

# St. Ignace School District Will Begin Year With Half Day Tuesday, September 2

The 2008-2009 school year will get underway for St. Ignace Area Schools students and staff Tuesday, September 2. All students, kindergarten through 12 grade, will attend a half-day session Tuesday, September 2, rather than a full day, as previously reported. Dismissal will be at 11:45 a.m.

Kindergarten through 6th grade students will start each day at 8:10 a.m., and 7th through 12th grade students will start at 8:05 a.m. Classes will dismiss at 2:55 p.m. for kindergarten through 6th grade students, and 3 p.m. for 7th through 12th grade students on full days.

Parents who transport their students to school are asked to get

their children there 10 minutes before the start of classes. School doors will open at 7:30 a.m. daily.

Parents of kindergarten students have been sent a letter regarding a specific schedule for their child. Those who have not registered their child for the 2008-2009 school year are asked to call 643-8500 to arrange to do so. Immunizations must be up to date to allow attendance in public school.

The school breakfast program will begin the first day of school.

The school lunch program will begin for all students Tuesday, September 2. Lunch prices for the 2008-2009 school year are \$2.05 for elementary and middle school students, and \$2.35 for high school

students. Class lists for students kindergarten through 6th grade are posted on the school doors.

Athletic event prices for the 2008-2009 school year will be as follows: Middle School/Freshman Contests: \$4 for adults, \$3 for students, and \$12 for a family ticket. High school junior varsity and varsity events will be \$5 for adults, \$4 for students, and \$15 for a family ticket. A season pass will be \$80 for students, \$100 for adults, and \$200 for families.

Bus schedules for the school year will be as follows:

John Beaudoin, Bus 01, will be driving the St. Ignace Township routes, with the first pickups in the Pine River area at about 6 a.m., and ending on Lant Road at 7:35

a.m. Includes Reservation pickups.

David Crisp, Bus 05, will pick up at Worth Road, Brevort, US-2, Gros Cap, Pte. LaBarbe Road, North Portage, Woods Road, Cedar Lane, and South Portage, starting at 6:30 a.m.

Sandy Thorin, Bus 05A, will be driving the south City area starting at 7 a.m. at W745 Portage, corners of Burdette and Hombach streets, Hamlin and Medora streets, 1038 South State, corners of State and Graham, White Pine and Graham, Bridgeview Apartments and Church, Church and Bertrand, Church Street just before Spruce Street, corner of Church and Keightley, bottom of Church Street hill, past intersection, 180

Church Street, corner of Truckey and Marley, top of Marley hill, 235 and 150 E. Spring Street, and 109 Joseph Street.

Frank Beaudoin, Bus 97, will be driving the Brevort Township area starting at 6:15 a.m. on Wartella Road, ending on Cheeseman Road.

Randy Gustin, Bus 02, will be driving the North City route, including Evergreen Shores, with pickups starting at 6:50 a.m. on St. Clair Trail and ending on First Street.

## LaSalle Registration Is August 27, 28

LaSalle High School in St. Ignace will hold student registration days Wednesday, August 27, for ninth and 10th grades, and Thursday, August 28, for 11th and 12th grades. Students are asked to

Parents are urged to bring their kindergarten students the first day and walk them into the school. They will be made aware of bus schedules at that time.

Questions regarding the above information should be directed to the specific principal's office: High School, Don Gustafson at 643-8800, Middle School (5th grade through 8th grade), Gregg Fetting at 643-7822, and Elementary School (Kindergarten through 4th Grade), Kari Visnaw at 643-8500.

come to the school office between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. to pick up a class schedule and pay \$5 for a locker key deposit. Money may also be deposited on lunch accounts at that time.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Former Tribe Employee Says It's Time To Move on After Layoffs

To the Editor:

I am one of the former employees who lost their jobs with the Sault Tribe due to the recent cutbacks. I cannot and will not single out individuals to blame for this sudden loss of wages and benefits to my tribal family. My position was eliminated, so I already know that I will never be called back to work. It is my time to pick up the pieces and move on to a brighter future. I would like to thank the Sault Tribe and Kewadin Casino for giving me a job for the last 15 years. I hope that I have left a positive impression with the employees who still work for the tribe. My supervisors, Mike Massey and Brad Pringle, I would like to wish the best; they have been great to work for. I did not have the opportunity to say goodbye to my coworkers and many of the customers, and I wish them well; they will be missed.

I hope that our current board members can turn the tribe's financial situation around. I would like to thank tribal board member Keith Massaway for swallowing his pride and meeting with me on an individual basis regarding this matter. He did what he thought was in the best interest of the tribe; I can only respect him for his decision. I wish all of the people who have suffered a job loss the best of luck finding new employment.

Robert Holmes  
St. Ignace

### Fair Zoning Decision for Shepler Would Be B-2

To the Editor:

Is Shepler's zoning process Mackinaw City's "spotted owl" equivalent?

Shepler's two parcels of land that are in today's zoning spotlight can produce consequences beyond the imagination and thought process of the Planning Commission and Council trustees.

What started this controversy is the belief, but not proven, that these two parcels became unzoned. Therefore, they must be zoned.

I would think first off that a major inquiry would be taken to find out why and when the council unzoned the property. Some are saying that it is a computer glitch. Computers are not legislators – Council members [are].

Without proper findings, the Planning Commission has become derelict in first not verifying properly when or why the earlier Council unzoned the two parcels, and by trying to determine what the two parcels

should be zoned: B-3, B2, MC [marina commercial], or develop a new zoning designation.

On July 24, the Planning Commission voted 5-4 to recommend to Council that the two Shepler parcels, 33 and 37, be zoned MC. From my side of the desk, this action is derelict, arbitrary, and capricious.

Plus I have seen no evidence that the Planning Commission has considered the consequences of their arbitrary and capricious actions.

Should the two Shepler parcels become MC, Shepler's would have to file for a special use permit to operate their Shepler's Mackinac Island incorporated ferry business.

Arnold Transit and Star Line, competitors' properties, are both zoned B-2. What would happen if the zoning on their properties would become MC? Perhaps not a fair question, but for the Village Council to follow the recommendation of the Planning Commissioners, that would be grossly unfair and arbitrary and capricious.

If changes in zoning are absolutely necessary and the property's value becomes less, then just compensation is required. This is still America

Should the two Shepler parcels become MC, I feel that huge sums of money will be flowing, and nobody wins.

It will be huge sums to pay for litigation costs or restitution costs to resolve the unfairness of the zoning.

A gigantic price to pay for what some are calling fear of losing view shed – spotted owls?

Some of the reasoning, without mentioning Planning Commissioners names, for the recommendation to zone the property MC is that "Shepler's does not have a succession plan, and therefore will have to sell out and the buyer will build a hotel motel if it is not zoned MC."

Shepler does have a succession plan and it is absolutely wrong for a commissioner to assume the scenario that they do not have a plan.

Are the Planning Commissioners wondering or considering if Arnold Transit or Star Line have succession plans?

Another scenario that was mentioned to me was the quantity of car traffic that will come; if there is a motel or hotel, there will be more than that commission will want to stand for.

Heck, on a decent day for Shepler's, over their lot will travel 600 to 800 cars. Far more today than if a hotel or motel were there. Shallow thinking.

In summary:

It takes legislators to make zoning changes, not computer glitches. The if, why, and when of the claim that the properties became not zoned needs to be established.

The Shepler properties were zoned B-3.

B-2 is the only current zoning that allows passenger boat ferries without a special use permit.

The statement that follows is not a threat, but business survival and a major fairness issue: This is still America, and to be wronged, there are restitution rights.

To arbitrarily claim without proof that the properties are not zoned is a very sad commentary on the reasoning and shallow thought process that is transpiring. I have seen no evidence that the consequences of a MC zoning have been considered – a major business blunder, if what I suspect is true.

I cannot believe the wonderful Village of Mackinaw in all of its splendor is doing this.

Trustees, the zoning should be B-2 to be fair and avoid the huge costs of litigation and or restitution.

The shallowness of this thought process is a travesty to the citizens of this wonderful Mackinaw City.

Citizens of Mackinaw, get your trustees to vote in favor of B-2 for both of Shepler's parcels!

Dick Moehl,  
Pinckney and Mackinaw City

## 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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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.

## Michigan Politics

By  
George Weeks



### Prez Candidates Finally Looking to Michigan

Early in the presidential primary season, Michigan got a cold shoulder, mostly from national Democrats who were more adamant than GOP leaders in opposing the state's challenge of the stranglehold that New Hampshire and Iowa have on the early nominating process.

Cold shoulder no more. It's a hot embrace here now by the nominees-in-waiting: Senators John McCain, the Republican who's an old hand on Michigan primary trails, and Democrat Barack Obama, who's making up big time for lost time when he earlier bowed to party rules and boycotted Michigan's primary.

Since becoming the presumptive nominee, Obama, even before the nominating convention, already has campaigned in Grand Rapids, Troy, Flint, Detroit, and Lansing. He has, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, spent \$3.15 million on TV ads here, a figure surpassed only in Florida, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio.

McCain, winner of the 2000 Michigan GOP primary over George W. Bush, last week made his fifth Michigan visit since clinching nomination. Underscoring the importance he places on Michigan is that he has spent \$4.1 million on TV ads, surpassed only in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Karl Rove, campaign-savvy former chief strategist for Bush, calls Michigan one of four key battleground states.

While seeing "serious competition" in Florida, Pennsylvania, Nevada, New Hampshire, Missouri, and Wisconsin, Rove, writing in the *Wall Street Journal*, said, "Colorado, Virginia, Michigan, and Ohio are likely to be the center of the action."

He said Obama's prospects in Michigan, which has voted for Democratic presidential candidates since 1988, are hurt by the "near meltdown" of the Democratic machine in Detroit in the wake of its mayor's scandals, and "adverse reactions" to Governor Jennifer Granholm.

During his winning campaign in Michigan's 2008 Republican presidential primary, ex-Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney attacked Granholm's record. Last week, Democrats made a preemptive attack on Romney as a possible McCain running mate.

Oakland County Commissioner Dave Woodward (Oakland is Romney's native county) joined Massachusetts Democrats in a media conference call to launch the Romney section of TheNextCheney.com Web site of the Democratic National Committee.

He said, "nothing is more scary" than the thought of a Vice-President Romney. He "has embraced the failed Bush policies that have pretty much enabled our auto industry to die on the vine."

U.S. Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts), said Romney "has zigzagged extraordinarily" on issues. As, on occasion, have Obama and McCain.

### Fallen Leader

It is but a distant bleep in a rising chorus that includes Detroit daily newspapers, its black weekly, and much of the city's business and African-American religious leadership.

But last week's call by an outstate Democratic candidate for the state House for scandal-plagued Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick to resign brought back memories of 2001-02 when Kilpatrick was the House's most powerful Democrat and had a close working relationship with House Speaker Rick Johnson (R-LeRoy) and other northern Republicans.

It was interesting to watch House Minority Leader Kilpatrick, a towering collegiate All-American lineman, maneuver in the narrow House aisles as he pumped up fellow Democrats.

Now comes Leelanau County's Dan Scripps, the Democratic nominee for the toss-up open seat now held by term-limited Representative David Palsrok (R-Manistee) with this statement:

"...Mayor Kilpatrick has harmed the reputation of Michigan, and that affects us all. As long as Kwame Kilpatrick remains Mayor of Detroit, job growth in our state will be stunted, and that's simply unacceptable."

Over the years, there has been too much Detroit-bashing by outstate Republicans. But now an outstate Democrat has piled on against a Detroit mayor – with just cause.

*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.*

### US-2 Crash Claims Life of Indiana Man

A traffic accident took the life of a Portage, Indiana, man Wednesday, August 13, at 2:45 p.m. on US-2 west of St. Ignace, near Cheeseman Road.

An eastbound motor home crossed the centerline and struck a westbound semi-truck. The driver of the motor home, Kenneth Housler, 68, was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the semi-truck, Timothy Bigelow, 35, of Ironwood, was treated and released from Mackinac Straits Hospital.

Speed and alcohol are not believed to be factors in the crash.

The accident remains under investigation.

Michigan State Police, Mackinac County Sheriff's Department, St. Ignace Police Department, Sault Tribe Police Department, St. Ignace Fire Department, Allied EMS, and Michigan Department of Transportation workers responded to the scene.