

## Hooper Marks 60 Years of Service



John "Rex" Hooper of St. Ignace (right) receives a certificate of continuous membership for his 60 years of service with the American Legion from Mike Lehto, commander of American Legion Post 62 of St. Ignace. Mr. Hooper served in the United States Army Air Corps in World War II. Mr. Lehto called Mr. Hooper "one of the key players in the past, present, and hopefully, well into the future." Mr. Hooper has previously served Post 62 as commander, second vice president, and in his current position as sergeant at arms, and has helped keep the post active in the community, Mr. Lehto added.

## Delegates Chosen at St. Ignace Event

The First District Democrats of Michigan, meeting at St. Ignace April 19, selected delegates to represent them at the Democratic National Convention in August in Denver, Colorado. More than 140 were in attendance at the event, including Congressman Bart Stupak and State Representative Gary McDowell, who briefed the group on federal and state issues.

There were 40 candidates for the five delegate positions. The breakdown was a result of the state's January 15 primary. The

following individuals were selected by the group on a proportional voting basis by county: The Clinton Caucus was chaired by Matt Johnson of Marquette. Tom Baldini and Sue Tollefson, both of Marquette County, were selected, with Jason Morgan, a Northern Michigan University (NMU) student, and Bonnie Lauria of Ogemaw County as alternates.

Dale Sheltrown of Gladwin chaired the Uncommitted Caucus, in which NMU student Miles Baker and Abby Dart of Emmet County were chosen as delegates.

## Road Plans To Be Presented Thursday

An overview of construction, maintenance, and transportation enhancement projects planned for Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac counties during the next five years will be presented to the public Thursday, May 15, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Transportation Service Center on M-28 in Newberry.

Projects planned include replacing the deck of the Cut

River bridge on US-2 in Mackinac County; resurfacing M-28 from M-123 to County Road 393 (Borgstrom Road) in Luce County; resurfacing the I-75 Business Spur in Sault Ste. Marie at the M-129 intersection and from Power Canal to Portage Street, and resurfacing M-28 from six miles east of the eastern M-123 intersection (Eckerman Junction) to Strongs Road in Chippewa County.

## Volunteers Prepare Les Cheneaux Maritime Museum for Season Opening



Volunteer workers (from left) Barb Smith and Kerri Smith clean inside and around one of the many antique boats on display at the Les Cheneaux Maritime Museum in Cedarville Saturday, May 10. They are part of a group of 16 volunteers who lent a hand in a volunteer work bee hosted by the Les Cheneaux Historical Association to prepare the museum for its Memorial Day weekend opening.

## Payment To Chair CORA Committee

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Chairman Aaron Payment of Sault Ste. Marie has been unanimously elected to chair the Inland Lands and Waters Resources Committee of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA).

The committee is one of two that make up the authority, and its responsibility is to oversee, regulate, and protect inland resources as they relate to tribal rights to hunt, fish, and gather on the lands and inland waters in the ceded territory of the Treaty of 1836. The authority's other committee is the Great Lakes Resources Committee.

Mr. Chairman was elected by other tribal chiefs and representatives of the authority April 24. CORA is a natural resource regulatory organization comprised of five tribes or bands, including the Sault Tribe, Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.

Each tribe or band holds two board votes when conducting business. The Sault tribe is represented by Mr. Payment and Conservation Committee Chairman Jason Grondin.

## Company Recoups Funds for County

A three-year contract with Maximus of Bay City was approved by Mackinac County commissioners Thursday, April 24. The company recoups indirect costs incurred by the county in the offices of Friend of the Court and the prosecuting attorney, such as some payroll preparation expenses. The company recoups them from federal funds that are passed through the state government for

this program.

Last year, the company recovered \$54,855.98 for the county. The company is projecting it will recover \$63,105.24 in 2008 and charges \$7,000 annually for the service.

The company has contracts with 14 of the Upper Peninsula's 15 counties, said Harley Drenberg of the company, and it has had a contract with Mackinac County for 20 years.

## Chamber Takes Over Four Billboards

The Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce has taken over financial responsibility for four billboards that have advertised the city for more than 20 years on I-75 and US-31, reported Dawn Edwards, executive director of the chamber.

Formerly paid for by the Mackinaw Area Visitors Bureau,

the billboards will be under the auspices of the chamber for one year, to ensure signs promote Mackinaw City and not another area.

The chamber is seeking donations to support the effort, but declined to say how much the billboards cost.

## DeTour X Salmon Derby To Be June 7

The DeTour "X" Atlantic Salmon Derby will be Saturday, June 7, in DeTour with the shotgun start at 6 a.m. The entry fee is \$50 per boat.

The public weigh-in ceremony

is at 5 p.m. at the River Bend Resort.

A Tackle Sale and Swap Meet will take place at the DeTour Marina Sunday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## 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:

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Volunteer workers (from left) Mike Miller and R.B. Smith carry a glass display case top into the Les Cheneaux Maritime Museum Saturday, May 10. The Les Cheneaux Historical Association's maritime and historical museums will open Memorial Day weekend.

## Michigan Politics

By  
George Weeks



## Obama Will Have Fences To Mend in Michigan

If, as expected, Senator Barack Obama is the Democratic presidential nominee, he could have explaining to do in Michigan on a few fronts, including snubbing its primary and bashing its auto industry.

There was quite a fuss among assorted establishment Democrats, and in some media quarters, when Obama refused to have his name on the ballot for the January 15 primary that was held earlier than allowed by party rules that were aptly denounced by Senator Carl Levin for giving Iowa and New Hampshire a "stranglehold" on the process.

In deference to the rules that also were defied by Florida, Senator Hillary Clinton declined to campaign for the primary but wisely stayed on the ballot and won over "uncommitted" and low tier candidates.

Ex-Governor Jim Blanchard, early Michigan pointman for Clinton, and Governor Jennifer Granholm, an eventual supporter, praised Clinton for seeking convention delegates in a state that has not been carried by a Republican since George H.W. Bush outpolled Mike Dukakis by about 290,000 votes in 1988.

Blanchard notes that Clinton's "non-campaign campaign" in Michigan has included visits for fundraising. The Obama campaign's first official events in Michigan in months came Saturday with voter registration drives in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Flint, and Grand Rapids.

Gordon Trowbridge of the *Detroit News* Washington bureau said: "Obama himself has not appeared in Michigan since July, and the campaign has had no official presence in the state - a result of the dispute over Michigan's January primary. The campaign has scheduled fundraising stops in Florida - which also has been under a campaigning boycott - on May 21 and 22, but so far there are no Michigan visits on Obama's schedule."

During early efforts by Levin and other state party leaders to reach a compromise on seating Michigan, the Obama camp repeatedly rejected offerings.

That fuss will fade once the nomination and negotiations over seating of the Michigan delegation are settled.

Obama got a Michigan boost last week when he was endorsed by ex-Congressman David Bonior of Mount Clemens, who has strong labor ties and was manager of ex-Senator John Edwards' now-abandoned presidential campaign.

(Representative Bart Stupak (D-Menominee), who had endorsed Edwards and was critical of the Michigan primary, indicated after Bonior's move that he will not make an endorsement until the Michigan delegate issue is resolved.)

Among questions that Obama would face here are repeated

unfriendly comments about the auto industry. In appearances elsewhere, he touts his environmental credentials by noting that in a speech last year to the Detroit Economic Club he was critical of the industry on fuel economy.

He told an Indianapolis radio station recently that a 1970s Ford Granada he drove was "maybe the worst car that Detroit ever built."

There also have been rumblings about Obama's position on whether he would end the federal oversight of the Teamsters Union, which supports his campaign.

He told the *Wall Street Journal* that the Justice Department oversight has "run its course." But he drew criticism from Clinton when he later said he wasn't making a "blanket commitment."

He should. Take it from Representative Pete Hoekstra (R-Holland), whose knowledge about the issue is second to none on Capitol Hill.

He said it is long past the time for the Justice Department "to pull out of the Teamsters," who have been under oversight since the Independent Review Board was appointed in 1989 to monitor the union's progress in distancing itself from organized crime.

He told me Friday after his appearances in Traverse City and Frankfort that the federal government "has no right to stick its claws into the private affairs" of a union that has "done a credible job" of internal oversight during the reign of President James P. Hoffa.

Hoekstra had a lead role in the issue as chairman of the oversight subcommittee of the House Education and Labor Committee at the time the flawed election of Ron Carey as president of the union was thrown out and Hoffa won in a subsequent election.

I also asked Hoekstra about his criticism, most recently aired on CNN, of the Bush administration for its months-long delay in briefing all members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence about Israel's 2007 airstrike against a facility in northern Syria "that press reports have linked to nuclear programs by North Korea, Iran, or other rogue states."

The way President George W. Bush handled the issue is fodder for critics who say, "he uses intelligence to manipulate public policy," said Hoekstra, who had been briefed but was sworn to secrecy.

In a word, Hoekstra said Bush's "unprecedented veil of secrecy around the Israeli airstrike" was "dumb." That's a serious rap on a Republican president by a Republican congressman.

*George Weeks retired in 2006 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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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.