

# County Fair Animal Quarantine Lifted; Cause of Sickness Still Inconclusive

## Animals Released After Medication Takes Effect

By Amy Polk

The swine quarantine at the Chippewa County Fairgrounds was lifted Tuesday, September 19, and while sick pigs have recovered, test results to determine the illness were inconclusive.

During fair week August 27 through September 4, several pigs exhibited flu-like symptoms such as coughing, higher-than-normal temperatures, and some diarrhea, Chippewa County Fair Board President Dave Love said.

The fair board called in state veterinarian Bob Robinson on the recommendation of Dr. Clinton Groover of Pickford Veterinary Clinic, who had examined the sick animals.

Dr. Robinson was unable to diagnose the illness, so he ordered laboratory tests and ordered that swine, sheep, cattle, and goats be quarantined on the fairgrounds.

The animals, which ordinarily can leave the fairgrounds by Labor Day, after the fair, remained at the fairgrounds an additional four days until the sheep, cattle, and goats were

released. It was determined they posed no health risk, nor did they show any signs of illness.

All of the swine were kept at the fairgrounds until Wednesday, September 13, when some, showing no signs of an illness, were released. By Monday, September 18, many of the remaining 40-or-so pigs were cleared to leave the fairgrounds, and the remainder were expected to leave the following day.

They had all remained past September 13 to allow medicine to run its course and cycle through the animals so as not to remain in the meat upon slaughter.

The animals were also detained so they could be watched for signs of illness while awaiting the results of laboratory tests.

Several of the pigs were released for slaughter, where they will be inspected again for illness before they are slaughtered and processed. These animals were purchased at auction Saturday, September 2, and were already headed to slaughter from the fair-

grounds, Mr. Love said.

Mr. Love said things have been going well at the fairgrounds, owing to the effort of the fair board and the many volunteers who are helping take care of the animals. The fair board is paying for the additional stay and any other costs associated with the quarantine.

The pigs that were sick are now recovered.

"Everything has been going well so far. The problem seems to be clearing up," Mr. Love said. "We're still waiting for the results from the lab tests. We're taking every precaution we can."

That included issuing the quarantine and watching all the animals for signs of illness to avoid spreading infection to other animals at area farms, and to prevent the contamination of meat products.

Mr. Love said the additional testing at USDA-licensed facilities will provide an added measure of safety for the meat.

Additional information about the quarantine or the fair animals can be obtained by calling Mr. Love at (906) 635-0193.



A quarantine at the Chippewa County Fairgrounds was partially lifted Thursday, September 7, and Friday, September 8, to allow sheep, cattle, and goats to leave after it was determined they were not affected by an illness observed in some of the pigs at the fairgrounds. Some of those animals were released in time to participate in the 101st Stalwart Fair's livestock show, like these sheep handled by (from left) Maddie Hoornstra of Brimley, Lance Cryderman of Pickford, and Mitchell Miller of Pickford.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### U.S. Superpower Should Bring Peace to the World

To the Editor:

On September 11, 2006, 15 people from Luce and West Mackinac counties met to discuss a bill currently before Congress that proposes doing something about the level of madness and violence in the world. On September 11, 1906, Mahatma Gandhi proposed in Johannesburg, South Africa, that

### News Article of City Manager Evaluation Poorly Portrayed

To the Editor:

I was rather disappointed with the way your paper's article portrayed the city manager's evaluation process. The highly edited commentary did not reflect the complete text of all the evaluations. It is my opinion that the article portrayed a quite negative cumulative summary of the evaluations, with a select few negative comments removed from their complete context. This did not reflect accurately all the comments that I had the priv-

more could be achieved by peaceful means than could be achieved by violence. Echoing Jesus Christ, even though he was not a Christian, Gandhi told his followers to love their enemies but to stand up for what was right and to achieve their goals using peaceful means.

The bill is before the U.S. Congress and Senate that would

ilege to read throughout all of the evaluations that were done by the six sitting council members. I realize that summarizing, by its nature, is a very subjective process, and therefore difficult to even practice. The article simply did not reflect an evaluation process that culminated in a unanimous satisfactory vote from the complete council.

I thank you for your time, and space.

Tom Della-Moretta  
St. Ignace City Councilman

establish a cabinet-level U.S. Department of Peace. The primary function of a United States Department of Peace would be to research, articulate, and facilitate nonviolent solutions to domestic and international conflict. The Department of Peace would be dedicated to peacemaking and the study of conditions that are conducive to both domestic and international peace. Services would be coordinated to every level of American society. This would be about matters from spouse abuse and school yard bullying to armed international conflict. The development of initiatives from local communities, religious groups, and non-governmental organizations would be encouraged.

Let's support an America that is "a shining city on a hill," the light of which is the light of nations. Right now we are the world's number one arms supplier. Our military budget now exceeds all the rest of

the world's military budgets combined. When asked what country do they fear the most as the world's greatest threat to peace, most inhabitants of the world name the United States. Our murder rate, when compared to other industrialized countries, is often more than 100 times higher than comparable countries. And it is not about gun ownership; Canada has similar gun ownership rates. It is about the way we think and solve problems. We have to start solving problems peacefully. America is the unquestioned super power of the world, with the ability to bring peace to the world. What a wonderful, shining example we could be to the world.

This is a grassroots effort to turn love into a political force. Many county and city officials have passed a resolution favoring passage of the bill that would establish this department.

Jim Ramelis  
Gould City

### Testing Program Confirms Safe Drinking Water for EUP Residents

A free testing program in August confirmed safe drinking water for 149 residents of the Eastern Upper Peninsula. The testing was offered to all residents by Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program, which will offer it again next year.

Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program processed the samples August 19 at the Upper Peninsula State Fair, testing for nitrates and triazine pesticides, two chemicals that are dangerous for infants and small children.

The results are confidential and will be mailed directly to the well owner. The Michigan Department of Agriculture will send information about what to do if nitrate levels are too high.

Assisting with the program are Pickford Feed Service, Cheboygan Cooperative Feed Mill in Rudyard, Chippewa-

East Mackinac and Luce-West Mackinac conservation districts, Michigan State University Extension, and Clark Township.

"Together, their coordinated efforts gave citizens convenient additional pick-up and drop-off sites for water samples," said coordinator Christine Perrault. "The real successes of this program are the citizens that want to protect their precious drinking water and will take steps to do it. Now, 149 families will rest assured that their drinking water is free of these contaminants."

Free drinking water testing will be available next year a week or two before the Upper Peninsula State Fair.

For information on how to protect one's water supply, contact the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program in the Eastern Upper Peninsula at (906) 635-2136.

### Treatment at Mackinac Straits Hospital Was 'Top Notch'

To the Editor:

I would like to relate an extremely positive experience I had as a patient at the Mackinac Straits Hospital. I was a patient in the Emergency Room Tuesday, September 5, receiving treatment for a very painful kidney stone. My experience at Mackinac Straits Hospital was the most positive experience, under the circumstances, that I have ever had. The Hospital was top notch and the

medical staff treated me with dignity and respect. I can not say enough positive things about this clinic. Having been born and raised in Chippewa County, I have been to other ER facilities but I would have to say that if you want top-notch, superior, caring treatment, you may want to consider traveling to Mackinac Straits for any medical issues you may have.

Amber Tuzinowski  
Rudyard

## Michigan Politics

By George Weeks



### Governor, De Vos Trade Barbs Over China Topic

The Great Wailing Wall of China looms over Michigan politics. That vast land of 1.3 billion people has been Topic One of late in lamenting gubernatorial campaign TV ads.

To a lesser extent, the nation with the world's fastest-growing economy also has been raised in the U.S. Senate race in the U.S. state with the nation's most lagging economy.

On Friday, Governor Jennifer Granholm launched a new ad asserting her Republican chal-

lenger, businessman Dick DeVos, "says he's a jobs maker - for China maybe. DeVos cut jobs in Michigan, but invested \$200 million and created thousands of jobs in China."

Granholm wisely does not echo the earlier Democratic Party line that DeVos, when running Alticor (now parent of Amway, co-founded by Rich DeVos, Dick's father) actually moved jobs to China. State Chairman Mark Brewer was on the tube last week holding a T-shirt that proclaims: "DeVos

Outsourcing Jobs to China."

DeVos has run a series of counter ads noting that China required that a plant be built in China to sell Alticor products there, accusing Granholm on China "of a bunch of bull. It's the lowest form of politics."

Michigan companies need to expand into world markets. As a New York Stock Exchange magazine headlined recently on U.S. firms building plants in China to sell there: "Fish Where the Fish Are."

Facts are with DeVos; imagery with Democrats. One clever anti-DeVos spot concludes with an Oriental scene and music while asking: "Do you suppose a province in China is looking for a governor?"

A clever DeVos zinger against Granholm is a radio-TV ad that alleges a chronology of four years of her failing to deliver on promises, and then concludes with an arm-waving Granholm at a podium proclaiming in a near shout: "And in five years, you're going to be blown away."

Back to China: An effective Senator Debbie Stabenow re-election TV ad leads off with a Michigan businessman bewailing over China stealing a trade secret and saying she came to the rescue. The ad hailed her bipartisan push for establishing a chief trade prosecutor to enforce trade laws - with a companion bill in the House by Representative Dave Camp (R-Midland).

In introducing legislation last year, she said, "We need to get tough with China and say enough is enough." More recently, she said: "We know that China is cheating." It's a timely topic that the Bush Administration is raising this very week with Beijing.

But, important as they are, the China trade issues raised by Stabenow are eclipsed in the media by all the wailing about China in the gubernatorial campaign.

In his challenge of Stabenow, Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard has had some September boosts, including President Bush helping him raise about \$1 million at the Oakland County home of businessman David Johnson, developer of Bay Harbor south of Petoskey and owner of much of South Fox Island.

Bouchard also won endorsement Friday by Michigan Farm Bureau. Bouchard spokeswoman Jennifer Morris called that a "huge coup" considering that Stabenow is on the Senate Agriculture Committee.

But also on Friday, *The Detroit News* published a September 7-12 EPIC/MRA poll of 608 likely voters (error margin: plus-minus 4 percentage points) that it commissioned with some TV stations, which had Stabenow building her lead to 53 percent to 34 percent over Bouchard, compared to 51-38 in August.

In smaller sub-samples, Stabenow led 48-36 in the northern Lower Peninsula, and 49-33 in the Upper Peninsula.

EPIC/MRA pollster Ed Sarpolus, as well as strategists of both parties, says that Bouchard has difficulty getting attention because of the heavy spending, mostly on TV, in the governor's race. Through August, DeVos had spent \$21 million; Granholm \$7.3 million.

*George Weeks retired this year 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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USPS Periodical Publication Number - 462-380

ESTABLISHED 1878

Published each Thursday at Saint Ignace, Mackinac County, Michigan

Entered in Saint Ignace, Michigan Post Office as Periodical Mail Matter, Act of March 3, 1879

Periodical Postage Paid at Saint Ignace, MI • Additional Postage Paid at Gaylord, MI

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. Ignace News, PO Box 277, St. Ignace, MI 49781

Volume 127, Number 25, Thursday, September 21, 2006

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Publisher 1975-1995

Wesley H. Maurer, Sr. (1897-1995)



#### Subscriptions:

\$35 in Mackinac, Chippewa, Emmet, Luce, and Cheboygan counties.

\$42 elsewhere in the United States and military post offices.

\$30 for the Web edition at www.saintignacenews.com

We take Visa, MasterCard, and Discover

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.

### 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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