

# Mackinac Island Winter Festival Kicks Off This Weekend

Island: from page 1

Also, the annual "Seasons of Mackinac" calendar photograph contest will be held throughout the day.

Deadline to submit eight-inch by 10-inch color horizontal photographs is Sunday, February 1. Drop off photographs at First National Bank on the Island or call Leanne Brodeur for more information at 847-3853.

Sunday brunch at the school will begin at 10 a.m. and will include pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, eggs, potatoes, biscuits and gravy, cinnamon rolls, and fresh fruit.

Brunch costs \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and silent auction Sunday, with prizes including two airfare tickets, a commuter pass from Star Line ferry, a bicycle tune-up at Mackinac Wheels, a free fill-up of gas for a snowmobile at Union Terminal

Piers, and a \$50 savings bond from First National Bank of St. Ignace.

The festival will also include a snow sculpting contest. Participants must register and report their sculpture location to Brenda Bunker of First National Bank or Barb Fisher of Mackinac Island Public School by Thursday, February 5, to qualify for the contest. The sculpture must be visible from a main road.

Winners will be announced Sunday.

First place prize in the snow sculpture contest is \$100, with \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place.

The following is a list of times and events for the weekend's Winter Festival:

## Saturday, February 7

Noon - bonfire, concession stand opens, snow golf, sledding contest, and games

Noon - 1:30 p.m. - kids games  
12:30 p.m. - ski race, snow

bowling

1 p.m. - sleigh rides, snowshoe competition, archery, snow hunt for young adults

2 p.m. - broom hockey at the park's horse ring

7 p.m. - Hollywood-themed dance at Mission Point Resort

8 p.m. - Teen bonfire gathering

**Sunday, February 8**  
All day - bake sale, cookie contest, Seasons of Mackinac photograph contest, silent auction

10 a.m. - brunch

12:30 p.m. - poker run (five stop locations)

1 p.m. - kids carnival, cupcake walk and kids auction, archery, foil game

1:15 p.m. - snow volleyball in school playground

1:30 p.m. - dart ball

2 p.m. - bingo, announcement of Volunteer of the Year

3 p.m. - raffle drawing and announcements

## Revised U.S. Border Crossing Policy Solves Long Delays

New border crossing policies delayed local residents crossing between Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, recently, but the matter was resolved last week at the urging of U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak, his office reported Friday, January 30.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has revised a policy implemented at the Sault Ste. Marie border crossing last week. Since a procedure was revised Sunday, January 18, border agents were stopping every lawful permanent resident of the United States, requiring them to undergo fingerprinting and photographing every time they reentered the United States.

"I spoke with a CBP official on Thursday who assured me this matter had been resolved effective

immediately," Congressman Stupak said. "Many people who live or work in the United States make the trip from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan every day. The new border crossing requirements were never intended to impact these individuals."

Congressman Stupak's office was contacted by numerous permanent residents of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, who cross the border daily for work. His staff worked with Customs staff on the issue.

The new guidelines only require workers to stop lawful permanent residents if they have reason to suspect they have violated the law. The agencies will be issuing revised guidance to officers at the port to ensure the policy is enforced appropriately.

## Pre-trial for Tribal Officer Drunk Driving Case Set for Feb. 24

A pretrial hearing for local tribal police officer Ray Severance is scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 24, in 92nd District Court in St. Ignace. Mr. Severance is charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated and reckless driving. A jury trial is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. April 8.

He is pleading not guilty. Mr. Severance was arraigned December 23.

A 12-year veteran of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians police department, Mr. Severance was pulled over by a St. Ignace city police officer December 18. Although he was

not arrested, Mr. Severance, who was off duty at the time of the incident, turned himself in to authorities the next day at the suggestion of the officer who pulled him over.

He continues to serve with the tribal police department.

"Officer Severance remains on duty," tribal attorney Aaron Schlehner said Friday, January 30, however, "the tribe's administration will revisit Mr. Severance's status upon resolution of his personal legal issue."

A preliminary examination was held at District Court Wednesday, January 28, to set the pretrial hearing and jury trial date.

## County Commissioners' 2008 Earnings Include Salary, Meetings

Mackinac County commissioners make \$4,222 a year in base salary and the commission chair earns \$5,049 annually. The five board members additionally are paid \$60 per day for meetings. Beginning in 2008, board members earned an additional \$50 on days they attended more than one

meeting.

Commissioners earned the following pay based on salary and 2008 meetings attended:

Carl Frazier \$7,282; Larry Leveille \$8,922; Calvin McPhee \$12,802; Dawn Nelson, commission chair, \$13,599; Mike Patrick \$7,392.

## Mortinsen Earns Academic Honors

Caitlin Mortinsen of Pickford was named to the vice presidents list at Delta College for the fall 2008 semester. This academic honor is for students earning a 3.7 to 3.99 grade point average.

She was graduated from Pickford High School in 2007.

## 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.

### Internet:

The complete edition of The St. Ignace News is available online at [stignacenews.com](http://stignacenews.com).

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# Michigan Politics

By  
George Weeks



## Candidates Swarm for Faraway Guv Race

Although it's been a mere three months since the 2008 election, the political trail already abounds with prospects for the 2010 gubernatorial election that is 21 months away.

Term-limited Governor Jennifer Granholm last year began more prominently sharing publicity ops with Lieutenant Governor John Cherry, former Democratic leader in the state Senate who has a formal committee to explore a run for governor.

Ignore "explore." He's running. Early on, liberal Cherry is a tenacious competitor, much as conservative Senate Majority Leader John Engler was when he got an early lock on the Republican nomination to oppose Democratic Governor Jim Blanchard in 1990.

A big difference now is that in 2010 there is an open seat. So swarms of hopefuls already are forming, especially among Republicans.

The early GOP headliner, term-limited Attorney General Mike Cox, has one of those exploratory committees and, as public TV correspondent Tim Skubick wrote last week in the *Lansing State Journal*, "has been gobbling up tons of free ink in his battle with Blue Cross-Blue Shield, his defense of the domestic auto industry, or jumping on anything else that looks newsy."

The other prominent and term-limited officeholder in Lansing, GOP Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, has indicated an interest and would be a formidable contender.

U.S. Rep Pete Hoekstra (R-Holland), in announcing that he would not seek reelection in 2010, said he was considering a gubernatorial run. Other Republicans on Capitol Hill pondering a gubernatorial run are Representatives Mike Rogers of Brighton, a former FBI agent and state senator, and Candice Miller of Harrison Township, former secretary of state.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, who lost to Richard Headlee in the 1982 Republican gubernatorial primary, says he will decide soon about running again. Other Republicans mentioned early on are Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard, and Dominoes CEO David Brandon.

The most recent Republican to form an exploratory committee is Senator Tom George of Kalamazoo County, a practicing physician, medical director of Hospice of Greater Kalamazoo, and former president of the Historical Society of Michigan. Among his laudable and successful initiatives were bills to facilitate outpatient treatment for the mentally ill and to curb proliferation of billboards.

"Our state's economy is broken," says George. "Our campaign's top priority is about fixing Michigan."

The first forum for potential gubernatorial candidates has been scheduled for February 6 at a Detroit meeting of about 500 members of the Michigan Education Association. The Association, along with WJBK-Fox 2 Detroit and the Michigan Information & Research Service, invited 25 politicians that the three view as potential contenders.

Five accepted: Cherry; Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop (R-Rochester); ex-U.S. Representative Joe Schwarz of Battle Creek, unsuccessful 2002 contender for the GOP gubernatorial nomination; Representative Alma Wheeler Smith (D-South Lyon), and ex-Representative John Freeman (D-Madison Heights).

Among Democrats declining were Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, House Speaker Andy Dillon of Redford Township, and Michigan State University Trustee George Perles, former MSU football coach.

In declining, Republican Cox correctly noted that it's too early for gubernatorial forums. And a spokesman for Republican Bishop said accepting the invitation does not mean Bishop will run for governor. But it's a good indication

that he is thinking about it.

### Michigan's near misses

Shortly before the turn of the century, two chairmen of Michigan's state parties came close in elections to head their national parties: Rick Wiener to chair the Democratic National Committee and GOP Chairman Spencer Abraham for the Republican National Committee (RNC).

On Friday, Michigan State Republican Chairman Saul Anuzis made a spirited bid to chair the Republican National Committee before dropping out when third among six candidates heading for the sixth ballot.

He said: "Can't win. I know how to count."

Although Michigan, for factors beyond his control, had a dismal electoral outcome in 2008, Anuzis was touted in the national media as a top contender in the RNC race because of his high-tech communication and other skills.

### Border Watch

Canadian border issues were addressed last week by northern Michigan lawmakers in Washington and Lansing.

At the urging of U.S. Representative Bart Stupak (D-Menominee), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has revised a policy implemented Jan. 18 at the Sault Ste. Marie border crossing. He complained that border agents were stopping every lawful permanent resident of the United States, requiring them to undergo fingerprinting and photographing every time they reentered the United States.

He said: "I spoke with a CBP official on Thursday who assured me this matter had been resolved effective immediately. Many people who live or work in the United States make the trip from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, every day. The new border crossing requirements were never intended to impact these individuals."

The new guidelines only require CBP to stop lawful permanent residents if they have reason to suspect they have violated the law. CBP will be issuing revised guidance to officers at the port to ensure the policy is enforced appropriately.

In Lansing, Representative Dan Scripps (D-Leland) called for decisive action to stop the flow of Canadian and out-of-state trash into Michigan after the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) released a report showing that trash imports rose again in 2008.

The DEQ's annual report showed that Manistee County alone received more than 3,000 tons of trash from the state of New York.

"Northwest Michigan should not be New York's dumping ground," Scripps said. "We cannot afford to wait while trash trucks continue to rumble through our communities, carrying countless tons of waste and putting our residents at risk. The time for delay is over; the time for action is now."

Scripps said the DEQ report shows that while the total amount of trash dumped in Michigan landfills decreased by more than 300,000 tons last year, imports of out-of-state trash increased to more than 30% of the total amount. Once again, the largest importer of trash into Michigan was Canada, which accounted for nearly 19% of the total amount of trash dumped in Michigan last year.

Scripps said: "Every day we wait to act, more trash gets dumped in our community. We must act now in order to protect our way of life, and preserve our air, land, and water for future generations. I will fight to ensure that Northwest Michigan is not a dumping ground for other people's trash."

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.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Bridge Authority Workers Offer Assistance

To the Editor:

Thursday, January 29, I had the misfortune of having a flat tire as I pulled out of the toll booth on my way southbound on the Mackinac Bridge. I pulled my Jeep off to the side, in front of a semi-truck, put my warning lights on, and got out to look at the situation. Immediately the toll taker called down to me that someone was on the way.

Within a few minutes, I was approached by staff of the Mackinac Bridge Authority who, without hesitation and without my asking, changed my tire. Not only were they efficient, they were friendly. I was still able to attend a meeting in Mackinaw City, and without being late.

I was so grateful to have had my "misfortune" right where I did. Those men (unfortunately I did not get their names) were great. I offered them money, but they refused to take it.

I am very blessed to live in a community where people can readily reach out to help others, and not expect anything in return.

Mary B. Wojcik  
St. Ignace

## Short 'Rainbows' Are Sundogs

To the Editor:

In regard to Jeannette Doud's column about short "rainbows" around the sun in the January 15 issue of *The St. Ignace News*, they are commonly called "sundogs," with a more scientific name of "parhelia." They are at the sun's level, parallel to the horizon and spaced 22 degrees on either side of the sun. As Mrs. Doud's January 29 column stated, they do indicate certain conditions in the upper atmosphere. They are generally seen shortly after sunrise or shortly before sunset, when the sun is low on the horizon.

We are summer residents of Marquette Island, and one or more of the family visit Mackinac Island every year. Were I free to do so, I would dearly love to spend a winter on your Island.

Keep up the good writing, Mrs. Doud.

Eugene O. Frye  
Marion, Iowa

## The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

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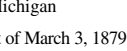
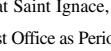
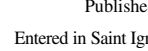
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The quotation under the flag of *The St. Ignace News* on Page 1 is from the 10 triads written by Dr. Fred Newton Scott, creator and teacher of the first continuous course in journalism in the United States at the University of Michigan in 1890. The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