

Labor Day Weekend Events Calendar

Saturday, September 5

• **St. Ignace:**
Lions Club Chicken Dinner
Open at 10 a.m.
Arts Docksides Entertainment:
St. Ignace Marina
9 a.m. - Arts Docksides opens
10 a.m. - Kerry West
10:45 a.m. Jim Bishop
11:30 a.m. Catholic Girls Gone

Bad
12:45 p.m. - Kerry West
1:30 p.m. - Jim Bishop
2:15 p.m. - Marquette Folk Dancers
2:45 p.m. - Dave Jasmond
3:30 p.m. - Catholic Girls Gone

Bad
4:15 p.m. - Kerry West
6 p.m. - Arts Docksides closes
Various Times: "Crazy Richard" street performances.

• **Curtis:**
Lions Club Pancake Breakfast -
7 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Art on the Lake: Erickson
Center Park
10 a.m. - Arts and crafts, vendors
open
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Silent
Auctions of Flower Pot Art
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Nine Mile
Smile Band
2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. - Copper
Box Band
3 p.m. - Children's Parade
6 p.m. - Fair closes

Cedarville:
Music and Art in the Park:
Cedarville Waterfront Park
10 a.m. - Event opens

4 p.m. - Event closes

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5 p.m. - Arts Docksides closes

• **Hessel:**
Old Timers Softball Game:
Airport ball field
1 p.m. - Game starts

Monday, September 7
Mackinac Bridge Walk
5:30 a.m. - Busing begins in
Mackinaw City
7 a.m. - Walk begins, two east
lanes available to walkers
9:30 a.m. - One east lane avail-
able to walkers
11 a.m. - Walk registration ends
2:30 p.m. - Bus services end

• **Curtis:**
Curtis Labor Day Bridge Walk
8 a.m. - Bridge Walk begins
Noon - Bridge Walk tentatively
ends

Michigan Politics

By
George Weeks



State Reflections on 'Liberal Lion' Kennedy

Senator Ted Kennedy failed in his 1980 bid to become president. But last week's media coverage of his death, memorials, funeral mass, and burial, close to his brothers on the famed Arlington hillside facing the Lincoln Memorial, approached the intensity level of presidential.

I covered the 1960s John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy burials for United Press International. Most memorable was watching as diminutive Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie, with a flashy uniform of ribbons and sashes, wiped a tear from his eye, and as towering French President Charles de Gaulle, wearing a simple uniform and general's epaulettes, saluted the JFK casket.

Although not at Arlington's green slopes for the latest Kennedy burial, I have these reflections on him from a Michigan perspective:

• His great cause was health reform, and much is made of whether his absence from the Senate will hurt, or whether his death will be a rallying point.

But no one on Capitol Hill has a longer record as a champion of health care than U.S. Representative John Dingell (D-Dearborn, Michigan), who is dean of the House, having been elected in 1955 upon the death of his father, John Dingell, Sr., who was elected in 1932 and started pushing in 1943 for national health insurance.

• A Michigan native, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, son of 1963-69 Michigan Governor George Romney, was, in words last week of the *Wall Street Journal* on the health issue, "won over" as governor in 2005-06 by Kennedy "on universal coverage that is proving to be enormously expensive" in Massachusetts.

In 1994, Mitt Romney, then a venture capitalist, gave Kennedy, who always was reelected by solid margins, his toughest fight. It wasn't all that tough, really - 41% to 58%. That's mighty solid.

(Romney, who won the 2008 GOP presidential primary in Michigan and could well run again, will be featured speaker at the 28th Biennial Republican Leadership Conference on Mackinac Island September 25-27.)

• Those in the next generation of Kennedys are not strangers to Michigan.

U.S. Representative Patrick Kennedy (D-Rhode Island), son of Ted, has been active on Native American issues and years ago spoke in Leelanau County during a political seminar at headquarters of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB).

Former GTB Chairman George Bennett praised his "support for Indian causes and civil rights."

As a leading environmental activist, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., has been an advocate for causes in Michigan.

• Many a headline described Ted Kennedy as "the liberal lion of the Senate." His composite liberal score on annual rankings by the *National Journal* on economic, social and foreign issues often was in the 90s, and in 1983, 1988, and 2005 he had the Senate's most liberal voting record.

But in 2007, his liberal score was 76.2, making him only the 28th-most-liberal senator. That year, Senator Debbie Stabenow's score was 82.8, and Senator Carl Levin's score was 76.5. In 1981, Levin, who served with Kennedy for three decades, was the most liberal senator with a score of 94, compared to Kennedy's 93.3.

The lesson: Be wary of labeling good lawmakers as knee-jerk liberal or conservative on all issues. Some are. But Kennedy's moderate voting record on occasion reflected his role as a legislative deal-maker who could work with Republicans on a bipartisan immigration reform proposal that he co-sponsored, and Food and Drug Administration and student aid legislation.

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina) said Kennedy "made it easy to reach across the aisle."

That bipartisan deal-making trait is desperately needed in Lansing in these days of legislative deadlock.

• Former Senator Don Riegle, who was an honorary pallbearer for Kennedy, is an example of politicians with evolving political tags. He originally was a Republican congressman from Flint but, as noted in 1998 by the *Almanac of American Politics* upon his retirement after three terms as a Democratic senator, he became "a fiery liberal."

• Among Republicans with positive reflections about Kennedy was 1969-82 Governor Bill Milliken, who had a couple of encounters with Kennedy in Detroit, considered him "one of the great senators of all time. A senator's senator." Or, to Representative Dave Camp (R-Midland): "A legislator's legislator."

Kennedy was, as noted by President Barack Obama Saturday, not only an extraordinary member of an extraordinary family, but also an extraordinary legislator.

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.

St. Ignace Area Schools Announces Bus Routes, First Day Plans

The 2009-2010 school year will get underway for St. Ignace Area School District students and staff Tuesday, September 8.

All students in kindergarten through 12th grades will attend a half day Tuesday with dismissal at 11:45 a.m.

Class lists for grades developmental kindergarten through sixth grade are posted on the school doors.

School will start at 8 a.m. Classes will dismiss at 2:45 p.m. for kindergarten through sixth grade students and 2:50 p.m. for seventh grade through 12th grade students on full days.

Parents who transport their students to school are asked to get their children to the school 10 minutes before the start of classes. School doors will open at 7:30 a.m. daily.

Parents of kindergarten students have been sent a letter regarding a specific schedule for their child.

Those who have not registered their child for the 2009-2010 school year are asked to call 643-8500 to arrange to do so. Immunizations must be up to date to allow attendance in public school.

The school breakfast program will begin the first day of school.

The school lunch program will begin for all students Wednesday, September 9. Lunch prices for the 2009-2010 school year are \$2.05 for elementary and middle school students and \$2.35 for high school students.

Athletic event prices for the 2009-2010 school year will be as follows: Middle school/freshman contests adults are \$4, students are \$3, and family tickets are \$12. High school junior varsity and varsity events will be \$5 for adults, \$4 for students, and \$15 for family tickets. Season passes are \$80 for students, \$100 for adults, and \$200 for family.

Bus schedules for the 2009-2010 school year will be as follows:

John Beaudoin, bus 01, will be driving the St. Ignace Township routes with the first pick-ups in the Pine River area at about 6 a.m., Reservation, Lant Road, Evergreen Shores, dropping at school and then picking up at 7:35 a.m. on Bay Shore Road, First Street, and Collins Street area.

David Crisp, bus 05, will pick up starting at 6:30 a.m. Worth Road, Kenneth Road, Brevort, US 2, Gros Cap, Pte. LaBarbe, North Portage, Wood Road, Cedar Lane, South Portage, then picking up at 7:35 a.m. on Burdette, Bertrand, Hombach, Huron, and Ferry Lane area.

Frank Beaudoin, bus 97, will be driving the Brevort Township area starting at 6:15 a.m. on Wartella Road, Cheeseman Road, picking up at 7:30 a.m. at Lake Street, LeMotte, State A, Marquette,

Goudreau, and Abe.

Randy Gustin, bus 02, will be driving the North City route with pick-ups starting at 6:50 a.m. on St. Clair Trail, North and South Airport Road, North State Street, picking up at 7:20 at Keightley, Church, McCann, Spring, Truckey, Portage, and First.

School administrators ask for the understanding and cooperation of all who use the bus system. Bus routes will not be finalized until drivers actually run the routes for the first week.

Parents are urged to bring their kindergarten students the first day and walk them into the school. They will be made aware of bus schedules at that time.

Questions should be directed to the specific principal's office: high school, Don Gustafson at 643-8800; middle school (grades 5-8), Gregg Fettig at 643-7822; and elementary school, Kari Visnaw at 643-8500.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Newspaper Brings Welcome Reminder of Straits Community Life

To the Editor:

Joan and I have been receiving *The St. Ignace News* ever since receiving another ministry call in 1994. We've enjoyed keeping up with the area "happenings" and seeing so many familiar names and people that were part of our lives. Having noticed my name a while ago in the "Looking Back" column, I thought I'd write a little newsy note.

Living and serving as pastor in St. Ignace and Brevort, beginning in 1983, was very meaningful to my family and me. Our children were young when we came to the area and benefitted throughout their growing-up years from many, many people... in churches, schools, and community. I regularly think of all kinds of folks from those years with fondness and appreciation... and the weekly newspaper has helped keep the memories alive. Many opportunities for involvement, learning, and growing occurred during the years that we were part of the Straits area communities.

The quick rundown on our family: All four of our kids are married and have graduated (with honors) from Lutheran schools: Kirsti from Warburg College in Waverly, Iowa, and the other three - and two spouses - from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. All of them studied music (three earning music degrees) and are currently professional musi-

cians. Kirsti married a book store manager and she teaches, yes, children's musical theater in Madison, Wisconsin. Marna soon travels with her husband to visit his home and family in Amman, Jordan; she works with troubled youth in Columbus. Peder will be graduated this spring from Trinity Seminary (Columbus, Ohio) on his way to becoming a pastor; his wife will also complete a master's program to become a nurse practitioner. Luke was graduated last year and was selected by his faculty for the singular Capital University Award for Outstanding Senior; he is planning to become a nurse practitioner. Luke and his musician wife currently live and work in Columbus. Finally, I have been an Intentional Interim Pastor (helping congregations through their transitional times) since coming back into Wisconsin; Joan serves as a consultant to congregations and pastors through our bishop's office. We live in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Although I have served in two dozen congregational settings, I have many favorite memories of my ministry in St. Ignace and Brevort. Joan and I have profound appreciation for the many people that we encountered during those treasured years. And, I'm glad to have a weekly reminder arrive in our mailbox in the form of *The St. Ignace News*.

Pastor Ted Johanson
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Great Sports Preview

To the Editor:

Congratulations to Dave Latva for the excellent 2009 Fall Sports Preview. I hope the students realize and appreciate the wonderful coverage of their years in sports.

Pete Ney
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.

Internet:

The complete edition of The St. Ignace News is available online at stignacenews.com.

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