

EUP Preparing for Digital Television Broadcasts

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switch to digital may require some consumers to purchase additional equipment. Televisions more than four years old will require an analog-to-digital converter box to receive digital broadcast signals through an antenna. Converter boxes cost about \$50 to \$70; newer televisions have built-in digital converters.

The government does offer some relief to consumers having to purchase the converters, in the form of a \$40 instant rebate coupon available online at the NTIA's Web site, however, the coupons are only redeemable at registered retailers. Lakefront Electronics is the only retailer in Mackinac County registered to accept the coupons; the next closest retailers are K-Mart, Wal-Mart, and Electronics Plus in Cheboygan, and Sears, Radio Shack, Wal-Mart, K-Mart, and Rite Aid in Sault Ste. Marie. All sell the boxes for about the same price.

"When a customer receives the coupon in the mail, there's also a list of authorized converter boxes and retailers," Mr. Lamoreaux said. "I would say I've probably sold a couple hundred so far. It's pretty well peaked out and kind of on a downslope. Now the interest is coming around antennas."

He said many consumers are unaware they may need a new UHF/VHF antenna in addition to the converter box to receive all channels available in the area.



Clyde Lamoreaux holds an analog-to-digital converter box next to the UHF/VHF antenna display in his St. Ignace store, Lakefront Electronics. All analog broadcast signals are mandated by the federal government to cease transmitting Friday, June 12, to make way for digital television broadcasts.

Depending on how strong the broadcast signal is in a given area, a consumer may need to update the antenna. The cost for outdoor antennas starts at about \$75 and TV-top antennas start at about \$30. Neither is guaranteed to work better than the other, Mr. Lamoreaux said.

"It's really just a combination of UHF and VHF antennas.

Depending how close you are to the signal and how strong the signal is, an older antenna will work, but it's not working at peak performance," he said. "A lot of people are finding out that 10- to 15-year-old antennas just aren't getting it. It's time for them to be replaced. Most of them aren't happy about it, and I don't blame them."

St. Ignace Students Aid Charities

Members of the LaSalle High School Players present checks to representatives from Project Hope and North Star Habitat for Humanity. Pictured (from left) are Dana Perry (in back), Miska Cardin, Barbara Seairight from Habiat, Connie Litzner from



Project Hope, Dustin McKenzie, and Shelby Peters. The students raised \$352.40 for each organization from donations collected at the club's performances of "Blues" May 3 and from LaSalle High School's Hat Day, in which students could wear a hat for a \$1 donation. (Photograph courtesy of LaSalle High School Players)

City Council Considers Turbines, Shelter Addition

Council: From page 1

1.25 times its height and from right-of-ways and property lines 1.1 times its height.

These restrictions are meant to make large windmills difficult to construct in small-lot neighborhoods.

"It would be almost impossible in a small residential lot type neighborhood," said City Manager Eric Dodson.

Spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors as well as typos like Manistee County in place of Mackinac were some of the changes the council approved for the ordinance.

Concerns were voiced about any

potential windmills interfering with airport operations by Mr. Fullerton, who is also the county airport manager.

Mr. Dodson said a section within the ordinance does require that any constructed windmill meet all FAA regulations.

The council will consider the final revision of the ordinance for approval on its Monday, June 15 meeting.

Zoning Appeal Granted to Animal Shelter

Mackinac Animal Aid Association will be constructing a 192-square-foot addition on the west side of the Mackinac County Animal Shelter at 980 Cheeseman Road, having received a zoning variance by the St. Ignace Zoning Board of Appeals.

The original zoning permit was denied because the addition would not meet the 25-foot setback requirement from the west lot line. The variance will allow the setback to be two feet from the lot line.

A letter from County Commissioner Calvin McPhee supported the addition, and neighbor Cheboy-

gan Cement has told the city it has no objection to the proposed addition.

Construction will likely begin on the 8-foot-by-24-foot addition as soon as next week, and the animal welfare group hopes to finish the project in June, said George Ford, president of Mackinac County Animal Aid Association. The shelter is operated by Mackinac County.

Mr. Ford said one room in the addition will serve as a private office and one room will be a play room for cats when their cages are being cleaned.

Wine, Beer Tasting Event Approved

Attendees will again get the chance to taste wine and beer and hear live music on Tuesdays in July and August.

The city council approved a special events resolution to allow the "Live at the Pavilion" wine and beer tastings to continue this year on the following dates: July 7, 14, 21, and 28, and August 4, 11, 18, and 25.

The events will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Pavillion mall on State Street.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No More Veterans' Service Officer

To the Editor:

On May 27, the American Legion service officer was set to visit Mackinac Island at the invitation of the Chapman-St. Onge-Dankowski Post 299. Veterans from Mackinac Island intended to see the service officer concerning disabilities, etc., however, this visit ended up being cancelled due to the service officer's position being eliminated. Now the veterans wait until they can be seen by someone else to process their claims.

On May 5, Governor Granholm recommended, by executive order, and the state legislature agreed with her, to reduce veteran service organization grants by \$1 million.

By virtue of this executive order, numerous service officer positions were eliminated.

Once again, elected officials have swung their sword and cut down the veteran.

We not only have two wars going on, but we have veterans from previous wars who are now feeling the effects of their service time. These people deserve to have service officers available to them to take care of issues that are now developing, or what they may come home with.

I'm not happy with our governor and state legislators, and nor should you be, for doing this. We need people in office who support veterans and our military personnel currently serving. They say they do, but...

We need to help the people who have served. They have paid the

price to preserve freedom.

I'm ashamed of our governor and state legislators that didn't back our veterans.

Paul M. Wandrie, Sr.

Post Commander

Chapman-St. Onge-Dankowski Post 299
Mackinac Island

Editor's Note: Although appointments with visiting service officers have been suspended, Mackinac County's veterans service officer Rick Litzner remains available at the county courthouse in St. Ignace on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to assist veterans with questions. He can be reached at 643-9411. Veterans or their families who need assistance may also call Mr. Wandrie on Mackinac Island, and he will provide them with appropriate phone contact numbers for various agencies. Mr. Wandrie can be reached at 847-6104 (daytime) or 847-3516 (evening).

Clarification Needed on Golf Course Funding

To the Editor:

The comment made by the auditor reported in the May 28 issue of *The St. Ignace News* regarding the city minimizing the loss at the golf course was totally incorrect. The golf course is totally self supporting, owing to the members' annual fees and the public greens fees. The city has never subsidized the golf course, and no taxpayers' money is used in the operation. The building of the clubhouse and the purchase of the equipment was and continues to be without the help of city funds. In fact, the city makes money on the golf course, from the water charges and the other services we pay for. This was a serious oversight on the part of the auditors, and the strictly volunteer board resents the implication that the golf course was not only unprofitable, but needed taxpayers' funds to support it.

Greg Cheeseman

Chairman, St. Ignace Country Club
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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The complete edition of The St. Ignace News is available online at stignaceneews.com.

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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.

Michigan Politics

By
George Weeks



Expect More Granholm D.C. Talk

It's likely that Governor Jennifer Granholm, late in the year and a half left in her final term, will yet again be in the Short List Tango -- the ritual of Washington worthies citing those who might be in line for a presidential appointment.

She was mentioned as among six on the short list (but not among the final four) for President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nomination that last week went to U.S. Appeals Judge Sonia Sotomayor, and previously had been mentioned among prospects to be secretary of energy or commerce.

Granholm's two predecessors also went through the ritual of mention by The Great Mentioner, a title coined by former *New York Times* columnist and humorist Russell Baker and periodically cited by *Washington Post* columnist David Broder (who has long family ties to, and a home on, Beaver Island).

Democratic Governor Jim Blanchard (1983-90) was prominently mentioned as a possible transportation secretary for President Bill Clinton, but ended up as ambassador to Canada.

Republican Governor John Engler (1991-1998) was mentioned as a potential running mate for 1996 GOP nominee Bob Dole, and "Engler for Veep" buttons were produced. Dole picked Jack Kemp.

With the Washington hype behind her for now, Granholm wisely is focusing on dealing with Michigan's budget woes and economic revival initiatives, with special emphasis on energy alternatives.

Much like ex-President George W. Bush as he began nearing the end of his last term, Granholm has declining job approval marks, according to a poll of 600 registered voters released last week by the *Detroit News* and WXYZ-TV.

The poll, conducted May 18 to May 21 by Lansing-based EPIC/MRA, gave her a negative job rating from 61% of respondents, and a favorable rating from only 38%.

2010 gubernatorial Faceoffs

The same poll offered some relatively meaningless figures on the

2010 gubernatorial race.

Lieutenant Governor John Cherry is widely seen as frontrunner for the Democratic nomination. But in the poll, he trails Senator Debbie Stabenow, 49% to 14%. Thing is, she's not running, declaring, "I believe I can best serve Michigan families in the Senate."

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano was third with 5%. No other candidate got more than 2%.

In the GOP field, U.S. Representative Pete Hoekstra of Holland led Attorney General Mike Cox, who formally announced last week, by a point, 27% to 26%, with Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land at 19%. Again, no other candidate got more than 2%.

It's significant that Hoekstra, who represents one western district, leads two twice-elected statewide officeholders. But such candidates as Ann Arbor businessman Rick Snyder and Senator Tom George of the Kalamazoo area have yet to build recognition. Voters are not focused on the campaign, and won't be until next year.

George and Snyder showed some spunk and wisdom last week at the Detroit Regional Chamber's Mackinac Policy Conference on the Island.

Snyder, who was escorted at some points in the conference by Ford Motor Company Chairman Bill Ford, Jr., declined to participate in a gubernatorial debate forum sponsored by the Chamber's political action committee because a fee was charged to attend the debate, which was a fundraiser for the PAC. Cherry declined for the same reason.

According to the *Detroit Free Press*, of the five gubernatorial candidates at the debate, Cox was the only one who said he would sign a pledge not to raise taxes.

Said George: "I wouldn't sign such a pledge because we don't know what the future holds."

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.