

JANUARY/NEWS

FROM PAGE 4

JAN. 12

Divers recover one body
 TRAVERSE CITY — Divers late Saturday afternoon recovered the body of one of two men who went through the ice of Long Lake Thursday night.

The body of Matthew R. Wyn, 36, of Traverse City was brought up from the icy water just after 4 p.m. Saturday, about three hours after divers found one of the two snowmobiles that Wyn and a companion were riding Thursday night. They apparently drove their sleds off the ice into the open water.

The other man, 32-year-old David L. Swanson of Traverse City, is still missing. Sheriff's Department divers were to continue searching for his body shortly after day-break today.

Saturday's search for Wyn and Swanson was temporarily delayed after divers, getting ready to continue at around 9 a.m., were called to another accident scene at the south end of Long Lake where another man had gone through the ice on his snowmobile and drowned. Search crews returned at around 11 a.m. and continued diving in the icy water until dusk.

JAN. 13

Walker, Palsrok join House

LANSING — The office walls still largely were bare and most of the boxes remained unpacked as freshman state Rep. Howard Walker rushed off for his first legislative undertaking. For the Traverse City Republican, whose 104th District includes Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties, the early days of his new political career have been a blur of orientation sessions and strategy meetings.

"It has been a whirlwind," Walker said just before the 92nd state Legislature was sworn into office. "The learning curve is rather steep. ... The amount of information you need to digest is tremendous. But I feel very comfort-



Walker



Palsrok

able in the position."

Walker, along with Manistee Republican Rep. David Palsrok of the 101st District, are among 50 new freshmen state House members seated this month, a nearly 50 percent turnover rate in the lower chamber largely created by the state's term limit law. With a nearly 5 percent deficit in the state budget — close to \$2 billion — and the Legislative and Executive branches split between Republican and Democrat control, most observers believe compromise and cooperation among lawmakers will be critical to resolving the budget crunch and tackling other state issues.

JAN. 13

Schools to put in system

TRAVERSE CITY — Traverse City Area Public Schools will install an emergency communication system this spring that will be able to reach each of its school buildings and buses in the

event of an emergency.

The mobile radio system will allow employees in every school and bus and administrators at the central office to contact one another by radio, according to Gary Derrigan, executive director of operations.

Superintendent James Pavelka said the district has been examining its emergency response mechanisms over the past three years while developing a district-wide crisis plan.

JAN. 14

Cadillac watchdog Ziel dies

CADILLAC — Ralph Ziel, known by many as the Cadillac area's most diligent watchdog of local government, died Sunday in Cape Coral, Fla. He was 86.

A resident of Haring Township since 1975, Ziel not only attended most governmental meetings but also spoke out at them. He rarely missed a Wexford County Board of Commissioners meeting, had been a regular at Haring Township Board meetings and even attended many Cadillac City Council meetings, though he did not live in the city.

JAN. 15

Pair can't rent out homes

BELLAIRE — An Antrim County Circuit Court judge has issued a permanent

injunction against a couple, preventing them from renting their Torch Lake homes for short periods of time.

The Denver homeowners, who describe themselves as middle-class, say they now will be forced to sell the properties, which were handed down through the family.

Judge Philip Rodgers Jr. ruled that Jeff and Marilyn Ackerman's rental of two houses they own on Torch Lake amounted to a commercial operation, in violation of both the township's single-family residential zoning in that area and the deed restrictions on the homes.

JAN. 18

Couple charged in arson

PETOSKEY — A couple who fled the area in August while facing store break-in charges has now been charged with a slew of other crimes, including the arson that destroyed a nearly completed Alanson hotel.

Emmet County Prosecutor Robert Engel said Friday that Blair Collins Welham, 23, and his wife, Melissa Sue Welham, 22, of Petoskey each have been additionally charged with arson of real property and breaking and entering with intent to commit a larceny. Each felony charge carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison.

The charges are related to

the Aug. 20 fire at the Crooked River Lodge Best Western hotel on U.S. 31 North in Alanson. The fire marshal division of the Michigan State Police determined several separate fires were set at the hotel, which was heavily damaged.

JAN. 21

TART, Leelanau trails to link

TRAVERSE CITY — A long-sought link between the Traverse Area Recreational Trail and the Leelanau Trail has fallen in place after three easements were turned over to the city commission.

The easements will provide a way to connect the TART Trail at M-72 north to the Leelanau Trail starting at Carter Road.

The link will create a continuous 25-mile trail route from Acme to Suttons Bay and bridge a quarter-mile gap between the two trails where trail users presently have to travel along busy state road M-22.

JAN. 22

Grayling seeks DDA

GRAYLING — City and business leaders here are studying the possibility of forming a Downtown Development Authority to lead efforts to spruce up downtown and business districts.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 6

New Fabric Store

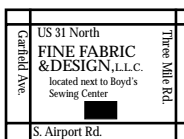
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