

# Fireworks, 48th Annual Bridge Walk To Mark Straits Labor Day Celebration

## MDOT To Celebrate Centennial at Walk

The 48th annual Labor Day Mackinac Bridge Walk Monday, September 5, will commemorate the Michigan Department of Transportation's centennial and highway officials are trying to arrange a military jet flyover during the walk, possibly between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m.

The night before, the state agency is arranging a fireworks display over the bridge.

### Bridge Walk

The Bridge Walk will get underway Monday at 7 a.m. and walkers must start no later than 11 a.m. There is no registration or fee and walkers must start by 11 a.m.

The walk starts at the north end of the bridge in St. Ignace and ends in Mackinaw City. Walkers from the Lower Peninsula can drive to St. Ignace and park at the Mackinac Bridge Authority parking lot west of the toll plaza, walk

south, and then, for \$2 per person, ride a school bus back north. They can also park on the south end of the bridge and board a school bus for \$2 per person in Mackinaw City for a ride north, then walk back across the bridge.

The school buses are driven by volunteer drivers. The bus stop is at Conkling Park in Mackinaw City and buses begin transporting walkers at 5:30 a.m. Service ends at 2:30 p.m.

The two northbound bridge lanes will be closed for walkers until 9:30 a.m., and the two southbound lanes will be maintained for motorists. Walkers are reminded to stay away from any construction or working fixtures left on the bridge.

There are no restrooms on the bridge and the average time to walk the span is two hours. Portable toilets will be positioned at each end of the bridge and at the bus loading area.

Baby strollers and wheelchairs are allowed on the bridge during

the walk, but bicycles, roller skates, skateboards, wagons, and similar implements are not permitted. With the exception of seeing-eye dogs, no pets are allowed.

Michigan National Guard troops and Mackinac Bridge Authority employees will be stationed along the bridge roadway for any emergencies, and ambulances will be stationed at each end of the bridge.

Walkers should keep clear of oncoming traffic and be careful not to trip over the median grates. Motorists should expect delays, be alert to the walkers, and be patient when driving over the bridge.

All toll booths will be open except for the booth closest to the administration building, which will be used to allow walkers and busloads of passengers through.

At the completion of the walk

in Mackinaw City, participants will receive a numbered certificate to commemorate the accomplishment. Merchants in St. Ignace and Mackinaw City will display numbers in their store windows and matching numbers will earn the certificate holder a prize valued at between \$15 and \$150.

Information regarding special assistance for disabled walkers can be obtained from the Mackinac Bridge Authority at (906) 643-7600.

Supporting law enforcement will be from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Mackinac County Sheriff's Department, Emmet County Sheriff's Department, and Michigan State Police from Petoskey, Cheboygan, and St. Ignace.

The United States Coast Guard and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

will be on hand.

### Bridge 'Fun Run'

The "fun run" with Governor Jennifer Granholm will be continued this year. It is promoted by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and permits 300 Michigan residents, selected at random June 30, to run the bridge ahead of the walkers. The Governor and the first wave of runners will start at 6:45 a.m., with the last group taking off five minutes before the walkers.

The event will not be timed and the course will not be certified for distance.

Whether walking or running the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day, Governor Granholm said, "participants can be true fitness role models for citizens across the state."

### Early Island Boats

Arnold Transit Company and

Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry will provide early boat departures to and from Mackinac Island and the mainland for the Labor Day Bridge Walk.

Shepler's will have a departure to St. Ignace from the Island at 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. A special departure to the Island from St. Ignace will leave at 6:30 a.m.

In Mackinaw City, Shepler's will have a boat heading to the Island at 5:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. Special boat departures from the Island to Mackinaw City are scheduled for 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. The company will then resume its regularly scheduled departures from both docks.

Arnold Transit has special boat departures from the Island to St. Ignace at 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. and boat leaves St. Ignace for the Island at 6:30 a.m.

## Les Cheneaux School Board Sets Goals With 'Three Cs'

Discusses Ways To Help Develop Student Moral Character

### By Amy Polk

Communication, curriculum, and character were identified as three areas the Les Cheneaux Community Schools Board of Education wants to improve this year. Trustees at the Monday, August 15, meeting adopted three ideas they called "the conceptual framework" for administering goals over the next year.

Trustees will establish ways to improve communication, curriculum, and character, with board members leading groups in each area.

President Dan Burrows and Carl McIntire will examine character. Trustees discussed a perceived nation-wide school character crisis and will identify characteristics they think students and staff should aspire to. Suggestions included a more stringent dress code, requiring student athletes to dress-up on game days, requiring better dress at away games, professional attire for trustees at board meetings, random drug testing for all staff members (not just bus drivers), and requesting athletic teams to recognize one player on the opposing team for good sportsmanship. Trustees also want to recognize students and staff for exemplary performance, such as "student of the month" or "teacher of the month."

Mr. Burrows said character is one of the things a board of education can actually steer, and he called for making qualities like moral goodness more of a priority in this district.

"I think it's a thread that permeates through everything we're discussing here," Mr. Burrows added.

Dave Sudol and Tony Hakola are the communications leaders and will consider the school's Internet presence and how the district can better utilize a new Web site posted by the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District. Superintendent Rod Goehmann said trustees now have e-mail addresses and the board may post announcements, board minutes, and general information on the Web site, including the student handbook and district policies, provide links to related sites like the American School Board Journal and Michigan Department of Education, and post discussion topics for educational and legal issues.

Trustees Marianne Coyne and John Causley will identify ways the district can improve communication with the community and staff. The community doesn't seem to know about "all the good things going on in our school," Mrs. Coyne said. She suggested a newsletter could highlight student scholarship winners, summer athletic programs, and student and staff achievements. A marquee to advertise activities, community service requirements, and issues forums for teachers, parents, and students have also been proposed.

Trustee Dave Murray and Superintendent Rod Goehmann will study how the district should improve curriculum. Mr. Murray has proposed interdisciplinary projects, where students combine skills they learn in several subjects, like

English, band, and science. Another suggestion is to establish a construction trades program that teaches students to estimate cost and materials and to see how land use can impact a project.

Mr. Murray also suggested implementing a course for seniors to reflect on world events, religious and philosophical perspectives, and future goals.

"It would be a way for them to look at their values and what they want out of life," he said.

Trustee Marianne Coyne suggested lessons on how to manage harassment and bullies. While Michigan schools, including Les Cheneaux, were mandated to adopt "Zero Tolerance" policies against violence and bringing weapons to school, those policies deal with perpetrators instead of the victims, Superintendent Rod Goehmann told *The St. Ignace News*. There are no policies for victim counseling or other assistance in place at the schools.

"Maybe we can have some suggestions on how to handle harassment or bully situations without all the whispering, how to not feel bad, or how to keep bullies from feeling empowered," Mrs. Coyne said.

Trustees will also ask graduates how well the district prepared them for college.

Superintendent Goehmann said such goal-setting discussions will be held at meetings each month.

In other action, trustees adopted the bus bonding resolution to borrow \$350,000 to buy one bus every year for the next five years. The bonds will be repaid with new tax money generated by the millage issue passed by voters August 2. The Board plans to spend approximately \$70,000 every year on a bus and affiliated costs.

Elementary School Principal Eric Cardwell reported the school's summer Jump Start program is underway through August 25 with 23 students brushing up on academic subjects. The program is funded by a grant from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and remaining 21st Century Learning money.

Mr. Cardwell said up to 148 elementary students are expected to enroll in the fall, nine more than previously anticipated.

Cedarville High School and Middle School are expecting at least three more students in the fall. Mr. Goehmann said total school enrollment may be pushing 407 students.

## Red Hat Society Plans Picnic Sat.

The Jewels of the Straits Red Hat Society will meet for a picnic Saturday, August 27, at 5 p.m. at the home of Arlene Eby at 2073 West US-2 in St. Ignace. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass. For more information about the picnic, call Arlene at 643-7426 or Rosalie at 643-9676.

The club will meet Thursday, September 29, at 6 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge. Members are asked to bring a snack to share.



## Special Olympics Supporters Enjoy Mackinac Island Trip

Fifty members of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Special Olympics enjoyed a sunny day on Mackinac Island Tuesday, August 16, bicycling around the Island, which they do each summer. The Olympians, led by Area Director Laura Aikens and Assistant Area Director Vi Paquin, competed in the sport of bocce Saturday, August 20, and Sunday, August 21, in Sault Ste. Marie.

## Senior Assisted Living Facility Gets Zoning OK in St. Ignace

### Project Proposed on Historic Siren Property

#### By Ryan Schlehuber

Kathleen Peterson of St. Ignace has received a special land use to build a 20-bed assisted living facility on the old Siren property transecting Chambers and Church streets, near the corner of I-75 business loop. The St. Ignace Planning Commission approved the special land use and her site plan Wednesday, August 17, and agreed the facility should open to Chambers Street to avoid traffic congestion on Church Street.

Mrs. Peterson, whose company is called Dignified Living Corporation, said she is seeking funding through U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

The Siren property is lined with peonies and has a small two-bedroom home, a garage, an old Finnish sauna, and several log barns. It was farmed by Onni and

Alexandra Siren, Finnish immigrants.

Mr. Siren arrived by ship in 1893 and purchased a two-bedroom home and property behind what is now the Flame Restaurant for \$350, according to his daughter, Elsie Siren Brown, of Havasu, Arizona, who told Cheryl Schlehuber on a visit to St. Ignace in July. Alexandra met Onni in 1906 while visiting her sister, who lived at the fishing village of Epoufette.

When the Michigan Highway Department surveyed the right of way for US-2 in 1935, the state purchased part of the property and moved all the buildings to the existing lot, where the Sirens continued to farm, delivering milk, eggs, and vegetables by horse and buggy.

Mrs. Brown said her grandmother also washed clothes for the crew of the rail ferry *Chief*

*Wawatam* and remembers her father making trips home from the ship with bundles of laundry.

After both Onni and Alexandra died, the property was left to their two children, Elsie and Leonard.

Leonard Siren, who passed away in 2002, reared his family there.

The estate is now in the name of Mrs. Brown, Jim Siren of Tampa, Florida, and Monty Siren of Phoenix, Arizona.

## Sweet Treat Featured at Mackinac Island Festival

### 2nd Annual Fudge Fest Set for This Weekend

The 2nd annual Fudge Festival will celebrate fudge on Mackinac Island Friday, August 26, to Sunday, August 28. One of the highlights will be a golden ticket contest.

The contest will feature five participating Island fudge shops. From noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, August 27, five golden tickets will be hidden in fudge boxes. Purchasers of the winning boxes will receive a 2006 visitor package that includes two nights for four people, ferry tickets, a carriage tour, kayaking, lunch, fudge, and a chance to win \$10,000 in the Mackinac Heritage Boating Foundation raffle. Participating fudge shops are JoAnn's Fudge, May's Candy Shop, Murdick's Fudge, Murray Hotel, and Ryba's Fudge.

From 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Maycroft Square Tappers will be perform at Mission Point Theater, followed at 7 p.m. with a performance by the Fine Arts Academy of Dance. The Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan will perform Sunday, August 28, at 1 p.m., also at Mission Point Theater. All three performances are free.

Stone skipping competition will be Saturday, from 10 a.m. to noon.

A feather masked wine and fudge tasting and feather sword fencing competition will be Sunday at the Inn at Stonecliffe. Feather

masks are available for purchase at the hotel. Fudge and wine will be paired, and a sword fencing with ostrich feather competition will award the winners a vacation on Mackinac for two.

Fudge dinners will be Friday, August 26, at 6 p.m. at Village Inn, and Saturday at Mary's Bistro, also at 6 p.m.

Fudge drink specials at bars and restaurants, special fudge treatments at Island spas, hiking and bicycle tours, and an architectural walking tour will also be on tap for the weekend.

## Overtones To Play at St. Ignace

Neil and Julie Hill of Sound Wave Music will perform Thursday, August 25, at 7 p.m. at the St. Ignace marina as part of the free Bayside Live! concert series. The professional mobile disc jockey will feature music ranging from the Big Band era to today's hits.

## Concert Planned Sat.

The Music In Mackinaw Summer Concert Series will feature Bozz Hogg Saturday, August 27, at 8 p.m. at Conkling Heritage Park on South Huron Avenue, Mackinaw City.