



Town Crier

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School Board Overcomes Turmoil, Retains Superintendent

By Ryan Schlehuder

After a long and emotional discussion, including a two-hour executive session, Mackinac Island Public School Superintendent Roger Schrock was given an unanimous vote of confidence by the Board of Education Thursday, March 22, and will serve the remaining two years of his three-year contract. In doing so, however, the board expressed a need for better communication among school leaders, within the school system, and with the community.

Dr. Schrock was hired last August with a three-year contract that allowed for a reevaluation after the first year. The contract ends June 30, 2009.

The escape clause was to give both sides a chance to ter-

minate the agreement if either were dissatisfied after the first year.

Frustration had been brewing for the past few months and more than 30 people crowded in the school's library for the evaluation. Several members of a packed audience, and some board members, complained about a lack of administrative protocol, professional courtesy, and poor communication between the school board, the superintendent, staff, and the community. The superintendent, some charged, is divisive.

Others called for patience in allowing the superintendent to find solid footing in a new school, and three students told the board they liked Dr. Schrock.

"I feel very comfortable

here," said 10th grade student Ariel Leeper. "This is the first year we have had a fire drill. Dr. Schrock makes me feel comfortable."

Discussion of whether to

renew Dr. Schrock's contract came at the conclusion of the board's regular meeting agenda, and immediately after a five-minute recess, Trustee Jason St. Onge, an outspoken

supporter of Dr. Schrock, moved to extend the superintendent's contract.

"Everybody is here, it's been the topic of the town, I'm going * Please turn to page 9

Winter Makes an Encore on Mackinac



Snow in April allowed many residents to set their bicycles aside and take their snowmobiles out of storage. Close to a foot of snow fell in the Straits area Friday, April 6. Sitting in a cutter, awaiting to go sledding, are (at left) Shayla Maylo, Emma Bradley, Harry Myers, Hannah Bradley, and Courtney Maylo.

Wall Repair, Coyote Plans Among Many Park Projects

By Karen Gould

Crews will be sent to the Island this spring to make repairs on the crumbling limestone walls at Fort Mackinac. Flaws in paint and mortar are thought to have contributed to the early deterioration of the walls, which were renovated just six years ago. Other ongoing projects, including the purchase of a landing craft, airport property issues, and the Island's coyote population also were discussed during a Mackinac Island State Park Commission meeting Wednesday, March 28, in Lansing.

"These walls deteriorated more quickly than they should have, based on a time table that is used for masonry repair,"

said Phil Porter, director of Mackinac State Historic Parks, referring to the wall at Fort Mackinac, the oldest structure in Michigan.

Repair was scheduled following a four-hour meeting in early March with representatives from the three companies involved in the wall restoration project, said Mr. Porter. That project cost \$4.1 million and lasted two years, with completion in 2001.

The project was supervised by Deputy Director David Armour, who is now retired, but he attended the March 8 meeting along with representatives from the Christman Company of Lansing, which was the general contractor on

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Horses Returning to Island



Christina McLean and her father, Gary, guide horses for Arrowhead Carriages on to Arnold Line's Mackinac Island dock from the MV Huron Wednesday, April 4. The number of horses on Mackinac Island is gradually increasing as the summer tourism season draws near.

Temporary Trailers Restricted to 3,000 lbs.

By Karen Gould

Concerned about the health of horses pulling heavy loads, the Mackinac Island Service Company has restricted temporary trailers to a maximum weight of 3,000 pounds, including the trailer and contents. The company sought and received the city council's support and the restriction was announced Monday, March 26.

Council agreed to provide a weight restriction notice to all those seeking a temporary trailer permit, and the city will require that applications include the weight of the trailer and contents.

"It's all for the horses," Jim Roe of the Service Company told the Mackinac Island Town Crier Wednesday, April 11.

Using a trailer and obtaining a temporary vehicle permit to have it pulled behind a dray is a popular form of hauling construction materials, tools, and personal items, because it doesn't require such contents be off-loaded onto carts on the mainland and then reloaded onto drays on the Island. Boy Scout troops staying at the Scout Barracks at Fort Mackinac often use a trailer to transport their supplies and personal belongings, as do cottagers.

Musicians playing at Island venues, and contractors also use trailers.

Mr. Roe and his teamsters will have the final say if a trailer is too heavy.

In recent years, he said, people have been overloading the trailers to save money on the number of dray loads they need.

Arnold Transit can weigh

the trailers on its scale in St. Ignace, but Mr. Roe and the dray driver will also be able to tell if the trailer is too heavy by the way the horses respond.

"If I think it's too heavy, or my driver thinks it's too heavy," he said, "we just won't pull it."

The owner always has the option of unloading the trailer

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Community Entertained by School Play 'Metaphasia'

By Ryan Schlehuder

Getting 23 students to sing, cross-dress, and keep quiet behind a stage set sounds impossible, but Karen Allen and her cast of students proved otherwise, delighting the community with its musical rendition of "Metaphasia" Tuesday, March 6, and Wednesday, March 7.

Ms. Allen, an elementary language and arts teacher at Mackinac Island Public School and long-time director of school plays, was happy with how well her actors performed for the large audience.

"One princess had stage fright before going on to the stage," she said. "She turned

out to be the most energetic one in the play. That's what I love about doing this; I enjoy watching these students grow and see their self-esteem and confidence grow.

"If you can get these kids to act and sing in front of an audience, they become more confident in general and it gives them confidence in doing things they may not have done before," she added. "It bleeds into everything."

"Metaphasia," an updated contemporary musical from the classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale, "The Twelve Dancing Princesses," is a story about young Angie Anderson, who

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