

The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave



"Upbuilder of the Home - Nourisher of the Community Spirit - Arts, Letters and Science of the Common People."

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EUP Among State's Strongest Zones for Wind Energy

Developers Eye Several Local Sites

By Jonathan Eppley
Developers want to take advantage of wind conditions in the Eastern Upper Peninsula that are among the strongest in the state, and they are proposing two potential wind farms here, one in Hendricks Township in Mackinac County and one in DeTour and Raber townships, as reported in *The St. Ignace News* last

week. Sites near St. Ignace Area Schools in Moran Township and Sand Products Corporation in Brevort Township have also been eyed by developers for wind energy. Downstate developer Windfarms-USA has been working with township board members and residents in Hendricks Township to build roughly 20 wind turbines on

133 acres near the shore of Lake Michigan one mile west of Epoufette. Each turbine is expected to generate 1.6 megawatts of electricity, enough to power about 700 homes each. According to Doug Bundy, who leased 60 acres of his land for the project, the development is expected to cost around \$60 million. Representatives from Windfarm-USA did not respond to inquiries by

press time. Hendricks Township trustee Russ Nelson said the township formed a committee to research wind farms before deciding to pursue the development. The committee visited wind farms in Canada, Michigan's Thumb area, and the two turbines in Mackinac City to further understand the technology. The committee also studied bird-kill rates, turbine setback zoning, and spoke to property



Halloween Trick or Treat Schedule Change Announced

Trick or treating in St. Ignace has been moved to Thursday, October 30, and in Cedarville and Hessel it has been moved to Saturday, November 1, to accommodate high school football playoff games Friday, October 31. Trick or treat hours are from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

owners with land adjacent to wind farms. educate ourselves about the pros and cons about wind farms," Mr. Nelson said. "We did everything we could to

Turn to page 11: Wind

Inside...

- Local economy challenges parents who are trying to keep up with child support payments, *Friend of the Court* says. ... page 3
- Developer who wants to build a waterfront hotel on Mackinac Island offers to sell development rights to the city. ...page 3

Les Cheneaux School OKs Technology Spending

By Jonathan Eppley
Les Cheneaux Community Schools board of education unanimously approved spending \$94,981 for new technology at its meeting Monday, October 27. The money, second part in a two-phase technology bond budget, is to be spent on Smartboards, Elmos overhead projectors, security cameras, and network upgrades. "Going into phase two, we want to do some more classroom

Turn to page 2: Technology

Communities Report Events for Halloween

Local communities have planned Halloween activities for children beginning Thursday, October 30, and through Friday, October 31. A list of children's activities follows.

City of St. Ignace

Halloween trick-or-treating in St. Ignace has been rescheduled from Friday, October 31, to Thursday, October 30. It will begin at 5 p.m. and end at 8 p.m., with the fire siren indicating the beginning and

Turn to page 2: Halloween

Election Day Is Tuesday, November 4
Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. A voter's guide was printed in *The St. Ignace News* October 23. Local candidate information was published July 25, and is available online at no charge at www.stignacene.com

FALL BACK!
Set your clocks back one hour...

Sunday, November 2 2:00 a.m.

LaSalle Students Host Blood Drive



First time donor LaSalle High School senior Jeffrey Gamble volunteers to give blood during the school's National Honor Society blood drive Tuesday, October 21. Carolyn Crumbacher of Petoskey with the American Red Cross explains the steps to Mr. Gamble. About 40 pints were collected during the drive, which was open to the public. The LaSalle Student Council also will sponsor a blood drive February 24.

Open House Will Launch Book Sales To Benefit Library

St. Ignace Book Depicts History in Photos

By Karen Gould

A map dating to 1717 and the first 19 private land claims shown on an 1828 land survey are just two of more than 220 photographs and sketches in a new pictorial history book, "St. Ignace," that is available this week.

The book will be introduced at an open house at the St. Ignace Public Library Wednesday, October 29, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The open house was originally scheduled for Thursday evening, October 30.

Spanning more than 100 years, the photographs were collected by a group of local volunteers with the aid of the Michilimackinac Historical Society. The photographs, many of which have not been published before, came from local families and organizations, including Mackinac State Historic Parks, the City of St. Ignace, Mackinac Bridge Authority, Michilimackinac Historical Society, Mackinac County, U.S. Coast Guard, and the library.

"It was great to see all these people step up not only to offer all these photos to us, but also to provide such valuable information on the history of St. Ignace," said Ryan Schlehner, who worked on collecting, scanning, and identifying the pictures. Also working on the six-month project were Cindy Patten, Ollie Boynton, Judy Gross, Hart Plumstead, Margaret Peacock, and Linda and John Monville. They were assisted by Judi Engle, Barbara Mullins-Zimmerman, and Patti Boynton.

The softcover, 127-page book offers a view of the history of this area that began with a large Native American settlement, became a fur trading center for the French, and

was later a booming town with commercial fishing, railroads, sawmills, and tourism.

The 1915 cover photograph offers a rare glimpse inside one of the town's former establishments, the Snyder House, a 25-room hotel, bar, and restaurant.

The publisher, Arcadia Publishing of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, contacted librarian Ms. Patten with the idea to print the book and she found volunteers to help gather information and photographs, which were scanned at *The St. Ignace News*.

Volunteers on the project say the work took longer than expected, although they learned a great deal

about the town.

Gathering information for the book, said Ms. Gross, gave her a good feel for how the town was set up, where everything was located, and that it was all within walking distance for people.

"I knew this," said Ms. Patten, "but it did not hit me hard until this project, on what a boom town St. Ignace was. Seeing all the pictures made me realize what a booming place this was."

After getting a survey of the first land claims from the Mackinac County Equalization Department, she also learned that St. Ignace is

Turn to page 10: Book

Mackinaw City Planning Commission

Sidewalk Cafes Considered

By John S. DeMott

In the competition to attract tourist dollars, the Mackinaw City Planning Commission Thursday, October 23, briefly discussed the allure of sidewalk cafes as part of a continuing examination of the village's master plan for land use.

Sidewalk cafes were suggested by consultant Dan Burden in his September Walkable Communities study as an example of an enhanced facility for pedestrians and cyclists to inject vigor into downtown areas.

Village Manager Jeff Lawson said the community allows outdoor cafes on private property, but not on public property. Scalawags on East Central, for example, has outdoor dining space on its own property.

Commissioner Jeff Hingston said: "I'm not opposed to it. The

concern is congestion. Now, I can only develop 80% of the footprint of my building. Now, if we're going to allow the outdoor cafe, how does that fit into that formula? Maybe the whole thing will have to be rewritten. If it's okay for a restaurant to do an outdoor cafe, why shouldn't I, as a retailer, be allowed to use all my square footage?"

No action was taken on the sidewalk cafe discussion.

In other matters, the commission recommended that language be strengthened in the master plan to protect the water "viewshed" of Mackinac Island and Lake Huron. Commissioner Nancy Dean objected to the word "glimpses," for example, as being not strong enough, and recommended "views of Lake Huron along the corridor."

Committee Mulls Limits on Bridge Toll Discounts

Does Not Favor Restricting Commuters by Location

By Jonathan Eppley

A Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA) committee failed to reach a consensus as to who should qualify as a frequent commuter and whether restrictions should be imposed on commuter debit cards when it met in Lansing Friday, October 24. The committee could meet again in November, and the full board is expected to approve a commuter policy when it meets December 12.

"They're fairly close as far as just with wrapping up a few of the details and moving forward with a recommendation to the full board," said Bob Sweeney, executive secretary of the Authority.

The three-member committee discussed several options, including lowering the minimum purchase level for commuter cards and setting expiration dates for the cards, Mr. Sweeney said. Current com-

muter cards require a minimum purchase of \$80.

The committee is leaning toward imposing an expiration date, Mr. Sweeney said, mentioning one to three months as possible expiration terms being considered.

The committee is uncomfortable recommending a geographical restriction on who can use the commuter discount based on their proximity to the bridge, he said.

"I think they're uncomfortable setting up an elite group," he said. "It's open to everybody. If you can use these amount of trips within that amount of time" you should be eligible.

Commuters now pay \$1.60 to cross the bridge. Regular fare for a car or small truck is \$3.

The MBA has issued about 11,000 commuter debit cards to residents in 37 states, one in Puerto

Turn to page 11: Bridge

Study Links Cormorants To Yellow Perch Decline

Fielder Publishes Les Cheneaux Islands Report

By John S. DeMott

A new study links the rising population of double-crested cormorants in the Les Cheneaux Island to the collapse of the yellow perch fishery here.

Dave Fielder, fisheries research biologist for the DNR based in Alpena, published his findings in the September issue *The Journal of Great Lakes Research* and noted in a release, "While fish abundance is a result of many different factors, we have learned that the rise of an abundant predator like cormorants can, in fact, substantially reduce some fish populations."

Mr. Fielder's study suggests that the upswing in the cormorant population at Les Cheneaux, from zero nests in 1980 to 5,500 in 2004, may

be the single most important factor in the collapse of the yellow perch fishery.

"I examined trends in perch reproduction, weather variables, water levels, and fishing activity," Mr. Fielder noted. "None of those factors were as influential as cormorant predation in contributing to the collapse of the perch population."

His findings led to a cormorant control effort in the Les Cheneaux Islands implemented by Wildlife Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Oil was poured on cormorant eggs to stop their development, for example, and some birds were shot. The number of nests dropped to about 500.

Turn to page 10: Cormorants

Youngsters Warm Up for Holiday With 'Trunk or Treat' at St. Ignace



Michigan State Police Trooper Corey Hebner of the St. Ignace post with Jayce Anderson of Moran during Trunk or Treat Saturday, October 25, in St. Ignace. Jayce is the son of Michelle and Jeremiah Anderson of Moran. Games, contests, and treats were offered to participating children at Trunk or Treat. (Photograph by Anderson Photography)