

Stupak Flag Bill Signed by President Bush

Legislation that will ensure that federal agencies lower their flags to half-staff in honor of fallen service members was signed by President George W. Bush Friday, June 29. The bill was sponsored by U.S. Representative Bart Stupak of Menominee and brings federal agencies into accordance with state

Bridge To Close Briefly During July 28 Events

The Mackinac Bridge will close briefly twice Saturday, July 28, during the 50th anniversary celebration.

The first closure will be for a parade crossing. Northbound lanes will be closed from approximately 11:45 a.m. to 11:55 a.m. Southbound lanes will be closed from approximately 11:50 a.m. until noon.

The second closure will occur during the fireworks display in the evening. The fireworks will be shot over the Straits from both Mackinaw City and St. Ignace on the east side of the bridge. All lanes will be closed on the bridge from 10:30 p.m. until 11 p.m. Emergency vehicles will be able to cross during the closures.

governors' proclamations.

In Michigan, fallen service members are honored by lowering the flag to half-staff across the state.

"I am pleased that President Bush signed this legislation into law and recognized the importance of providing fallen troops with a uniform, consistent display of respect," Mr. Stupak said. "Military families who lose a loved one in Iraq or Afghanistan have made the greatest sacrifice. The least our government can do is ensure we honor the family's loss in a manner that is befitting of this profound loss."

The law's official name is the "Army Specialist Joseph P. Micks Federal Flag Code Amendment Act of 2007" and is named for Joseph P. Micks, a soldier from Rapid River, who was killed in Iraq in July 2006. After Mr. Micks was killed in Iraq, Mr. Stupak heard from members of the community that some federal facilities had lowered the flag in his honor, while others had not.

"This legislation will ensure consistency in how we honor fallen heroes," Mr. Stupak said, noting that the legislation is particularly important to rural areas.

"Rural America is disproportionately represented in the military," Mr. Stupak said. "Because rural military funeral processions often trav-

el long distances through multiple communities, it is particularly important that there be a single, uniform policy for federal agencies to follow in lowering their flags in honor of fallen troops."

Mr. Stupak's legislation passed the U.S. House of Representative in May and the Senate June 14, before the President signed the bill into law June 29.

Mr. Stupak's Congressional District, Michigan's 1st, has more veterans than any other congressional district in the Michigan.

Boating Classes Available in Aug.

Boating safety classes for all ages will be offered in Cedarville Thursday, August 2, and Friday, August 3, and people who plan to take the class must register early, because space is limited. Classes will take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Clark Township Fire and Ambulance Hall on Meridian Street. Enter on the side facing First National Bank of St. Ignace, Les Cheneaux Branch. To register, call John Griffin at (906) 484-2022.

The course is a requirement for people ages 12 to 16 years of age who want a boating license, however, adults are welcome, too. Mackinac County Sheriff Marine Deputy Tom Sherlund will instruct the courses.

The Les Cheneaux Islands Association and Mackinac County Sheriff's Department are co-hosting the classes.

Information can be obtained by calling Jill Bigler at (906) 484-2990, or sending e-mail to dbiglerpi@aol.com.

Participants who successfully complete the course will receive a free, adult-size life jacket from the Les Cheneaux Islands Association.

The Islands Association also offers informal, hands-on courses for anyone who want to freshen their boating skills, taught by Diane Patrick and John Griffin, both of Cedarville. To schedule a free session, call Mrs. Patrick at (906) 484-5555 or Mr. Griffin at (906) 484-2022.



NEWS FROM ST. IGNACE AREA SCHOOLS

By MIKE SPRINGSTEEN, SUPERINTENDENT

Summer for most schools means time to do yearly cleaning and repairs throughout the district. In the St. Ignace Area Schools, classrooms and offices are cleaned on a daily basis. When school is out for students, however, the maintenance staff goes into overdrive emptying classrooms, stripping floors, cleaning carpets, and doing the kinds of maintenance and repairs that are difficult to do while classes are in session. This summer, in addition to regular custodial care, two classrooms and two office areas will receive new tile or new carpet.

The middle school was built in 1991 and in many of the classrooms, the flooring is showing its age. The school board is committed to redoing a few floors each year. The high school gymnasium and the middle school gymnasium were both lightly sanded and received a new coat of varnish, making them look like new. The top half of the middle school gym roof will be re-shingled and receive additional ice and water shield.

The summer is also a time for teaching staff to take additional educational classes and for planning to take place that will bring improvements in the next year's program. Teachers and administrators are attending two area-wide planning sessions that review test data from the 2006/2007 school year to make modifications in the program for the 2007/2008 school year. Principals use this time to review student demographics to make staff assignments.

In St. Ignace, the overall student population has been following the same general trend lines as the rest of the Upper Peninsula. In 1995, the St. Ignace Area Schools had a K-12 population of 850 students. Based on our best guess at this time, we estimate that our K-12 population for 2007/2008 will be 725 students. Declining student numbers put a strain on schools resources, as funding is based almost entirely on a legislated dollar amount for each student attending the school.

A loss of a few students each year means less money each year. Last year, the legislature allocated \$7,108 per student for students in the St. Ignace Area Schools. At this time, the legislature has not acted to set the funding level for 2007/2008.

The 2007/2008 budget adopted by the St. Ignace Area Schools Board of Education reflects two fewer teaching staff members than last year, estimates 25 fewer students, is based on the same per-pupil allotment as last year and estimates a \$164,000 deficit. That budget estimates at the end of the year the district should have an unreserved fund balance of \$275,000 which is approximately 4.2% of its \$6.5 million budget. No teachers were laid off, but two who resigned were not replaced.

Despite the financial crunch that all districts in the state are feeling, every effort is made to continue to deliver a quality program to the students of the community. Highly qualified teachers staff every level of the program.

In the elementary schools, all teachers and students have the services of qualified para professionals. In addition to receiving the state core curriculum, all elementary students receive music, art, physical education, and technology. Students may opt to begin taking band at the fifth grade. At the upper levels, in addition to the state core curriculum, students are offered a variety of honors level mathematics, science, and English courses. High School Band, Jazz

Band, Steel Drum Band, Pep Band, Choir, Art I, II, III and IV, foreign language, business, and technology classes provide other educational opportunities. At state level competitions, the metal shop curriculum has produced many student award winners. Each year, students who opt for the home-building class "stick-build" a 1,000 square-foot home. That program is a partnership with HOME, a group that seeks to make home ownership a financial reality for all. Online classes and interactive television classes give additional honors and college dual enrollment opportunities for students.

Something that should not be taken for granted is free transportation to and from school, available to every student. A free breakfast is offered to all that desire and an excellent hot lunch is served each day.

The extracurricular athletic program is very comprehensive, offering football, boys and girls basketball, wrestling, volleyball, boys and girls track, baseball, softball, boys and girls cross country, golf, cheerleading, dance, and boys and girls bowling. The last few years have seen approximately 25% of the senior class enroll in a work experience program that is tied to their individual educational plan. In last year's graduating class, 70% enrolled in college this fall.

The 2007/2008 school year begins Tuesday September 4. With everybody working to make it so, another year as good as, if not better than, the last, is expected.

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 \$35.00.

Internet:

The complete edition of The St. Ignace News is available online at 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

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

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 128, Number 15 Thursday, July 19, 2007

Publisher/Editor
Wesley H. Maurer, Jr.
Associate Publisher
Mary R. Maurer
Publisher 1975-1995
Wesley H. Maurer, Sr. (1897-1995)

Editor

Ellen Paquin, news@saintignacenews.com

Staff Writers

Amy Polk, amy@saintignacenews.com
Ryan Schlehner, ryan@saintignacenews.com
Karen Gould, karen@saintignacenews.com
Paul Gingras, paul@saintignacenews.com

Advertising Department

Tammy Matson, David Movalson
ads@saintignacenews.com

Print Shop Manager

Sherry Cece

Circulation Manager

Wendy Colegrove



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.

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
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
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

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
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
Web site: <http://levin.senate.gov>

Upper Peninsula Office

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

Michigan Politics

By
George Weeks



McCain Can Rebound From Campaign Woes

The rush among national pundits to write off beleaguered Senator John McCain's presidential prospects is challenged by his band of brothers in Michigan, where he upset George W. Bush in the 2000 GOP presidential primary.

"For all intents and purposes, McCain's campaign is over," Charlie Cook of the National Journal Group wrote even before the latest round of campaign shake-ups in the wake of grim campaign finance reports. "The physicians have pulled up the sheet; the executors of the estate are taking over."

CNN opined his "campaign seems on the verge of collapse." Others talked of "meltdown."

In the wake of all the negative swirl about the McCain campaign, I sat down here for a chat about it with Attorney General Mike Cox, who chairs McCain's Michigan campaign and believes McCain can rebound, as do I.

(Cox and other statewide officeholders, most wearing red shirts, were in Traverse City for Saturday's closing National Cherry Festival parade, Michigan's biggest annual single-day, large crowd bipartisan strutting of political biggies - although assorted downstate holiday parades also rank well, and Detroit's Labor Day Parade is popular with Democrats. The State Fair and the Upper Peninsula State Fair, as well as the annual Mackinac Island Conference of the Detroit Regional Chamber, attract statewide officeholders over a span of days.)

Cox talked straight about what had derailed McCain's vaunted Straight Talk Express: "His campaign has been horribly run and he's moving to fix it" by, for example, getting a better handle on campaign expenses.

Commendable as it is, Cox said that from a campaign perspective, McCain has "acted too much like a senator, and not enough as a candidate." Time devoted to official chores has "hurt him politically" in such areas as fundraising.

Last week, as ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, McCain teamed with Chairman Carl Levin's floor effort to improve health services for veterans. It played well on C-Span, but what impacts more on

the campaign trail are TV ads that the big war chest of ex-Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney has enabled him to run.

Michigan's Republican National Committeeman Chuck Yob, who supports McCain, said McCain has "taken a hell-of-a bath" but "he's going to rebound" thanks to "positive changes" being made. His son, John Yob, is McCain's Michigan director and will be in a new office with three staffers, rather than the seven before the shakeup.

Will McCain be in the race by the time in the Michigan GOP holds its primary/convention (device and time yet to be decided)? On Friday in New Hampshire, McCain said the only thing that would prompt him to quit is "contracting a fatal disease."

Meanwhile, Michigan native Romney, son of late Governor George Romney, continues to lead the fundraising race in Michigan. And he just announced a state finance committee that includes 25 from Oakland County - 19 from Bloomfield Hills. One exception: David Brandon of Ann Arbor, CEO of Domino's Pizza.

In other developments last week:

- Although now in the minority in the state House, Republicans have formed five task forces to solicit and tout solutions to Michigan's "jobs and budget crisis." The Tourism Task Force includes two northern representatives: Tom Casperson of Escanaba and David Palsrok of Manistee.
- An online magazine, *NewsMax*, named U.S. Representative Pete Hoekstra (R-Holland) as one of the "Top 25 Most Effective Members of Congress" calling him, among other things, "the House's leading expert on al-Qaida and the war on terror."

Of particular note, included in his office's release on the citation, is that "Hoekstra says he's looking seriously at running for Michigan governor in 2010."

As will many members of Congress and the Legislature when term-limited Governor Jennifer Granholm heads off into the sunset.

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.