

# Snowmobile Club Gets New

The Straits Area Snowmobile Club in St. Ignace has enlisted the help of several new volunteer trail groomers, but still needs more. The club is seeking more help to combat a shortage of volunteers at the beginning of the season.

Club member Neil Hill Jr. said about half of the 14 shifts needed to groom the club's trails once per day will be covered once the new volunteers are fully trained.

The trails are "in good shape, and that's because we've had virtually no traffic. Now, it's more of going out and flattening the trails after a snowfall," Mr. Hill

# Volunteers; Still Needs More

and Trout Lake. He attributed the low volume of traffic to a combination of the holidays, abundant snow downstate, and bad economy.

The club is responsible for grooming 101 miles of trails in Mackinac County in the areas of Brevort Township, St. Ignace,

Someone can receive basic training on how to use one of the groomers in about one evening, and no experience is necessary. Mr. Hill said.

For more information or to volunteer, call club president Jim Dekeyser at 643-7616.

# Winter Boat Departures to Mackinac Island Cut Back

For the week of Friday, December 26, through Saturday, January 3, Arnold Transit Company will be cutting back on round-trip departures between Mackinac Island and St. Ignace, from four round-trips to three.

Departures to the Island from St. Ignace are at 8 a.m., 11 a.m., and 3:45 p.m.

Departures to St. Ignace from the Island are at 8:45 a.m., noon, and 4:30 p.m.

The ferry company will be closed for Christmas Day Thursday, December 25.

For New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1, there will be no 8 a.m. departure to the Island and no 8:45

a.m. departure to the mainland. There has been no official word of the ferry service company closing for the winter after January 3, however, depending on the amount of ice packed in Moran Bay, it is highly possible, said Bob Brown, the company's general manager.

The captain and crew of the passenger ferry *Huron* had difficulty departing from St. Ignace already because of the packed ice in the harbor this past week, said Mr. Brown.

Call Arnold Transit Company headquarters at 847-3351 for more information on departures after January 3.

# Coast Guard Says Great Lakes Ice Is a Clear, Solid Risk

## Safety Tips Include: Do Not Rub or Apply Ice in Hypothermia Cases

U.S. Coast Guard Station St Ignace is working to promote ice safety in the Great Lakes during the winter months, and reminds people that Great Lakes ice is unpredictable and dangerous. It has issued the following safety tips.

All ice is a clear, solid risk. If people chose to go in the ice, they should remember the acronym: I (Intelligence), C (Clothing), E (Equipment).

**Intelligence** - Know the weather and ice conditions, know where you're going, and know how to call for help. **Clothing** - Have proper clothing to prevent hypothermia. **Equipment** - Have proper equipment, such as a marine radio, life jackets, screw drivers/ice picks.

Always check the weather and ice conditions before any trip out onto the ice. Ice thickness is not consistent. Water currents, particularly around narrow spots, bridges, inlets, and outlets, are always suspect for thin ice. Stay away from cracks, seams, pressure ridges, slushy areas, and darker areas, for these signify thinner ice.

Always tell family and friends

where you are going and when you expect to be back - and stick to the plan.

Use the buddy system: Never go out on the ice alone. If you do choose to go out on the ice alone, stay in an area where other people can see you.

Dress in bright colors and wear an exposure suit that is waterproof and a personal floatation device. When the human body is immersed in cold water, an automatic reaction is for the person to take a deep breath, sucking in water. This accounts for many cold water deaths. The chances of locating a person in distress are increased when the individual wears bright clothing. The chances of survivability, and keeping your head above water, are increased when wearing an exposure suit and Coast Guard approved life jacket.

Carry two ice picks or screwdrivers. If you fall in the ice, you can use these items to get out. They are much more effective than using your hands.

Carry a whistle or noise-making device to alert people that you are in distress; carry a cell phone and/or a VHF-FM radio to contact the nearest Coast Guard station in case you see someone in distress.

**Treating hypothermia**  
Hypothermia becomes the big-

gest danger after falling in through the ice. Hypothermia begins to set in quickly as the human body's core temperature drops below 95 degrees. Here are some hypothermia treatment tips:

- Handle the person gently.
- Get the person indoors and remove wet clothing.
- Dry the person promptly and wrap in blankets.
- Transfer to rescue and/or medical authorities as soon as possible.
- Never rub or massage the extremities.
- Do not give alcohol or caffeinated products.
- Never apply ice.
- Never apply external heat

sources directly to the skin.

- Do not allow the person to smoke.

**Stages of hypothermia are:**

- Mild - Conscious and oriented, shivering, able to assist.
- Moderate - Conscious but disoriented, shivering stops, may not be able to assist.
- Severe - Unconscious, muscle rigidity, unable to assist.

Owners of vehicles left on the ice after a rescue are subject to fines for pollution violations, the Coast Guard points out. Fines can range from \$250 to \$11,000.

For more information, contact Coast Guard Station St Ignace at 643-6402.

# Statewide Smoking Ban Fails in Final Legislative Session

A proposed ban on smoking in public places across the state failed to reach agreement by state lawmakers in the lame duck legislative session that ended Thursday, December 18. Most House members favored a law that excluded casinos, race tracks, and cigar bars, while most state senators said they were seeking a total ban in all workplaces.

Businesses on tribal reservations, such as casinos in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, are on sovereign land and, therefore, not be subject to the state law.

For any smoking ban to move forward now, a new bill would have to be introduced in the new year.

Supporters of the ban, including public health officials, wanted to protect people and workers from the

health dangers of secondhand smoke. According to the American Lung Association, secondhand smoke is responsible for 3,400 lung cancer deaths and 46,000 heart disease deaths in adult nonsmokers in the United States each year.

The Michigan Restaurant Association was among those opposing the bill. Opponents pointed out that businesses may choose to go smoke-free on their own, if they believe customers want that, and that governmental involvement in the decision is not necessary.

Neither State Senator Jason Allen or Representative Gary McDowell returned calls asking to comment on the legislation.

Currently, 33 other states have passed smoke-free legislation.

## Eva Jones Roberts is Turning 90!



Celebrate with Eva and her family!

Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>  
2 to 4 p.m.

Hessel Lighthouse Baptist Church

Hosted by: Bill and Betty Jones  
Mark, Deanna, Evan, and Emmett Jones

No gifts, please



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

A Gift To Yourself...



**Drop Off  
Laundry Service**  
St. Ignace Laundromat  
*Open 7 Days at 7 a.m.*

**&  
Pingatore Cleaners**

132 South State Street, St. Ignace  
(906) 643-8336      Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



**Season's greetings**

to all our friends.  
**Sincere thanks to you**

Willobee & Willobee  
Barb, Ryan & Kathy  
880 South State Street  
906-643-9331



**Happy Holidays**

St. Ignace Area Residents  
**There will be no pickup service on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> or Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>**

**COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS**  
**There will be a CHANGE in Pickup Service for the weeks of Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> thru Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> thru Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Monday pickup will be Monday  
Tuesday pickup will be Tuesday  
Wednesday pickup will be Wednesday  
Thursday pickup will be Friday  
and Friday pickup will be Saturday

# Don Andress and Art Invited to Smithsonian Museum January 31



Don Andress of Mackinac Island will present one of his walking sticks to the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., Saturday, January 31.

Made of stripped balsam fir, colorful beads, and other small items, Mr. Andress' walking sticks will represent the art and culture of American Indian tribes from Michigan to northern Wisconsin.

Mr. Andress' artwork was submitted by the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau in the fall and it was accepted by the Smithsonian shortly thereafter.

He is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Mary Slevin, Tourism Bureau director, and Assistant Director Chris West will attend the presentation of the walking stick with Mr. Andress.

Others are invited to attend. Call the Tourism Bureau at 847-6256 or (800) 454-5227 for more information.

**Don "Duck" Andress, a Mackinac Island Native American craftsman, will present one of his walking sticks to the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., Saturday, January 31.**

I would like to inform the citizens of Mackinac County of the partnership agreement developed between Luce, Mackinac, Alger, Schoolcraft Counties, LMAS Health Department/Hospice and the Hospice of Chippewa County.

As a board member for the Hospice of Chippewa County, I was thrilled when Tracey Holt, Director of HCC, expressed interest in coming to Mackinac County to offer Hospice service to members of our county and community at a time when LMAS was having difficulties. Hospice care at the time was greatly needed, not enough staff, not enough volunteers, etc. Multiple requests from families had been made to HCC from the Cedarville area as well as the St. Ignace and Newberry areas.

The success of this partnership was accomplished through the great efforts by Dave Martin, Health Officer of CCHD, Tracey Holt, Director of HCC, Rosemary Blashill, RN/Consultant and our Mackinac County Commissioners, especially Dawn Nelson and Bucky McPhee. These people saw the need, heard the requests from families requesting better Hospice service, and found a way to get it done.


The staff of LMAS has also been a great strength to the organization. During difficult times they have remained strong, dedicated and committed to the goal of LMAS; providing excellent care to clients and family members during the illness and/or death experience. Without them, the program would not exist.


Since the development of the partnership established in July 2008, LMAS/HCC has provided services to approximately 20 clients/families in our area. The cards, notes and letters to the staff of thank you, gratitude, and caring are wonderful and speak volumes to the success of this partnership.

As a result of the growth of the LMAS Hospice program, volunteers are greatly needed and training is provided free of charge. I would encourage anyone who has any extra time to consider becoming a volunteer. The personal rewards are so great!

If you are interested in volunteering, please call the LMAS office at (906) 643-7700

Thank you,  
Reinette Powers Murray, RN, MSN,  
Assistant Professor of Nursing  
Lake Superior State University





*Have a warm and glowing holiday season!*

As we throw another yule log on the fire, our thoughts are with the many fine folks we've had the privilege to know through the years. May contentment and joy warm your heart this holiday season.

**Dodson Funeral Home**  
*Bruce and Carolyn Dodson*

# Brown Reappointed to Waterways Comm.

Bob Brown of St. Ignace was elected chairman of the Michigan State Waterways Commission Friday, December 12, in Lansing. The general manager for Arnold Transit Company, he represents Upper Peninsula members of the marine industry who do not own or operate a harbor or marina.

He was reappointed last month by Governor Jennifer Granholm to another term on the commission and will serve until September 18, 2011.

The Waterways Commission is responsible for the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of recreational harbors, channels, docking, and launching facilities, and administration of commercial docks in the Straits of Mackinac.

The commission next meets in February in Lansing.