

Research Team Says Cave Finding May Be Significant

Discovery: From page 9

miles. When the information is integrated with computer software, a three-dimensional image of the channel is drawn for the scientists.

"When you are doing it," said Dr. Smith, talking about the depth plotting of the channel, "all you see is the line describing the depth and we'd come to the edge of the channel and there is a sharp break there like a wall, and it goes down more than 250 feet, then back up the other side."

Also discovered by the scientists was a vent hole in the underwater cave near a submerged waterfall east of Mackinac Island, and an underground spring. The waterfall and cave were earlier discovered by the same group, who have done research in the Straits since 2006.

Also Tuesday, working from a

second vessel with Capt. Clyburn was Wayne Lusardi, a maritime archaeologist with the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve in Alpena, and two other divers. The group explored the underwater cave found last fall near the submerged waterfall found in 2006 on the east side of the Island.

Sitting at the back of the cave, a natural vent hole was discovered. It may prove to be a significant find and could indicate the cave was used by those living and traveling in the Straits region more the 6,000 years ago, say the scientists. The cave walls, however, were covered with zebra mussels and the floor with pebbles and sediment. More research is needed to prove human habitation, they agreed.

Eventually, if human occupation

is found at the cave site, said Mr. Lusardi, it would be an important discovery aiding in the understanding of where people were living at the time when the lake levels were considerably lower than they are now.

"When I first saw it," he said, "it was like 'wow' this really does have possibilities here."

The hope is that scientists are going to find concrete evidence of home sites, whether they were temporary camps, burial grounds, or longer term occupation sites that are now submerged in the lakes, said Mr. Lusardi.

"Finding this feature like a cave is a really good starting point to finding such sites," he said. "It's actually pretty cool stuff. We just took a preliminary look at it and there is a lot of work yet to be

St. Ignace Lower Grades Score 'A' – LaSalle Gets 'C'

Michael Ayala

The Michigan "Education Yes!" report card for the St. Ignace Area Schools assigned the elementary and middle schools an "A" while the high school received a "C" for the 2008 to 2009 school year, mirroring the previous school year's results. The report card was discussed during the Monday, August 10, board of education meeting.

The report card is assembled using the scores of the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and the Michigan Merit Examination (MME). Tests in mathematics, reading, writing, science, and social studies are administered by MEAP to students in grades 3 through 9. The same subjects are tested by MME on grade 11 students.

The state of Michigan grades the scores and assigns each student a number from one to four, with one being the best. Students who achieve a one or two are considered to be of "mastery" status.

The MME results at LaSalle High School were discussed in detail at Monday's meeting. The

report outlined improvement in three of five subject areas.

Improvement was shown in mathematics, which increased from 26% mastery in the 2007-08 school year to 34% in the 2008-09 year. Writing also improved, from 39% in 2007-08 to 43% in the 2008-09 year. LaSalle High School matched the state average mastery level in writing, which was 43% but below the 49% average in mathematics.

Social studies also demonstrated improvement, increasing to 76% in 2008-09. The high school was slightly below state average on social studies, which was set at 81% mastery.

"All of those scores have room for improvement," Superintendent Mike Springsteen said. "On the plus side, the scores are improving."

Scores diminished in the reading and science subjects, from 64% to 50% and 57% to 54%, respectively.

LaSalle High School Principal Don Gustafson believes the reason for the decline may be because of class size and composition. The

MME was administered to 61 students in 2007-08, whereas 50 students were tested in 2008-09. Each class has its own set of talents, he said, which may be why some scores improved while others have declined.

The LaSalle school improvement team, comprised of teaching staff and aides, will look into the data from the MME and identify strategies for improvement, Mr. Gustafson said.

The high school has made efforts to improve mathematics and writing since the last report card was issued. Focus on those subjects will continue, while writing will be emphasized throughout all classes, Mr. Springsteen said.

In mathematics classes, for example, students may be required to write reports relevant to what they are studying.

A new program, called Algebra for All, will begin in the fall. The program will function as a workshop for mathematics teachers and will show them techniques to better teach algebra to students, Mr. Springsteen said.



Performing underwater research in the Straits, the *Pride of Michigan* moored on Mackinac Island Wednesday afternoon, August 5. Captain Luke Clyburn (from left) and Lieutenant Kathy Trax are joined on deck by U.S. Naval Sea Cadets. During the stop, scientists onboard the vessel reviewed data collected that day and the cadets gave a tour of the ship to Scouts serving at Fort Mackinac. Cadets pictured (in no order) include Jonathan Allen of Grosse Pointe Farms, Matther Blundell of Roseville, Richard Cover of Richmond, Wyatt Cox of Holly, Emily Hadash of White Lake, Jacob Mantay of Commerce Township, Jonathan Medved of Rochester Hills, Connor Novack of Oxford, Merek Pilarski of Sterling Heights, Keith Sawruk of Auburn Hills, Matthew Shield of Grosse Pointe Park, Regan Steen of East Point, Luke Stocking of Harrison Township, Brandon Thibault of Fenton, Jacob Barrett or South Bend, Indiana, Hannah White of Idabel, Oklahoma, and Eric Pino of Hagerstown, Maryland.

done."

Over the last many tens of thousands of years, the Great Lakes were formed by glaciers moving and scouring out large depressions. The glaciers were advancing and receding. At the end of the last ice age, said Mr. Lusardi, Lake Huron was considerably different than we know it today. The lake levels seven to eight thousand years ago were much lower than they are now and at times, many hundreds of feet lower in some places. Lake Huron, he said, essentially was a couple of lakes with a land bridge that extended from present-day Alpena over to Ontario.

When people were first introduced to Michigan, he said, the shoreline that they would have walked upon is now considerably beneath the lake levels. This cave

may have been a part of the shoreline that early people would have used in some capacity.

Also discovered at the cave site was a cold water spring, said Capt. Clyburn. The information will be turned over to Dr. Smith and Dr. Bopi Biddanda, a Great Lakes research scientist with Grand Valley State University.

Using a smaller vessel, Capt. Clyburn, Lieutenant Kathy Trax, and others will continue exploration in the Straits until fall.

"I have no question that out here are some keys to ancient history for this area," said Capt. Clyburn. "We just don't know exactly where to go for it."

EUP Motorcycle Pursuit Ends With Two Arrests Thursday

Two motorcycle riders were arrested Thursday afternoon, August 6, following a chase through Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac counties. Both men are from Gaylord and await court appearances this week.

The pursuit was initiated by a Department of Natural Resources conservation officer (CO) just east of Newberry with the motorcycles heading eastbound on M-28. Michigan State Police in St. Ignace said the motorcycles passed the CO at a high rate of speed. He attempted to stop them, but the two riders did not stop.

The pursuit continued south on M-123, where one motorcycle stopped and the rider was arrested just north of Trout Lake in Chippewa County.

The other motorcycle continued southbound on M-123 and was pursued by State Police north of Moran in Mackinac County, with assistance from the Mackinac County Sheriff Department. The cyclist drove off the road at the northbound I-75 entry ramp at M-123 and fled into a swampy area.

After about 10 minutes, the cyclist turned himself over to the

authorities at the scene.

Both riders were charged with fleeing and eluding an officer, fourth degree. Fourth degree is the least severe charge for fleeing and eluding.

Kyle Larson, 23, of Gaylord, the man arrested north of Trout Lake, was arraigned Friday, August 7. His bond was set at \$1,000 and he was lodged at Schoolcraft County Jail, awaiting a pretrial Thursday, August 13 in 92nd District Court in Newberry.

Corey Larson, 19, of Gaylord, the second suspect arrested Thursday, was lodged at Mackinac County Jail on a \$10,000 bond, but was released

on his personal recognizance. He was also charged with reckless driving and arraigned August 7. His pretrial hearing is scheduled Wednesday, August 12, in 92nd District Court, St. Ignace.

"There was a lot of reckless driving on his part, a lot of high speeds," said F/Lt. Dave Hopper, commanding officer at the St. Ignace State Police Post. "Probably speeds over 100 miles per hour."

Departments involved were the DNR, Mackinac County Sheriff Department, Michigan State Police of the Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace posts, and U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement.



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If anyone was inadvertently left out, we apologize.

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