

# The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave



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## Straits Area, Walkers Preparing for Bridge Walk

By Mark Tower

About 40,000 people are expected to arrive at the lawn behind the Mackinac Bridge Authority headquarters in St. Ignace Monday morning, September 7, for the 52nd

Annual Mackinac Bridge Walk.

Fulfilling the yearly tradition for many who come to the Straits area for the one day a year pedestrians are allowed, free of charge, on the east lanes of the five-mile suspen-

sion bridge, these throngs of Michiganders and visitors to the state will begin the crossing at 7 a.m. Some arrive as early as 3 a.m.

The lanes on the west side will be used for motor vehicles traveling

in both directions. There are no restrooms on the bridge, although portable toilets will be placed at the start and finish of the walk.

Shuttle buses to the starting area in St. Ignace will start running about

6 a.m. from the parking lot at Little Bear East Arena on Marquette Street in St. Ignace and at about 5:30 a.m. from Conkling Park on South Huron Avenue in Mackinaw City.

The Mackinac Bridge Authority encourages people to park in St. Ignace before the walk and take free shuttle buses from that parking lot to the starting area. This plan mini-

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### Three Communities Plan Art Festivals

## St. Ignace Marina To Host Arts Dockside

By Michael Ayala

Arts Dockside is, for some, a time to stroll around the St. Ignace waterfront to purchase crafts, enjoy music and entertainment, and relax during the Labor Day weekend. For others, the show is a tradition.

Donora and Richard Stauffer of Lansing have traveled to St. Ignace for 31 years to present their cloth books, puzzles, and woodcrafts to the residents and visitors of St. Ignace.

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## Art Fair, New Bridge Walk Planned at Curtis

By Michael Ayala

Art on the Lake will be joined by a new event, the Curtis Bridge Walk, to celebrate Labor Day weekend in Curtis this year. The art show and bridge walk are planned for Saturday, September 5.

Sponsored by the Erickson Center for the Arts, Art on the Lake will be hosted at Erickson Center Park. About 75 vendors are expected to attend from across Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Indiana, said event chair Lynda Soder.

The 10-year-old show draws nearly 5,000 people, Mrs. Soder said. "Everybody seems to be smiling," she noted of the happy crowds attending.

Hats, rugs, pots, and wooden items will be on sale beginning at 10 a.m. Vendors of food and refreshments will be open at 10 a.m.. Near the

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## Artists To Demonstrate Talents at Cedarville

Arts, crafts, and music will take over the waterfront park in Cedarville Saturday, September 5, when the Les Cheneaux Area Artisans Cooperative hosts its ninth annual Music and Art in the Park festival. The one-day event is the second of two art shows the co-op organizes each summer in the Les Cheneaux area.

Organizers are expecting up to 1,000 people to attend the free event that showcases co-op members' works of art and crafts. The show begins at 10 a.m. and goes on until 4 p.m. at Cedarville Waterfront Park on Hodeck Street.

"In the past we've had close to 1,000 people," organizer Randy Dunn said. He is expecting about the same turnout this year from EUP residents and tourists in town for the holiday weekend, providing the weath-

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## Cut River Bridge Work Delayed to Oct. Finish

Completion on the Cut River Bridge repair project to replace structural steel, pour new concrete, and install new railings is being delayed until the end of October owing to unforeseen complications and delays, said project manager Pete Paramski, a delivery engineer with the Michigan Department of Transportation stationed at the Transportation Service Center in Newberry.

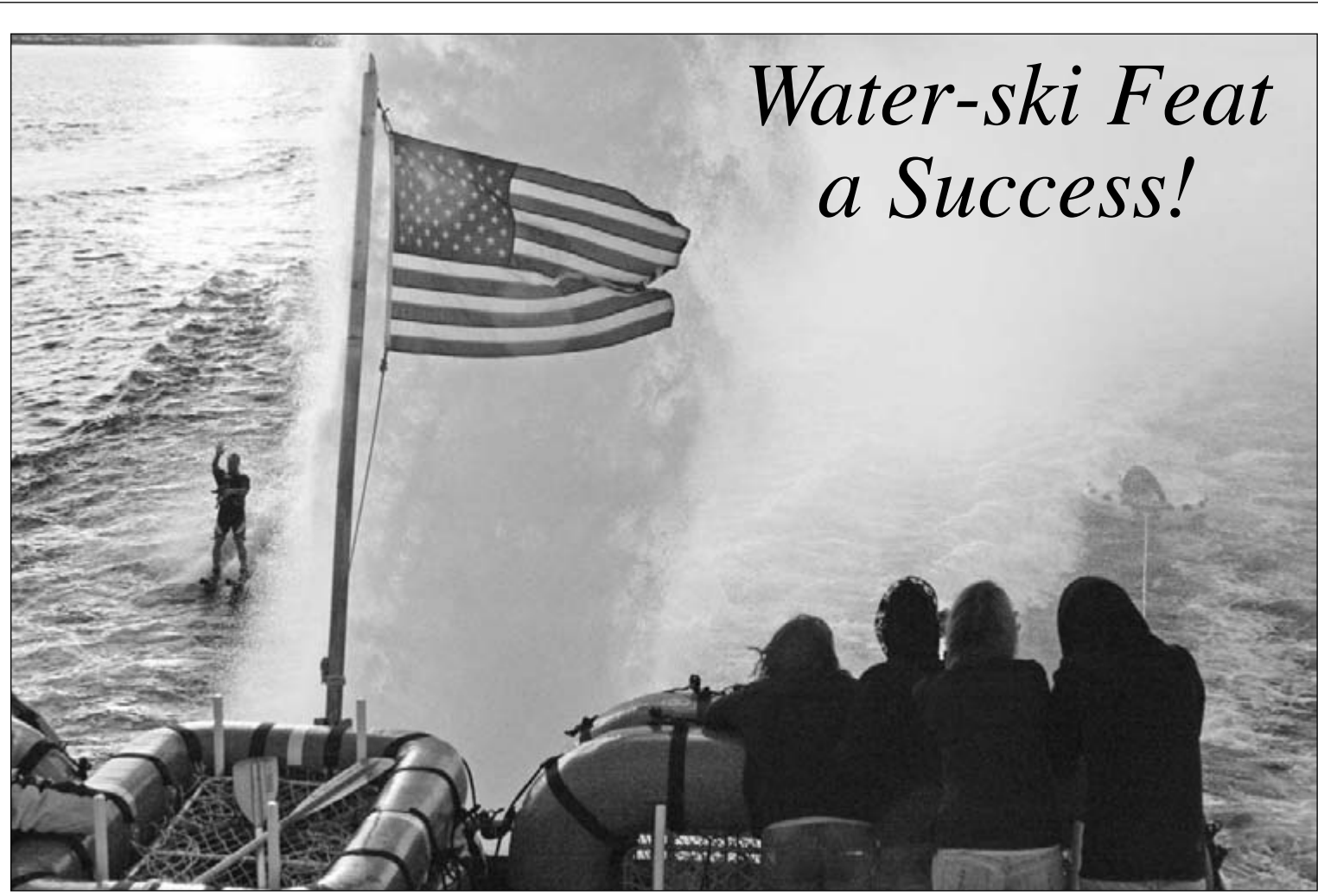
The project was delayed last summer when engineers determined that steel beams were not strong enough to hold the weight of the concrete and construction equipment. Mr. Paramski said delivery of the new beams this summer took longer than expected

and pushed back the rest of the project.

New concrete on the 641-foot span was poured last week, with the final section poured Monday evening, August 31. Mr. Paramski said the concrete needs time to cure before it will be ready for steady traffic. Over the next 1.5 months, construction crews will install and paint new railings on the bridge.

He said the original \$3.1 million project is about 11% over budget. Once completed, the new bridge is expected to last about 40 years before it will have to be replaced.

"We've had a significant cost increase," he said. "It was just a handful of little things that got us behind schedule."



## Water-ski Feat a Success!

Mike North, shown on skis left of the Star Line rooster tail, and Craig Skutt on an inflatable tube, ride behind Marquette II to Mackinac Island. The two men did the stunt to raise money through spectator tickets for two local organizations, Friends of the Animals and the Festivals and Fireworks program.

By Mark Tower

Mike North and Craig Skutt rode behind a ferry boat to Mackinac Island Monday, August 31, Mr. North on water skis and Mr. Skutt in a tube. The feat, the first of its kind, raised about \$800 for Friends of the Animals in Mackinac County and the St. Ignace Festivals and Fireworks program, through the sale of 48 tickets sold to spectators who rode on the Star Line's *Marquette II*.

Friends of the Animals runs the Pet-Fix program, which promotes

spaying and neutering pets, and the Festivals and Fireworks program provides Saturday fireworks over St. Ignace during the summer.

The two men began their six-mile trip to Mackinac Island from St. Ignace holding ropes behind the ferry boat. They rode the choppy Lake Huron waves to the Round Island Passage Light, where Mr. Skutt bounced out of his tube and Mr. North dropped his rope. They rode half way back in their chase boat before finishing the trip on skis and tube behind the

ferry again. They received a hero's welcome when they arrived at the Star Line dock.

"We were just trying to get to the Island and back," Mr. North said, "and hopefully have fun doing it."

The two had wanted to ski behind a ferry for a long time, he added, and raising money for two causes was a good excuse to do it.

"I'm involved with the Festivals and Fireworks and we're trying to raise money for that," he said. "I thought it would be a cool thing to

do."

Besides the signature Star Line rooster tail, which showered both men with water during the trip, Mr. North said crossing the boat's huge wake and weathering the waves were some of the challenges they faced on the trip to Mackinac Island and back.

"It was really rough by the Island," he said. "It was pretty choppy over there. My legs were pretty tired. It took about every-

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## WWII Airplane To Circle Mackinac Bridge

Available for Free Public Tours at Mackinac Island Saturday

By Karen Gould

One, possibly two World War II airplanes will fly over the Mackinac Bridge Saturday, September 5. The flight over the bridge by a 1944 Douglas C-47 Skytrain is estimated to be seen at approximately 10:15 a.m. The plane will circle the bridge twice before landing at Mackinac Island, where it will be available for free public tours throughout the day.

Current plans call for the plane to come from the south and pass over the bridge east to west.

The white and polished aluminum C-47, the military version of the old DC-3 airliner, saw heavy service as a transport plane, both for supplies and paratroopers, during World War II.

The plane is being flown here by the Dispatch Riders, a motorcycle group affiliated with the Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run Airport in

Belleville. If repaired, V-77 Stinson Reliant will join in the flight. The military version (SR-10) of The high-wing, single engine Reliant was used as trainer and utility plane.

Larry Amprim, manager of the Dispatch Riders, said the group's name is taken from those who rode motorcycles during World War I and World War II serving as couriers transporting battle plans. His group organizes charity events to benefit the museum and, once a year, they take a tour by air, this year to the Straits of Mackinac. On board the plane will be 15 Dispatch Riders and three crew members.

"We've got 15 people from 35 to 65 years old who are as excited as kids on Christmas Eve," Mr. Amprim said of the adventure. "The airplane is loud and it smells like burned gasoline vapors and it shakes, and it probably will be cold,

and it will be the best day we have had in years."

Once the plane has passed over

the bridge, he said, the last counter clockwise circle will serve as an approach to the Mackinac Island

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This World War II 1944 Douglas C-47 Skytrain is expected to land on Mackinac Island Saturday, September 5. Throughout the day, the aircraft, which is part of the Yankee Air Museum collection, will be available for free public tours at the Mackinac Island Airport. (Photograph courtesy of Yankee Air Museum)



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