

# Teachers Contract Talks To Continue

**By Ryan Schlehuder**  
A draft teachers contract submitted by the teachers is being reviewed by the Mackinac Island Board of Education, prior to a meeting with the teachers' bargaining unit, Mackinac Island Education Association.

At a regular school board meeting Thursday, September 21, Paul Wandrie, the board's negotiations committee chairman, said each member of the committee had received a copy of the draft from school attorneys and would review it with Superintendent Roger Schrock before meeting with the union, represented by three Island teachers, Susan Bennett, Laura

Eiseler, and Karen Allen. The teachers have been working under the terms of its last contract, which expired in June. One possible point of discussion will be time off for bereavement for immediate family members. The topic came up when it was noted at the meeting that a teacher had taken four days off to attend a funeral of a person not related to the teacher.

Pete Everson, superintendent of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District (ISD), and Michael Porter, ISD director of technology, attended the meeting to promote ISD programs. Mr. Everson intends to visit each school in the ISD this

year, with Mackinac Island being the first. He discussed Proposal 5, which will be on the November election ballot. If passed, he said, it will provide annual funding increases equal to inflation for public schools, community colleges, and four-year public colleges. Supporters of the proposal say it would reduce the gap between the state's lowest-spending and highest-spending districts, cap retirement costs for K-12 districts, and fund school districts with declining enrollment based on the student enrollment average of the three prior fiscal years. Those against it say that, because it mandates the spending, it ties the hands of the legislature in dealing with budgets, especially in economic slumps, and could force the reduction or curtailment of other state programs.

Voters could go either way on the proposal, said Mr. Everson, being that it is the only financial issue on the ballot this year. He told the board that schools in Grand Rapids and Traverse City have already passed resolutions to vote against it, though many labor groups are in favor of it.

Mr. Everson argues that the proposal does not go far enough to cover inequities in the state's educational system and it does not address health care costs.

Mr. Porter explained the ISD's involvement in educational interactive technology and how uses like the Internet have become critical to schools and education.

He said the ISD hopes to promote more of its interactive television (ITV) program. Many smaller schools have implemented ITV classrooms since the program was introduced to the Eastern Upper Peninsula in 1993, he said, but growth and interest appear to have leveled off.

ITV delivers high school courses to schools that would not otherwise be able to afford them, such as Japanese or Spanish lan-

*\* Please turn to page 7*

# Teacher Seth Baker Aims To Interact With Students



The teaching philosophy of new social studies teacher Seth Baker of Midland is to be interactive with students in their education and play a role in their lives. "When the kids leave my classroom, I want them to be excited about learning," he said.

**By Ryan Schlehuder**

Seth Baker knows exactly what lies ahead in his adventure as Mackinac Island Public School's new social studies teacher and living here the year-around.

"I have to buy a snowmobile," he said, realizing the importance of winter transportation on the Island. "That's one thing, for sure."

Mr. Baker, 29, will also teach music to students in grades kindergarten to seven and wood shop as an elective course for high school students.

His background in music includes serving four years on the Spartan Marching Band at Michigan State University and five years on the MSU Campus Band. At his high school in Midland, he performed in the choir and band programs.

"He has wonderful credentials," said Superintendent Roger Schrock. "We interviewed him twice and he demonstrated a wide variety of knowledge in history and social studies."

Mr. Baker, who enjoys both teaching and studying history, said he is excited to have the opportunity to live and teach in such a tight-knit community that is surrounded by a rich history.

"The small school atmosphere gives me a chance to know the students better, which is very important to me," he said. "I want to play a good role in our students' lives. And with the Island itself, it is a great opportunity to investigate its history."

He describes himself as "hyper-organized" and plans to introduced students to many hands-on, interactive projects.

"I love activities and projects," he said. "That's the kind of learning that gets the students excited."

By getting students involved in projects, he said, they will put more value on what they learn and want more.

"I want them to leave here with the skills to be successful as adults," he said.

Of his career ambitions, he said, "We all had those dreams of being an archaeologist digging for dinosaur bones when we were in fourth grade, but teaching was more of a calling for me. I never really wanted to do anything else."

Mr. Baker is engaged to his high school sweetheart, Emily Ovatt, an English teacher at Paradise in Whitefish Township. They plan to marry in the summer of 2008.

# Quilt Raffle Raises \$1,221



Children from the Island Art and Nature Kids Group sold raffle tickets Friday, August 25, for hand-made quilts and pillows that they designed. Proceeds from the raffle will fund Art in the Park, a six-week art program which begins at the end of June each year. Winner of the quilt and pillow set was Clark Bunker. The raffle raised \$1,221.

The family of **Francis (Bud) Bourisaw** would like to **THANK** our family, friends, neighbors and businesses for the food, flowers and donations made in memory of Bud. Special thanks to the Moses Dialysis staff for their excellent care and concern for the past two years, to Father Jim Williams, Father Rey, Dan Seeley, Trish Martin, Smi Horn, Dodson Funeral Home, Mackinac Island Carriage Tours, Kitchen Crew and the Windermere Hotel and staff, and last but not most important, to our friends who were there with us, Wayne and Joan Zwolinski, Margaret and Jeannette Doud and Adrienne Coyne.

Bud may be gone, but will never be forgotten.

**George and Kitty Shadel and Family**

# Thank You

Mackinac Island Medical Center wishes to thank everyone involved with our August 27<sup>th</sup> benefit auction and raffle. Together, this evening made it possible to net \$94,404.00 dollars. Our sincere thanks to the Island and the surrounding communities who support this benefit and make it possible.

To all the businesses and individuals who donated items and all the people who worked on the evening, especially Alice and Sue Myron who begin work weeks in advance to set up the silent auction, a big thank you.

To Victor Callewaert, Andrew Doud, and Ron Dufina, nobody does it better! Thank you for all those tickets sold.

To David Levy, Auctioneer extraordinary, thank you for your humor, your time, and a terrific job.

And to the Musser family and the terrific staff of Grand Hotel, your generosity makes it all possible. Thank you for your years of support.

The staff and directors of  
Mackinac Island Medical Center

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