by Rich Swartzenhuber

At the direction of a petition of 40 Laker voters, the Elkton - Pigeon - Bay Port School Board will conduct another special millage election for school operations.

The election is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 27 (just days before students are scheduled to begin classes on Sept. 1) with a single millage proposal on the ballot.

MANDATORY: The issue to be decided would be on the Elkton - Pigeon - Bay Port School Board because state law requires a special election be scheduled when a school board is petitioned by a majority of 5% or less of the registered voters in the district.

Approximately 250 signatures of Laker voters were needed to call an election. Attorney Gordon Van Wieren of Lansing was present at the meeting last Friday evening when the petition was presented. He works for the firm Thrun, Maas and Nordberg which represents the district in more than 40 school district elections across the state. He pointed out the provisions appearing on the ballot only asks for 7.5 mills for one year to be used for general school operating revenue.

PETITION: The opening paragraph of the petition states, the Elkton - Pigeon - Bay Port School Board to use the revenue from the millage increase to restore bus transportation, extra-curricular activities and conduct classes at the Elkton - Pigeon - Bay Port Elementary Center.

All those programs have been cut from the present Laker operating plan, resulting in multiple layoffs in April and April elections. Similar 10-mill requests lost 612.1126 on April 6 and 132.1126 on June 8.

Port-Wenon pointed out the Board is not legally bound to follow the petition if the millage passes. Board members said those items would probably all be included in any final millage proposal, but said they would not make any guarantees.

RECALL THREAT: Attorney Van Wieren Enough to the petition to the Board, unless a group of people who want to keep the Bay Port Elementary center. He warned board members dire conse-

quences if his group’s wish are not met.

We would hope that this Board would affirmatively state that they will follow the intentions of the people as stated in that petition. "Because it would be our intention that if this board, after receiving this millage did not do one for purposes for which this petition was circulated, that there would be recall petitions against the," said Van Wieren.

COST STUDY: Board President Bruce Baur reported that the district spends more per pupil to keep the Bay Port Elementary center open due to smaller enrollment there. Bay Port has 146 students and 6.5 teachers for an average of 22.7 students per class. Elkton has 403 students and 13 teachers for an average of 31.3 and Pigeon has 190 students and 6.3 teachers for an average of 30.5.

Using the average teacher cost of $24,300, it costs $1,119 per student at Bay Port, $218 per student at Elkton for teacher expenses. He concluded that was the reason the Board closed the Bay Port Elementary center as a cost-saving measure.

PROFESSIONAL: Trustees Dr. Jeanne Thomas and David Grant said any costs-cutting measures by the district to be made is best educate the Laker students, not to punish anyone for turning down past millage proposals.

He said the board’s first priority was to ensure that Laker graduates can be contributing members of society. He said priority two is to not waste money and the third priority is to not upset people.

He is in the first time since I’ve been on the board that the Board has been forced by millage votes to cut people down to choices between upgrading parents or short-term cuts, he said. "I think it would be an uphill battle next year and they start talking about a renewal of 10 mills and an additional 5 mills, that anybody’s going to be any happier than what they were this year. "If we’re setting ourselves up to go through this fight every year," he added.

UNITY NEEDED: Several of the 10 people present at the meeting urged the people to not fight among themselves and work to pass the next millage election.

Voters Committee Chairman Sue Sturm said that group did everything it could to pass the last two millage elections and will not be involved in this election. Sturm pointed out it will be up to those who care about the school to vote for the millage and make sure others who support the increase also vote.

Voters flared several times during the meeting, especially regarding the decision to close Bay Port school causing others to avoid making statements that cause ill will.

"We’re trying our best to heal the wounds and get on with our school," said former Board member Roland Hines of Bay Port.

DECISIONS: Because the election will be scheduled so close to the beginning of the upcoming school year, the Board must make some tough decisions at the regular August Board Meeting slated for Aug. 10.

The Board: Must decide whether to prepare to start school using the cuts already outlined under the present 17.75 millage rate (including pay-to-play sports, closing Bay Port Elementary School and cutting busing) and then be ready to move students back to the sites they were last year if the millage passes; Prepare to open school with the same programs as last year and hope the millage passes, with extensive class and building changes if the millage fails.

The Board must also decide whether to ask the Laker Education Association to delay the start of the school, in the meantime outcome will be known in time to prepare for the results.

Currently the school calendar is part of the master teacher contract and cannot be altered without LEA approval.

Those questions are expected to be answered as the August Laker Board meeting, again scheduled for the Laker Auditorium to handle the numerous people expected to attend.

**APPROPRIATE**

Pigeon Village Council voted 5-1 Monday night to join the Village of Caseville as a co-sponsor of the proposed area joint airport commission, to oversee the Bay Area Beach and Dunes Park.

Council members said they favor participation in such a regional airport plan, as long as at least two other governments join in the plan. Member Ken Licht cast the only dissenting vote.

BIG SPOT: Longtime airport proponent Lowell Kraft thanked the group for the support, noting airport building by various governments could improve chances for faster federal funding of 15% of the $1.3 million project. Such funding could be possible in Fiscal Year 1986, which starts Oct. 1.

He said the airport’s environmental impact report is expected in September, and he said there’s no problem with support from several local governments. Earlier, Kraft had told Council members, “It will take some courage and guts to go earlier with (airport support).”

AIRPORT AREA: Member Neal Eklhorn said such an airport would build tourism for the entire Western Huron County. He said it’s the right thing more people backing such a plan, the better it will fare. Member Mike Golten said, “My concern is that the pro-

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**Queen’s Advice**

Pigeon Farmers’ Festival Queen Jill Krahn, center, chats with the 15 candidates in the 1987 Queen’s Contest, as judged last week at the Pigeon District Library.

The judges know... but the rest of us won’t find out who won until Friday night, July 24, during the 14th annual free Friday night stage show.

**Inside Chinese visitors see rural Thumb Area up close!**
Roberta Richmond is ready to close the book on her career.

By PAT SWARTZENBULDER

ROBERTA RICHMOND, 72, a retired school teacher, is about to sign her last book. The book, "A Woman's Place," is a novel about a woman who must face the challenges of retirement and the empty nest.

Richmond, who retired from teaching at the age of 65, has written several books and is known for her insightful commentary on aging. Her previous novel, "The Empty Nest," was a bestseller and is available on Amazon.

"I've always enjoyed writing about the experiences of women in their midlife years," Richmond said. "It's a time of self-discovery and transition, and I believe my readers will relate to the main character's journey.

"A Woman's Place" is available for pre-order on Richmond's website and will be released on October 1, 2023. A book launch event is scheduled for November 10, 2023, at the local library where Richmond first began her teaching career.

"I'm excited to share this new story with my readers," Richmond said. "I hope it will inspire and offer solace to those who are facing the challenges of retirement and finding their footing in a new chapter of life."
Laker voters getting what they wanted

To the Lake Board's credit, the cuts they proposed on July 4 were not so directly impact the educational process. No school time was cut, while athletic and band programs were cut - not by much but they were cut.

The 1.2 million cut in student support is, in my opinion, the most unfair of cuts. Two million dollars out of a 30 million budget is a lot. The Board was asked to do something and they did.

As a member of the community, I would like to see the Laker Board do something positive for the Laker School District. While I was a member, I was not always happy with the way things were handled, but I was willing to work with the Board to make things better.

I believe the Laker Board is now ready to do just that. I hope the voters will give them the chance to do so.

ReCOLLECTIONS of By-Go-Day

DEAR EDITOR: This is your year when it is dry and hot and farmers are evaporating their corn, beans and beets. You are watching the weather and thinking about the time when it was wet and cool and you were growing crops. This is the time when you remember that you are a farmer and you are working hard.

I believe that outside of agriculture, the only people who really know the value of agriculture are those who have grown up on farms or who have been farmers themselves. I think that our country would be a better place if more people understood the value of agriculture.

I hope that you continue to be a farmer and that you continue to work hard. I hope that you continue to be a good farmer and that you continue to be a good citizen of your community.

Sincerely yours,

[Name]

Fan of Agriculture

Eklont summer program ends, Cunningham fills vacant seat

Elkton summer program ends, Cunningham fills vacant seat

Isidore Cunningham will take the reins of the Elkton School District as of Monday, July 1, 1987. Cunningham, who has been an educator for over 30 years, was appointed to the position by the Board of Education.

Cunningham, a native of Elkton, has been involved in education for many years. He has served as a teacher, principal, and superintendent in various districts throughout the state.

The position opened when the previous superintendent retired. Cunningham has been a long-time resident of Elkton and is familiar with the community.

Cunningham is excited about the opportunity to serve the Elkton School District.

“I am looking forward to working with the students, staff, and community,” Cunningham said. “I believe in providing a quality education for all students.”

Cunningham will be working closely with the Board of Education and the community to ensure a successful transition.

The Elkton School District is located in the southern part of the state and serves approximately 1,200 students.

“I am confident that Mr. Cunningham will do a fantastic job,” said Board President John A. Schaefer. “He has a wealth of experience and a passion for education.”

Cunningham will be sworn in on Monday, July 1. The school district is looking forward to welcoming him into the community.

Statement of Financials

The Elkton School District is committed to providing a quality education for all students. The district's financial statements are available for review online at the school district's website.
Daughter of a bean grower? Queens' Contest is for you!

Friday, July 14 is the actual deadline to enter this year's Queens Contest. That means you have until Wednesday July 14 to submit your entry. If you have not yet entered, you can still do so by 5 p.m. on that day. Entry forms can be picked up at the Courthouse or at the D&P Appliance Center.

The Queens Contest is a tradition that dates back to the early 1900s. It is sponsored by the local bean growers association and is open to all women who live in the county. The winner of the contest is crowned the reigning Queen of the Bean Festival and receives a cash prize as well as other benefits.

In addition to the Queens Contest, there are also other events happening during the Bean Festival. These include a parade, a bean cook-off, and a variety of musical performances. The festival is a popular event and attracts hundreds of visitors from around the country.

To enter the Queens Contest, you must submit an application form, along with a photo and a personal essay. The essay should discuss your connection to the bean industry and why you want to be the next Queen of the Bean Festival.

The judges will select the winner based on their essay, their essay, and their overall presentation. The winner will be announced on July 14 and will reign for the duration of the festival.

If you are interested in entering the Queens Contest, you can find more information at the D&P Appliance Center or by visiting the Bean Festival website. Good luck to all potential contestants!
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Pigeon Council CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ple of Pigeon should not have to pay tax dollar one for this, I think we'd be wrong if we'd have the village of Pigeon financially support this now, in any way." Member David McCork- mick, who made the motion supporting the plan, added. "Our intentions is to not have the village pay anything for this." Member Rob Mezinek agreed, saying, "If we can set it up with that thought in mind, then I am for it." Kraft noted some govern-

ment agency has to be liable for such a project, to receive federal funds. "Someone has to be on the hook. That is how you get the 90% and 5% (state share). I want to be fair about that, and clear about that." The 5%, local match portion has already been raised.

OTHERS SOUGHT: Kraft says he hopes Winzer Fair Haven and McKinley Townships join in the plan, and others will also be sought. He said he believes Caseville Township officials - where the airport site is located and which first supported the airport plan in 1988 ultimately "will see the wisdom of being part of the airport commission, since it's in their township."

A majority of the present Caseville Township Board, however, voted in the past year to step out of the project.

BRIGHT FUTURE: Phinney said, "I’m looking at what’s for the good of the en-
tire community. When you go around the bay to Tawas, you’ll see what’s been done there. The same could be done in the western part of Huron County."