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CBS Early Show Visits Mackinac

By Eric Fish

Weatherman Dave Price of the CBS Early Show was on Mackinac Island Friday, June 22, filming footage at several Island locations as part of the network's second annual Great American Vacation series.

For the series, Mr. Price traveled the country, giving away Caribbean vacations to viewers.

"We've been fortunate enough on the show to be able to travel all over the world, to literally every corner, and all over the country, as well," Mr. Price said. "When we got here, the only way I could describe this place was 'breathtaking.' It's beautiful, and this is where work equals vacation for us."

Mr. Price started his day on Mackinac Island at historic Fort Mackinac. He arrived shortly after 10 a.m. with Early Show associate producer Rebecca Resnik, cameraman Arnie Cantu, and sound technician Jason Pawlak.

He entered the Fort wearing a polo shirt and khaki shorts, but quickly changed into a soldier's uniform for training with the fort's interpreters.

"If I only would have had this for my bar mitzvah, it would have been a very

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At left: CBS Early Show Weatherman Dave Price prepares to fire the Fort Mackinac cannon June 22. Mr. Price was on Mackinac Island as part of the network's Great American Vacation series.

New Trend in This Year's Trinkets

Hottest Summer Souvenirs Mark Bridge Anniversary

By Karen Gould

With the official celebration weekend marking the 50th anniversary of the Mackinac Bridge just one month away, souvenirs that chronicle bridge construction, history, and the Straits can be found at many area retail shops.

With commemorative items ranging from 99¢ to more than \$80, residents and visitors can memorialize the bridge's past through photographs and movies, wear earrings that depict the bridge, mark the page of their favorite novel with a bridge bookmark, and take on the challenge of a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle featuring the five-mile span.

For years, tourist visits to Northern Michigan have meant taking home souvenirs that captured their memories, added to their collections, or included a T-shirt naming the location of their summer trip.

This year, retailers hope those shopping bags will include bridge memorabilia.

Interest in the bridge already has taken hold on Mackinac Island, said Jill Sawatzki, Island resident and Island Bookstore assistant.

"People come in and want to know everything about the building of the bridge," she said. "They are thrilled when they see we have the Public Broadcasting Service DVD movie, "50th Anniversary Edition, Building the Mighty Mac."

Ms. Sawatzki said she tries to keep informed on area history and summer events, including activities planned for the bridge celebration in July.

"People come to the bookstore for information like they come to the tourism bureau," she said. "I try to find out as much as I can about everything going on. When the tourism bureau closes, the next stop they go to for information is the book store."

In addition to books, bridge-related items being sold at the

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City Upholds Ban on Segway Vehicles

By Eric Fish

The City of Mackinac Island has vowed to enforce its ban of motor vehicles in the face of threats by disabled veterans and others to use Segway electric scooters on Mackinac Island. The action, taken in a virtually empty room at the tail end of the city council meeting Wednesday, June 27, could commit the city to another court battle, like the one over electric-assisted bicycles it lost in 2003 to a summer resident with multiple sclerosis. That case ended when the Michigan Supreme Court refused to hear the city's appeal.

Segways, known as human transporters, are permitted by state law on municipal sidewalks in Michigan, but Mackinac Island, because of its motor vehicle ban, was specifically exempted.

Nevertheless, city attorney Tom Evashevski advised the city council to be cautious in challenging Segway use on Mackinac Island, saying the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) trumps state legislation that contradicts it. The ADA is what ultimately prevailed in the electric-assist bicycle case, and the city now allows such vehicles under spe-

cial permit, ordered to do so by the courts.

Emerging from an executive session Wednesday evening, however, Council unanimously voted to continue the ban of Segways on the Island and to ticket anyone found using one.

In recent weeks, the city has received a number of requests for Segway use, and Council's executive session was to discuss with Mr. Evashevski whether the ADA would prohibit the city from enforcing the

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Travelin' Buddy



"Taffey" keeps an eye on the road for his owner, J.R. Reagle, as the pair turn onto Main Street from Astor Street. Mr. Reagle is a carriage and dray driver for West Bluff residents Penny and John Barr.