

Eastern Upper Peninsula Election Issues Coverage...Vote May 2

Latva, Massey To Fill St. Ignace School Board Seats

Voters will fill two vacant seats on the St. Ignace Area Schools board Tuesday, May 2, with both incumbent Dave Latva and first-time candidate Ann Massey running unopposed. Mr. Latva has been a board member for almost four years and Ms. Massey is seeking the seat of Diggy Clement, who chose not to run for reelection.

He wants to avoid laying off teachers, and there appears to be no need for cuts this year, he said.

His most challenging experience



David Latva

edges there will be changes, owing to new state curriculum requirements.

"It will work out, though," he said. "It has to. It's the law."



Ann Massey

Mr. Latva worked as a maintenance man for the Mackinac Bridge Authority for 31 years and has been *The St. Ignace News'* sports writer for 25 years. He and his wife, Kim, are both from St. Ignace and he is a 1969 graduate of LaSalle High School.

Ann Massey is an employee at Best Western Harbor Pointe in St. Ignace and is an elementary and middle school substitute teacher at St. Ignace Area Schools. She is the mother of an eight-year-old son, Michael, and she and her mother, Joan, decorate the schools' lockers.

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Radecki, Graichen Run Unopposed for Board Seats at Gros Cap School

By Paul Gingras

Incumbents Edward Radecki and Helen M. Graichen are running unopposed for two seats on the Moran Township Board of Education, which governs Gros Cap School. Also on the May 2 ballot will be renewal of the school's sinking fund, a construction millage that would raise \$130,000 a year for the next three years. The renewal is for 1.75 mills, which Superintendent Bill Peltier said is "critical to the survival" of the school.



Ed Radecki

the smaller school at Gros Cap, which instructs children from kindergarten through eighth grade.



Helen Graichen

He is president of Mackinac Environmental Technology in St. Ignace, an environmental assessment and remediation company.

Mr. Radecki and his wife, Laurie, have lived in Moran Township for 13 years. They have two children, Sam, 14, an eighth grade student in St. Ignace Area Schools, and Louis, 11, a sixth grade student at Gros Cap School.

Helen Graichen, 67, said her main goals as a board member for the next four years will be to maintain a high educational standard at Gros Cap, ensure a balanced budget, and update the heating

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Les Cheneaux, Engadine, Pickford Election Coverage Begins on Pages 6, 7

Hudson Twp. Seeks Millage Renewals

Hudson Township voters will consider two millage requests in the May 2 election. These are the only township millage issues coming before voters in Mackinac County in the upcoming election, in which local school boards and the City of Mackinac Island will fill board seats and Les Cheneaux Community Schools will request millage.

Hudson Township is seeking a renewal of 2 mills to support its fire department. Township Supervisor Al Garavaglia said the funds will be used for general expenses of fire protection, and noted that the funding may prove helpful when the township applies for a grant to fund a new pumper truck, possibly next year.

The fire protection millage, \$2 per \$1,000 of a property's taxable value, would raise an estimated \$30,067 in the first year.

In a road millage renewal proposition, Hudson Township is seeking 1 mill for road repairs. The \$1 per \$1,000 of a property's taxable value would raise an estimated \$15,033 in the first year.

Two roads in the area badly need repair, Mr. Garavaglia said. The first priority will be H-40 and second priority, placed "on hold" for now, he said, is the southern part of Borgstrom Road.

Incumbents To Fill All Seats at Mackinac Island

By Karen Gould

All Mackinac Island incumbents are running unopposed in the May election and city candidates say tourism, transportation, the economy, and the master plan revision are on the list of issues they will continue to address in the coming months. The only school board seat on the ballot is that of incumbent Sara Chambers, who says her focus is on the personnel committee as members need to find a new superintendent to replace Jack Dehring, who will retire July 1.

Bringing 30 years of experience to the position of mayor, Margaret Doud is running again, noting she still has work to do, including seeing the master plan revision process completed and continuing to strengthen the zoning ordinance. City projects that top her agenda are refurbishing the city park and the walkway between Main and Market streets, and the renovation of the old medical center.

"I will keep working in all different areas for the betterment of Mackinac," she said.

The economy, tourism, and year-around transportation are the major issues facing the Island, she noted. Island organizations need to work together to help promote tourism, which affects the Island's economy.



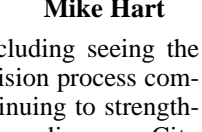
Frank Blowski



Sara Chambers



Margaret Doud



Mike Hart

Director of Music LaSalle High School St. Ignace

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Michigan Politics

By George Weeks



Granholtz, DeVos Dance to Different Tunes on Biz Tax

As they blitz Michigan and two polls indicate their race currently is a statistical dead heat, Governor Jennifer Granholtz and Republican Dick DeVos dance the SBT Tango to vastly different tunes on how best to repeal and replace the Single Business Tax.

Each performed in the northern Lower Peninsula last week. House Speaker Craig DeRoche (R-Nov) choreographed of the zap SBT version that DeVos favors and touted in Traverse City Tuesday, says the GOP road show will go to the Upper Peninsula "more than once" in coming months.

The SBT, adopted in 1975 to replace seven previous taxes, is scheduled to end December 31, 2009. True to her vows, Granholtz in March vetoed the GOP-ruled Legislature's bill that would have repealed the SBT at the end of 2007. She wisely said it would be irresponsible to kill the widely criticized tax without determining how its nearly \$2 billion in revenue would be replaced.

"The SBT is a job-killer that must go," DeVos said at a Traverse City Cherry Capital Airport media drop-in event that included DeRoche, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson (author of a initiative petition drive to abolish the tax), and local GOP lawmakers: Senator Michelle McManus (Lake Leelanau) and Representatives Kevin Elsenheimer (Bellaire), David Palsrok (Manistee), and Howard Walker (Traverse City).

Significance of the event was that prodding of DeRoche and DeVos produced at least an indication that Republican ideas on replacing the SBT loss could well jell this year – as well they should.

When I asked if his awaited economic plan would include a way to replace the SBT, DeVos said, "I am curious to see what ideas come up" from a DeRoche-ordered task force and other sources.

Asked whether he rules out offering a replacement plan or options before the November 7 election, DeVos said, "I don't rule it out or in."

He should rule it in. He'll get hammered if he doesn't.

To his credit, DeVos vows that as governor he would "not shift the burden to individual taxpayers, instead, we will make the decisions necessary to reduce wasteful spending and give businesses the tools they need to grow and expand so our residents can get back to work."

In a surprise caper last week, Granholtz "challenged" DeRoche and Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema (R-Wyoming) "to sign an agreement to both repeal" the SBT by the end of this year and craft a replacement that would not shift taxes to individuals or make deep cuts in vital services.

The two leaders understandably bristled at what Sikkema properly branded a "campaign gimmick." If things worked as they should in Lansing, the three of them would sit down and negotiate an agreement that they would try to sell lawmakers.

ers. It takes more than a signed agreement to produce legislative action.

An angry DeRoche called me Thursday to say, "I'm just a little more than miffed" at Granholtz's "gall." As for his relations with Granholtz, he said: "Right now, we don't get along at all."

An encouraging note: When I again asked DeRoche about SBT replacement options surfacing yet this year, he said, "I have not yet taken my boot off the gas yet" in quest for "a good, responsible, bipartisan" plan.

He said, "I want to be part of this. I want the ball...I'm leading from the middle on this, not the right. I can lead from the middle."

An interesting twist on the SBT issue is that Bob Kleine, who during the Milliken Administration drafted the SBT legislation, has been appointed state treasurer by Granholtz (who on April 4 meet in Traverse City with ex-Governor Bill Milliken).

Kleine, who in various media venues earlier this year defended the SBT, has said he now agrees it should be repealed.

But will a Senate that is battling Granholtz on the SBT confirm Kleine?

"It will be interesting to watch," says Senator McManus, a member of the Senate Finance Committee that will quiz Kleine about the SBT. "We have to see what the answers are."

As Oakland County's Patterson cleverly said in Traverse City: "Doctor Frankenstein is back to kill the monster he created."

Northern Numbers

On her Thursday visit to Cadillac, Granholtz shrugged off an EPIC/MRA April 3 to April 9 poll of 600 likely voters that had her in a 43-43 tie with DeVos, similar to a March poll by Marketing Resource Group.

Asked about the poll, she said voters aren't yet tuned in to the race. That's true, but pollsters correctly note that DeVos' \$2 million-plus TV ad campaign, including unprecedented early airing above and below the bridge, is having an impact.

"She's in bad shape," EPIC/MRA's Ed Sarpolus said Friday on Public TV's "Off the Record" show.

One of Granholtz's poorest job approval ratings was 36 percent positive/62 percent negative in the Traverse City media market, which includes the eastern Upper Peninsula. But as always, I caution that these regional sub-samples have a greater potential margin of error than the 600 statewide survey that gave her a positive/negative rating of 45/53 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Thought Police' Ban Movie

To the Editor:

The thought police are at work in the Les Cheneaux area. I attempted to rent the movie "Brokeback Mountain" and couldn't because of citizen complaints the store was carrying a film about gay men. I was shocked and ashamed of my community for the second time in the 48 years I've lived here. I'm proud of our area for it has mostly kind, generous, supportive people, and so the intolerance stunned me. I'm not religious, but try to live by the golden rule. I respect other people's views and do not impose my opinions on others. I deserve the same respect, and if I choose to rent a movie about homosexuals, I should have that right. Seeing the movie will not turn the viewer gay, nor will banning it keep someone from their sexual orientation. It's hard to believe in this 21st century such ignorance, prejudice, and bigotry continues.

Judith Hamel Cedarville

Show Support of Sheriff's Dept.

To the Editor:

I am writing to urge the public to get involved in the staffing issue at the Mackinac County Jail. A number of independent audits and reports have indicated that the jail is presently understaffed to meet safe operational standards. Apparently, Sheriff Scott Strait has presented plans to the Mackinac County Commissioners to rectify this problem. To date, the commissioners have yet to take action.

I don't know whether they don't yet accept that understaffing at the jail is really a problem or if they don't know how to meet the cost of fixing it. In either case, they ought to resolve it soon and I urge county residents to attend meetings or contact their commissioners to help get this done.

Our Sheriff's Department works hard on our behalf. It seems to me that we could show our support and appreciation by working on this matter to help them.

Rick Shapero Cedarville

Community Has Impacted Band

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to letters in the past few issues regarding the St. Ignace music program. There were letters written in regard to our Night of Jazz and another letter written last week complimenting the students during our New York trip.

Those letters were a joy to read and brought pride and honor to our program and students. The letters are proof of why this community

The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

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The quotation under the flag of *The St. Ignace News* on Page 1 is from the 10 triads written by Dr. Fred Newton Scott, creator and teacher of the first continuous course in journalism in the United States at the University of Michigan in 1890. The 10 triads are chiseled on the parapet of the Detroit News Building at 615 Lafayette Boulevard, Detroit. They were headed "Ideals of the Press" or "The Newspaper in a Free Society," and serve as a reminder of what a free press means to us.