



# Town Crier 75¢

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## Policy Conference Brings Leaders to Mackinac

By Leslie Rott

Grand Hotel is hosting the 25th annual Mackinac Policy Conference Wednesday, May 31, to Saturday, June 3, with Governor Jennifer Granholm and her Republican contender, Richard DeVos, just two of the many dignitaries on Mackinac Island for the four-day event. More than 1,300 people were expected to attend.

Besides the gubernatorial candidates, speakers include Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and former mayor Dennis Archer, Windsor Mayor Eddie Francis, Wayne County

Executive Robert Ficano, Macomb County Chair Nancy White, University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman, Western Michigan President Judith Baily, Oakland County

Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Chrysler Group President and CEO Thomas LaSorda, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Michael Flanagan, and a host of executives from

organizations concerned with leadership and economic issues.

The goals of the conference are to bring people together from all areas of the economy

*\*Please turn to page 8*

## Mixed Results

### Some Businesses Up, Some Down, To Start 2006 Tourist Season

By Karen Gould

More visitors toured Mackinac State Historic Park sites over the Memorial holiday this year than last, and one ferry line reported an increase in travelers to Mackinac Island, although counts at the Mackinac Bridge were down, leaving no clear glimpse of summer traffic in the wake of the first big holiday of the season.

A 3.25 percent increase with visitors exploring Fort Mackinac, Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, and Historic Mill Creek occurred from Saturday,

*\*Please turn to page 9*



The Mackinac Island Public School Class of 2006 poses at the elementary end of the school, where most began their studies. (From left, back row) Salutatorian Tyler Finkel, Sam Kamphuis, Jason Pettit, and Valedictorian Eric Cowell; (middle) Melissa Bunker, Emily St. Onge, Ben Mosley; (front) Christina McLean and Miranda McMahan.

## Nine Earn Diplomas in Island Class of '06

By Leslie Rott

Nine seniors were graduated from Mackinac Island Public School Friday, May 26, at a 7 p.m. commencement program in the gymnasium. The Class of 2006 includes Melissa Bunker, Eric Cowell, Tyler Finkel, Sam Kamphuis, Christina McLean, Miranda McMahan, Ben Mosley, Jason Pettit, and Emily St. Onge.

Beginning the ceremony, the students walked through an arch of flowers, ushered to commencement by their siblings, then presented their mothers with roses, thanking them for their love and support over the years.

"It's nice to see that something academic drew more people than a home basketball game," Superintendent Jack Dehring observed to the crowd.

*\*Please turn to page 9*



Mackinac Island in a portrait included in Robert Cameron's 1994 book, "Above Mackinac." Mr. Cameron's photographs from 22 "Above" books from around the world are on display at Grand Hotel.

## Aerial Photographs on Display at Grand Hotel

The aerial photography of Robert Cameron is on display in a special exhibit at Grand Hotel into September. The exhibit made its debut at San Francisco's Presidio, where it was held over twice, and is this year's gallery exhibit contributed by West Bluff cottagers Richard and Jane Manoogian.

Mr. Cameron, who is Jane Manoogian's father, has been a photographer since he was 10 years old and began his career as a news photog-

rapher for the *Des Moines Register* in 1933. He learned aerial photography during World War II and has published 22 "Above" books, including "Above Mackinac," which feature aerial photographs of cities and landscapes all over the world. At age 95, he still is active. His latest book, "Above Mexico City", was published in 2004.

A special reception for the photographer is being held Sunday, June 4, at the hotel.

## City Council To Accept Bids for Two Condo Units

By Karen Gould

Sale of two city owned condominiums at Rowe Apartments is back on the table with Mackinac Island City Council unanimously agreeing to accept sealed bids for the two units until Wednesday, July 5. The two condominiums will be sold as a package, \$800,000 was set as the minimum bid price, and a \$5,000 deposit is required with each bid. Council's move at its

May 24 meeting follows February's postponement of the sale and carries the stipulation that current lease agreements be honored.

Unit 2, which houses two police officers, will be available for occupancy November 1. Unit 1 will be available May 1, 2007, when the lease expires. It is being used by Police Lieutenant Pete and Cindy

*\*Please turn to page 11*

## Island Monday Movie Night Tradition A Labor of Love

By Bernie Nguyen

The Haunted Theatre has always been shrouded in darkness, but in the past, the darkness was that of a movie theater. Until 1972, The Haunted Theatre was the Orpheum, the Island's only movie theater, which played movies every night during the summer. Sometime later, Jack Loeks, who owned Loeks Theaters in lower Michigan and maintained a summer home on the Island, began bringing first-run films to Mackinac on Monday nights. That tradition continues with

Craig and Paula Starkweather, who have kept Monday night movies alive with first-run features that play every Monday evening during the summer at the Mission Point Resort Theater.

Movies are shown at 9 p.m. and will begin June 5 with "R.V.," starring Robin Williams.

Mr. Starkweather took over the service of providing the films about six years ago, when Mr. Loeks was unable to continue because of failing health. He passed away about two years

*\*Please turn to page 8*