

The St. Ignace News

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and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

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Airport Tanks Installed



Workers from U.P. Environmental Services and crane operators from Vandermissen and Son, from Bark River and Escanaba, lower a 12,000-gallon double-lined fiberglass fuel tank into a waiting hole next to the Mackinac County Airport terminal. The airport is getting two new tanks, one of which will offer a new type of fuel at the airport -- jet fuel.

Jet Fuel Is Now Available on Site

By Mark Tower
Pilots fueling their aircraft at Mackinac County Airport will soon be drawing fuel from one of two new tanks now being installed.

The airport currently has one 100-octane gasoline tank that is about 20 years old, which is being replaced by a new tank, and an additional tank for jet fuel is being installed.

The construction project is funded through a Federal Aviation Administration grant, which covers 95% of the total cost of \$335,000.

The remainder of the cost is shared between a Michigan Aeronautics Commission grant and through county funding. Each are paying 2.5% of the total project cost.

Safety and convenience are two of the advantages airport officials say the new fuel system will bring.

Safety will be improved because the tanks are high quality, double-walled fiberglass, and are equipped with a monitoring

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Workers from U.P. Environmental Services work to secure the position of the jet fuel tank placed in the ground next to the Mackinac County Airport terminal Thursday, August 20. A second tank, which will hold 15,000 gallons of 100-octane gasoline, will be placed next to it, replacing the current tank, which is about 20 years old.

Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow Cultures Come Together at Straits This Weekend

By Mark Tower
The third annual "Rendezvous at the Straits" traditional powwow will be Saturday, August 29, and Sunday, August 30, at the Father Marquette National Memorial in St. Ignace. It is open to all, and will include reenactments of a way of life found at the Straits centuries ago, including fur trade demonstrations, Native American cultural traditions, food, entertainment, traditional drumming and dancing, and vendors.

An "omen" -- that's what "Ren-

dezvous at the Straits" powwow coordinator Darryl Brown called the eagle that flew over the heads of visitors in the event's first year. Two years later, it seems to have been a good omen for the event, as attendance doubled from the first year to second, and will likely grow again this year, according to Mr. Brown.

The eagle is a sacred animal to Native Americans, Mr. Brown said, and can carry their prayers to the creator.

"That connection is still remembered, like grandfather came down

and said, 'Good job,'" he said. "It just elevated everybody."

To sum up what the powwow is all about for Native Americans, Mr. Brown used three words: celebration, honoring, and thankfulness.

"We are celebrating," he said, "our heritage and our survival."

"Part of it is honoring our elders, those who have gone before us," Mr. Brown said, "and honoring our young ones."

The thankfulness is largely for

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Free Services Offered Monday

Project Connect To Aid Needy Families

By Michael Ayala
People are in need of health services, supplies, and housing in St. Ignace, says Ronda Schlehuber, Housing First coordinator. Project Connect, a program that aims to help the needy get these services, will take place at the Hope Chest store on Ferry Lane Monday, August 31, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone may attend and no registration is necessary.

Services ranging from blood

pressure testing, housing aid, and dental exam information will be provided to those in need, Mrs. Schlehuber said. Assembling all of the services into a single area is one of the aims of the project.

"I think the need's growing in this economy. This gives people a chance to get services all in one shot," she said.

Mrs. Schlehuber will be at the event to aid people with finding affordable housing. People can

receive help filling out housing applications or obtain rent and security deposit aid. Those in need of rent and deposit assistance must meet certain criteria, such as having a job and being homeless or nearly homeless, to be considered, she said.

Project Connect was held last year in November, but is offered earlier this year to coincide with Project Backpack and the new school year, she said.

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Use of Road Commission Land Nixed

Legal Advice: Reserve Property for Own Projects

By Michael Ayala
The Mackinac County Road Commission unanimously decided to restrict the use of its property to road commission projects upon legal advice during its Tuesday, August 18, meeting. The action is a reversal of the commission's decision June 8 to allow the use of the property through specialized contracts.

The commission originally restricted use of its property when Manager Dirk Heckman noted that

private contractors were storing equipment and gravel on commission premises without permission. That presented a liability, he said, as commission and contractor equipment and gravel could get mixed up.

Mr. Heckman proposed leasing the property for private contractor use. The leases would cost \$5,000 a month with a one-month minimum commitment and would enable the road commission to keep track of the land use and

ensure a timely removal of equipment.

The commission's attorney advised against such leases, however, noting the commission should not allow the use of property for anything but road commission business, Mr. Heckman said August 18.

Such leases would need to be monitored to ensure compliance, and the road commission would also be liable for damage a contractor may do to adjacent property or

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Mackinaw City Hosts Weekend Events

100 Vendors Coming to Art Show

By Michael Ayala
About 100 vendors will display and sell their work at the Fine Arts and Crafts Show in Mackinaw City Saturday, August 29, and Sunday, August 30, at Conkling Park. The show will be from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

A show in June enjoyed a large

turnout of 89 vendors, she said, an increase from June 2008's 48 vendors. This year, the August show is expected to be double the number from August 2008, which saw 52 vendors.

Several factors are involved in the increase in booths, Events Coordinator Courtney Kolatski said. The economy is definitely a factor.

"People are looking for ways to make money," she said.

The craft show in June received a favorable response from the public, which may be why many vendors from June will return to the August show, she said. Many vendors were happy with sales in June.

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Corvettes To Be Highlight Saturday

By Michael Ayala
The 20th Corvette Crossroads Auto Show will roar into Mackinaw City Saturday, August 29, with registration at 9 a.m. Corvettes will be displayed free of charge at Mackinaw Crossings Mall at 10 p.m.

For the 20th anniversary of the show, special buttons and dash plaques have been made for every person who registers a Corvette. A

parade across the Mackinac Bridge, which begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, is free to all Corvette owners who wish to participate, said Kelly Vieau of the Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce. In previous years, owners were required to pay \$6.

"The big draw is the parade across the bridge," Mrs. Vieau said.

The parade will begin at Mackinaw Crossings Mall at 6 p.m. and

proceed down South Huron Street, cross Central Avenue, and continue on Nicolet Street, where the participants will cross the Mackinac Bridge.

About 150 Corvettes have registered for the show, she said, with additional owners expected to join. Owners from Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Canada, and

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Death Notice

Edward McGuire, Jr. - 85

