

County Commissioners Make Committee Assignments, Set Meeting Dates for Coming Year

By Karen Gould

A new meeting time was set and committee appointments and department liaisons assigned during the Mackinac County Board of Commissioners annual organizational meeting Monday, January 5. Commissioners re-elected Dawn Nelson as chair and Larry Leveille vice chair for the next two years.

Mrs. Nelson will seek legal advice on hiring an at-will employee to assist the board up to eight hours a week. The person would assist commissioners with research, including surveying other counties on various topics.

After a year of night meetings, commissioners moved their meeting time to 4 p.m., which is a more convenient time for them. The board has been meeting at 6 p.m. and will continue to meet at that time as a committee of the whole. Those meetings will be held in the commissioner room in the annex building next to the Court House.

The commission will continue to hold regular meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

The following liaison assign-



Mackinac County Commissioners prepared for the coming year by re-electing Dawn Nelson as chair and Larry Leveille as vice chair (both seated). Standing behind them in this photograph taken before their meeting Monday, January 5, are (from left) commissioners Calvin McPhee, Mike Patrick, and Carl Frazier.

ments with county departments were made: Animal control office, Calvin McPhee; animal shelter, Mike Patrick and Calvin McPhee; airport, Dawn Nelson; building and grounds, Carl Frazier; county clerk, Larry Leveille; emergency services coordinator, Calvin McPhee; 911 coordinator, Larry Leveille; Equalization Department, Dawn Nelson; Michigan State University Extension, Mike Patrick; prosecutor's office, Carl Frazier; Register of Deeds office, Dawn Nelson; treasurer's office, Dawn Nelson; Road Commission, Carl Frazier; surveyor's office, Mike Patrick; Sheriff, Larry Leveille and Calvin McPhee; veterans office, Carl Frazier; Probate, District, and Circuit Courts, full board; Friend of the Court, Calvin McPhee; juvenile office, Mike Patrick, and custodian's office, Calvin McPhee.

Committee appointments are: Finance and Administration, full board; Community Action, Dawn Nelson and Larry Leveille; LMAS Health Department, Calvin McPhee and Dawn Nelson; Septic Tank Approval, Mike Patrick and Carl Frazier; Hiawatha Behavioral

Health, Mike Patrick and Dawn Nelson; UPCAP, Dawn Nelson; Upper Peninsula Agency on Aging, Mike Patrick; 511 Corrections/Tether committee, Larry Leveille and Calvin McPhee; 911 board, Larry Leveille and Calvin McPhee; Eastern U.P. Employment and Training, Carl Frazier and Dawn Nelson; HOME collaborative board, Calvin McPhee; Animal Shelter Committee, Calvin McPhee and Mike Patrick; Manistique Lakes Dam Committee, Carl Frazier and Mike Patrick; Economic Development Corporation, full board; Mackinac Straits Hospital, Dawn Nelson; Tri-County Judicial board, Dawn Nelson and Calvin McPhee; E.U.P. Regional Planning and Development, Mike Patrick and Dawn Nelson; Mackinac County Airport, Dawn Nelson and Calvin McPhee; Planning Commission, Calvin McPhee; Continuum Care, Calvin McPhee; E.U.P. Community Dispute Resolution Center, Calvin McPhee.

The next regular meeting of the county board will be Thursday, January 8, at 4 p.m. on the third floor of the County Courthouse.

Mackinac Bridge Authority Lawsuit Seeks To Recover Painting Costs

Lawsuit: From page 1
the United States District Court

for the Western District of Michigan Monday, December 1. The bridge painting project

involved sandblasting and applying three coats of paint to steel posts, beams, chords, and other metal parts that form the trusses supporting the bridge deck. It was awarded to Allstate under an \$8 million contract in 2002 and officially completed in November 2003.

The contract was for the 1,800-foot south side span from the south tower to the south cable bent pier, and included a two-year warranty.

A two-year warranty inspection in October and November 2005 revealed defects which Allstate began to repair in September 2006, but, according to the suit, never completed.

Workers for the company,

"just left" before the work was finished, and repairs are now being completed by a Mackinac Bridge Authority crew, Bob Sweeney, the Authority's executive secretary, told *The St. Ignace News* Monday, January 5.

He declined to comment as to why the company may have left before the project was done.

MBA workers will complete the remaining work this summer, he said.

The \$1 million being sought is the estimated cost for bridge workers to complete the repair work under the warranty.

Bids to have the work completed by outside contractors came in at between \$2 million and \$4 million.

County Budget 9% Higher Than 2008

Budget: From page 2

Monday, January 5, at the board's organizational meeting.

Anderson Tackman Company of Kincheloe, the current auditor, bid \$66,000 for the next three years, \$21,000 for 2008, \$22,000 for 2009, and \$23,000 for 2010.

Stewart, Beauvais and Whipple of Port Huron, a previous auditor, bid \$99,000 for the next three years, \$32,000 for 2008, \$33,000 for 2009, and \$34,000 for 2010.

Rehmann Robson of Cheboygan bid \$113,900 for the next three years, \$36,450 for 2008, \$38,000 for 2009, and \$39,450 for 2010.

The county has paid Anderson Tackman \$60,625 for audit years 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Treasurer Nora Massey told commissioners she is estimating the county will end 2008 with a fund balance of approximately \$600,000, but not less than \$500,000. Payroll expenses and some revenue from grants still are expected to be received.

"Most of the year it was kind of scary," she said. "It wasn't until July that we finally had revenues over expenses. That's due to the way we're collecting the county allocated tax now."

Ms. Massey told commissioners they have 180 days to put in place an investment policy and she volunteered to work with them and the auditors to get their recommendation on a policy that would meet the county's needs. The com-

mission took no action during the meeting.

In another matter, Ms. Massey received board approval to keep the tax clerk on staff until a new deputy treasurer can be hired. The application deadline is Thursday, January 8, and she hopes to fill the position by the end of the month.

Commissioners also agreed to post two maintenance positions. The head custodian position, which was vacated with the retirement of Paul Amacher, will be full time. An assistant position, which now is full time and held by Bill Orr, will be posted as part-time. Commissioners said they expected Mr. Orr to apply for the head custodian job.

The commission's next regular meeting is Thursday, January 8, at 4 p.m. in the Mackinac County Courthouse in St. Ignace.

Mutt M.M.A.
January 10th • 7 p.m.
 at Little Bear East
Full Contact Cage Fighting, Kick Boxing, and Submission Fighting
\$20 General Admission
\$30 Ringside

Martial Arts Tourney
January 10th • Noon Start
 11 a.m. - Noon Check-in
 at Little Bear East
 Open to all ages & styles
\$20 Pre-registration Fee
 (Before Jan. 1 • \$25 at door)
\$2 Spectator Fee

St. Ignace Youth Wrestling Tournament
Sunday, Jan. 11th
LaSalle High School
at 10:00 a.m.
 Call the St. Ignace Rec. Dept.
 at (906) 643-8676 to register
Arena Skating Passes
Arena Skating Passes
 Single • 1 Month \$30, Season \$100
 Family • Monthly \$60, Season \$160
 For more information call
 Little Bear East (906) 643-8676

FRESHWATER FOODS
 Leading the way from good to gourmet
BAKERY & DELI

Devour a Delicious Deli Sandwich

#1 The Classic Ham & Swiss	#4 Texas Bistro Roast Beef & Havarti
#2 Local Tom Turkey & American	#5 Italian SUV Salami, Pastrami & Provolone
#3 St. Pats Cornbeef & Mild Cheddar	#6 BLT & G Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato & Smoked Gouda

Make it a Combo... with Soup

All deli sandwiches are served on a fresh baked white or wheat bun with lettuce, tomato, and choice of homemade spreads • Tomato Pesto - Horseradish Sauce - Italian

BUY OUR DELI MEAT & CHEESE BY THE POUND!
THIS WEEK'S DONUT WINNER: RICHARD RICKLEY
 (Pick up donuts on Saturday, January 10th between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.)
 Hours: Monday - Saturday 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. • CLOSED on Sundays
 441 N. State Street, St. Ignace • 643-0056

Audie's Scholarship Ball Committee Presents

"Polar Nights"

Saturday, January 17, 2009
 8 p.m. until midnight

Silent Auction to benefit Audie's Scholarship Fund

COCKTAIL RECEPTION
 Chef Nick's gourmet hors d'ouvres
 2 drink tickets followed by cash bar

Advance tickets \$50 per guest
 with a portion to benefit the scholarship fund
 For tickets call 231-436-5744

AUDIE'S BANQUET ROOM
 314 Nicolet Avenue, Mackinaw City

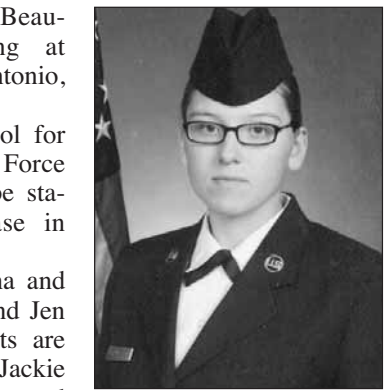
Black Tie Optional

Beauregard Completes Basic Training

Air Force Airman Stephanie Beauregard completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, November 21.

She is attending technical school for security forces at Lackland Air Force Base. Upon graduation, she will be stationed at Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

She is the daughter of Samantha and Ray Wheeler of Moran and Don and Jen Beauregard of Ithaca. Grandparents are Mary Adams of Moran, Butch and Jackie Beauregard of St. Ignace, and Jim and Betty Anderson of St. Louis.



Stephanie Beauregard

"Fund the Future" Campaign
 Sponsored by the Education Foundation

Save Our School Suppers
Welcome To Our Chili Dinner
 Les Cheneaux Community Schools Cafeteria
January 9 • 5-7 p.m.

Before the Cedarville/Brimley basketball game
 \$6 for adults • \$3 for children (10 & under)
 Donations Accepted
 Proceeds go toward the school deficit

For more information or to make a donation,
 call Jill McLeod at 906-484-5525

This ad paid for by Maples Sawmill, Inc., Hessel

We'll be there!

As your local, independent agent, we'll be there the day you come in for a quote...

The day you buy your first home...
 The day your first child is born...
 The day you need to file a claim.

Through all the changes in your life, we'll be there to make sure your insurance coverage keeps up.

Providing *Safe. Sound. Secure.* protection from
 Auto-Owners Insurance Company.

Auto-Owners Insurance

D. Beacom Insurance 1-800-635-1218 • (906) 647-6435 7772 M-129, Pickford, MI beacom@beacominsurance.com MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M.	Don Wilson Insurance Agency 1-877-286-9250 • (906) 635-5600 110 Dawson, Sault Ste. Marie, MI don@wilson-ins-agency.com
--	--

STOCKS IRAS
BONDS CDS
MUTUAL FUNDS

Bill McLeod A.A.M.S.
 939 E. Portage Ave.,
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI
1-877-632-4985
(906) 632-4985

www.edwardjones.com
 Member SIPC

Edward Jones
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

MACKINAC STRAITS HOSPITAL & HEALTH CENTER
The Healthcare Jewel of the Straits

INTRODUCING OUR GEMS

 Dr. Eve Rider DO BAYVIEW OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY For An Appointment 231-487-2340	 Kim Smith CERTIFIED MASTECTOMY FITTER <i>Experienced & Confidential from Vital Care - Available the First & Third Friday of the Month</i> For An Appointment 800-342-7711 ext. 2383	 Dr. Cara Cockfield MD BAYVIEW OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY For An Appointment 231-487-2340
--	---	---

For Other Visiting Physicians Call 906-643-0466