

Wyman Nursery in U.P. Has Provided Trees for Michigan Forests Since 1927

Mother Nature is the most wondrous of gardeners, planting and nurturing millions of new trees each year through natural processes. But when timber harvest, fire, or other circumstances arise and Mother Nature, even at her very best, cannot regenerate the forest quickly enough, Michigan's foresters can count on the Department of Natural Resources' Wyman Nursery.

The Wyman Nursery in the Upper Peninsula near Manistique has raised trees for replanting Michigan's forests since 1927. Over the course of its almost 80-year history, this facility has produced and distributed almost 190 million young trees for planting across the state. Look at any public forest and chances are some of the trees you will see there were raised from seed with careful oversight by the experts at Wyman.

It makes good sense to operate

At right: Jean Wolfe, a DNR seasonal worker, prunes the roots of red pine seedlings to prepare them for cold storage and eventual shipping to locations around Michigan. The seedlings are placed 500 to a bag in large brown paper bags, then stored in a large walk-in cooler until transported by truck for transplanting. Ms. Wolfe has worked for more than 25 years at Wyman Nursery. (DNR photographs by Mary Detloff)



Department of Natural Resources Forest Technician Tom Burnis loads bins of red pine seedlings freshly pulled from the ground at Wyman Nursery. The seedlings will be transplanted in several state forest locations across Michigan to help regenerate trees after recent timber harvesting.

a tree nursery for state land reforestation. Not only can the most desirable types of trees be nurtured there, but the overall cost to taxpayers is minimized. Each year, Wyman "lifts" and ships millions of trees to create habitat for deer, Kirtland's warblers, and ground-nesting birds. The trees from Wyman help to quickly regenerate cutover areas, replant tracts harvested because of disease, and rehabilitate areas scorched by wildfire. It likely would cost a lot

more if done any other way.

"This nursery is expanding to meet even greater demands," explained Richard Mergener, manager of the Wyman Nursery. "Each year we cut more timber in Michigan and especially the red pine planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression. That timber is now at maturity, so the press is on to cut and then replant those areas to get them back into a growing timber stand as quickly as possible."

But Wyman was not always a DNR nursery. In its early history, the tree-growing facility actually was operated by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). USFS, looking for a good U.P. site, found the ideal location – 86 acres of sandy alluvial soil, situated on a delta between the Manistique and Indian Rivers, just outside the city

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Michigan Politics

By George Weeks



Challengers Rap Bouchard's Establishment Support

After withdrawal of three primary opponents and a \$2-million-plus TV ad campaign that gave him a surge in polls, wealthy businessman Dick DeVos clearly is the Republican nominee-in-waiting to oppose Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Is Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard, whose support in the party establishment is rapidly expanding, the presumptive challenger of Democratic U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow?

No. But Bouchard, whose primary opponents are the Reverends Keith Butler and Jerry Zandstra, was proclaimed last week by GOP State Chairman Saul Anuzis "as of today 'probably the leading candidate.'" Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas, a GOP presidential hopeful, endorsed him Friday as the party's "best chance" to beat Stabenow.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas) has been helping Bouchard raise money, and Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-North Carolina), chair of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, is among those who encouraged Bouchard to run.

Butler, a former Detroit councilman, has rapped the establishment "cabal" that he contends recruited Bouchard.

Butler said Friday he has the support of Oklahoma Senators James Inhofe and Tom Coburn, as well as Michigan U.S. Representatives Dave Camp, Joe Knollenberg, Candice Miller, Mike Rogers, Joe Schwarz, and Fred Upton.

The Bouchard camp says that one of Butler's state lawmaker supporters, Senator Laura Toy of Livonia, will switch to Bouchard this week.

Zandstra, on leave from a Grand Rapids think tank, yelped about Anuzis' comments, saying he should either resign "or apologize and cease to support" Bouchard.

Anuzis said he was "insulted" by Zandstra's "public tirade foolishness," and emphasized he was only responding to a question from the Lansing-based MIRS newsletter for an assessment on the primary, in which he is making no endorsement.

Good for Anuzis – a rare party leader who is willing to be candid about a candidate who's leading today, but may or may not be tomorrow.

Allen's War Chests

No state legislator has amassed a bigger political action committee fund for the 2006 election cycle than Senator Jason Allen (R-Traverse City), according to last week's fund-raising tally of the state's top 150 PACs by the watchdog Michigan Campaign Finance Network.

Among individual Lansing politicians, the \$173,200 raised for Allen's Republican Victory Committee is second only to the \$482,960 raised in the January 2005 to April 2006 period by Governor Jennifer Granholm's Leadership Fund.

Granholm, Allen, and other politicians use such PACs to contribute to other politicians – a time-honored process at the state and national levels to not only help a party, but also gain chits.

Allen out-raised House Speaker Craig DeRoche, Lieutenant Governor John Cherry, Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, and two senators expected to compete with Allen in the bid to replace Sikkema as leader of Senate Republicans next year.

Among the top 150 PACs, Allen's Republican Victory Committee ranked 27th on a list dominated by Republican and Democratic Senate/House campaign committees and such lobby powerhouses as the Michigan Education Association, and committees of business, labor, trial lawyers, and other interest groups who contribute to candidates.

In addition, the relatively new Allen Majority Fund, with \$29,732, ranked 147th.

Asked about any differences in Allen's two committees, his office said, "both are about maintaining (a Republican) majority" in the Senate.

Each, of course, could help Allen's quest to become majority leader.

McCain Visit

Arizona Senator John McCain, likely contender for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination, plans to speak June 10 late afternoon at Charlevoix County's Boyne Mountain and early evening in Iron Mountain. Earlier, it was expected that McCain would speak in Escanaba, but his state supporters said Friday district party leaders agreed on the Iron Mountain site.

McCain's PAC is expected to contribute at least \$100,000 among all of the state's county and district organizations.

Another presidential prospect, Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, has a \$350,000 PAC committed to Michigan.

Bush Responder: Stupak

Six-term U.S. Representative Bart Stupak (D-Menominee), as his party's designated Saturday responder to President George W. Bush's weekly radio address, said the GOP approach to soaring gas prices is "let's just drill our way to energy independence, sacrifice our environment, and provide big tax breaks to big oil."

In contrast, Stupak insisted, Democrats "want to implement bold changes that ease consumers' pain today, and, in the longer term, wean America from its addiction to foreign oil."

For decades, going back to the 1970s Arab oil embargo, politicians, at times of soaring prices, have engaged in pump politics – to no avail for motorists.

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

Judgment 'Questionable' for Those Who Condemn Film Without Seeing It

To the Editor:

Two months ago, I had the good fortune to see one of the most beautifully depicted films of unrequited love since "Gone With the Wind." The theater was full with young, old, married couples, and singles of both sexes. Overheard by me as I left the theater was universal praise for the sensitivity of Ang Lee's direction.

Yes, the film I saw was "Brokeback Mountain." The cinematography was superb, the acting was excellent, and Annie Proulx's short story was vividly and tenderly brought to life by a visionary director.

Who among us has not experienced a lost love? Who among us can be so short-sighted as to see only sex where lifelong love is pictured?

I hope that those who choose to condemn this film have seen it, otherwise their judgment is certainly questionable. What a pity the DVD cannot be easily rented, so that people can decide for themselves.

Gail Legate
Hessel

Man Who Felt Mistreated at Toll Booth Can Be Called 'True Gentleman'

To the Editor:

I am writing to you regarding a situation that developed sometime back at the toll booth on the bridge that resulted in a letter from the individual that felt he was mistreated and also a response from an employee, I assume, of the Bridge Authority.

I have been a summer resident of the U.P. for over 50 years and have experienced the ferries before the bridge and many, many up and down trips over the bridge. My experiences to date have been favorable, but I can see how misunderstandings can develop.

As a matter of information, I have known the individual complaining for well over 20 years and I can tell you he is a true gentleman. I have had relationships with him in a business capacity and developed a personal friendship and I have no hesitancy in singing his praises. He is a gentleman, a true religious family man that has raised three fine young

men and recently adopted two other children. It would take quite a situation to prompt him to write such a letter.

I hope this matter will soon be forgotten.

H. Dean Burgess
Louisville, Kentucky

Family Traveled From Sault To See Dr. Karen Dyer

To the Editor:

It really saddens me to hear of the layoff of Dr. Dyer. My son has been seeing her since he was a year old. He started out with a great doctor in Sault Ste. Marie, which changed real fast as the appointments would always be scheduled two weeks later than the day I called. Dr. Dyer always got me in the same day I called, unless she wasn't working.

One of the things that caught my attention when I was reading this week's article (April 13 issue) was how far people are traveling to see these doctors. Well, I chose to travel as I wasn't very pleased with the care of my son in Sault Ste. Marie. Dr. Dyer has been exceptional with my son. My son has seen a lot of doctors in his four years, but never talks about anyone but Dr. Dyer, going as far as saying, "Mama, I don't feel good. Will you call my girlfriend, Dr. Dyer?" He couldn't tell you the names of any other doctor that he has seen. I don't see how the layoff is going to be an answer to the problem. If there is any way possible for me to see Dr. Dyer somewhere else, then you can bet that I will be there in a heartbeat.

Another thing that caught my attention and upset me was the fact that the number of patients seen by these doctors was an issue. Basically they are being punished for the great job they are doing. Have you ever thought that the reason it takes them so long between patients is because they are so thorough? Dr. Dyer knows her patients inside and out because of the time she spends with them, which in my mind is a lot more than other doctors can say. So to the doctors that are getting all the credit and not getting a layoff because you have more patients an hour, I could only hope that you would do as great a job as Dr. Dyer.

Finally, you can think all you want that if you build a new hospital that you will get more business. It still needs to have great doctors to fill it.

Thank you, Dr. Dyer, for the great care you gave my son, Tyler.

Tanya Brandt
Sault Ste. Marie

St. Ignace News Policies

Letters:

All responsible letters will be considered for publication and may be edited. They must be signed and a telephone number must be included for verification. Personal thank-you notes, personal attacks against other people, form letters, and letters promoting political candidates are not accepted, although letters for or against ballot proposals are welcome.

Obituaries:

The St. Ignace News maintains a policy of not charging for obituaries and we sometimes add information or rewrite them for clarity and reader interest. Obituaries that the family wants published exactly as submitted can be placed in the newspaper for \$75. Photographs are welcome at no charge.

Weddings:

Weddings with photographs are published without charge within 45 days of the ceremony. After 45 days, a photograph can be included for \$32.80.

Internet:

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Contact:

The St. Ignace News
359 Reagon Street
PO Box 277
Saint Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-9150 (phone)
(906) 643-9122 (fax)
e-mail: news@stignacenews.com

The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

359 Reagon Street, PO Box 277, Saint Ignace, MI 49781

Telephone (906) 643-9150 • Facsimile (906) 643-9122

Hessel Office: 138 Pickford Avenue (906) 484-2268

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Publisher/Editor

Wesley H. Maurer, Jr.

Associate Publisher

Mary R. Maurer

Advertising Director

Dawn R. Huskey

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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.