace schools, teaching youngsters to wash their hands and cover their coughs to fight germs that cause illness in schools.



Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Offer Bridge Tower Raffle

The Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association is selling raffle tickets for a tower tour of the Mackinac Bridge for two peo-

ple. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$5 each or five for \$20 at the association's office in Mackinaw City at 707 North

Huron Avenue, or at the Web site, www.gllka.com/store/index.htm.

Proceeds from the raffle benefit the organization's lighthouse

preservation and educational programs. The drawing for the raffle will be March 31, 2010.

Curtis Community Begins Holiday Celebrations Friday

Tree Lighting, Santa Claus Parade Planned

Curtis will begin the holiday season with "Curtis Aglow" Friday, November 27, at 6 p.m. with a Santa Claus parade and

tree lighting in Curtis.

The festivities will continue Saturday, November 28, with a Christmas Bazaar from 10 a.m. to

4 p.m. at the Erickson Center. There will be crafts, bake sales, raffles, and a visit from Santa.

Deck the Walls Silent Auction will be from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday at Chamberlin's Ole

Forest Inn. Holiday wreaths, table top trees, arrangements, and gift baskets will be auctioned off with proceeds benefiting the Erickson Center for the Arts.