

CHARLEVOIX

Shipwreck negotiation under way

Benjamin Gohs
Charlevoix Courier

CHARLEVOIX — The battle between maritime explorers and the state over the identity of what some believe is the 330-year-old French ship Le Griffon is up for negotiation.

The latest legal wrangling in this five-year-long case over the ship came on June 25 when U.S. District Judge Robert Holmes Bell granted the state's motion to postpone a decision on who has constructive possession of the wreckage site in question.

"It appearing that the parties are in the process of resolving some of the issues in this action ... the court will grant the motion and will adjourn the hearing on intervenors' motion for summary judgment until (1:15 p.m. on Oct. 15)," Holmes wrote.

Though the two have been previously at odds over what could be the ship that sank in 1679 in Lake Michigan, state of Michigan officials sent Great Lakes Exploration an undisclosed proposal in recent months to apparently settle the matter.

"They sent us a proposal and we sent them a counter proposal," said Great Lakes Exploration Group historian Richard Gross. "We don't know how far apart we are until we see their response to our response."

Great Lakes Exploration Group head Steve Libert has always maintained that a public-private partnership will be the best way to investigate the site.

"I believe the postponement for GLEG and the state of Michigan to work out a positive, cooperative, working relationship without the determination of the court will benefit both parties," he said.

Despite his hope for this latest development, Libert took issue with recent Associated Press reports that the state was working with France on the negotiations.

The state's actual assertion in papers filed June 17 in U.S. District Court were,

"The state of Michigan and France have had preliminary discussions regarding possible settlement of the issue of ownership ... Also, the state, France and plaintiff Great Lakes Exploration Group ... have exchanged drafts of a proposal to conduct a phase II investigation of the defendant shipwreck for the purpose of determining its identity."

According to French officials, they are neither negotiating with the state or participating in the investigation at this point.

"France ... had only one meeting with the technical departments of the state of Michigan," stated Aurelien Lechevelier, chief of staff, protocol, decorations at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., in an e-mailed response to questions. "I think it's excessive to say that France has a role in the negotiations which are ongoing between Great Lakes and the state of Michigan. France is not participating actively in the negotiations."

Despite repeated attempts to contact officials from the Michigan Attorney General's office, calls were not returned by press time.

Le Griffon was built in the late-1600s by Rene-Robert Cavalier Sieur de La Salle, a man instrumental in the Louisiana Purchase.

Bike found

The Petoskey Department of Public Safety has recovered a 20-inch trick bicycle in the city of Petoskey. For further information, contact the department at 347-2500 to identify and claim the bike.

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Tuesday in the Michigan State Lottery: Middy Daily 3, 8-2-2; Middy Daily 4, 1-8-8-5; Daily 3, 9-6-7; Daily 4, 9-8-9-4; Fantasy 5, 12-19-28-31-34; Keno, 4, 15, 18, 22, 25, 27, 29, 39, 42, 46, 51, 56, 57, 58, 60, 62, 64, 67, 69, 70, 72, 76. Tuesday's Mega Millions jackpot was estimated at \$133 million. Wednesday's Classic Lotto 47 jackpot is estimated at \$1.1 million.

HARBOR SPRINGS

Tribal lender gets \$146,871 grant

Areawide feds award \$426,532 to native financial arms

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Northern Michigan is benefiting from a portion of the \$3.3 million in technical assistance grants being distributed by the U.S. Department of Treasury to 26 Native American financial institutions across the country.

Overall, three native financial institutions in Michigan were awarded \$426,532 through the Native American Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Program, including the Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Housing and Community Development Corporation; Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Economic Development

Corp.; and Northern Shores Loan Fund, Inc., in Harbor Springs.

These grants are meant to expand the capacity for lending and extend additional financial services to under served populations in Michigan.

"This federal funding will help ensure that important financial services are available to Native American families and businesses in Michigan," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich. "As we try to dig out of an economic ditch, I am hopeful that these awards will help to extend credit and create jobs in our state."

Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., said she is hopeful that this grant funding will open new opportunities to Michigan residents.

"I am pleased that this recovery money will help bring economic opportunities back to our Native communities," she said. "The CDFI fund increases individuals'

access to credit, paving the way for future home purchases, as well as business development."

Northern Shores Loan Fund Inc., a nonprofit, native Community Development Financial Institution in Harbor Springs, that serves both entrepreneurs in the community, as well as members of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, received \$146,871 from the U.S. Department of Treasury.

According to Lisa McComb, executive director of Northern Shores Loan Fund Inc., this grant money will allow their institution to provide technical assistance and developmental services to businesses in Charlevoix, Emmet and Cheboygan counties.



McComb

"This is instrumental for us to keep going," McComb said. "We can do credit counseling, business planning and development — anything that will help a small business grow and succeed in Northern Michigan."

McComb said Northern Shores focuses on assisting tribal members, but they have also worked with local businesses not connected to the tribe, including Tannery Creek Market LLC and Trillium Complete Salon.

"We are incorporated under the tribe, but we have the ability to provide assistance to tribal members, as well as community members," she said.

For more information about Northern Shores Loan Fund Inc., located at 1131 West Conway Road, Suite A, in Harbor Springs, call 347-6753, or visit their Website at www.northernshoresloanfund.org.

BOYNE CITY

Feel the thunder

Powerboat poker run lights up Lake Charlevoix this weekend

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BOYNE CITY — When Friday, July 10, comes around, Boyne Thunder participants will be ready to cruise the waters for their annual poker run.

The actual Boyne Thunder Poker Run will be on Saturday, July 11, at 9:30 a.m., although there are kickoff events on Friday.

"Last year's event went really well. People enjoy being on the water, and the best part is it is for charity," said Kevin Wright, an organizer of Boyne Thunder.

Proceeds from the weekend will go to benefit Camp Quality programs. Camp Quality is an organization that provides camping experiences and financial aid to families who have children with cancer. They are nonprofit and provide year-round support to those in need.

On Friday there will be a dinner and an auction for the community at 6 p.m. in Veterans Park, Boyne City. Those who participate in the poker run are automatically invited. Anyone else who would like to attend must purchase a ticket for \$50. Also on Friday, from 6-9 p.m., there will be a Stroll the Streets event in downtown Boyne City. Here, everyone will have the opportunity to walk around the downtown for music and entertainment, and classic boats and cars will be on display.

Saturday, July 11, brings about 30 high-performance boats to Boyne City from across the Midwest. The boats will gather on Lake Charlevoix and will cruise a 90-mile course through the waters. Boaters will begin in Boyne City and go on to Charlevoix, Beaver Island, Harbor Springs and Bay Harbor. Once the boats have visited those areas, they will all come back to Boyne City in time for a barbecue feast by the lake.

No matter who reaches the finish line first, the winner of the Boyne Thunder Poker Run is not decided until the evening. In this race, speed does not matter as



FILE PHOTO/NEWS-REVIEW

The Boyne Thunder Poker Run will begin 9:30 a.m. Saturday, July 11.

Kickoff events begin on Friday. Proceeds from the weekend will benefit Camp Quality programs.

much as how you play the game. The way the Boyne Thunder Poker Run works is each boat has five predetermined stops they must make throughout lakes Charlevoix and Michigan. At each stop, they will pick up a playing card that they will use to build a poker hand. Later, at the feast, the boaters will have to use that hand in a game of poker. The best hand wins.

"Boyne Thunder really brings people from other areas up north using water sports. Its become a huge event that gives the area a tourism boost — it's a carnival atmosphere for the summer and that's what Northern Michigan is all about — summer vacation," said Fred Taylor, Sommerset Pointe developer and an event sponsor.

The public is also welcome to the barbecue for a fee of \$35 per person. Tickets can be purchased in advance through the Boyne City chamber or the Main Street office.

Those who do not participate in the poker run can watch the race from Veterans Park. Visitors will also have a chance to go on

a champagne cruise where they will board local yachts and have cocktails. Also on this cruise, visitors will be able to watch as those participating in the poker run cruise by. The champagne cruise begins at noon. Tickets cost \$100 per person and are still available.

There is still time to sign up for the Boyne Thunder Poker Run. Tickets for the boat cost \$650, which includes two passengers. Any additional person on the boat will be an extra \$100.

The boaters package includes two tickets to the charity dinner on Friday, as well as breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday. Those who participate will also receive two evenings worth of dockage in Boyne City, event T-shirts, trailer parking and a Boyne Thunder soft cooler and gift bag. Wright said boaters can sign up any time right up to the event itself.

All tickets for Boyne Thunder are available at the Main Street office and at the Boyne City chamber. Call (231) 582-9009 or (231) 582-6222 for more information.

CROSS VILLAGE

Cross Village first Emmet County township to pass ORV ordinance

Riders can use local road shoulders July 17

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CROSS VILLAGE — Following a unanimous vote from its board of trustees on Monday, Cross Village became the first township in Emmet County to pass its own off-road-vehicle ordinance.

Beginning on July 17, riders can travel on the shoulder of all township roads.

"The county has been sitting on it for over a year. Tom Shier (chairman of the transportation committee) sat on it in committee and did not bring it up to the board," township clerk Howard Wood said. "If we can't get it from the top down, then we'll

start from the bottom up."

The board added one caveat to its motion that would allow a county ordinance, if passed, to supersede its own.

"It's a question of uniformity," township supervisor Gene Reck said. "It's clearly going to happen, so we might as well do it in an orderly manner."

Although the county's sheriff's department is not responsible for enforcing township ordinances, that fact did not deter support.

"We don't have resources to enforce any ordinances," trustee Marie Kruppa said. "Back in the day we had constables."

If the ordinance becomes too troublesome, trustee Stephen Keller pointed out the board can amend the ordinance.

"We can always reverse our decision if it ends up being more trouble than it's worth," he said.

Readmond Township is scheduled to have a public hearing on adopting its own ORV ordinance beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 13, at the township hall.

Under the law, up to 30-percent of roads may be excluded from the ordinance and the Emmet County Road Commission is set to meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, at Little Traverse Township Hall to discuss which roads should be exempt.

Emmet County is one of only four eligible counties in Northern Michigan not to pass an ordinance. A public hearing is set for 5:45 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13, at the Community Center at the county fairgrounds.

PETOSKEY

Petoskey school gets tech upgrade

School board also changes leadership

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The vocational education department at Petoskey High School is about to get a technology overhaul.

"We try to do this every two years," said Steve Neal, technology director for the high school. "The state wants the voced courses to be very current."

On Monday, the Petoskey Board of Education approved a \$41,089.95 bid from CDW-G, a computer technology services and supply company out of Illinois, to provide the high school's technology department with the computer parts to assemble 135 new computers, along with software updates for each.

Neal said assembling the computers, instead of purchasing them fully assembled, will save their program around \$27,000.

"Because money is so tight, we were thinking, how can we get more for our money?" he said. "We had to come up with something creative, and that was the best we could do."

Neal said he is planning on bringing some students in to help with the job.

"We want to keep them exposed (to technology). We could do it ourselves, but we want to use our kids — this is just another component of that education process," he said.

"(The pay) may be a small dollar amount, but the payoff is good for them."

The vocational education program's old computers, which are 2007 models, will be filtered down to the elementary schools once the new computers are assembled and in place.

Neal said he believes this is a much needed upgrade for the elementary buildings, which currently have computer models from 2001.

"It will be a big improvement for the elementary schools," he said. "It's like a refresh — it may not be the newest, but it's reusing our resources."

During Monday's meeting, the board of education also unanimously approved the shifting of its elected officials' leadership positions.

Former president Jack Waldvogel, is now the treasurer; former first-vice president Tom Rellinger, is now president; former second vice-president Bill Kanine, is now first-vice president; former secretary Jack VanTress, is now second vice-president; and former treasurer Mary Ling, is now secretary.



Neal



Rellinger



Kanine