

Les Cheneaux Community Schools Hires Two Teachers, Staff; All Positions Now Filled

School: From page 1

Lorie Thompson has taken on a new position that includes both food service and custodial work. She will work 3.25 hours a day in the food-service position and 3.5 hours a day as a custodian. She is also a substitute bus driver. Ms.

Thompson will be paid \$9.96 per hour in food service and \$9.01 per hour for custodial work. She will receive full benefits.

She will work during the day as much as possible, explained Superintendent Rod Goehmann, however, when needed as a substi-

tute bus driver, she will return in evenings to complete her custodial duties.

She has substituted in the kitchen and as a custodian and understands her responsibilities, Mrs. Hill added.

Todd Lysinger has been hired as

a new custodian. Unlike his predecessors, who worked eight hours a day, he will work 6.75 hours a day. Mr. Lysinger will make \$9.36 an hour and receive full benefits.

Mrs. Scott announced high school parent night Monday, September 22, from 6:30 p.m. to 8

p.m. Parents will experience their child's schedule by spending five minutes in each classroom, where they will ask questions and receive information on the Michigan Merit Curriculum. School cheerleaders will help parents get from room, Mrs. Scott added. She encouraged school board members to attend and help coordinate the event.

School improvement teams will focus on literacy for the next two years, Mrs. Scott said. The goal will be for students to learn reading techniques that emphasize reading for deeper meaning rather than reading superficially, and the district will be examining reading instruction in all classrooms.

Mr. Goehmann initiated a dis-

ussion about having student representatives on the school board. Although they would not have a vote on the board, they would have a voice in discussions and may be invited to serve on committees.

Whether to solicit representatives, respond to students eager to be a part of the process, or make it a requirement for student leaders, such as the student council president or National Honor Society president, were discussed.

No action was taken on the proposal.

The district adopted an anti-bullying policy developed by the Michigan State Board of Education. It will be distributed to faculty and parents.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mackinac Island Should Protect Its Historic Elements

To the Editor:

The jury may still be out but the verdict is in. The LCD test light on the corner of Main and Market has no place and no future on Mackinac Island. The decision to demonstrate the fixture has, unwittingly perhaps, shed some much needed light on the subjects of the continuing assault of the island's ambiance and its status as a recognized and designated historical landmark.

In the September 6, 2008 issue of the *Mackinac Island Town Crier*, mention was made of an upcoming hearing on the historic landmark issue. The article indicated the mayor proposed the creation of a historical preservation committee to study the problem.

The article quoted Mike Hart correctly saying loss of the island's historic landmark designation would have a tremendous negative effect. He is right, but regrettably late. The horse and its tail are almost out of the barn. One must question the effectiveness of the city's commissions. The proposed historical preservation committee may lack authority. The planning commission has failed to deliver a master plan after three years and the enormously important Park and Harbor Commission, to the best of my knowledge, doesn't even exist.

Section 2-277 of the Mackinac Island Code states, "The park and harbor commission shall have authority to impose and prescribe such restriction and regulation with respect to the erection of buildings, piers, docks, wharves, landing places and other structures," on waterfront property.

If a functioning and effective Park and Harbor Commission had been in place during the planning and building of the new marina, the damage it has done to the historical harbor and island may have been avoided. I would like someone to come forward and explain to the public how this project cannot damage or even cost the island its historic designation.

Many are yet to see it, however, once the newness of the marina, (or the mistake by the lake, as it is called by some), wears off, people will likely view it for the eyesore it is. The buildings with their vinyl siding and blue tin roofs have no apparent historic value.

The bath and shower room which blocks the view of the harbor from the street resembles a dairy farm milk cooling barn while the fence with its oversized rock columns is something that could only be at home in front of Flintstone Village in Custer, South Dakota.

Their presence defies justification and, regrettably, has likely set precedent for future building projects.

We cannot allow any more degradation of the waterfront. Years previous there were several beautiful views of the water from downtown. Now there is only the McNally property as an open green space, and rumor has it that a development is in the works that would eliminate the final view of the lake from the Main Street tunnel.

The beauty of this island is worth saving at any cost. It is my fear, however, that its future may be in the hands of people who, to quote Oscar Wilde, "know the price of everything and the value of nothing."

Jay Stingel
Mackinac Island

Teacher's Abilities Should Be Used by St. Ignace School System

To the Editor:

In reading the superintendent's school report last week, I'm hard pressed to pick the strongest emotion: Disgust, disappointment, anger, or incredulity. Finally, it was regret and sorrow that took hold, when I realized Jennifer Powell is being treated so unfairly by the St. Ignace Area School system. I am not complaining about the teachers who were chosen,

only about the individual who wasn't. Why was one of the nation's best academic instructors and well-qualified teachers turned down yet again for employment in our school system? Mrs. Powell is a proven performer. Just check out the evaluation scores of the lucky students who had the chance to enjoy her ability several years back.

Can it really be that a long-ago question she asked about school finances will prevent the administration from offering our community's children a master educator with an impressive, well-rounded background? Please swallow your pride and do what's best for the students, not the administration. (Notice that the eighth grade is back in the middle school again, so at least the administration can admit they do make mistakes.)

Our son had the good fortune to enjoy three full years of Jennifer Powell's academic expertise. He loved attending school, he was treated fairly, his work was promptly and accurately evaluated, and his test/evaluation scores reflected the outstanding ability of his teacher. Mrs. Powell led impressive parent-teacher conferences, and we always knew exactly where our son stood in his studies. Her ability to flexibly manage a diverse student body resulted in a high-performing, well disciplined, classroom environment, where children learned national and state-mandated objectives.

I hope that other parents will contact the school administrators and school board to support an effort to see Mrs. Powell back in a teaching position. Maybe even a few of her fellow teachers will back us up, as well. Jennifer Powell is a rare community resource we can't afford to waste.

Warren and Kim Hagen
St. Ignace

Ahlborn Deserves Recognition Received in Feature Article

To the Editor:

I would like to give a sincere thank you, or should I say "mahalo nui loa," for the great story that Karen Gould did recently on Tim Ahlborn, our Trucker's Corner feature writer here at *Model Cars Magazine*.

We are all very proud of Tim and his model trucks. His work, enthusiasm, and love of trucks, especially Peterbilts, is second to none.

It is so nice to see Tim get the recognition he so truly deserves. The fact that he is such a great guy is an added bonus.

Thanks again for running such a great story, and on the cover no less, on Tim and his model trucks.

Mahalo from Hawaii.

Gregg Hutchings
Model Cars Magazine
Honolulu

British Columbia Ferry Fans Enjoyed Articles

To the Editor:

A few months back, you published a number of stories in your publication, and more importantly on your Web site, that outlined ferry operations of the region. One of the vessels, your *Vacationland* and our *Sunshine Coast Queen*, has been a source of intrigue to many ferry fans in British Columbia and the articles proved to give us a lot of new information and perspectives on her past. Thanks for providing such an exceptional resource of information.

Dane Nicholson
North Vancouver, British Columbia

Editor's Note: The series on the ferries, "Autos Across Mackinac," was written by historian Les Bagley and published in The St. Ignace News in 62 installments, from January 11, 2007 to March 20, 2008. It is available free in the archives on our Web site.

Professional Journalism Is Appreciated

To the Editor:

I have, over the past years, observed and read the articles reported by Paul Gingras, especially news in Mackinaw City. His reporting is in depth and very informative without being biased to many of the matters he has covered.

You should be proud to have such a comprehensive reporter on your staff. Professional journalism is appreciated.

It is a pleasure to read your news.

Victor Osborne
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:

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

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 129, Number 24 Thursday, September 18, 2008

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

Ryan Schlehber, ryan@saintignacenews.com

Karen Gould, karen@saintignacenews.com

Paul Gingras, paul@saintignacenews.com

Advertising Department

Tammy Matson, David Moyalson

ads@saintignacenews.com

Print Shop Manager

Sherry Cece

Circulation Manager

Wendy Colegrove



Subscriptions:
\$42 in Mackinac, Chippewa, Emmet, Luce, and Cheboygan counties.
\$52 elsewhere in the United States and military post offices.
\$35 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.

Michigan Politics

By
George Weeks



Obama, McCain Land in Michigan After Convention Bounces

Except for heavy spending on northern TV ads, the campaigns of the presidential tickets initially have centered on the southern front of this battleground state. Both came out of their conventions to Metro Detroit.

But look for spirited action by both tickets soon on the northern front, possibly starting with a blitz on both sides of the bridge by Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, Republican John McCain's running mate, and husband, Todd, a champion snow machine (as snowmobiles are called in Alaska) racer.

"I'm recommending that Todd and Sarah come to northern Michigan and the U.P.," said ex-Republican National Committeeman Chuck Yob, a snowmobiler himself who just completed 19 years on the RNC and long ago became pointman for McCain's Michigan campaign. "I think we can get that done."

"Soon?" I asked.

"Yes," he said, noting that McCain himself previously had traveled to, and done well in, northern Michigan, and will return.

Yob, who in 2000 was the unsuccessful GOP nominee against 1st District U.S. Representative Bart Stupak (D-Menominee), said of Palin: "She's just our kind of person. I've never seen a Veep nominee who caused as much excitement in Michigan."

(Yob's son, John, early on was the Grand Rapids-based Midwest director for McCain and at last report in McCain's ever-evolving campaign structure, was deputy political director based in Washington, D.C.)

What about the Obama-Biden campaign?

Michigan Democratic State Chairman Mark Brewer said, "we're working hard making the case" for the ticket to come soon to northern Michigan, where, he justifiably asserts, the party sees "reinvigoration" in such counties as Antrim, Emmet, and Leelanau.

"Northern Michigan is changing," contends Brewer.

It will have to change in order for Barack Obama to do well in the northern Lower Peninsula. In 2004, for example, President George W. Bush carried Antrim and Emmet by more than 3,000 votes, and Leelanau more than 1,000.

Michigan's importance among the handful of top tier battleground states is underscored by these facts:

- Both nominees came here right after their national conventions.
- Wife Cindy McCain had a scheduled Oakland County appear-

ance Friday. Democratic vice presidential nominee Joe Biden scheduled Monday events in Macomb and Wayne counties.

• McCain and Obama spent a whopping \$13.6 million on Michigan TV ads here between Memorial Day and Labor Day, about 40% more than Bush and Democrat John Kerry spent here in the 2004 campaign during that period.

McCain outspent Obama, about \$8 million to \$5.5 million. On Friday, Obama launched two new ads for Michigan and other battleground states, including one attacking McCain as a Capitol Hill old-timer out of touch with ordinary Americans.

Ike, Mike, & Jennifer

Democratic Governor Jennifer Granholm and Republican Attorney General Mike Cox have not been chummy since Cox replaced her as AG when she became chief executive.

But in a rare move Friday spurred by Hurricane Ike, they issued a joint press release headlined: "Granholm, Cox Urge Calm - Warn Gas Stations: We Are Watching for Price Gouging."

Said Granholm: "There is no cause for panic over gas supplies here in Michigan. My administration is closely monitoring the situation on the Gulf Coast and is prepared to respond to any impact the impending storm may bring." It indeed brought a severe impact.

Said Cox: "My office, the Governor's office, the Michigan State Police, and law enforcement across Michigan are working hand-in-hand to monitor gas prices and track down every allegation of price gouging. Anyone looking to gouge consumers as a result of the hurricane will be dealt with swiftly and severely."

Granholm, at an unusual Friday evening press conference, urged motorists to report suspected incidents of gas gouging to Cox's Consumer Protection Division at its toll-free number: (877) 765-8388.

Over the years, politicians, especially in campaign years, have played one-upmanship on gas prices, even when gouging is not involved.

It's good to see Granholm and Cox cooperate as a Capital City Odd Couple at a critical time for gas supply and prices.

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.

Woman Dies in Jump From Bridge

The U.S. Coast Guard of St. Ignace retrieved the body of a 34-year-old woman, Toni Keniding of Lansing, after Michigan State Police reported she jumped off the Mackinac Bridge Sunday, September 7.

Michigan State Police in St. Ignace received a call at 10:30 a.m. and alerted both the Mackinac Bridge Authority and the Coast Guard that someone may have jumped from the middle of the bridge.

The woman, who was the associate dean of education and human services of Baker College in Owosso, was found by the Coast Guard and was pronounced dead after being taken to Mackinac Straits Hospital in St. Ignace by ambulance.

She had driven to the bridge, stopped her car, and jumped, leaving behind a note stating that she intended to take her own life.

Michigan State Police closed the investigation.