

Power Outage Reported Sun.

Electric power went out at approximately 7 p.m. Sunday, August 7, and was restored at 8 p.m.

Craig Davidson, St. Ignace division manager of Edison Sault Electric Company, said that the cause for the outage is still unknown, but he postulates that a bird on the line was the culprit.

Areas affected by the outage were Harrisonville, West Bluff, Fort Mackinac, East Bluff, and Mission Point.

MHA Sales Raise \$4,000+

Between the Tack Sale, Saturday, July 23, and the Yard Sale, Saturday, July 30, \$4,872 was raised for the Mackinac Horsemen's Association.

MHA was established in 1998 and is an organization dedicated to promoting the horse culture on Mackinac Island and making sure it thrives for generations to come.

It is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and all donations are tax deductible. For additional information or to donate, write to MHA, P.O. Box 484, Mackinac Island, Michigan, 49757.

Mackinac 7 To Host Reception

A group of local artists, the Mackinac 7, will be holding a reception for their annual summer art show at the Mackinac Island Public Library Saturday, August 13, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Mackinac 7 are Catherine Brockman, Maeve Croghan, Pam Finkel, Nicki Griffith, Katherine Hannabass, Marlee Musser, Marta Olson, and Pat Pulte.

The paintings are on display for the month of August.

Letters to the Editor

Main Street Needs To Improve Clutter

To the Editor:

Congestion on Huron Street is getting to be a major problem. On my recent trip to downtown Mackinac, I noticed that street traffic was blocked by the many horse-drawn wagons and carriages. There were three tour carriages picking up passengers. Also several more parked in the middle of the street, awaiting their turns.

Along with dray deliveries, taxis, and pedestrians in the street, traffic had come to a standstill. When traffic did begin to move, cyclists had to pedal through the rivulets of urine caused by the many standing horses.

I hope this jam-up was an aberration, but I suspect that it may reoccur on any high volume day.

Imagine the picture we are painting in the minds of the tourist. Is this the image we want to convey? I think not. There must be solutions. Can't the carriages be re-routed? Perhaps deliveries and pickups could be restricted to low volume times. The police could shoo pedestrians back on the sidewalks and actively control the horse-drawn traffic. Maybe the ferry companies would announce rules for pedestrians to all inbound Island visitors.

I know it is difficult and even painful to change established practice. But isn't our long-term goal to have a clean and uncluttered village that will attract even more visitors?

Harold Strayer
Forest Way
Mackinac Island

Show Flag More Respect

To the Editor:

We work at the place that receives all the compostables, recyclables, and material to be landfilled. Ironically, we also receive a specific item that should never be handled at this facility. That item is the American flag. We find "our flag" in blue (landfill) bags and in mixed debris wagons, in fact, just this year. What a shameful way to handle the flag that has been fought for by many generations of Americans.

We currently have military personnel fighting around the world to preserve what "our flag" stands for. We all know a veteran that also served in the past to preserve our rights.

If you don't know what to do with "your flag" once it has been flown for the last time, please contact a service organization in your area or your local Boy Scouts of America. We consider ourselves defenders of "the flag," and people that were raised to respect what "our flag" represents. We say, do the same.

Make sure when the life of "your flag" is over, dispose of it

properly. Don't send it to the landfill.

Paul Wandrie Sr.
Roy Bessell Jr.
Gabe Cowell
Lorne Cowell
Solid Waste Handling
Facility
Mackinac Island DPW



Michigan Politics

By George Weeks

Republicans Begin To Ratchet Up Campaigns for Primary, A Year Away

The Republican primary is a year away, but party Pooh Bahs in Lansing and Washington already are treating gubernatorial contender Dick DeVos and Senate hopeful Keith Butler as presumptive nominees.

A big reason is that several prospective formidable contenders in each race have opted out. Among such Senate prospects last week was Domino's Pizza boss David Brandon, a University of Michigan regent who will be heard from in years ahead.

Another reason is that DeVos, a wealthy West Michigan businessman, and former Detroit Councilman Keith Butler, a pastor with a flock of about 20,000, have roared out of the starting gate with considerable media glare. Their competitors, far less known in the party, toil in relative obscurity and with less money.

DeVos, one of the nation's top donors to the GOP, and Butler, founder of the Word of Faith International Center in Southfield, are solid with conservatives who dominate the Michigan GOP.

Last week, DeVos ratcheted up his campaign with an announcement that Detroit-born Matthew Dowd, chief 2004 campaign strategist for President George W. Bush, will be senior adviser to the DeVos campaign.

"It's sad for me to see my home state struggling so much while states across the country are seeing their economies rebound and move forward," Dowd said in a press release from John Truscott, who was communications director for ex-Gov. John Engler and just named to do the same for DeVos.

DeVos also announced Greg McNeilly, former executive director of the Michigan GOP and campaign media director for the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, as his campaign manager.

This week, DeVos will

announce more high-powered consultants with Bush connections. Among them: media consultant Alex Castellanos, whose campaign belt is notched with nine senatorial and six gubernatorial campaigns.

The DeVos steamroller does not intimidate another GOP gubernatorial contender, Sen. Nancy Cassis, R- Novi.

"I'm not ready to concede," she said Friday in Lansing, where, as chair of the Senate Finance Committee, she is a major player in the GOP-ruled Legislature's efforts to reach agreement with Gov. Jennifer Granholm on tax and budget issues. "It's just too early to crown the next standard-bearer for governor."

Another Republican senator, Valde Garcia of Howell, threw in the gubernatorial towel last week but Rep. Jack Hoogendyke of Kalamazoo remained. The Rev. Jerry Zandstra, program director of a Grand Rapids religion-oriented think tank, has been active as a contender to oppose U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

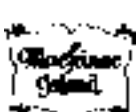
On Friday, Butler won endorsements of U.S. Reps. Candice Miller of Harrison

Township (who opted out of the Senate race but left the door slightly ajar for a gubernatorial bid) and David Camp of Midland. Camp said "I've known Keith for many years and I am confident that not only will he be able to put a successful campaign together, but more importantly he has the qualities and ideas our state needs in the U.S. Senate."

Officially, Republican State Chairman Saul Anuzis and Republican National Chairman Ken Mehlman are neutral on who should challenge Stabenow and Granholm, although Butler fits in with Mehlman's push to get more African-Americans as 2006 statewide nominees across the nation.

Anuzis and Mehlman see the writing on the wall of reality: Barring a stumble by DeVos or Butler--prompting a gubernatorial bid by Miller or a Senate bid by Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land--they view DeVos and Butler as de facto nominees.

George Weeks is the political columnist for The Detroit News and is syndicated by Superior Features.



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34 Market St., P.O. Box 532, Mackinac Island, MI 49757
Telephone: (906) 847-3788

www.MackinacIslandTownCrier.com

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