

# A Rare Sight on the Straits

## Freighter *Edgar B. Speer* Escorts Damaged *Roger Blough* Through Channel



Passing through the north channel between Mackinac and Round islands Wednesday, August 10, was an unusual sight. The 1,000-foot freighter *M/V Edgar B. Speer* (left) was assisting the 858-foot freighter *M/V Roger Blough* through the Straits of Mackinac. The *Blough* lost its rudder August 5 while navigating the St. Mary's River, according to the U.S. Coast Guard in Sault Ste. Marie, and was being towed to Lake Michigan for unloading and repair. Both freighters are in the U.S. Steel Great Lakes fleet. (Photograph courtesy of Joe Snowaert)



Lashed to the *Edgar B. Speer*, the rudderless *Roger Blough* (left) is towed toward the Mackinac Bridge, followed by the tug *Mary Page Hannah* of the Selvick Towing Corp. of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Mackinac Island is in the background. (Photograph courtesy of Great Lakes Air)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Towing Customers Isn't Very Neighborly

To the Editor:

What does loving your neighbor look like in St. Ignace?

Five years ago, my husband and I opened our business in St. Ignace, a dream come true. Our goal has been to be productive, positive, caring members of this business community and to contribute to the welfare of all. Sunday, August 13, one of the busiest tourist days in St. Ignace all summer, I, along with my customers and employees, saw something that prompts me to write this letter to the editor. A tow truck pulled up to our easement and the empty lot next to our business, threatening to drag away our customers' cars because they had parked in an unused parking lot. We often have tourists park in areas they don't belong, and it is difficult to monitor. What kind of example did that set for the people who were visiting St. Ignace? Did towing away your neighbor's customers' cars exhibit "Loving your neighbor

in action?" Granted, there are signs "No Parking" on the unused area, granted, they shouldn't have parked there, but have we stooped so low that instead of trying to help one another in business or resolve problems, our mindset is now one of hindering our own neighbors' businesses?

It was embarrassing trying to explain to my customers when they asked why someone would want to tow their cars away from a vacant area. Is that the experience we want people who visit our town to have? Have we stooped so low that when a tourist parks where they aren't supposed to, that we turn on them? These tourists were not impeding business or traffic. Our Chamber of Commerce works hard to present a positive view of our community and promote business.

This has been a difficult tourist season for many business owners. Our community has been struggling to survive. The only way we

can progress is by supporting one another. Businesses have folded up and left because of lack of business. We cannot afford this image.

People who visit our town and simply want to eat breakfast should not end up having an unsettling experience by being subjected to threatening behavior toward their vehicles simply because they couldn't find an empty parking space.

Punishing visitors and customers is not the impression we want people to take back with them to tell all their friends. We can spend a lot of money and use all of our resources to bring tourists to St. Ignace, but if they have negative experiences like this, will they want to come back?

Actions speak louder than words. Let's work together in a way that promotes St. Ignace businesses and leaves our visitors with a positive impression, showing them what "Loving your neighbor" should look like.

Judy Childs  
St. Ignace

### Adapting to New Curricula Is Focus for New School Year

As always seems the case, the summer has gone very quickly and school will begin in less than a month. The first full school day of instruction is Tuesday, September 5. Other important news:

Engadine Schools continues to show positive MEAP scores in most core areas. An ongoing effort continues in grades kindergarten through 12 to align and adapt our curricula in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. Alignment with state-mandated standards and Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE's) is in process. We anticipate fluctuations in student MEAP performance scores as we continue our efforts. A special recognition is to be afforded all our teachers, as they have consistently supported changes in curricula, instruction, and responded to the growing demands from the state and federal government for increased educational accountability.

This year the elementary school will fully implement the Reading First curriculum, a comprehensive researched-based phonics-oriented

reading, writing, and spelling program, from grades kindergarten through six. Upper elementary teachers will supplement their mathematics instruction with content specific to learning pre-algebraic skills in anticipation of all eighth grade students going into algebra in the 2007-2008 school year. Seventh and eighth graders this year will participate in an expanded pre-algebra program. It is also anticipated that our secondary science and English programs will be modified.

Reminder to all secondary English students: You only have a month to complete your optional summer reading program for Mr. Vincent, so let's get reading!

Angie McArthur, presently our business administrator, will, in addition, assume the elementary coordinator position. She will be the primary administrator for the elementary school with overview by the superintendent. I feel this administrative arrangement will prove effective and efficient.

Our bus fleet is now modernized with the purchase of two new

### Engadine Consolidated Schools

by  
Stu Hobbs  
Superintendent

HOME OF THE EAGLES

buses and the "new" bus garage is operational. We appreciate all our constituents for their continued support, especially with the unanimous passing of the bus bond.

Important dates:

- August 7 Varsity/JV Football practice begins.

- August 14 Varsity/JV Girls Basketball practice begins.

- High School course drop and adds August 25 to 31 (tentative dates).

- August 30 Staff in-service day, no students.

- September 5 First full day of instruction for all students.

We look forward to another positive school year. Our goal is to work cooperatively with all parents to make their student's learning at Engadine a beneficial experience.

If you have inquiries about Engadine Schools, please feel free to contact us at (906) 477-6313.

Enjoy your summer.

### St. Ignace Deserves the Best

To the Editor:

As an annual visitor to St. Ignace since childhood, I am impressed by the many recent efforts made to revitalize the town. As always, the people of St. Ignace are welcoming and friendly (i.e. the librarian at the lovely new library who graciously assisted my father in his genealogical search). Further, amenities like the marina, boardwalk, and new casino provide valid reasons for travelers to stop and spend their valuable time and money. St. Ignace can be proud.

However, first impressions matter, especially when, despite best efforts, tourism is lagging. Looking through the critical lens

of a first-time visitor instead of one who knows and loves the town, one sees that a boater's first view toward the street as he leaves the marina is an abandoned, blighted building, one of a number. The first businesses one encounters upon entering the town reflect squalor and neglect. These are far from accurate portrayals of St. Ignace and what the city stands for. It would be a benefit to the town, especially the year-rounders who have few convenient options, for these stores to be maintained to the higher level of their counterparts in other similar areas. St. Ignace deserves the best.

Linda Bertges  
Charlotte, North Carolina

### Michigan Politics

By George Weeks



### DeVos Hits Trifecta With Running Mate Pick: Johnson Fills Need for Balance

Apart from capability and compatibility, balance is the most important electoral factor for a gubernatorial nominee to consider in selecting a running mate.

Geography was a balancing factor when Governor Bill Milliken of Traverse City picked former Detroit councilman Jim Brickley, an ex-FBI agent, as his running mate in 1970.

Gender was a factor when ex-U.S. Representative Martha Griffiths of Macomb County helped U.S. Representative Jim

Blanchard of Oakland County get elected governor in 1982. She became Michigan's first elected female lieutenant governor.

Gender also was a factor when Senate Majority Leader John Engler of Beal City picked Senator Connie Binsfeld of Maple City and Munising as his running mate in 1990 (after Blanchard had dumped Griffiths and put another woman on his ticket for an unsuccessful bid for a third term).

In her successful 2002 bid to

be Michigan's first female governor, Attorney General Jennifer Granholm of Northville selected Senate Minority Leader John Cherry of Clio, who brought legislative savvy to the ticket.

Now comes Grand Rapids-area businessman Dick DeVos with selection of Oakland County Clerk Ruth Johnson, an ex-teacher, former county commissioner, and 1999-2004 state representative who is widely viewed as a solid choice for No. 2 on the GOP ticket.

That's not a view shared by Democratic State Chairman Mark Brewer, who said: "The DeVos-Johnson ticket is a perfect match of two extremists."

As a balancing act, selection of Johnson was a trifecta: Gender, geography, and governmental experience.

It was a given that DeVos would pick a woman, probably from southeast Michigan to balance DeVos' western roots. Senator Nancy Cassis of Novi, chair of the Senate Finance Committee and once a contender for the nomination that DeVos won, had been mentioned.

Oakland County's Cassis has more extensive legislative experience than Johnson, but DeVos was impressed with Johnson's countywide showing in 2004, when she knocked off an incumbent clerk by 12 percentage points and outpolled President George W. Bush by 4 points in a big county that has not been voting as Republican as it did.

Johnson was indeed a solid pick. But no running mate on a state or national ticket carries the day.

#### Northern Trails

As they launched their general election campaigns, Senator

Debbie Stabenow and challenger Mike Bouchard, winner of the August 8 Republican primary, last week did what smart statewide candidates have done for decades: go to the Upper Peninsula State Fair in Escanaba.

Stabenow, after announcing her reelection bid and running her first TV ad ("Times are tough in Michigan - but so are we. ...we've got a great future here in Michigan and I'm fighting for it every day") went to the fair after attending a salute to veterans. She scheduled numerous appearances early this week from Manistee to Petoskey.

Oakland County Sheriff Bouchard, who also attended a veterans' tribute before the fair, spent much of the week talking about homeland security. A member of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, he said Michigan's high profile bridges are "especially vulnerable to terrorist attack."

Not surprisingly, considering DeVos' heavy TV advertising across both peninsulas, he is doing better in polls against Granholm than Bouchard does against Stabenow.

In an August 9 to 15 statewide poll of 600 likely voters, Granholm had a 50-47 lead over DeVos, while Stabenow led Bouchard, 54-42. (Margin of error: plus or minus 4 percentage points).

The poll, first after Bouchard won the contested GOP primary, had Stabenow in a 52-48 lead in the northern Lower Peninsula; 53-34 above the bridge.

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

## The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

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### 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.

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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.