

The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave



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School in Deficit, 3 Laid Off

Cedarville District Must Report to State Education Dept.

By Michael Ayala

The technology coordinator and two teaching aides were laid off at Cedarville during the Monday, November 16, board of education

meeting, some services will be outsourced, and citizens learned the district must report monthly to the state's education department as a result of adopting a 2009-2010

budget with a deficit fund balance of \$65,337. The school's savings account, also called its fund balance, which has bolstered its budgets in recent years, has now run dry.

Les Cheneaux Community Schools must submit a deficit elimination plan to the Michigan Department of Education. Faced with declining enrollment, shrink-

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Toy and Food Drives Underway

Opportunities Abound To Aid Those in Need

Several opportunities are available for donating to local needy families in the community during the holiday season, including the following:

• **Mackinac County Children's Toy Drive:** Donation canisters are located at the Zodiac Party Store, Holiday gas station, and the Big Boy restaurant in St. Ignace and donation boxes collecting new toys, clothing, and electronics are available at the following locations: The St. Ignace News office, all locations of First National Bank, Glen's Markets, the Gold Mine, True Value, and U.P. State Credit Union. Donation cards

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Cranberries Finally Take Starring Role



With the turkeys on strike and the happy thought of taking a featured spot on the Thanksgiving dinner plate, enthusiastic cranberries became an audience favorite in the musical, "The Turkeys Go On Strike." Dressed in cranberry red and singing, "We are just a side dish on the table of life, now it's time for us to be the star," are (from left) Donovan Insley, Logan Rickley, Riley Kita, Katoni Rickley, Chelsey Coleman, and Madison Barkley. The play was performed by second grade students at St. Ignace Elementary School. A performance was given Friday morning, November 20, to kindergarten and first grade students before parents took seats during an afternoon showing.

Turkeys Go on Holiday Strike in St. Ignace School Play

By Karen Gould

While the turkeys went on strike, the cranberries stole the show at St. Ignace Elementary School Friday, November 20, during the second grade Thanksgiving play. In the musical comedy, "The Turkeys Go On Strike," football players protested the turkeys' action, Native Americans helped pilgrims, the pilgrims were thankful, the public was unhappy, mediators sought a resolution, and reporters covered the events.

"I know for sure, everybody liked it," said student Nicholas

Allers, following the first performance.

The second grade student, who portrayed a turkey, said getting dressed in the turkey costume his mother, Janet, made and singing were his favorite parts of the play. He also carried a protest sign marked, "I'm Sick." Other turkeys joined him with signs including "Eat Fish," "Pick Berries," "Husk Corn," and "We Quit."

The enthusiastic cranberries, however, took advantage of this opening, and with their bright red outfits and their happy dance, they celebrated becoming a more

important part of the Thanksgiving day meal since the turkeys went on strike.

"Always on the side, never in the middle, how it hurts our pride, playing second fiddle...We are just a side dish on the table of life, now it's time for us to be the star," sang the cranberries during their musical number. "All we ask for is a shot at the big time, a moment in the sun, a place at the front of the line, a seat in the orchestra..."

After five weeks of practice, memorizing lines, and learning songs and routines, students in Amy Metz' and Helena Shepard's

classrooms presented two performances of the musical, a matinee to kindergarten and first grade students and an afternoon show to parents.

"I had kids who couldn't even sleep last night, they were so excited," said Mrs. Shepard about her students. "They were so excited about performing their musical today."

The students learned by reading lines, memorizing speeches and songs, and speaking in public, said Mrs. Metz. In the classroom, the students learned about the meaning of the play.

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Les Cheneaux Old-fashioned Christmas

Holiday Events Start This Weekend

By Michael Ayala

Residents and visitors of Les Cheneaux will enjoy brightly lit trees, gingerbread houses, and contests during the Old-fashioned Christmas event taking place during two weekends, November 27 to November 29, and December 4 to December 6. The Old-fashioned Christmas is the brainchild of Rose Miller, who developed the idea to aid the economy and amplify the spirit of Christmas. The program began last year, and many local businesses requested it again, Mrs. Miller said.

New Events

One of the new activities is a dress-up contest, Mrs. Miller said. Prizes will be awarded to those with the best "old-time" Dickens-style

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Remember the U.P.

It has taken a new state law to ensure that the Upper Peninsula is included in any illustration, image, or depiction of Michigan produced by state departments and agencies. The bill was introduced by Representative Michael Lahti of Hancock and signed into law Thursday, November 19, by Governor Jennifer Granholm. The law takes immediate effect, although items already printed with just lower Michigan can be used until the current supply is exhausted.



The late State Representative Russell "Rusty" Hellman of Dollar Bay used to make fun of the tendency in Lansing to belittle or exclude the Upper Peninsula. He wore a copper tie-clip depicting the Upper Peninsula with a small mitten dangling from St. Ignace. Many constituents still own one.

The bill reportedly was sparked by a series of advertisements that promoted business and economic opportunities in Michigan and included a diagram of the Lower Peninsula, but omitted the Upper Peninsula.

Now, state law requires all state and agency publications, including forms, brochures, maps, pamphlets, and commemorative items, to include both peninsulas.

"Publications sometimes leave off the Upper Peninsula in depiction of Michigan for the sake of convenience or target markets," wrote Patrick Affholter, a legislative analyst who reviewed the bill. "Depiction produced by the state, though, should get it right by including both peninsulas, especially in the case of efforts to promote business and travel opportunities in Michigan, such as the popular 'Upper Hand' and 'Pure Michigan' advertising campaigns."

"As someone who represents constituents in both peninsulas, this legislation really hit home," said Senator Jason Allen. "The Upper Peninsula is often overlooked and such omissions are unacceptable."

Representative Gary McDowell of Rudyard is among legislative sponsors of the bill. The bill passed the House 106 to 0, and the Senate by 33 to 0 vote with three senators excused and one not voting.

Village To Set Benefit Guidelines

By Michael Ayala

Mackinaw City Village Council trustees decided that a specific two-year post-employment insurance plan should be discussed after agreeing to provide Mackinaw City Police Officer Robert Desy post-retirement insurance during the Thursday, November 19 meeting. In the past, the council decided to provide the two-year retirement insurance plan on a case-by-case basis, but trustees believe solid parameters should be set to handle any new retirements. The current policy states that at least 25 years of service with the

village is required before two years of post-employment insurance will be considered. The village then decides the amount of coverage, if any, that will be offered. Mr. Desy has served the village for 37.5 years and will be retired at the end of the year. The council approved a two-year, two-person retirement insurance plan that will cover 95% of insurance premiums at the time of his retirement. Any increases in premiums after his retirement will not be covered by the village. The current annual premium for a two-person policy is \$11,200.

Village Manager Jeff Lawson said no specific parameters were set as the village decided in the mid-1990s it would be unable to fund post-employment insurance for every employee. Instead, the village would consider it on an individual basis.

Other reasons why retirement insurance parameters were not set in the past, Mr. Lawson said, was that it was not a primary concern because there were few retirements. Five village employees have retired in the past 10 years.

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HOLIDAY HOURS

The St. Ignace News office will be closed Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27, in observance of Thanksgiving.

DEADLINE CHANGES

DECEMBER 3 ISSUE
Display advertising deadline - Wed., November 25, 5 p.m.
Classified advertising deadline - Monday, November 30, 1 p.m.

The St. Ignace News office will reopen at 8 a.m. Monday, November 30.

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Death Notices

Laurie Kelleghan - 52
Holden Galer - Infant

