

# Rob, Heather Aukeman, Student Audrey Wyers Honored for Contributions to St. Ignace

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served for 29 years. He and his late wife, Margot, have five daughters and were involved in youth work, Sunday school, music, and preaching. Rev. Foote served on the school board for more than 20 years, has helped build church buildings, and worked for the U.S. Postal Service. He is a member of the Lions Club, a board member of the Moses Dialysis Unit, serves on the hospital's long term care committee, and is a faithful St. Ignace Saints sports fan.

"I really wasn't going to be here tonight," said Rev. Foote, taking the microphone, "but somebody said, 'We've got a free ticket.'"

"I thank God for the privilege of living in a place like this," he said, noting the importance of living in a small, caring community that offers support and includes people who know and share each other's lives through good and difficult times.

"Thanks for the ticket," he said. Heather and Rob Aukeman, who own B.C. Pizza in St. Ignace, received the Community Spirit Award for the enthusiasm and dedication they have shown to the community, churches, schools, and organizations. They participate in community activities and provide fundraising opportunities for community groups.

"As young adults, they have put their blood, sweat, and tears into their business," said Chamber President Cheryl Schlehuber in presenting the award. "They have volunteered their time; they have given to others. They are what it takes to be successful."

Mrs. Aukeman is a member of the Downtown Development Authority.

The couple have a young daughter and are expecting their second child in October.

Audrey Wyers, a LaSalle High School senior, was given the



**Recognized for their enthusiasm and support of St. Ignace, Rob and Heather Aukeman, owners of B.C. Pizza in St. Ignace, were presented with the Community Spirit Award by the Chamber of Commerce.**

Student Citizen Award, recognizing her volunteer contributions to the community.

She donated 270 hours in community service during her four years of high school. She has been a member of the St. Ignace school bands, the youth advisory council, and Vista. Her charity work has included helping with clothing drives, a blanket project for needy children, and the animal shelter. She has tutored students after school and has offered dance instruction.

She has been a 4-H summer camp counselor and was a member of the cross country team. She is a member of the dance program of Cheboygan Arts Council. She has attended music camp at both Interlochen Center For the Arts and Blue Lakes Fine Arts Camp for dance and music. In the

University of Michigan's recording camp, she composed, recorded, and produced a music video.

She plans to attend Alma College and would like to pursue a career in dance and music.

She also was named the Ambassador Scholarship winner and received \$500 toward her college education. Miss Wyers, said award presenter Joanne Ford, earned a more than four-point grade point average as a student at



**For her volunteer work and community service, LaSalle High School senior Audrey Wyers of St. Ignace received the Student Citizen Award from the Chamber of Commerce. She also was awarded the \$500 Ambassador's Scholarship for her academic achievements, which include a 4.08 grade point average. The daughter of Ann Wyers of St. Ignace and Dan Wyers of Sault Ste. Marie, she plans to attend Alma College in the fall. Miss Wyers is pictured with her mother, Ann.**

LaSalle. She is a member of the National Honor Society.

Miss Wyers is the daughter of Ann Wyers and Dan Wyers.

Each table for the dinner was decorated by an area business and the Glen Memorial Baptist Church

Saints Alive Youth Group cleared the tables.

Food for the evening was provided by local businesses, which set up stations around the conference center, offering samples of their various dishes.

## Work Near Completion on Evergreen Shores Water Tower

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water tower is nearing completion. The painting will be finished this week. The paint work then must be inspected and the tower X-rayed by Dixon Engineering, which is handling the inspection work.

Bill Dixon, of Dixon Engineering, is expected to address council in June regarding the tower. He will discuss the inspection and warranty issues. Council is expected to enact a resolution to accept the tower work.

For more than a year, the city has been working with Phoenix Fabricators and Erectors, formerly Pittsburgh Tank and Tower, to complete repairs on the 100,000-gallon tank and tower.

The 150-foot tower was damaged by high winds Thursday, March 1, 2007, less than a year after a 28-foot extension was added to the structure.

The city will participate with Rogers City for the annual Mayor Exchange Day. Rogers City had suggested Mayor Paul Grondin

visit their town June 3, and their mayor, Beach Hall, visit St. Ignace June 5. The dates conflict with the Michigan Municipal League's District meeting in Baraga, so the city now will seek new dates for the exchange with Rogers City.

Council members indicated their interest in meeting with the Rogers City mayor and officials. The town, said council, has a comparable population to St. Ignace, similar issues, and it is a waterfront community with a marina.

Council welcomed the city's new Deputy Clerk Andrea Insley, who has been in the position a week. She was appointed to the job by Clerk Renee Vanderwerth.

The prison work crew from the Kinross Correctional Facility, said Mr. Dodson, began work last week. The city has a contract with the Department of Public Works within the Michigan Department of Corrections for use of the crew. The contract calls for staffing of no more than 10 prisoners and no fewer than five inmates. The crew is working 10 hours a day, four

days each week.

The contract calls for the city to pay the state \$30 a month per prisoner for an eight-hour day. For 10-hour work days, the city pays the state \$37.50 per month per prisoner.

The state raised its per-month price from last year, when it charged \$15 per month.

Installing city banners and new flags on light poles along State Street in the downtown district is one of the first projects the crew has worked on this year.

Council approved a July 4th fireworks display permit with Wolverine Fireworks Display of Kawkawlin on behalf of Kundis Fireworks Display Shows of Sebawaing. In March, the City renewed its \$7,500-per-year, five-year contract with Kundis Fireworks. The display will be set up at the Mill Slip July 4, with a rain date set of July 5.

City Council next meets Monday, June 2, at 8 p.m. in Council Chambers in City Hall on State Street.

## Tour, Trolley Rides Added in St. Ignace

Through the summer, guided walking tours will be offered in St. Ignace with the help of Jim Couling, who has organized a similar walking tour in Sault Ste. Marie.

Introducing the idea at the banquet, Mr. Couling, an animated story teller, asked those attending to go on a time traveling tour through the ancient history of the area. Salt water seas, he said, once covered this region, where water was 60 feet deep. About 5,000 to 7,000 years ago, the Children of the Mist were mining cooper on the Keewenaw Peninsula.

"Who could mine, refine, transport, and support workers and make 5,000 copper pits, some of them 60 feet deep, and maybe move 500 million pounds of copper before the Pyramids of Egypt were built? Who were The Children of the Mist?" he asked. "Who were they? Now you'll have to come on the walking tour, because I have a clue."

The tours will include downtown St. Ignace and the Lake Huron boardwalk and will be organized at the Chamber of Commerce office.

Mackinaw Trolley of Mackinaw City will offer 27 "Discover St. Ignace" tours based on the history of the town. The tours are scheduled to begin July 1 and continue into September. The more than two-hour tour will include information about St. Ignace, both past and present.

The Chamber has introduced a new program, "Tourist in Our Town," which is designed to train business owners, employees, and front-line workers about area attractions. Similar to a program offered by Mackinac State Historic Parks on Mackinac Island, it offers free attendance to Chamber members and their staff to tour local sites.

The goal, said Janet Peterson, Chamber director, is to help serve tourists better by providing local people with information on what the community has to offer.

"Tourism is tough," she said. "We want to make it so that we know as much as we can about our community so that we can have a great summer."

Until June 20, participating employees can visit any local attraction free. A card will be given to Chamber businesses to allow staff to visit any participating local attraction. Once there, a stamp on a card will record the visit. Those who complete a full card of visits will be entered into a drawing for a Mackinac Bridge tower tour for one or two people, or a Great Lakes Air St. Ignace scenic airplane tour for one to five people.

## Customer Service Workshop Planned

A customer service program will be presented to business owners and employees by Bill Quiseng, general manager of the Inn at Bay Harbor Resort, Thursday, May 29, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Cheboygan Public Library.

This seminar is sponsored by the Cheboygan Area Chamber of Commerce. The cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. To register, call Kelly Clear at (231) 627-7183.

## Dinner Theater Set at Opera House

The Northern Players will present a dinner theater production called The Ferndale Avenue Housing Estate Townwomen's Guild Murder Mystery Saturday, May 31, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, June 1, at 2 p.m., at the Opera House in Cheboygan. Tickets are \$8 at the box office.

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