

Annual School Ratings Fall Below State Levels in Some Grades

Technology: From page 1
technology things,” Superintendent Rod Goehmann said.

Classroom tech to be added includes eight Smartboards, which are electronic touch screens, a form of interactive projector screen that allows teachers to operate a computer from the screen during lessons. Teachers can also browse the Internet to access online learning software in the classroom, Mr. Goehmann said.

The security camera system at Les Cheneaux schools will add about 21 cameras and be upgraded

from the current four camera system. The school will also purchase two new Elmos overhead projectors and computer networking equipment.

Phase one of the technology bond was spent on computers, furniture, and infrastructure and was \$7,500 under budget. Mr. Goehmann said the remaining funds may be used for future technology purchases.

Retirement regulations

The Internal Revenue Service is implementing regulations on public school district 403(b) retirement

plans starting January 1. Under the new regulations, districts all over the U.S. will have to monitor and regulate employee deductions and transfers into their retirement plans.

The Les Cheneaux School Board unanimously voted to join the Michigan Retirement Investment Consortium, a group set up to manage employee retirement accounts of Michigan public school employees. The district will spend \$500 to join the third party.

“We as employers, particularly as a small school district, we don’t have the capacity to do that,” Mr. Goehmann said. “We’re not in the business of keeping track of that stuff.”

He said the consortium will keep track of all employee transactions through six different investment vendors. The district’s current plan does not limit which vendors employees can use.

Under the consortium’s management, district employees will only be able to choose from the following investment firms: AIG-VALIC, MEA Paradigm Prudential, Plan Member, The Legend Group, Wadell & Reed Nationwide, and Midwest Capital Advisors. Employees will be able to keep their current investment accounts, but under the new regulations will not be able to con-

tribute to them through payroll deductions.

District Business Manager Chris Hill said the IRS started auditing bigger school districts across the U.S. and discovered there was no oversight and decided to regulate the system.

“No one had a handle on how people were handling their retirement accounts,” Mr. Goehmann said.

The board also presented its annual education report at the Monday night meeting.

The annual school ratings were below state levels at every grade level in English and mathematics except for 4th and 8th grades, which were each about 90 percent proficient. The ratings are based on MEAP scores weighted from previous years.

“It’s just a different set of kids, just a different mix of kids,” from previous years, Mr. Goehmann said. “They’re all basically receiving the same instruction.”

He said there could be many factors that may have caused the lowered scores and that he’s learned not to get overly excited when 100 percent of students earn proficient grades on testing.

Students in the district completed MEAP testing for this year on Friday, October 24.

Children’s Halloween Events Listed

Halloween: From page 1

end of the festivities. The change in date was made by the city because of the play-off football game in St. Ignace Friday, October 31.

A Halloween skating party will take place at Little Bear East Ice Arena Thursday, October 30, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. It will include music, snacks, games, and prizes. The cost is \$5 per person. Skaters are encouraged to dress in costume.

In St. Ignace Area Schools, parents are invited to attend parties in kindergarten through sixth grade classrooms on Friday, October 31. Depending on individual class schedules, some parties will take place in the morning and others in the afternoon. Also on Halloween day, elementary students will parade through the school in costume. To avoid congestion in the hallways, parents are to meet in the middle school gymnasium at 1 p.m., where they will see all students who choose to participate.

St. Ignace area churches are sponsoring Hallelujah Night, an alternative to traditional trick-or-treating, at the St. Ignace Elementary School cafeteria Friday, October 31, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Games, prizes, stories, and candy will be offered. All children are invited to attend. The churches are asking children to refrain from scary or gory costumes.

Les Cheneaux

Trick or treating at Cedarville and Hessel will take place Saturday, November 1, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. It has been rescheduled from Friday, October 31, to accommodate the high school football playoff game Friday.

At Les Cheneaux Elementary School, classroom parties will take place throughout the day, and the costume parade will begin at 2:15 p.m. Friday, October 31. Parents, relatives, and friends are invited to attend any of the activities.

U.P. in Smoke Barbecue and

Catering will offer a free elephant ear to children in costume at the Cedar Pantry parking lot Saturday, November 1, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Mackinac Island

Mackinac Island Public School is providing a Halloween party for Island children from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, October 31. Children are encouraged to wear their costumes and are asked to bring along a trick or treat bag.

Children will begin trick or treating that day after the school party ends at 5 p.m.

Gros Cap School

At Gros Cap School, classroom parties will begin in the afternoon. The school’s younger students will parade in costume through the school Friday, October 31, at 2:15 p.m. Parents are welcome to wait in the gymnasium to watch the parade.

Mackinaw City

Official trick-or-treat time in the village is 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Elementary students will have parties in the individual classrooms in the afternoon Friday, October 31. Students will dress in costumes and parade around the school at 1 p.m. Parents and relatives are invited to watch the parade.

Students in grades six through 12 can dress in costumes and take part in a class competition hosted by the student council. Prizes will be awarded.

Pickford

Pickford Public Schools will host a costume parade and classroom parties Friday, October 31. Kindergarten through fourth grade students will parade through the school at 2 p.m. Friends, relatives, and parents are invited to watch the parade. Kindergarten students will carve pumpkins at 12:30 p.m.

Curtis

The Curtis Women’s Club will host a costume party for children and teenagers at the Curtis Community Building Friday, October 31, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The party will include games, costume judging, and a cake walk.

Rudyard Students To Present Play



James Taylor, director, gives advice to Rudyard High School students (from left) Shana Trotter, Rebecca Malaski, Celyne McMillan, and David Hoolsema, who are performing in “The King and I” The play will be presented at the school Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, November 6, 7, and 8 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, November 9, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. (Photograph courtesy of Rudyard Area Schools)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Vote No on Proposal 2

To the Editor:

With Proposal 2 on the ballot, it is a good time to understand what we are voting for or against.

Human embryonic stem cell research is already legal in Michigan and has been conducted for years at the University of Michigan. So why the proposal?

The language for this proposal is very deceptive. It is, in effect, asking for unrestricted science and experimentation with the Michigan legislature unable to regulate anything related to stem cell research.

It would overturn existing Michigan law and would leave everything to federal law; that means Congress, the President, and special interest groups in Washington will control our policies.

Keep in mind that the stem cell research that has been successful has come from adult stem cells, umbilical cord, and placenta. No cures have resulted from the embryonic stem cell research, regardless of the hype and the money poured into it.

I have great respect for the calling that the medical researchers have. May they continue to be guided by the makers of all life, to use well their talents and money. Let us continue to support what works and vote no on Proposal 2.

Maureen Brady
St. Ignace

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.

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Michigan Politics

By
George Weeks



Voter Registrations Soar

Each in his own way at critical times in the presidential campaign, Barack Obama and John McCain gave short shrift to Michigan.

Obama, bowing to the stranglehold that New Hampshire and Iowa have on the early primary process, boycotted Michigan’s earlier-than-allowed Democratic primary. McCain, after making us a top battleground target and spending more on ads here than in most states, abruptly pulled out to pour resources elsewhere.

But further down ballots in these closing days, there are some contenders hotly competing for support from among the record 7.47 million Michiganders registered to vote November 4 – an amazing 98% of the state’s voting age population.

Although our population is dropping, the 2008 registration is a 4.3% increase from the 2004 presidential election, according to Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, who has a solid reputation as guardian of electoral integrity. (Among the largest northern-county increases in registrations since January: Grand Traverse, 2,463; Houghton, 1,164.)

Two of the most-watched and heavily financed congressional races in the nation are Democratic challenges of eight-term Representative Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield Hills) by ex-Michigan Lottery Commissioner Gary Peters, and of freshman Representative Tim Walberg (R-Tipton) by state Senate Minority Leader Mark Schauer.

As of last week, with challengers exceeding or matching incumbents, a total of about \$3.2 million had been raised in the Walberg-Schauer race, and about \$5 million in the Knollenberg-Peters race, ninth most for a congressional race nationally.

All three congressmen representing northern Michigan are again heavily favored for reelection.

Early in this election year, Michigan Republicans trumpeted targeting of eight-term 1st District Representative Bart Stupak (D-Menominee). State GOP Chairman Saul Anuzis and some Capitol Hill Republicans anointed term-limited state Representative Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) as the challenger well before the primary; and there was talk of financial help for him from state and national party coffers.

But help did not arrive. And then came the jolt of a conference call with party leaders disclosing that McCain, shortly after some of them said McCain would campaign in the district, was abandoning Michigan. So much for coattails.

Asked Friday about lack of party financial help, the energetic Casperson, after taping radio-TV ads that his meager funds will allow only limited airing, quipped: “Who knows: Maybe they’ll drop a half million on me.” (Stupak, having raised \$1.2 million to about \$214,000 for Casperson, is up and running with TV in all the district’s six markets.)

The \$1.2 million is the most Stupak has raised in his nine congressional campaigns, the previous high being \$917,337 in 2000 when he had a vigorous challenge from Republican National Committeeman Chuck Yob, who raised \$691,337. Some of Stupak’s challengers have spent as little as about \$5,000 and about \$11,000.

Late Saturday, Stupak spokesman Nick Choate called to emphasize that Stupak was prompted to accelerate his fundraising when in October 2007 Casperson told *The Detroit News*: “We need to raise as much as \$1.5 million to make a real hard run at him. There hasn’t been a strong run against him recently and we hope to change that.”

Over the years in his sprawling district, I have seen more than one Stupak challenger with potential to succeed the second time around upon becoming better known.

Casperson’s hometown daily, the *Escanaba Daily Press*, said last week in endorsing Stupak that Casperson “brings much to the table. Perhaps in another time his candidacy would be right. This is not the time.”

Downstate editorial endorsements have little impact Up North, but the *Detroit Free Press*, while endorsing Stupak and properly calling him a champion of the Great Lakes and bold leader of House oversight efforts, said Casperson had mounted a “solid challenge.”

The paper also had positive comments about Saginaw lawyer Andrew Concannon, Democratic challenger of nine-term 4th District Representative Dave Camp (R-Midland) saying he “appears persistent enough to have some kind of future in Michigan politics.” It did not endorse in the race, strangely questioning what’s “to show” for Camp’s presence in Washington, where he has led on energy and other issues in working his way up the GOP power structure.

Camp, as of mid-October, had raised about \$2.6 million; Concannon about \$96,300.

The paper endorsed 2nd District eight-term Representative Peter Hoekstra (R-Holland), once chairman and now top minority member of the House Intelligence Committee, who long has been an authoritative Capitol Hill voice on security issues. He’s opposed by Hope College professor Fred Johnson of Holland, who raised about \$86,000 compared to Hoekstra’s \$642,000.

One of the nation’s most powerful voices on national security issues is five-term Senator Carl Levin, Michigan’s longest-serving senator.

He’s opposed by term-limited state Representative Jack Hoogendyk (R-Kalamazoo), who has raised a meager \$230,000-plus to Levin’s \$8 million-plus and trailed by a whopping 58-30 in an October 19 to October 20 EPIC/MRA poll for the *Detroit News/WXYZ-TV*.

The poll also had Supreme Court Chief Justice Cliff Taylor and his Democratic challenger, Wayne County Circuit Judge Diane Hathaway, tied with 19% among likely voters. But 61% were undecided, and Taylor, who raised more than \$1.7 million in contrast to Hathaway’s \$271,145, has launched an extensive TV ad campaign.

Taylor also has the advantage of being listed as an incumbent on the “non-partisan” ballot. If past elections are any indication, Hathaway will have a slight gender advantage.

In early October, Bill Ballenger, publisher of *Inside Michigan Politics*, reported that his poll had Hathaway with a slight lead but a huge majority of voters were undecided. He said Taylor had “better start spending ‘like a drunken sailor.’” He has.

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.

Fireworks Set for Nov. 8 at Moran

For the fourth year, the families of the late Alfred “Pete” Peters and George Litzner will host a fireworks show on Dukes Road in the village of Moran Saturday, November 8. The display begins at 7 p.m.

Held also to commemorate veterans, the fundraiser will include a silent auction and a 50-50 raffle and will benefit the Brevort Township Fire Department and Zion Lutheran Church Caring and Sharing program. The silent auction will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Food will be available by donation.

To donate items for the silent auction, call 643-9747.

The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

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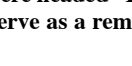
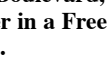
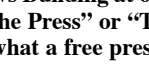
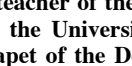
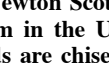
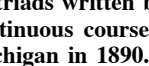
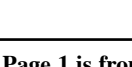
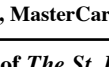
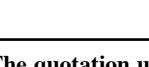
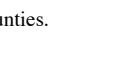
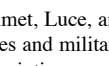
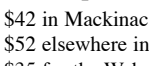
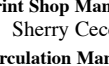
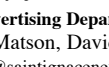
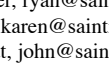
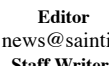
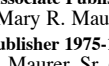
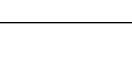
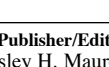
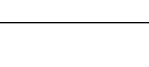
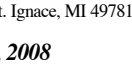
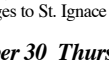
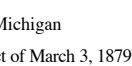
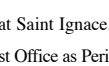
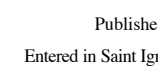
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The quotation under the flag of *The St. Ignace News* on Page 1 is from the 10 triads written by Dr. Fred Newton Scott, creator and teacher of the first continuous course in journalism in the United States at the University of Michigan in 1890. The 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.