

# The St. Ignace News

\$1

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave



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## Big Rigs Light Up the Night...



Trucks pass by spectators on State Street in downtown St. Ignace Saturday night, September 19, during the Parade of Lights. Drivers crossed the Mackinac Bridge, paraded through Mackinaw City, and returned to St. Ignace.

By Mark Tower

The ground trembled and crowds waited in anticipation as an army of 105 big rigs crossed the Mackinac Bridge and thundered north up the pavement of I-75 to exit 348, where they were greeted by hundreds of

spectators spread out over three miles along the stretch of Business Loop I-75 leading to downtown St. Ignace.

The "Parade of Lights" Saturday, September 19, was part of the 14th annual Richard Crane Memorial

Big Rig Truck Show, in which 95 registered trucks competed for awards and drivers showed off their mammoth beauties. The parade gives the truckers an opportunity to show off their lights, horns, and other custom details to the crowd. It

took the trucks through St. Ignace and Mackinaw City during a week-end show that also featured a free public display of the trucks in St. Ignace.

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## ...as Tractors Converge at Straits



Visitors and tractor enthusiasts explore the Owosso Tractor Parts Tractor Show at Kewadin Shores Casino in St. Ignace Friday, September 18. More than 600 tractors reached the casino after crossing the bridge at 11:15 a.m. from Mackinaw City. (Photograph by Sandy Bounds)

By Michael Ayala

More than 600 tractors of all makes and models greeted spectators at Mackinaw Historic Village in Mackinaw City Friday, September 18, as the antique vehicles staged for their second annual ride across the Mackinac Bridge to St. Ignace.

The excitement peaked as Max Armstrong, the co-host of RFD-TV's This Week in Agribusiness, entered the scene, greeting fans and examining a few of the show tractors. Later, in St. Ignace, he would receive the key to the city from St. Ignace Mayor Paul Grondin.

Most of the tractors were trailed to Mackinaw City, but Larry Oliver of Dimondale drove 325 miles on his tractor in a caravan as part of the Owosso Tractor Parts Antique Tractor Parade and Show. Riding to the bridge crossing with the dozen or so other tractors in the

caravan, he said, gave him the opportunity to enjoy the scenery that goes by too quickly from a car. Traveling the back roads, he said, seemed to attract dogs that would chase after the first tractor in the

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## Mackinaw City Voters Elect 5 Officials Hingston Takes President's Seat

By Michael Ayala

Mackinaw City residents will see a new president, clerk, and trustee October 1. Jeff Hingston defeated former village president Ronald Wallin, 238 to 96, during the village election Tuesday, September 15. Lana Jaggi inched out incumbent village clerk Elizabeth Clemens, 170 to 161. Trustee incumbents James Alford and Janelle Bancroft retained their seats, while 18-year-old Steven Celez nabbed the open trustee seat from challengers Rosada Mann and Scott Newman. The election saw 336 votes cast of 677 registered voters, for a turnout of 49.63%.

Mr. Hingston, business owner of the Candy Corner, will leave his position as trustee to assume the presidency, leaving two years of his trustee service to fill. One of his first actions will be to nominate someone to fill

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## Flu Shots Will Be Here in October

By Michael Ayala

With two strains of flu circulating this year, experts are advising everyone to be immunized for both. Immunizations will be made available this month for seasonal flu, and dispensers are being asked by the Centers for Disease Control to get the vaccine to the public as soon as they have it this year. For the other strain, swine flu or H1N1 flu, the first immunizations are expected to be rolled out across the country October 10, but the date they will be locally available is still in question. People at highest risk for the illness, including pregnant women and younger people, will get the vaccine first.

There have been no cases of swine flu in Mackinac County, and no current cases in Chippewa County, where two people diagnosed with it in May quickly recovered.

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## School Had Predicted Drop of 22 Students

## Enrollment Up at Les Cheneaux

By Jonathan Eppley

The 314 students enrolled at Les Cheneaux Community Schools this fall is good news: Enrollment is three more than last year, and 22 more than the district predicted last spring. It doesn't necessarily mean the district will receive more state funding, however, said business manager Kris Hill at a meeting of the board of education Monday, September 21. That won't be known until the Michigan Legislature passes the State Aid Act for 2009, probably the last day of September.

The current three-year enrollment averaging system calculated the district's last fiscal-year funding based on a 340 student average, which cushions the blow for districts that are losing students. The state may yet change how per-pupil funding is calculated, possibly moving to a two year pupil average or no average at all.

Per-pupil state funding was \$7,713 last year, but is expected to be

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## St. Ignace Will Seek Energy Grant

By Mark Tower

The City of St. Ignace has applied for stimulus funding through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to improve energy efficiency through improvements to city lighting, City Manager Eric Dodson reported to City Council during its regular meeting Monday, September 21.

More than \$2.7 billion has been made available to governments under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program, administered by the Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs in the DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Using a recent energy audit of city lighting, including systems at Little Bear East, the city's water treatment plant, city hall, and other city-owned lights, Mr. Dodson said he would apply for the grant, which could pay for up to \$50,000 in energy-saving improvements.

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Sherman 'Lud' Ludlow - 86  
Deanna Prout - 71  
Orpha Keefer - 84  
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