



## Senator Takes the Floor for School Reading

To help promote reading among young people, State Senator Jason Allen reads to Gros Cap School students Friday, March 16. Pictured here (back row, front to back) are Emily Goudreau, Aaron Welch, Fred Lounsberry, Trevor Soblaskey (hidden), and parent Tim LaJoyce. In front, sitting, is Joey Colegrove. Standing on his knees to get a good look at the book is Steve Seccia.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Write in To Share Viewpoints on EUPISD Special Ed. Millage

To the Editor:

What to do? What to do?

The recent announcement by the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District (EUPISD) to seek a 0.75 mill increase from property owners (and, indirectly affecting property renters, too) for the purpose of increasing monies available for the special education of our youngsters for the next three years has me in a quandary.

I read and hear about the astounding increase of diagnosed autism (some estimates forecast one in 165 births) and, an awareness of the special learning difficulties for individuals with ADD and ADHD, cognitively and emotionally impaired students, and all sorts of other diagnoses which demand suitable education tailored to students' individual needs. And, our school systems are tasked with the awesome responsibility of preparing all our young folks for productive lives.

When I read, however, that EUPISD ranks 56th of 57 similar intermediate districts, I question whether my priority toward these young folks is mirrored by the school districts.

The previous millage for special education in the intermediate school district is, effectively, 0.77 mill, so the passage of this new mill request will represent an almost 100 percent increase.

That might not be bad considering the spending rank; however, how will those monies be spent?

I'll admit that if I walked into my boss' office to request \$4,050,000 over the next three

years (assuming a stable property valuation), my supervisor would reasonably want to know how I intended to spend that amount, no matter how worthy the project.

I have been talking to several folks about how they feel about this proposed millage; the anecdotal consensus response simply is, "I don't know."

A lovely young mother and wife briefly discussed voting last weekend. If I could take the liberty of paraphrasing, she felt that she did not vote because she felt uninformed.

Her husband had interjected to

vote the straight party ticket; and, while that approach has its considerations, this May 8 election is not a partisan issue.

This great young couple is blessed with being the loving parents of a growing family and they are property owners here in Mackinac County. What if their next child is diagnosed autistic? Or with another learning challenge? How would their beloved son or daughter receive an appropriate education locally?

At the end of our discussion, she, who is not registered to vote, and I, who jealously protect my

*Mistakes were made. And I'm not happy about them.*

— President George W. Bush on U.S. attorney firings

Seldom has northern Michigan had such a direct link to a raging front burner issue on Capitol Hill as it does to the bungled dumping of eight federal prosecutors, including one for the western half of the Lower Peninsula and all of the Upper Peninsula.

Michigan's western district, until Friday directed by former Cass County prosecutor Margaret M. Chiara, is one of the most unique among the 93 districts for U.S. attorneys nationwide. It ranks second in population, distance spanned, and miles of coastline with international shipping.

It is one of the few districts — beyond those in such states as Arizona with large tribal reservations — that have a wide span of Native American lands under federal jurisdiction for legal issues.

Michigan's Western District,

headquartered in Grand Rapids with offices in Lansing and Marquette, also is unique in lacking a central dominating metro area, as does Michigan's Eastern District with Detroit.

U.S. attorneys serve at the pleasure of the president — and usually get replaced when a new president takes office, as was the case when Bill Clinton broomed all 93 after he took office in 1993.

Clinton's choice for Michigan's Western District was Traverse City attorney Mike Dettmer, who won high marks for his seven years of public service.

Dettmer replaced Bush I appointee John Smietanka, who was retained many months into the Clinton administration while serving as a special prosecutor in Chicago dispatching assorted crooks to prison. He was the 1994 and 1998 Republican candidate for Michigan attorney general.

In my chats with Dettmer and Smietanka last week about what Bush agrees was mishandling of announcement of the prosecutor firings, they declined comment on the job performance of Chiara, Michigan's first female U.S. attorney.

But Democrat Dettmer and Republican Smietanka agreed that the administration's ever-shifting public rationale for the firings was, in Dettmer's words, "poorly handled." He's right.

Indeed, Kyle Sampson, top aide to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, resigned under fire over the Justice Department's handling of the firings and misleading Congress about the process.

## Park Commission Meeting March 28

The seven-member Mackinac Island State Park Commission will meet Wednesday, March 28, at 1:30 p.m. in Lansing.

The commission was formed in 1895 and is responsible for all aspects of managing Mackinac State Historic Parks, which includes Fort Mackinac, Mackinac Island State Park, and several downtown museums on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Historic Mill Creek, and Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse in Mackinaw City.

The meeting will take place on the fifth floor boardroom of the Michigan Historical Center and Library.

## Peace Movement in N. Michigan Is Growing

To the Editor:

Another milestone has been reached, the U.S. has been involved in Iraq for four years now. Peace seekers/anti-war activists around the world have been on the streets in protest over this occupation of Iraq.

The peace movement in Northern Michigan is growing. This Saturday, a peace movement was born in St. Ignace, thanks to Jim Ramelis and Mary Nichols. Traverse City has a huge anti-war movement. Our neighbors in Petoskey and Charlevoix are extremely vocal and active. Alpena has a young peace movement as well. This past Saturday, eight peace activists gathered in front of Cheboygan's county building armed with an assortment of peace signs. We were greeted by many people honking in response to our "honk for peace" signs. The chill of the morning brought about our

early departure.

Tens of thousands gathered in Washington D.C. over the weekend. They held a candlelight vigil Friday night and 220 or so of these peaceful people were arrested. Many were Christians representing an assortment of churches. On Saturday, they faced an angry pro-war (anti-anti-war activists) crowd. Some of these were big, brutish men who pushed 60-year-old women around for simply carrying a peace sign. There was a large contingent of Iraqi Veterans Against the War leading the march to the Pentagon.

Our Congress continues to debate what should be done. This is an important week, if you are against the war, if you are ready to see some action in bringing an end to this quagmire; this is the week you need to contact your congressman. Most people reading this paper are in Bart Stupak's district, so he is the man to contact. Personal visits to any one of his seven offices are recommended.

As I write this, the latest casual-

right to vote on almost every occasion, were ironically united in not knowing what to do.

So I write today and presume the liberty to invite other moms and dads and property owners and neighbors to share in this column of Letters to the Editor their past experiences with the various school districts, particularly if their children were qualified for special education considerations. And, property owners, would this three-year increase at this time be appropriate for special education uses, even as the specific uses

*\*Please turn to page 8*

ty count for our troops is at 3,210. Please take action to stop this number from growing. The number of wounded is at more than 23,000. Did you know that about one-third of all returning servicemen are facing mental health issues? Did you know that since this war began, 60,000 active duty personnel have divorced? Have you heard of the neglectful treatment of some of our wounded? How many more have to suffer to "save face"? How many more have to die before it will be "okay" to say, "bring 'em home"? How many more have to die for this war of choice? These are not just numbers, these are precious sons, daughters, husbands, wives, brothers, and sisters. When will enough be enough for those who support this war?

I say, no more lives for George Bush's war.

Karen Martin  
Straits Area Concerned  
Citizens for Peace and Justice  
Cheboygan

## 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 do often 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:

The complete edition of The St. Ignace News is available online at [stignacenews.com](http://stignacenews.com).

### 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](mailto:news@stignacenews.com)

## Michigan Politics

By George Weeks



### Michigan's Role in U.S. Attorney Firings

Dettmer and Smietanka served through the second terms of their presidents. Why was Chiara dismissed at the beginning of Bush II's second term?

According to the Associated Press, she was cited by Sampson in an e-mail to the White House among "weak" prosecutors, an ineffectual manager who "chafed against administration initiatives" — not among "loyal Bushies."

She told the *Grand Rapids Press*: "I am considered a very strong manager."

While U. S. attorneys are presidential appointees, and agents of carrying out Justice Department initiatives, their role is not to be presidential spear carriers.

Smietanka, in March 6 testimony before a House subcommittee, said: "The position of United States Attorney has always been and should continue to be a political position, that is a 'policy' or non-career appointment."

He said, "It guarantees some sensitivity for the district culture and history of the people in the district when making discretionary legal decisions."

Dettmer puts it this way: while U.S. attorneys are representatives of the federal government, they have an "understanding of the local territory — basically a check on the federal government."

In short, not loyalists to the appointing authority.

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

## Political Contacts

### STATE SENATOR, 37th District

#### Sen. Jason Allen

820 Farnum Building  
PO Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536  
(517) 373-2413 (phone)  
(517) 373-5144 (fax)  
e-mail: [senjallen@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senjallen@senate.michigan.gov)  
Web site: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/allen>

### STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 107th District

#### Rep. Gary McDowell

S1486 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514  
Toll Free: (888) 737-4279  
(517) 373-2629 (phone)  
(517) 373-8429 (fax)  
e-mail: [garymcdowell@house.mi.gov](mailto:garymcdowell@house.mi.gov)  
Web site: <http://house.michigan.gov/rep.asp?DIST=107>

### U.S. CONGRESSMAN, 1st Congressional District

#### Congressman Bart Stupak

2352 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Toll Free (800) 950-7371  
Web site: [www.house.gov/stupak](http://www.house.gov/stupak)

#### District Office:

1229 W. Washington St.  
Marquette, MI 49855  
(906) 228 3700 (phone)  
(906) 228 2305 (Fax)

### U.S. SENATORS

#### Senator Debbie Stabenow

133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-4822 (phone)  
(202) 224-2066 (TTY)  
e-mail: [senator@stabenow.senate.gov](mailto:senator@stabenow.senate.gov)  
Web site: <http://stabenow.senate.gov>

#### Upper Peninsula Office

1901 W. Ridge  
Marquette, MI 49855  
(906) 228-8756

#### Senator Carl Levin

269 Russell Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-2202  
(202) 224-6221(phone)  
(202) 224-1388 (fax)  
e-mail: [senator@levin.senate.gov](mailto:senator@levin.senate.gov)  
Web site: <http://levin.senate.gov>

#### Upper Peninsula Office

524 Ludington Street  
Suite LL-103  
Escanaba, MI 49829-3949  
(906) 789-0052

## 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

[www.SaintIgnaceNews.com](http://www.SaintIgnaceNews.com)

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 50 Thursday, March 22, 2007

#### Publisher/Editor

Wesley H. Maurer, Jr.

#### Associate Publisher

Mary R. Maurer

#### Advertising Director

Dawn R. Huskey

#### 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](http://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.