

Replacement of Historic Bridge Ready to Begin

By Karen Gould

Funding has been secured following a two-year effort by the Mackinac County Road Commission to replace the Rutledge Road Bridge over the Munuscong River in Marquette Township. The bridge was built in 1914.

A \$502,100 contract between the Mackinac County Road Commission and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) was approved by commissioners Tuesday, April 18. The Road Commission and the township will contribute \$25,000 and MDOT's costs will come from the Local Bridge Fund and will total \$477,000.

In a review of the commission's 2005 financial report, manager Craig Kelso said, "We're holding our own," although he added that last year's expenses exceeded revenues by \$233,972.

The commission received only one bid, which it accepted, for \$169,224 for five trucks to be used for road maintenance and snow plowing. Truck and Trailer Specialists of Boyne Falls submitted the bid.

The commission will finance the purchase with a 10-year loan from First National Bank of St. Ignace, which offered the lowest interest rate, through a bidding process. A total of \$700,085 at 4.45 percent will be borrowed from the bank.

A road agreement was signed with Hudson Township for subgrade strengthening, aggregate lift, surfacing, and restoration work to be performed on H-40 from Black River Road to the east. The work will cost \$100,500, with the road commission

and township each contributing \$12,650. Federal funds amounting to \$75,200 will comprise the rest.

Bob Brotherton, Newton Township supervisor, will draft a letter from the township requesting a cost estimate to convert Rock River Road from a seasonal road to a year-around road. The road stretches from US-2 to Hiawatha Trail.

The Road Commission's policy to move a road off seasonal road status is to upgrade the road condition to a year-around level using funds other than the Road Commission's, said Mr. Kelso. Funds can come from the township or a local unit of government and once the road is upgraded, the Road Commission will maintain the road, he explained.

The Mackinac County Road Commission meets every other Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. at the Road Commission office on North State Street in St. Ignace.

Snowmobile Club To Clean Trails

The Straits Area Snowmobile Club is having a trail clean-up rally Saturday, May 6. Club members will go to designated snowmobile trails in pickup trucks and all terrain vehicles to remove trash. Volunteers are needed to help, and need not have a truck or vehicle to participate. Volunteers are asked to meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of Little Bear East Arena in St. Ignace, where trail assignments will be made. Club members may plan a cook-out or social gathering at the end of the clean-up day; information will be available at the site.

115 Years Ago
The St. Ignace News
Saturday, May 2, 1891

The Honorable Michael Chambers has been appointed by Governor Winans a member of the board of control of the State Mining School of the Upper Peninsula. The appointment is sure to give satisfaction, as Mr. Chambers is engaged in studying up the mineral resources of Mackinac, and will now devote his leisure hours still more assiduously to mines and minerals in this vicinity.

Shortly after 1 o'clock, the Furnace boarding house took fire. The Fire Department had just returned from McGraw's and immediately went to the scene, where they rendered very valuable services and prevented a big conflagration. Although a strong gale was blowing at the time, they succeeded in saving the lower part of the building and prevented the flames spreading to the store building, only a few feet distant. Damage to the building and contents, about \$1,200 insured. Origin of fire unknown.

Looking Back

Compiled by Ryan Schlehuder

The stone walls for the Carp River farm barn foundation were completed today, making an underground basement 60x40. Carpenters will commence on the frame work on the 15th. Superintendent Reddcliffe has his seeding nearly all done and expects to raise great crops this season.

The gin and spindle made great revolution in the cotton world and now the picking machine will make another revolution with that useful plant. With the new picking machine the field work on each bale of cotton costs \$1.50. Before the introduction of the machine, the field work cost was \$16 a bale.

It is reported that a dry goods store will soon be opened in E.H. Hall's building, east of the ore dock.

Mulcrone Bros. are fitting up the building next to attorney McNamara's office for an art gallery. It will be occupied by C.G. Agrell, the artist, when finished.

Portage column - Eleven St. Ignace News, two Republicans and about 20 other papers come into West Portage every week, and still they call us a set of ignoramuses.

Thirty years ago today, we started out on our 40 month's of soldier life.

The Carruthers Manufacturing Company of Corinne is so crowded with trade that they are compelled to work almost night and day, and the farmers are compelled to stop overnight on account of bad roads.

90 Years Ago
The St. Ignace Enterprise
Thursday, May 4, 1916

Notice - To the Residents of the City of St. Ignace: On and after May 1st, 1916, the Ordinance now in force in relation to cattle, horses, and other animals running at large in the City of St. Ignace will be strictly enforced.

Within the past few days the liquor dealers of the county have paid into the county treasurer the sum of \$12,000 license money for the year ending April 30, 1916. Of this amount, St. Ignace dealers contributed \$4,500, the balance being contributed among the townships and the city of Mackinac Island. Dealers who are privileged to engage in the business during the year follow:

St. Ignace - Joseph Smith, John

Valier, Hugh Whitwell, Michael McGrath, D. Lenahan & Son, Chris Sorenson, Allan Mosher, S.A. Snyder, Frank Valier.
Mackinac Island - William Sullivan, Chas. Holden, A.E. Metevier, George T. Arnold.
Cedarville - Gordon Rudd.
Hessel - Edward Fenlon.
Moran - Albert Ellsworth.
Kenneth - John Taylor.
Rexton - William Anguilm, Fred Wood.
Engadine - Daniel O'Connel.
Naubinway - William Boyle.
Gould City - William Lyman, Duncan McArthur.

All persons are hereby warned that all dumping of rubbish or any material on the waterfront of the railroad property between the depot and the ore dock is strictly prohibited and that any violations will lead to arrest. - Business Men's Association

Miss Evelyn Chambers, who spent the Easter vacation with friends and relatives in St. Ignace and Mackinac Island, returned to her school at Hardwood Saturday.

Saturday and Sunday were busy
Please turn to page 26

St. Ignace City Council Meeting Minutes

Council Proceedings (Official)

The regular meeting of the St. Ignace City Council was held on Monday, April 17, 2006 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mayor Grondin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Wyse gave the invocation.

Present: Councilmember Della Moretta, Gustafson, LaLonde, Tamlyn-Massaway, Wyse, Mayor Grondin.

Absent: None.

Staff Present: Eric Dodson, City Manager; Prentiss M. Brown, Jr. City Attorney; Renee' D. Vonderwerth, City Clerk; Gene Elmer, Assessor/Treasurer; Tim Matelski, Chief of Police; Les Therrian, Director of Public Works; Deb Evashevski, DDA Director; Paul Sved, Bldg. Insp.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 3, 2006 were approved as presented.

Additions to the Agenda:

6. City Manager Dodson - Request.
7. City Attorney Brown - Concern.
8. Councilmember Gustafson - Spring Clean-up date.

1. SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR RECREATION PLAN (MAY 1, 2006):

It was moved by Councilmember Gustafson, seconded by Councilmember Wyse to schedule a Public Hearing for the Recreation Plan at the May 1, 2006 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

2. WATER/SEWER FUND UPDATE:

City Manager Dodson updated the

council on the status of the negative cash balances in the water and sewer funds, adding that at the next meeting he will have a report comparing it to the projection report compiled by Pete Heckman and Les Therrian.

In addition, City Manager Dodson informed Council that he has received the preliminary audit report and will schedule an Audit Committee meeting prior to the May 1st Council meeting when it will be presented to the Council.

3. PROJECT UPDATE:

City Manager Dodson stated that the summer construction season is upon us and asked Gene Elmer and Deb Evashevski to update Council on their projects.

Gene Elmer stated that the financial goal for the lighthouse project has been met and informed Council that Edison has approved installing a transformer, at no cost, and as long as the city digs the trench they will put the conduit in. Also, the sealed bids for the erection of the lighthouse will be opened at the Harbor Authority meeting on April 28th at 11:00 a.m., adding that it is anticipated the lighthouse will be on the pedestal by May 28th.

Deb Evashevski reported that the bids for the public parking lot behind the FNB will be opened at the DDA meeting on April 21st and a recommendation will be made to Council on May 1st. She stated that she received a letter on March 22nd from the grants coordinator for the Boardwalk Project giving the City the go ahead to start on the engineering, but the signed agreement from the DNR has not been received.

City Manager Dodson reported on the bus station project, stating that the Request For Qualifications was submitted as soon as the closing was complete and they are still planning on proceeding in the very near future, how-

ever it may be a slow process.

4. RECREATION DIRECTOR VACANCY UPDATE:

City Manager Dodson stated the process is ongoing towards filling the Recreation Director vacancy. The Little Bear staffing committee met to review the job description so it can be updated, and will continue meeting to address staffing issues in regards to the summer recreational programs.

At this time City Manager Dodson brought Council's attention to a letter included in the packet from Shawn Pelon who presented a proposal outlining the services he could provide in regards to marketing Little Bear East.

5. SERVER UPDATE:

City Manager Dodson stated that the new server is installed and running, adding that the majority of the bills are in and the projected final cost will be under the authorized \$25,000.00.

Consideration of Bills:

Councilmember Gustafson questioned the bill from Megabyte Solutions, inquiring if that was part of the server cost. City Clerk Vonderwerth stated that it was for the installation.

6. CITY MANAGER DODSON - REQUEST:

City Manager Dodson presented Council with a request from John Lechner to place stone on Dock #3 during a project they are currently bidding on in Mackinac City. After discussing the request, it was the consensus of Council to have the City Manager obtain more information regarding the request.

7. CITY ATTORNEY BROWN - CONCERN:

City Attorney Brown voiced his concern regarding the Waste Management recycling program and the Cheeseman road disposal site not being opened. After discussing the concerns, it was the consensus of council to have the City Manager call Waste Management and set up a date for them to address the Council.

8. COUNCILMEMBER GUSTAFSON - SPRING CLEAN-UP DATES:

Councilmember Gustafson inquired into the spring clean-up dates. City Manager Dodson stated that the 3-item bulk pickup is scheduled for April 29th and the yard waste pick-up is scheduled for the week of April 24th and will be published in the St. Ignace

News this week.

At this time, Councilmember Della-Moretta mentioned the hazardous electronic waste pick-up that will be held at the Methodist Church on Saturday April 22nd.

Public Comment:

There were no comments at this time.

The following bills were presented to Council for payment:

Ace Hardware	.....	.135.00
Air Source One	.....	.105.43
Automatic Power	.....	.109.98
Northern Energy, Inc	.....	.568.75
Cedarville Marine	.....	.54.06
Cellular One	.....	.45.14
Cintas-729	.....	.31.65
City of St. Ignace		
Water Dept.	.....	.470.74
East Jordan Iron Works Inc.	.....	.171.76
Edison Sault Electric Company	.....	.18,835.13
Fidlar Doubleday, Inc.	.....	.50.83
Spartan Stores, LLC	.....	.112.71
Kimball-Midwest	.....	.488.16
Lester's Septic	.....	.75.00
Lynn Auto Parts	.....	.999.11
Mackinac Plumbing & Heating Co.	.....	.308.58
Mackinac Sales	.....	.3335.92
Majik Graphics	.....	.316.00
Megabyte Solutions	.....	.1642.19
Airgas Great Lakes	.....	.55.78
Michigan Steam	.....	.19.80
Mussio Janitorial Supplies	.....	.656.58
National Office Products	.....	.171.95
NCL of Wisconsin, Inc.	.....	.1067.51
Nye Uniform Company	.....	.49.17
OMS Compliance Services	.....	.69.00
P & S Distributors	.....	.450.62
R S Scott Associates	.....	.3861.00
Sault Printing Company, Inc.	.....	72.99
SBC	.....	.210.20
SEMCO Energy	.....	.9183.79
St. Ignace Area Schools	.....	.500.00
St. Ignace Automotive	.....	.1642.47
St. Ignace Do It Center	.....	.475.51
St. Ignace True Value	.....	.473.10
Straits Area Building Center	.....	244.79
Syneco Systems Inc.	.....	.319.88
Taser International	.....	.225.00
The St. Ignace News	.....	.887.20
Waste Management	.....	.474.28
Welcome Home Garage Doors, Inc.	.....	.235.00
Wright Express	.....	.3192.74
Grand Total	.....	\$ 52,394.50

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Mayor Paul Grondin
Renee' Vonderwerth, City Clerk



Mark Pilarski

DEAL ME IN

The EDGE, The HOLD, And That Friendly PASS LINE

Dear Mark,
The Mississippi Gaming Commission recently posted the "Hold" percentage for table games on the coast. Blackjack was listed at 14.58%. If, using perfect basic playing strategy, the house edge is supposed to be approximately one half of 1%. Am I comparing apples and oranges, or is the average BJ player completely ignoring basic playing strategy?

Ray F.

Yes and yes. But for starters, Ray, you are confusing house edge with casino hold.

The "house edge" is a predetermined percentage of each bet that the house takes as payment for letting you sit at their tables. The casino's "hold" is the share of the chips the player bought that are won back by the casino. It's not all that hard for the casino to turn a house edge of 1% and then, "Presto! begone!" turn it into a 14-plus percent hold.

Casinos, Ray, are not in the gambling business. They are in the math-and-time business. Casino operators know that, even considering a halfway decent blackjack player, the longer his keister is in their seats, the higher their hold will climb.

Allow me to clarify. Most blackjack players give up 5% of their wager to the house based on their shoddy play. (The house has a 5% advantage against the "average" blackjack player. Incredibly, less than 1% of all BJ players employ perfect basic strategy.) Consequently, after 20 hands, based on perpetual play, they should mathematically have \$95 remaining. But the average player stays stuck to the stool, so with their remaining \$95, slowly but surely, they fatten up their losses, giving the house a higher hold than the actual casino edge on the game.

Multiply that, Ray, by 24 hours a day play, grinding away at squatters on hundreds of blackjack tables across Mississippi, and 14.58% doesn't really seem all that high. The only one gambling here is the blackjack player, not the casino.

The only way you, the gambler,

can avoid getting caught in this grind is to shorten your gambling timeline. Casino operators know all too well that such cautious behavior has negative implications on the casino's hold. They would much prefer to see you crazy glued to a stool and anteing-up casino chips all day long.

Dear Mark,

I don't gamble a lot, but when we have guests who think we're lucky to live only 15 minutes from a sharp casino, we always take them, and I play craps, my favorite. I've been told that the best bet is on the pass line, and wonder if it's true.

Brenda C.

Craps with cronies can be enjoyable entertainment, and based on your pass line play, you're already an expert amongst your friends. Still, less than one percent of players who belly up to the game understand dice as you do. Most players are greener than the felt on the table. So, Brenda, allow me to give your gambling gang and fellow readers the only bets you really want to make on a crap table. The best bets on a crap game are the pass and come line bets you subscribe to, those wagers with odds, and the placing of the 6 or 8. These three wagers have a casino edge of 1.5% or lower. Stick to these three, and you'll be certified to get your teaching credentials.

Gambling Wisdom of the Week: Besides lovemaking and singing in the shower, there aren't many human activities where there is a greater difference between a person's self-delusional ability and actual ability than in poker.

~ Steve Badget

Got a question about gambling? Write to: Deal Me In, P.O. Box 1234, Traverse City, Michigan 49685- e-mail: pilarski@markpilarski.com • To order Mark Pilarski's "Hooked on Winning" audio cassettes-laminated win cards package (\$12.95 plus \$2 S&H) call 1-800-WINNERS.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To The Qualified Electors of The City of St. Ignace

NOTICE is hereby given that Nominating Petitions and Affidavits of Identity may be picked up in the City Clerk's Office to fill ONE vacant unexpired term for the elective office of Council.

The expiration date for filing Nominating Petitions and Affidavits of Identity is **Tuesday, May 16, 2006 by 4:00 p.m.**

NOTE: The one (1) candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be elected at the Primary Election on August 8, 2006.

Renee' D. Vonderwerth
City Clerk

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

School Bus Mechanic Les Cheneaux Community Schools

Les Cheneaux Community Schools is accepting contract bids for a Bus Mechanic to begin July 1, 2006. Our School Bus Mechanic will be responsible for all repairs and preventive maintenance. The school district pays for all replacement parts separately. This is a labor contract bid only.

Please quote an hourly rate for:

- a. Repairs
- b. Preventative Maintenance

Please bid for the two year period: July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2008. Please indicate all current State of Michigan Certifications. Further questions call 906-484-2256 ext. 218. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Return all bids by 4:00 p.m., Friday, May 12, 2006.

Superintendent's Office
Les Cheneaux Community Schools
P.O. Box 366
Cedarville, MI 49719

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Mackinac County Housing Commission

Mackinac County Housing Commission's Five Year and Annual Plan 2006 can be reviewed and comments made at the Executive Director's Office N9174 Kozy Street, Curtis, MI 49820. Office Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A public hearing is scheduled for May 17, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the community room at the Executive Director's Office.

NOTICE

St. Ignace Township Zoning Board of Appeals

The St. Ignace Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a meeting Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at the Mackinac County Airport at 7 p.m.

Re: The petition of Mr. Fred Schlehuder of 131 Huron Trail, St. Ignace, Michigan 49781

Request: To reduce the front set back from 30' to 15' on lots 331 and 332 Huron Trail in the plotted area of Evergreen Shores.

Donna B. Harju
St. Ignace Township Clerk