

Henagan Still Missing



Derrick Henagan

It has been over a year since Derrick Henagan left a friend's house on M-135 last August 4, 2008 and walked into the woods intent on heading to his home on the same road. He never made it and was declared missing shortly afterwards.

Despite friends, family and police dogs extensively searching those woods, Henagan remains missing a year later. No new evidence has turned up

and the case, although officially open, remains a mystery.

Henagan was 36 years old when he disappeared and is described as a white, 6' 1" male weighing 170 pounds with dark brown hair and brown eyes.

He has several tattoos. At the top of his right arm is a tribal design; on his left are the names Rayce and Dy with design around them. There is also a wizard on the back of his left arm.

According to Michigan State Police, there has been neither word from Henagan to his family nor any use of his cell phone in the past year.

"Derrick was a people person," said his mother, Betty Henagan. "He was not the type of person to walk away."

The missing man has a six-year-old son whom he would call every night, just before

bedtime, whenever the lad stayed with his mother.

"I hope Derrick is alive, but I fear he is dead," she sadly admits. "I had a gut feeling when I got the call a year ago that he was dead. I hope I'm wrong."

According to Betty Henagan, Derrick and his girlfriend at the time of his disappearance, Dianne Maddox, were expecting a baby last December. "He would not do this (leaving his baby)," declared Betty Henagan. "He wanted this baby."

"I want justice. I want to bring him home and bury him. I'm never going to go away and shut up. I want to get to know my grandchild."

In an ironic twist, today, August 19, is Henagan's birthday. He would have been 37, and his mother will never let go.



TAS busses are ready to roll.

Improved Press Box Nearly Complete

Tahquamenon Area Schools athletic director Fred Bryant started off Monday night's board meeting with a strong recommendation that Hondo Depew be hired as the JV girls' basketball coach. It was one of the items voted on favorably during the consent agenda items.

Bryant also related that the press box at the football field is currently being upgraded. "It's great that we have two radio stations that want to cover our games," stated Bryant. "Unfortunately, we just didn't have the space to accommodate three radio stations if a school brought in a host. Also, visiting coaches and their film and home coaches and their film. It was just jammed in there."

Volunteer workers have made a 20-foot extension with donations from L.P. and other private parties.

"Projects like this don't get done unless there are people in the community that take pride in the town, the school and the facilities," Bryant continued.

He also reported that the numbers for both volleyball

teams are strong, as is JV football.

Bryant and the administration are looking at the pay-to-participate plan with the idea of reducing the fee for some who would qualify. "If a student qualifies for free and reduced lunch, rather than pay 100 percent of the pay-to-participate...that fee is reduced by 25 percent."

He is still working on large families with more than one student playing sports.

Bryant, backed up by superintendent Alice Walker, told the board that the athletes must pay the fee prior to their first contest. "If they don't pay," stressed Walker, "they don't play."

The board accepted the resignation of Katie Moeggengborg. Four possible replacements have been interviewed and a recommendation will be made soon.

Approval was given for a new high school English teacher, Mikal Staley, who graduated from Lake Superior State University. She worked last year in Connecticut, but wanted to move back to her

home state of Michigan.

The board accepted the bids for supplying bread (Sara Lee), milk (Morning Glory), snowplowing (Mike Aho Snowplowing) and garbage pick-up (R & B Sanitation).

Also accepted was the bid from Johnson Controls for heating system improvements TAS would like to make should the proposed bond issue pass in February. Now the prioritizing of possible projects begins.

The board approved the recommendation of the negotiations committee concerning the wages and benefits of the administrative staff.

School will start September 8, when a half-day is scheduled. Buses will roll at their normal morning times, but leave for home at noon.

All TAS students are now on a nine-week report card schedule.

Due to Labor Day, the next TAS workshop was moved to Tuesday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m. A K-12 Open House for all parents is scheduled for September 17 and a teacher in-service set for September 2.

Local B & Es Put Shop Owners on Alert

A rash of Breaking and Enterings hit the Newberry business community last week, as six establishments were entered in the middle of the night and robbed of any cash they had in their tills.

The Old Bank, Neal's Automotive Parts, U.P. Trading, Newberry Florist, The Barrett Company and Johnny's Bar were broken into some time during the wee hours of August 10. It was the second time in a week for Johnny's.

Some of the businesses had their doors pried open, while others had windows broken out to gain entry.

"Usually, if we get one lead, get one suspect, we can break quite a few," stated Undersheriff Mike Jago. "We have several people in mind, but have no solid leads yet. We had a car out last night until 4:00 a.m. but the county can't afford this much longer."

"Whenever I can justify it, I try to put them (overtime officers) on the grants," continued Jago. "But I'm not supposed to be out doing Youth and Alco-

hol enforcement patrol in the village for B&E incidents."

Any officers out on a Youth and Alcohol patrol who suspect a B&E is in progress will switch over to county time and investigate.

"If you have a rash like that in one night, you've got to believe it's connected," said Jago.

"Businesses will have to be more cautious about leaving money. It's got to a time and place where they'll have to invest in security cameras."

Although breaking and entering has long been a problem, Newberry and Luce County have experienced more than their normal share of late.

As police manpower drops due to unsupported millage at the local scene and declining state revenues, crimes will increase.

Newberry Water and Light and 41 Lumber were hit early in July, but Jago was not sure that those two were connected with last week's crime spree. The Sheriff's Department does have a suspect for the July

B&Es, but he has left the area.

In the meantime, business owners hit are taking steps to protect their interests. The Old Bank owner Sharon Brown declared, "There won't be any money left in here. The back door will have three different locks and I'm installing an alarm system."

Sharon Magnuson, owner of U.P. Trading, has installed a brace across the back door.

Aaron Schroeder from Neal's Automotive Parts reported that the thieves broke in through a side window that has since been boarded up.

Thieves will find it difficult to break into the back door of Newberry Florist, as new deadbolts were installed and a better security system is in the works. "We've been in business for 16 years," sated Joyce Neumann, co-owner. "This is the first time we've been broken into."

The Barrett Company and Johnny's Bar also are taking steps to increase their security, as are other downtown concerns.



Ground breaking has begun on the new Lynn Auto Parts store on the corner of Newberry Avenue and East Avenue C. Randy Papist, manager of Lynn Auto, expects to open the larger store sometime in November.

Vote on Ambulance Millage to Reappear This Fall

Luce County will ask voters at the November election for a reinstatement of the ambulance millage—a one-mill property tax for a period of five years beginning in 2010 to be used for the operation and maintenance of the ambulance service.

The two caretakers of the Manistique River dam will receive a pay increase to \$250, contingent on Mackinac County agreeing to the proposal. Luce County pays for one caretaker, while Mackinac County reimburses the other.

Pet Pals requested a transfer of \$5,000 in grant money held by Luce County. Pedigree Dog Food supplied the funding, which was originally

scheduled for improving the heating system at the animal shelter. However, when the animal millage failed last year and Luce County Animal Control dissolved, that money became available for Pet Pals to establish a spay/neuter program for cats.

The commissioners passed a resolution supporting the Pet Pals request and later sold the group all the equipment left over by the closure of Animal Control for one dollar.

Undersheriff Mike Jago reported on four grants he is pursuing for the county. One would provide child restraint seats and three others funding fir ORV patrols, snowmobile patrols and border patrols.

Jago stressed that applications for the grants have been submitted, but money has not yet been awarded.

Hondo Depew and Joanna Slaght were appointed to the Helen Newberry Joy Hospital Board of Trustees for terms expiring in 2010 and 2012 respectively.

The Luce County Planning Commission requested a Public Hearing before the start of next month's meeting. The State of Michigan is requiring all units of government with planning commissions to comply with the same standards of membership.

As a consequence, Luce County's original ordinance creating the Planning Commission needs to be amended.

EUPISD Receives Seat Time Waiver

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District (EUPISD) has received a seat time waiver from the Michigan Department of Education. The seat time waiver is in effect for all of the individual school districts within the EUPISD service area for the 2009/2010 school year. The waiver will allow high school students to take a variety of online courses or specific project-based learning opportunities in lieu of traditional in-school classes.

There are three specific options available. The first allows students to take up to a "full load" of online courses aligned with an individual student's graduation requirements.

There are a variety of approved online courses available through Michigan Virtual High School, a statewide association known as GEN-NET, and other vendors. These courses are aligned with the Michigan High School Content Expectations (HSCEs) and will be monitored by local

district teachers in cooperation with remote teachers associated with the course providers.

Students would still have to take local district-approved course-end exams that are aligned to the HSCEs in order to obtain credit, just as they do in traditional courses.

This option would be well suited to students interested in semester or full-year credit recovery, credit/course acceleration and added potential variety of course offerings, as well as those who would like to access courses strictly from home or another off-site location.

Students will be required to meet face to face with local teachers periodically, but will be monitored daily online as they complete work, quizzes and exams. Current home-school families may want to consider participating in this option.

The second option is primarily intended for credit recovery. Students participating in this option will be able to participate in online, modular-

based learning programs that will allow for credit recovery. This option will be very helpful for students that need partial credit to successfully complete Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) required courses in order to graduate "on track" with their classmates. As with option one, students would take district-approved course-end exams in order to receive credit.

Students participating in options one and two will be able to access the appropriate course options from home or other off-school-site locations. All courses will be selected by students and approved by local district counselors/principals and parents. Schedules will be variable and allow for students to take courses completely from home or attend school part of the day for some courses and take other courses from home.

If a student does not have access to a computer at home, the district would provide a laptop for use while the student

continued on page two

Portage Township Forced to Trash Clean-up Day

by Della Juliano

No money, no "clean-up day" was the bottom line for board members at the August 11 Portage Township board meeting. Typically a day in early summer when township residents can get rid of old furniture and junk that doesn't fit in a trash bag and paid for by funds set aside in the township budget, "clean-up day" is a thing of the past—at least this year.

Township supervisor Donna O'Grady reminded the board that the township is currently in a "mode" of borrowing from the road fund just to pay for "things we need."

Clerk Marcia McDonald suggested the board wait until expenditures for the Three Lakes Academy have been made. She pointed out that even charging 130 people \$10 to utilize "clean-up day" dumpsters wouldn't generate

enough money to pay for the project, especially if the usual five or six dumpsters were used. If the township only contracted for a couple of dumpsters, less people could be served and less money collected.

Treasurer Nancy Kister came up with the idea of saving the approximately \$3,000 budgeted for the event until the beginning of summer 2010, which would still be in the current fiscal year.

O'Grady disagreed, stating that it is premature to plan "clean-up day" because the township is not better off financially now than when the board originally cancelled it.

While money for junk collection was out of the question, the board did agree to spend about \$10,000 for a second application of dust control brine. Road Committee member John Townley

said he didn't think the township roads needed it, but added that he lives "way off the road."

In other action, the board: — Approved the transfer of \$25,000 from the road fund to the general fund, a move necessary to pay some of the township's bills.

— Agreed to contract with the Mackinac County Road Commission for its annual gravel match program.

— Approved a three-year insurance commitment in order to retain an annual premium.

— Authorized O'Grady to proceed in a 75 percent match grant proposal process which could help pay for such things as an ice-rescue boat and pole barn to store it, or other items deemed necessary by the board, Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services and community.