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# L'Anse Sentinel

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## Inside your Sentinel...

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Three L'Anse grads playing Finlandia baseball

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## Protest security at Baraga Max

### Union opposes eliminating perimeter vehicles, RUOs

by Chris Ford

In a move that is expected to save the state more than \$13 million, Michigan's Department of Corrections (MDOC) will eliminate perimeter security at all prisons effective April 1, 2012.

Presently, every prison has a permanent security vehicle (PSV) operated by an armed corrections officer driven around the perimeter of every prison 24-hours per day, 365 days a year. Starting the first of next month, PSV's will be randomly driven around the perimeters of 27 Michigan prisons, including Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility ("Baraga Max") and the adjacent minimum security facility.

The move is expected to eliminate five positions at each prison facility, according to MDOC spokesman Russ Marlan. Marlan stated that affected officers will have the opportunity to transfer to other positions. He said there are currently hundreds of MDOC jobs open.

As expected, the Michigan Corrections Organization (MCO), which represents approximately 7,000 corrections officers, is not happy with the move.

In an email from Mel Grieshaber, MCO executive director, he stated corrections officers look at PSV's as an absolute necessity for safety and security concerns. Baraga Max is the only prison in the State of Michigan without gun towers and many officers feel the PSV provides a very important role.

Marlan has stated that MDOC has made security improvements at many prisons across the state including motion sensors and non-lethal, electric "stun" fences.

MDOC plans call for utilizing a facility's front desk officer who, if needed, can leave that post and jump into a PSV and respond when and where necessary. However, the facility's lobby would first have to be secured and the front desk officer properly suited before he or she could exit

the facility.

Grieshaber has stated that although no corrections officers will be laid off with the change, he has received plenty of emails and other communications from DOC officers objecting to the move. A check on the DOC's facebook page is also full of postings against the move.

Grieshaber also stated the perimeter vehicle not only deters prison escapes, it also thwarts efforts of those on the outside from attempting to throw any kind of contraband over a facility's perimeter fence.

"By the time someone throws something over the fence, utilizing the changes, you know that person is going to be long-gone before someone is able to respond," Grieshaber said.

Grieshaber also said that the PSV issue is one of several his members are concerned about. A second important one is the elimination of resident unit officers (RUO's). Those officers oversee daily operations on the inside of prison facilities. They work within individual units of prisons across the state.

"Those RUO's are important not only to the safety of other officers, but to the safety of inmates as well," Grieshaber said. "An RUO knows inmates, how they act, and knows those inmates who may need more protection than others."

Grieshaber said he would like to see state DOC officials work more collaboratively at the state level and to also slow down on implementation of major changes within the department. He said the state should slow down on unilateral action and have deep, meaningful and real discussions with DOC officers at each facility across the state.

"Let's talk with DOC leadership at each institution and sit

## Prison

Continued on page 2



**CROWD FAVORITES**-The advanced figure skaters who practice in the Baraga rink all winter closed this year's L'Anse-Baraga figure skating show with a group number, "Firework", choreographed by Jane Summersett. Front, l-r, Kaitlin Durnion, Sonja Welch, Rachel Mills, Dana Hiltunen,

Erika Tollefson, Sarah Dix, Stella Tortolini and Kelsey Lindstrom. Back, l-r, Brittany Green, Skylah Minerick, Genevieve Smith, Kelsey Kempainen, Emma Tembreull, Samantha Hatfield, Nicole Rossi, Lauren Hendricks, Emily Magaraggia and Katrina Ravindran.

## Figure skaters 'rock the jukebox'

### The show goes on despite record warmth

"Let's Rock the Jukebox" drew crowds to Meadowbrook Arena for the 2012 L'Anse-Baraga Figure Skating Club's ice show.

Sixty-five skaters performed on Saturday night, March 24, and Sunday afternoon, March 25.

The show survived its biggest challenge in years—prolonged record warm temperatures hovering in the 70's to near 80 degrees in recent weeks.

"We survived the weather, that was the big thing," skating club officer Janet Rossi said.

Not only did the warmth tax the compressor systems at both the L'Anse and Baraga rinks, but condensation dripping from the ceilings at both rinks continually made ice mounds on the rinks.

"Nathan Turpeinen, Brian Krajnak and Ed Jorgenson spent hours and days chipping ice mounds at the L'Anse rink. Steve Tembreull did it at the Baraga rink so we could practice there," Rossi said. "We wouldn't have had a show without them."

"The show went pretty well. The kids enjoyed themselves and had fun. It's the biggest thing of the year for the ones who don't compete. The little kids, the new ones, enjoy it so much," Rossi said.

"We had pretty decent crowds, maybe not quite as big as some in recent years, but your numbers are down a little," Rossi added. "And we couldn't get enough high school boys to skate with the girls for that number, which brings in a few more people. But we had lots of positive comments."

High school seniors Emma Tembreull and Brittany Green skated their senior solos. They will appear together in a duet and skated in group numbers.

**Emma Tembreull**  
 The daughter of Steve and Karen Tembreull of L'Anse, Emma has skated in the club for nearly 13 years.

Tembreull's favorite part of skating is dance. She hasn't had time to focus on that this winter, but plans to continue working on her pre-silver dances while attending Northern Michigan University.

During her high school years, Tembreull has been a LHS Figure Skating Team member, and been on the varsity volleyball and track teams. She is in HOSA, yearbook, honors band, drama club, softball,

the senior class historian and active in Sacred Heart of Jesus parish.

Tembreull also enjoys cross country, downhill and water skiing, dirt biking, running, kayaking,

fishing, writing, and hunting.

Tembreull is ranked third in her L'Anse High School graduating class with a GPA of 3.904. She will attend NMU for pre-med, and then hopes to transfer to Palmer University of Iowa to earn her doctorate degree in chiropractics.

Tembreull also plans to build on her self-run photography business—et images.

**Brittany Green**  
 The daughter of James and Amy Green of Baraga, Brittany has been a figure skater with the L'Anse-Baraga club since third grade.

Green has competed in the annual Turkey Trot in Houghton and the Marquette International Open for seven years. She has been testing in dance and Moves in the Field for five years.

Green has been on the Beginners Synchronized Skating Team, and the LHS Figure Skating Team. She has been a volunteer coach for the Basic Skills skaters for three years and a professional coach for two years.

Outside of skating Green is involved in volleyball, horseback riding, church youth Christmas programs, an Awana leaders and is the editor for her homeschool newspaper.

Green plans to attend Cornerstone University to pursue a degree in the veterinary field.

**Jane Summersett**

L'Anse native and lifelong skater Jane Summersett returned to her home ice as a guest skater. Summersett has competed many times internationally. She has coached with the L'Anse-Baraga club while attending Michigan Technological University. She will be leaving the area again next year to pursue a dental degree.

In the weekend shows, local ice dancers demonstrated their varying levels of skills to the Bon Jovi Medley.

Dancers were Brittany Green, Emma Tembreull, Lauren Hendricks, Samantha Hatfield,

## Ice show

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**RESPONDS TO CUTS**-The MCO union representing Baraga Max employees opposes state Corrections' plans to cut 24-hour perimeter security vehicle monitoring, and other planned money-saving changes. A picket is set for Monday, April 2, 1:30-4 p.m. at Irene's Pizza parking lot.



**SENIORS AND SOLOISTS**-Two high school seniors presented their solos, Brittany Green, left, and Emma Tembreull, center. The other soloist from the skating club is the most advanced skater, Nicole Rossi, right. All three were involved in several numbers in the ice show.

# Summersett follows her passion, offers art lessons



**CAPTURING EMOTION**—Barb Summersett has learned to recreate powerful emotional images through her portrait paintings. On the easel she works on a “melancholy” version of her daughter, Jane, who the public knows as a smiling, bubbly and very talented

figure skater. The large painting below, portrays the depths of emotion of typical autistic children. Summersett has worked with young autistic kids in her other life as an occupational therapist. She wants to use art as a way to reach through to these children.

by Barry Drue

Barb Summersett’s life-long love of art and her career as a licensed occupational therapist are woven together through her latest project, opening a studio and offering art lessons for children and adults.

“As a licensed occupational therapist with years of experience in pediatrics, I am prepared to use the process of art activities, as appropriate, to facilitate the motor skills of children having trouble with handwriting and other fine motor activities,” Summersett explained.

“For the adult interested in picking up techniques and materials of a specific medium, I will provide pearls (techniques) in water media, acrylics, mixed media and collage,” Summersett added.

When Summersett’s portraits, oils and other projects threatened to take over her home, she leased a space in the basement level of the L’Anse American Legion building for her studio. It’s a dream come true for the avid and talented artist.

“I started out as an art major in college. My dad said I had to come out with the ability to earn a living so I chose occupational therapy!” Summersett said. “I really like my profession as an occupational therapist. I’m not working right now but I keep licensed and take continuing education. I don’t want to lose my edge.”

Summersett has worked a great deal with autistic children and knows the value of early intervention. She will use art as a way to reach children with sensory impairments.

“I will use art to mentor some individuals who can’t be mentored with the standard protocol,” Summersett said. “It’s using the art tool to come in through the back door.”

“Children with sensory concerns, and those with socio-communicative challenges may also benefit from these one-on-one art sessions,” Summersett noted.

Summersett’s art talents have been developed through years of painting and drawing. She picked up techniques in watercolor and clay at Michigan Tech classes, and was an art and design major at Northern Michigan University. She’s learned basic drawing and life drawing (models), has taken

an art history course and learned oils at Northern. She subscribes to two art magazines and has gleaned lots of knowledge there as well.

“I pretty much like all mediums. I’ve done watercolor, colored pencil, charcoal, collage and oils,” Summersett said. She also experiments, layering over texture such as sand or cheesecloth or tissue paper. “With oils you have to give it at least a day and sometimes three or four for layers to dry. I can’t wait that long so I always have more than one thing going,” Summersett added.

Summersett is a member of the Portrait Society of America and will be traveling to Philadelphia in May for a seminar in which her work will be critiqued and she “will see the gurus in action. It will be awesome!”

The Summersett Art website is under construction and will be up within the next six weeks.

“On it you will find multiple galleries to explore, including samples of my commissioned portraits, out of the box images and experimental works. One gallery

will be devoted to my students and will display their works which have been completed in class,” the artist explained.

Summersett will offer fun one-day outdoor excursions for artists of all ability levels to go to scenic sites and set up and paint. These “plein air excursions” will be scheduled around the weather and centered on fun.

“We’ll fumble through the woods and set up in a really cool spot. It’s an enriching experience and I haven’t done that much of it. I’m looking forward to it,” Summersett said.

“These casual one-day events will provide great opportunities to share ideas and techniques with fellow artists and develop friendships within the art community,” Summersett said. “The details for these future events will be posted on the Summersett Art website and with the Baraga County Convention and Visitors Bureau.”

Call Summersett on her cell phone (1-508-287-6900) or home (524-6472) to arrange art lessons, check information about rates and discuss general questions.



Summersett uses mixed media to build texture.

## MCO opposes corrections cutbacks, plans picket, advertisements, mailing

### Prison

Continued from page 1

down and find efficient ways to save money,” Grieshaber said. “It comes down to staffing equates to safety.”

He said the MCO is undertaking a six-week publicity-media campaign to better inform the public on the possible effects of the announced changes will have on communities where prisons are located. Included are billboard, radio and print media ads along with a direct mailing and

public pickets.

Grieshaber explained although the MCO is one union, each prison across the state has its own chapter. It is the chapters that are setting up the picket locations—including one in Baraga County.

On Monday, April 2, a picket is scheduled to take place from 1:30-4 p.m. in Irene’s Pizza parking lot on US-41 in Baraga. Additional pickets are scheduled for the rest of the week in Marquette, Alger County, Newberry and Kinross.

The MCO has placed a large billboard facing west at the railroad track crossing in L’Anse.

In addition, Grieshaber said all residents within a roughly two-mile radius of any prison facility in the state will receive a written letter from the MCO. Affected Baraga residents should, he said, receive that letter sometime this week. He said the letter will focus on alerting them to what he terms the dangerous decisions being made and encouraging them to come out and support MCO members at the picket.

“Your community needs to know just how strongly we oppose these moves and that we are fighting for their safety as well as ours,” Grieshaber concluded.



### Lending a hand

Jay Loman of J&R Automotive in L’Anse has allowed members of the Keweenaw Detachment of Marine Corps League to utilize his facility to undertake necessary work on its Iwo Jima parade float. The base had to be narrowed and re-affixed with a new coat

of fiberglass. The changes were needed in order to have the float fit inside a newly purchased enclosed trailer which will make taking it on the parade circuit much easier and safer while keeping it out of the elements at the same time.

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