

Discounted Food Available to St. Ignace Families

Deadline Is Dec. 9

Orders will be taken in St. Ignace this month for families who need discounted food through Angel Food Ministries. Food orders can be placed at the First National Bank downtown branch or orders can be made online at www.angelfoodministries.com. An average box of food contains about 21 pounds of groceries and

may be purchased for \$30.

There are no income requirements and no limit on the number of boxes an individual or family may purchase. Angel Food Ministries also offers the purchase of one or more "Special Units" that consist of meat, chicken, fruits, and vegetables. Payment for Angel food is by cash, check, or food stamp bridge card.

The due date to purchase Angel

Food is Wednesday, December 9, and delivery will be Saturday, December 19, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Catholic Center on Spring Street.

Angel Food is a nonprofit, nationwide program dedicated to providing food relief to communities throughout the United States. It can make a difference to families struggling by providing food for half the retail price. Products

are high quality, "name brand" foods consisting of both fresh and frozen items.

The Assembly of God Church in St. Ignace is the host sponsor, with all proceeds going to the St. Ignace Legacy House (Women's Shelter).

For questions, call Kathy Lawnichak at 643-7185 or Mary Lynn Swiderski at 643-1565 in the evenings.

Blaze Destroys Restroom at US-2 Roadside Park

The St. Ignace Fire Department responded to a fire at the US-2 roadside park atop Bryce's hill, just east of Cheeseman Road, early Tuesday morning, November 24.

Upon arrival around 6 a.m., firefighters found one of the restroom buildings, the men's double

outdoor restroom, fully engulfed in flames. Firefighters were able to extinguish the fire, but the building was destroyed.

The State Police from the St. Ignace post responded to the incident and, since there was no lighting or any other natural explanation, are investigating it as a

crime.

Anyone with information about the incident is encouraged to call the State Police post at 643-7582.

The restrooms had already been padlocked for the season by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

John Batchelder of MDOT said the department would replace the restroom building as soon as possible, although the roadside park

will now be closed for the winter.

The roadside park west of St. Ignace was one of the two in the U.P. that kept its gates open year around for motorists.

Owing to budgetary concerns and to prevent any future vandalism, the department plans to barricade the entrance for the rest of this winter and install a gate before next winter, Mr. Batchelder said.

McDowell Honored With Hunger for Justice Award

Representative Gary McDowell of Rudyard was honored for his work to relieve hunger in Michigan. Mr. McDowell was one of this year's Hunger for Justice Award recipients when the Food Bank Council of Michigan awarded the Hunger-Free Michigan Awards during its Michigan Harvest Gathering Celebration Luncheon Thursday, November 12, in Lansing.

The Hunger for Justice award is given annually to a policy maker whose commitment and effort has contributed to legislative changes that support the work of Michigan's emergency food network. Representative McDowell's leadership and contribution to a hunger-free Michigan is honored with this award.

Mr. McDowell, who serves Chippewa, Mackinac, Emmet and part of Cheboygan counties, has been extremely supportive of Michigan food banks through his support of the Michigan Agricultural Surplus System (MASS), the agency reported. While ultimately it was funded through appropriations in the Department of Agriculture and

Department of Human Services budgets, Mr. McDowell's efforts were essential in ensuring the continued funding of the program.

"Representative McDowell's commitment to Michigan's food banking network is a tremendous help in fighting hunger," said Jane Marshall, executive director of the food bank council. "His efforts to secure funding for the MASS program will help keep thousands of pounds of surplus crops from going to waste in 2010."

This year, the Michigan Harvest Gathering raised \$558,915 and collected 228,454 pounds of food, which will help secure nearly three million meals for Michigan's hungry. Founded in 1991 by Bill and Cynthia Schuette, the Michigan Harvest Gathering has provided more than 14 million meals for people through Michigan food banks since its creation.

The council serves as a statewide leadership for food banks. For information about the Michigan Harvest Gathering, including information about how and where to give, visit www.feedmichigan.org.

Local Blood Drives Announced

American Red Cross blood drives will be held at the following locations in December:

St. Ignace: Tuesday, December 22, from noon to 5:45 p.m. at Kewadin Shores Casino.

Sault Ste. Marie: Wednesday, December 2, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at Lake Superior State University Cislis Center; Friday, December 4, from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at Sault Tribe Health Center;

Friday, December 11, from 8:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sault Area High School.

Mackinaw City: Monday, December 14, from noon to 5:45 p.m. at Cedarbrook Village.

Cheboygan: Tuesday, December 15, from noon to 5:45 p.m. at National Guard Armory; Tuesday, December 29, from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at Fraternal Order of Eagles.

The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

359 Reagon Street, PO Box 277, Saint Ignace, MI 49781

Telephone (906) 643-9150 • Facsimile (906) 643-9122

www.SaintIgnaceNews.com

USPS Periodical Publication Number - 462-380

ESTABLISHED 1878

Published each Thursday at Saint Ignace, Mackinac County, Michigan

Entered in Saint Ignace, Michigan Post Office as Periodical Mail Matter, Act of March 3, 1879
Periodical Postage Paid at Saint Ignace, MI • Additional Postage Paid at Gaylord, MI
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. Ignace News, PO Box 277, St. Ignace, MI 49781

Volume 130, Number 35 Thursday, December 3, 2009

Publisher/Editor
Wesley H. Maurer, Jr.
Associate Publisher
Mary R. Maurer
Publisher 1975-1995
Wesley H. Maurer, Sr. (1897-1995)

Editor

Ellen Paquin, news@saintignaceneews.com
Staff Writers

Karen Gould, karen@saintignaceneews.com
Mark Tower, mark@saintignaceneews.com
Michael Ayala, mike@saintignaceneews.com

Advertising Department

Tammy Matson, David Moyalson
ads@saintignaceneews.com

Print Shop Manager
Sherry Cece

Circulation Manager
Wendy Colegrove



Subscriptions:
\$42 in Mackinac, Chippewa, Emmet, Luce, and Cheboygan counties.
\$52 elsewhere in the United States and military post offices.
\$35 for the Web edition at www.saintignaceneews.com

We take Visa, MasterCard, and Discover

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Contact Lawmakers About Forest Trail Closures

To the Editor:

I was born and raised in the EUP and have been an outdoorsman all of my life. Exploring the trails of the national forests has been a favorite pastime for me since I was very young. As I have grown older and less able to walk like I did as a young man, I have had to depend more and more on my ATV to aid me in continuing to enjoy the beauty and wonder of the Upper Peninsula. I am just one citizen, but I am finding that many others share my concerns about recent restrictions in place in our forests. This being the case, I felt I needed to take some kind of action.

The Hiawatha National Forest has many trails that have been used by citizens for recreation for well over 60 years, to my knowledge. They were created by numerous means throughout the history of the forest, such as old logging roads, homesteaders, and sportsmen. They have been access sites for all to use for so long that, in most cases, we don't even know their origin.

We purchase ATV stickers to use these trails on federal land, yet for some mysterious reason, we are restricted from using them in certain areas.

Some areas apparently are not damaged by the use of four-wheelers, while others are. This is difficult to understand and accept, especially without any notice.

What is really disturbing is the method that is being used to block off selected areas of the federal lands from citizens. There is so much waste, destruction, devastation, and cost to the taxpayer. Topsoil is wasted; large, valuable trees are killed and torn from the earth to create a barrier; smaller trees are damaged along the way, and huge, unsightly messes are left in the wake. Never, ever have I seen an ATV do any such damage. In fact, any small trace of use an ATV may leave behind would be indiscernible in one season's time or less.

Damage such as this caused by anyone other than the authorities would certainly be severely punishable.

Stores, restaurants, hotels, and national parks have to provide access to all people. How can the forest service close off old, well-traveled trails in our national forest to everything, including foot traffic, for no logical reason? The trails my wife and I saw were left with nothing but top-soil and once healthy uprooted trees to maneuver in. These trails were no longer even fit to walk on. It would seem to discriminate against everyone but an avid hiker.

I am also concerned about the amount of disturbance to the environment in areas that are wetlands. There are four-foot ruts dug right next to the natural habitat of beavers. This would be a serious violation if a citizen had done anything as destructive in this area.

"This land is your land, this land is my land" doesn't seem to hold up in this instance, and it is a very disturbing situation. I'd really like to see this decision reconsidered, the many trails opened back up, and everyone's rights respected so that we can all enjoy our beautiful national forests.

If there are others with concerns similar to mine, please let your voice be heard by contacting Steve Christiansen of the U.S. Forest Service at 643-7900, extension 113, your senator and representative, or myself.

Gary Harwood
Brimley

St. Ignace News Policies

Letters:

All responsible letters will be considered for publication and may be edited. They must be signed and a telephone number must be included for verification. Personal thank-you notes, personal attacks against other people, form letters, and letters promoting political candidates are not accepted, although letters for or against ballot proposals are welcome.

Obituaries:

The St. Ignace News maintains a policy of not charging for obituaries and we do often add information or rewrite them for clarity and reader interest. Obituaries that the family wants published exactly as submitted can be placed in the newspaper for \$75. Photographs are welcome at no charge.

Weddings:

Weddings with photographs are published without charge within 45 days of the ceremony. A fee of \$35 will be charged for wedding photographs published 45 days or later, following ceremony. For weddings published 90 days or later following ceremony, the charge will be our open display advertising rate, (minimum \$50).

Internet:

The complete edition of The St. Ignace News is available online at www.stignaceneews.com.

Contact:

The St. Ignace News
359 Reagon Street
PO Box 277
Saint Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-9150 (phone)
(906) 643-9122 (fax)
e-mail: news@stignaceneews.com

Michigan Politics

By
George Weeks



Politicos Speculate on Guv Candidates' baggage

There are polls on all sorts of things these days. Now comes an unusual one that amounts to a Baggage Index on Michigan's 2010 gubernatorial contenders.

An eclectic trio of political players with varied pasts last week released results of a survey on how much the contenders could be hurt by "negative characteristics" currently in circulation about them — regardless of their validity.

Their poll of 950 likely voters by East Lansing-based Denno-Noor Research also underscored Lieutenant Governor John Cherry's frontrunner status for the Democrat nomination. He had 20% support. In single digits were House Speaker Andy Dillon (a possible but undeclared candidate), Representative Alma Wheeler Smith, ex-Representative John Freeman, and Michigan State University trustee and former football coach/athletic director George Perles

Among Republicans, U.S. Representative Pete Hoekstra, with 21%, had single-digit leads over Attorney General Mike Cox and Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard. Ann Arbor businessman Rick Snyder and Senator Tom George had single-digit support.

(George, a medical doctor, last week visited hospitals in Cheboygan and Cadillac, and also campaigned in Gaylord and Manclona.)

This polling on intra-party duels was somewhat similar to earlier polls and indicates that more than 60% of Democrats, and more than 40% of Republicans, have yet to declare favorites in the race to replace term-limited Governor Jennifer Granholm.

An interesting sidelight about this poll is who partnered to take it: Denno-Noor President Dennis Denno is a longtime spokesman for Democratic leaders; CEO Chuck Perricone of the Perricone Group is a former Republican speaker of the House; CEO Kelly Rossman-McKinney of the Rossman Group served in the office of Democratic Governor Jim Blanchard and is among sponsors of Tim Skubick's popular (among political junkies) weekly "Off the Record" show on Michigan Public TV.

The November 12 to November 17 poll seized upon media reports — many fueled by opponents of the candidates — to address the question: "Can candidates for Michigan governor shake negative perceptions?"

The trio said of Cox: "The most damaging characteristic surveyed is associated (with Cox), who has been accused of covering up a criminal investigation of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. Ninety percent of those surveyed indicated they would be less likely to vote for a candidate associated with a Kwame Kilpatrick scandal."

Rossman-McKinney said: "The rumor of Mike Cox covering up an investigation into the events at an alleged Manooigan Mansion party held by (Kilpatrick) has been in the news for six years now and doesn't look to be going away anytime soon."

It should. *The Detroit Free Press*, which had full page spreads on the issue this month, concluded editorially that Cox "has persuasively rebutted" a State Police detective's complaint about his closing the case.

Reached Friday while at a family gathering in Virginia, Stu Sandler of the Cox campaign branded the poll question "nonsense." He said that Cox's office, after "a thorough investigation" involving interviews with 130 persons, found no evidence of crime in the issues he examined.

Sandler said Cox critics, and recent media commentary, have ignored an important point: Kilpatrick ended up spending time in jail as a result of Cox's prosecution of Kilpatrick on an assault case.

After the Cox-Kilpatrick issue, according to the Denno-Noor release, "the next most damaging characteristic goes to Ann Arbor businessman Rick Snyder, who has been accused of sending American jobs to China during his tenure as CEO of Gateway. According to the survey, 84% of Michigan voters would be less likely to vote for a candidate who has sent jobs overseas."

Long before release of the poll, Snyder spokesman Jake Suski denied Democratic claims that Snyder, a 1991-97 executive with the computer manufacturer, outsourced jobs to China. He said Snyder "is the only candidate with job creating experience" — creating hundreds of them in Michigan.

The release said "the main negative trait attached to" Cherry is "his association with" Granholm's record. It said 62% of respondents indicated "they would be less likely to vote for a candidate with this characteristic."

It said House Speaker Dillon, if he runs, "should be cautious about being tied closely to the state's budget trouble. More than three-fourths (76%) of those surveyed said that being a legislative leader responsible for the state's budget mess and government shutdown would make them less likely to vote for that candidate."

It would be a bum rap to heap that much blame on Dillon. Both parties share blame for the budget brinksmanship, including the mere two-hour shutdown.

I don't think voters will be as quick as the poll was to attach "negative characteristics" to the gubernatorial candidates. But it's a fair question to ask whether they can "shake negative perceptions."

George Weeks retired in 2006 after 22 years as political columnist for The Detroit News. His weekly Michigan Politics column is syndicated by Superior Features.

Mackinac County Animal Care Jobs Are Up for Renewal

Two Positions Will Now Be County Employees

Contracts are up for renewal January 1 for the jobs of Mackinac County animal shelter manager and animal control officer, and the Mackinac County Board of Commissioners has decided to make the two positions full-fledged county employees, rather than contracted services positions. The board is accepting applications for the two positions until Friday, December 4, at 4 p.m.

Animal shelter manager Ginger Valentine is re-applying for that position, and animal control officer Wendy Frosland is re-applying for that job.

Changing the positions from independent contractors to county employees will give the board more regulatory power, County Clerk Mary Kay Tamlyn said. In the past, if either position received a complaint, the commission could only listen to it and terminate the contract. As county employees, the positions will be directly accountable to the board.

Mrs. Frosland said there may also be advantages to the employee if the jobs become full-fledged county positions, such as more regular hours.