

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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Dick Nye Named Citizen of the Year at Cedarville

By Jonathan Eppley
Longtime community volunteer Dick Nye of Cedarville was named the 2008 Citizen of the Year by the Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce at its annual banquet Wednesday, November 5. Mr. Nye

was surprised and excited to be selected by chamber members. The event was held at Ang-Gio's Restaurant in Cedarville. "It feels good, but I'm more of a guy that likes to be behind the scenes," he said. Nominees for the award were chosen based on their dedication, inspiration, and hard work in the

Les Cheneaux area over the years. Mr. Nye is an unsung hero of the Les Cheneaux community, who loves the area, said chamber board member Dana Torsky. "It seems he's always been there avoiding the limelight, but always a strong volunteer," she said. Mr. Nye, owner of Nye Construction Company, served on the

chamber board as a director for 12 years, and has also been involved in the Les Cheneaux Snowmobile Club, Les Cheneaux Sportsman's Club, Antique Boat Show Committee, and Boy Scouts. Being involved in the community has its ups and downs, he said, but, overall, it feels good to participate and contribute. Having fun and

At right: Dick Nye was named the 2008 Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. Mr. Nye received the award at the chamber's annual banquet Wednesday, November 5.



making friends at events is what keeps him so active in the community, he said. Looking to the future of the Les Cheneaux business community, Mr. Nye said he would like to see more younger people get involved with the chamber and start new businesses. Mr. Nye, who lives in Hessel

with his wife, Donna, has operated *Turn to page 7: Nye*

INSIDE
This Issue
The 2008 Michigan firearm deer season begins at sunrise Saturday, November 15. To celebrate the season *The St. Ignace News* in this week's issue has compiled a special report dedicated entirely to firearm deer season, beginning on page 13. Good luck and be safe.

Eastern U.P. Economic Need Fuels Drug Trade

By Ellen Paquin
A drug abuse problem in the Upper Peninsula is on the rise, fueled in part by poverty conditions and in part by a cutback in rural law enforcement, drug enforcement officers say. At the western end of the peninsula, Marquette County is becoming a major hub for drug trafficking throughout the U.P. and is seeing an influx of drug dealers moving in from cities, according to the U.P. Substance Enforcement Team in Marquette. Here on the eastern end of the peninsula, much of the drug trade is coming from smaller, local dealers and local people selling their prescription pain pills out of economic need. In Mackinac County, the biggest drug problem by far is the abuse of prescription pain medication, reported Lieutenant Ken Mills with Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement (SANE). His program covers Mackinac, Chippewa, and Luce counties in the U.P., and four counties in the northern lower peninsula. A successful investigation that took several cocaine dealers out of play over the past year in the Eastern U.P. has cut down on the ready availability of cocaine and crack here, but has created a greater street demand for the four most sought after prescription pain pills: oxycodone/oxycotin, methadone, *Turn to page 2: Drugs*

Veterans Honored Tuesday

At right: Veterans Day ceremonies began at 11 a.m. Tuesday, November 11, at LaSalle High School gymnasium, coinciding with the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the World War I armistice in 1918. The recognition of veterans began with the high school band playing and the entrance of the Color Guard from Coast Guard Station St. Ignace, from left, Seamen David Tam, Thomas Goatley, and Patrick Hogan, and Boatswain's Mate 2 Alessandro Di Maio.



Below: Cedarville High School students (from left) senior Austin Bright, senior and student council president Casey Hakola, and junior Jeremy Sherlund salute the American Flag as teacher Alan Jacobus leads the band in the National Anthem. Boy Scout Mr. Bright and Mr. Sherlund were color guard for the school's annual Veterans Day celebration in the gymnasium Tuesday, November 11.



More Veterans Day photographs, page 12

2008 Countywide Election Report Polls Busy, Absentee Ballots Break Record

By Karen Gould
Municipal clerks were prepared for a record number of voters at the general election Tuesday, November 4, but while voting remained steady throughout the day, no county record was set, falling about 4% shy of 2004 poll attendance. Election upsets were kept to the township level, with Gerald Hill becoming the new Clark Township supervisor, Jolynn Brawley the new clerk in Newton Township, and Donna O'Grady and Mike Soder the new supervisor and trustee, respectively, in Portage Township.

County incumbents retained their positions, while newcomer Tom Doty will fill a vacant seat on the road commission. This year, 67.6% of Mackinac County's registered voters went to the polls. In 2004, the county boasted one of the largest voter turnout in its history, at 71%. Early on, absentee ballot filings broke records in many local municipalities, giving every indication turnout at the polls also would be heavy. In October, Clark Township *Turn to page 9: Election*

Mackinaw City Business License Will Get One More Public Hearing

By John S. DeMott
Following a protest by hotel owner Enzo Lieghio at the Mackinaw City Village Council meeting Thursday, November 6, Council decided to schedule one more public hearing on the new business license ordinance. Council was on the verge of scheduling the ordinance for a first reading at its November 20 session. The ordinance was the subject of an earlier public hearing in July. The ordinance would give Mackinaw City some muscle in enforcing laws against consumer fraud, for example, by letting it ultimately refuse a license to a business that had been convicted of such fraud and barring it from reopening in the village. "So a person couldn't reopen a restaurant, is that what you're saying?" Mr. Lieghio asked Village Manager Jeff Lawson. "If that person were convicted, and the council upheld [the conviction], yes," Mr. Lawson responded, stressing that each incident would be reviewed case-by-case and weighed for gravity of harm. Mr. Lieghio, owner of about two dozen properties in Mackinaw City *Turn to page 11: License*

Dinner Is 93-Year Tradition



A few hours before more than 400 residents pour through the doors of the LaSalle High School cafeteria, about 100 volunteers, including Leroy Beaugard (from left), Marcy North, and Harold Sterk, prepare food for the 93rd Annual Turkey Dinner sponsored by the St. Ignace United Methodist Women. The volunteers began their work for the Thursday, November 6, dinner the day before, said organizer Donna Pope. Preparations for the meal include peeling 250 pounds of potatoes, baking 100 pies, cooking 250 pounds of rutabagas, preparing 60 pounds of mixed vegetables, baking 45 dozen homemade rolls, and carving 24 turkeys. Mackinac Straits Fish Company volunteered to cook the turkeys. Proceeds from the event are used for women's group projects and a contribution is given to the school.

State Cuts A Concern for Schools

Would Mean Reconsidering Class Sizes at St. Ignace
By Karen Gould
A feared cut in state aid this year could force St. Ignace Area Schools next year to reconsider class sizes and, possibly, teacher layoffs, Superintendent Mike Springsteen told the school board Monday evening, November 10. "This year, more than any year that I can remember, I wouldn't be surprised that we may feel a prorated cut," he told board members. "It's because of the state of our state's economy." For now, the state is slated to pay *Turn to page 7: School*

Toy Drive Now Underway at St. Ignace

Anticipating a heavy need for Christmas donations this year, the Mackinac County Children's Toy Drive is planning a fundraising lasagna dinner this Sunday and selling \$1 donation cards in addition to collecting money and donated toys. Donation canisters will be in place in local businesses this week. "We do think there will be a lot of families seeking donations for

their children this Christmas," said organizer Wendy Colegrove, who heads the local drive with Sally Hazen. Both are volunteers. A homemade lasagna dinner will be served at the Moose Lodge in St. Ignace Sunday, November 16, at 5:30 p.m. It is open to the public and the cost of admission is by donation. Proceeds will benefit the toy drive and the Moose Lodge

Christmas food basket program. A silent auction and 50/50 raffle will take place, and those who bring a new toy to donate will be entered in a door prize drawing. Also new this year, customers at McGregor Shell and First National Bank in St. Ignace will be able to buy a \$1 donation card displaying their name. *Turn to page 9: Toy Drive*

Santa's Elves Begin Work at Cedarville

Those looking to help less fortunate area families this holiday season can do so by donating children's toys to the Santa's Elves Program in Cedarville. Toys are being accepted now through December 15 at First National Bank in Cedarville. Santa's Elves will also issue food coupons redeemable at

Cedarville Foods grocery for holiday meal components, like fresh fruit or meat. This year, program coordinator Kate Ter Haar expects to provide food for holiday meals to 45 families and toys to about 100 children. Gift requests, in the form of a tag with a child's age and gender, can be selected from a Christmas

tree at the Cedarville bank. Tags are currently available even though the tree is not up, Ms. Ter Haar said. She expects the tree to be put up by Thanksgiving. Wrapped gifts with the request tag attached, so coordinators can identify recipients, can be dropped off at the bank on Meridian Street. *Turn to page 8: Elves*