

# The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

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## Vietnam Wall Coming to St. Ignace Park Moves Ahead

### Veterans Groups Organize Display

By Michael Ayala

The Vietnam "Moving Wall" Memorial will be on display at Kewadin Casino in St. Ignace Thursday, August 20, through Monday, August 24. A ceremony will be conducted at 3 p.m. Thursday when the wall is revealed to the public. Chief Warrant Officer Eric Zinnkosko of the St. Ignace Coast Guard will give an opening speech. Other speakers will be Mike Lehto of St. Ignace, Mayor Paul Grondin of St. Ignace, and Richard Mayo of Cheboygan. There is no charge to visit the memorial, which will also be on display throughout the night.

The replica of the national monument in Washington, D.C., travels throughout the country to give all citizens an opportunity to view it. The memorial lists the names of those killed in the Vietnam War.

Volunteers throughout the Upper Peninsula, including Vietnam veterans, have supported the effort to bring the wall to St. Ignace. National Guard soldiers in Sault Ste. Marie, the St. Ignace Coast Guard, and veterans groups like the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Forgotten Eagles have donated their time to help set up the

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Kelsey Kennedy, a Cheboygan County Sheriff deputy, escorts a group of motorcyclists taking part in the Forgotten Eagles' Ride Around Michigan through the toll plaza and south on the Mackinac Bridge. Several cyclists from the local area took part in the ride over the weekend of August 5 through August 7. About \$10,000 was raised through pledges and donations to benefit the Michigan Veterans Fund. The local chapter of Forgotten Eagles is among veterans groups bringing the Vietnam Wall to St. Ignace this weekend. (Photograph by Beth Krasniuk)

By Mark Tower

The City of St. Ignace has approved, in concept, a proposal for a dog park, although legal issues and other concerns need to be addressed as the plan moves forward. Meeting Monday, August 17, the St. Ignace City Council gave the go-ahead for continued planning to members of the newly-formed St. Ignace Dog Park Committee, which presented its proposal for a facility on city land adjacent to Little Bear East Conference Center and Ice Arena.

"We would like to see ourselves as a pet-friendly town and promote ourselves in that way for tourism," said Rachel Byma, a St. Ignace resident and one of the project managers on the committee.

The group requested three acres to build a fenced dog park at the end of Reagon Street. A Native American interpretive park has also been proposed on another two or three acres in the area, with a connection to the Marquette Mission Site and Museum of Ojibwa Culture, and a larger community park has been discussed to fill the remainder of the 22-acre, city-

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## Rip Currents Blamed in 2 Local Drownings

By Jonathan Eppley

A weekend incident involving rip currents took the lives of a grandfather and his grandson swimming in Moran Township. Ethan Mroz, 16, and Patrick Dipzinski, 66, both of Gaylord, drowned off the shores of Lake Michigan near Brevort River Saturday, August 15, at about 12:40 p.m., reported Michigan State Police.

Mr. Mroz was standing in the water at the Lake Michigan beach and was taken under by a series of large waves and pulled away from shore, a phenomenon referred to as rip currents. He emerged in deep water, unable to swim back to shallow water, and went under.

Mr. Dipzinski, who was on the beach, saw his grandson struggling in the water and rushed to help him. He was also overcome by the rip current and driven under the water.

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## Scott Offered Contract

By Jonathan Eppley

The Les Cheneaux Community Schools Board of Education approved a three-year contract to sign Amy Scott as the district's new superintendent. Mrs. Scott will split her duties as superintendent, K-12 principal, and chief academic officer. She was appointed to the position July 27, three weeks after outgoing superintendent Rod Goehmann announced he was leaving the district at the end of August.

The duties of the superintendent will be shared between Mrs. Scott and

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## Water-ski Stunt To Aid Fireworks Fund, Pets

By Mark Tower

Mike North and Craig Skutt plan to water-ski, and possibly ride a tube, to Mackinac Island from St. Ignace in the wake of a Star Line ferry boat at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, August 22, to raise money for the St. Ignace Festivals and Fireworks campaign and the Pet-Fix program.

The two both work for the ferry company and decided it would be a fun way to help raise money for the community.

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## Mackinac Bridge Painters Use New Methods

Sweeney Praises Quality of Work, but Technique Sacrifices Speed

By Mark Tower

Crews painting the north span of the Mackinac Bridge this year are using a combination of scaffolding and the safe-span system as a work platform, a work method never seen before on the five-mile suspension bridge.

With equipment decked out in red, Abhe and Svoboda, Inc., from Prior Lake, Minnesota, with a Michigan office in Gaines, has been sandblasting and painting the bridge since May, although workers started setting up rigging to work from last August.

To form the containment area where workers sandblast and paint the metal, scaffolding runs down the side of the bridge to sheets of roofing steel held up by a series of wires suspended over the water. From this platform, workers use high-pressure sandblasting and painting equipment to strip down the old coat and repaint every inch of the bridge.

The difference between this system and old methods used to paint the bridge is the scaffolding and work platform workers are using, which needs to be moved periodically to new work areas.

Owing to environmental restrictions, crews are required



A containment system surrounds the area where sandblasters and painters work on the Mackinac Bridge. The Safe-Span work platform and scaffolding combination, which allows access for workers and catches any debris before it falls into the water, is a first for Mackinac Bridge painters. (Abhe & Svoboda, Inc. photograph)

to remove the sand and paint reside from this containment area using a huge vacuum system. The sandblasting, paint spraying, and vacuuming equipment sits atop the bridge surfaces on the anchor piers, pumping clean sand and paint hundreds of feet to workers below and then vacuuming any residue back to towering storage tanks.

Trucks then unload waste

from the tanks and take it to dumpsters in the Mackinac Bridge Authority's yard in St. Ignace.

From the work platform, workers shoot blast sand, called Black Beauty and brought up from Gary, Indiana, stripping down the surface before painters arrive. Three coats of paint are then used in repainting the bridge: A zinc primer coat, epoxy

intermediate coat, and urethane final coat, the deep green color motorists have come to associate with the northern Michigan landmark.

The safe-span deck system, combined with the scaffolding, is a safer and better platform to work from than harness-based systems, said project supervisor Leon Wagner, who has been

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### Death Notices

Ethan Mroz - 16  
Patrick Dipzinski - 66  
Catherine Coburn - 71

Gerald 'Jerry' Sorenson - 74  
Howard Anderson - 86

