

# School Seniors Explore Arizona

*Students Visit Ranch, Tour Canyon During Senior Trip This Month*

**By Leslie Rott**

Students on their senior trip this month traded Mackinac Island's chilly, rainy weather for the heat of Arizona.

Melissa Bunker, Eric Cowell, Tyler Finkel, Sam Kamphuis, Christina McLean, Miranda McMahon, Ben Mosley, Jason Pettit, exchange student Supeechar (Gap) Sapruang, and Emily St. Onge celebrated four years of high school by enjoying some fun in the sun.

From Wednesday, May 10, through Wednesday, May 17, the students visited Rawhide Ranch, went on a canyon tour in Sedona, tubing on the Salt River, played laser tag, escaped the heat at a waterpark and went shopping.

"It was hot, but great," said Jessica Clark, the class advisor who, with Craig Bunker, accompanied the seniors on their trip.

She said that one day there was a 70-degree difference



**The senior trip to Arizona included a stop at the Rawhide Ranch in Scottsdale, where the class posed for this photograph. From left are Ben Mosley, Supeechar (Gap) Sapruang, Miranda McMahon, Emily St. Onge, Eric Cowell, Melissa Bunker, Christina McLean, Sam Kamphuis, Jason Pettit, and Tyler Finkel. (Photograph by Jessica Clark)**

between Arizona and Mackinac Island. "Yoopers aren't cut out for Arizona weather," she said.

The students also watched the Arizona Diamondbacks play the San Diego Padres which, aside from the hot weather, was the highlight of the trip.

It was the first time he and

most of the other students had seen a major league baseball game, said Eric Cowell.

The class had been raising money for the trip since seventh grade, and their destination was determined, in part, by the amount of money in their travel fund.

Graduation ceremonies are Friday, May 26, at 7 p.m.

# Preschool Program Needed Here, Say Island Mothers

*Island Has 17 Children Under Age Three*

**By Leslie Rott**

"I'm an active mom and I feel like I still need a lot of help," said Urvana Morse, mother of two, during a meeting when a group of concerned mothers met Tuesday, May 16, with representatives from Head Start and the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency to discuss the possibility of having a preschool program on the Island in the fall.

The issues being considered for a preschool program on the Island is a requirement that it be licensed by the state and that there may not be enough children to enroll in the program.

"There really needs to be enough children to make the program worthwhile," said Reenie Butler, Head Start director at the Community Action Agency. Lack of enrollment, she noted, is what has halted a preschool program in the past.

There was no preschool program this year, although there was last year. Programs prior to that have been spotty and Mrs. Morse said there needs to be consistency.

"It's not right for one child to have preschool and the next not to," she said.

This fall, there will be four four-year-olds and eight three-year-olds available for a

preschool program, and there are 17 children under the age of three currently living on the Island.

Another issue is finding space at Mackinac Island Public School to hold a preschool program, and school board member Leanne Brodeur said she will try to promote the program once a new superintendent is hired this summer.

Having a preschool, Mrs. Morse said, would ensure that no student starts kindergarten at a disadvantage. She feels that any student lagging behind could really affect an entire class, since class size at Mackinac Island Public School is small to begin with.

Ms. Butler suggested that the preschool be part of the Michigan School Readiness Program, rather than Head Start, because of the possibility of funding from both Community Action and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Head Start is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, whereas the Michigan School Readiness program is funded through the Michigan Department of Education.

Assistance from the Mackinac Island Community Foundation was applied for, but not received because there is currently no license to operate a preschool here.

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## Council Approves Business Licences

*\*Continued from page 2*

assessed a \$10 late fee. After June 1, the late fee increases to \$20. Council approved 14 on-Island business licenses and 10 off-Island business licenses. Additionally, five new business licenses were approved, including Hill House Barn, Martha's Sweet Shop, Ink and Logs, and Island Portraits. Under new ownership, Patrick Sinclair's Irish Pub license was approved under the condition that personal property taxes would be paid.

Council next meets Wednesday, May 24 at 5 p.m. on the second floor of Community Hall on Market Street.

### BOOKSIGNING

**Sun., May 28<sup>th</sup>**  
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

**Martha Robach**  
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