

## FEBRUARY/NEWS

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ing religion majors was added in an amendment in 1980.

## FEB. 17

**Residents dedicate school**

MANISTEE — It includes large gym, full-sized theater

A school trustee read a poem. A principal sang a song. Students cheered.

Hundreds who attended the dedication Sunday of

Manistee's new \$22 million high school, which opens for classes today, gave the new building outstanding marks.

In addition to a gym which is large enough for three basketball teams to practice at once, and a full-sized theater which will enable theater classes to stage elaborate productions, the science rooms are up-to-date and the school is equipped with computers throughout.

## FEB. 17

**Missing sled leads to items**

MANISTEE — An investigation into a stolen snowmobile Saturday led to the recovery of hundreds of items of stolen property from 20 break-ins and other thefts, police said.

Two men were arrested after police executed search warrants at three homes and a business in Manistee and Benzie counties, state police said.

Troopers said they uncovered the crime ring after a deputy from the Manistee County Sheriff snowmobile patrol stopped someone around 5 p.m. who was driving a snowmobile that had been reported stolen.

## FEB. 18

**TC talks consolidation**

TRAVERSE CITY — Northport Public Schools has asked Traverse City Area Public Schools to consider merging the two districts, giving Northport access to more programming and increasing Traverse City's state aid payment by as much as \$1,300 per pupil.

Northport Superintendent Richard Cross and Traverse City Superintendent James Pavelka have secured the approval of their respective school boards to discuss the possibility of the two districts consolidating, annexing or in some way sharing programs.

Cross said he decided to approach Pavelka with the idea because of looming state cuts this year and a possible 11 percent reduction next year in state aid.

## FEB. 18

**West Bay freezes over**

TRAVERSE CITY — Any doubts that it's been a hardy, old-fashioned winter can be put on ice — as in a frozen Grand Traverse Bay.

The U.S. Coast Guard has officially declared West Grand Traverse Bay as frozen — for the first time in seven years — following another weekend cold snap during which temperatures plunged below zero overnight under calm, moonlit skies.

The bay is officially considered frozen when West Bay is iced over from the Traverse City shore north for the 6½-mile stretch to Power Island. That probably happened sometime late last week, according to Coast Guard officials, based on their observations early Monday.

## FEB. 19

**'Leelanau' can be used**

TRAVERSE CITY — A federal judge has reversed his ruling on the use of the word "Leelanau" by wine makers, making way for bottles of wine other than those of Leelanau Wine Cellars to carry the name.

In a decision released Friday, U.S. District Court Judge Gordon J. Quist overruled a decision he made in August that forced the makers of Chateau de Leelanau to take a black marker to their wine labels to cover up the name.

Quist's decision means the case is closed and Chateau de Leelanau can resume use

of its name.

The trademark infringement case began in 2001 when Leelanau Wine Cellars sued Chateau de Leelanau's parent company, Black & Red Inc., claiming that consumers confused the two brands.

## FEB. 19

**Woman jailed on bond**

GAYLORD — A woman who claimed to witness the 1986 beating death of Jerry Tobias whose testimony sent four men to prison was given a \$1 million bond in court Tuesday, after returning from Utah to face charges of perjury.

46th Trial Court District Judge Patricia Morse ordered Debra Parmentier Herrick, 47, jailed on the bond conditions. Parmentier faces eight counts of perjury. The charges stem from her testimony at post murder conviction hearings for Walter "Terry" Moore and Mark Canter, where she is accused of attempting to use forged documents to bolster her credibility.

Susan Sanford, an assistant state attorney general, said a charge of absconding on bond, a four-year felony, also will be added to the list of charges.

Parmentier faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted of perjury.

## FEB. 20

**Park closer to reality**

CHARLEVOIX — A proposed park for the eastern portion of Charlevoix County is a step closer to reality.

The county parks and recreation committee Tuesday unanimously recommended county commissioners approve funding to move a portion of Magee Road in Hudson Township. The move is seen as necessary to develop Thumb Lake/Lake Louise Park.

Hudson Township trustee Caroline Kobylczak, a member of the county parks and recreation committee, said Magee Road runs very close to the lake, near a rustic

beach area. The number of cars parked on both sides of the road, and children running across, make it dangerous, she said.

Grant opportunities for developing the park are expected to open up, once the road is moved, Kobylczak said.

## FEB. 20

**Groups stay out of debate**

TRAVERSE CITY — City and Grand Traverse County commissioners have decided to stay out of the public debate — at least collectively — over the future of District Judge Thomas Gilbert.

Both the Traverse City Commission and the Grand Traverse County board this week took no action on an "impeachment" resolution for Judge Gilbert brought forward by Traverse City resident LaVern Broughton, a longtime watchdog of local government.

Gilbert touched off a local firestorm — and a national wave of pot-smoking commentary — after he admitted last fall to smoking marijuana at a Rolling Stones concert in downtown Detroit. He subsequently underwent a four-week rehab program for a self-admitted alcohol problem that he said led to his drug use.

In December, commissioners in Antrim County voted 8-1 in favor of a resolution asking Gilbert to resign as district judge. But government leaders here so far have distanced themselves from the controversy.

On Tuesday, city commissioners voted 4-3 to "receive and file" Broughton's request — the bureaucratic equivalent of shelving it indefinitely. Grand Traverse County board members similarly dismissed it Wednesday.

## FEB. 21

**Cherry Capital name stays**

TRAVERSE CITY — A new look will not mean a new name for the Cherry Capital Airport.

The Northwestern Regional

Airport Commission has agreed not to change the name of the Cherry Capital Airport. A new title of "Traverse Regional Airport" was being considered by airport officials as completion nears of the facility's new \$17.5 million terminal.

The idea met with significant opposition from officials in Leelanau and Grand Traverse counties, which jointly own the airport.

Airport officials were encouraged by the public response to the issue — even though it was largely negative. They said it showed that area residents feel some ownership in the facility and are concerned with its future.

The airport's name was changed to Cherry Capital in 1971 after years as the Traverse City Airport.

## FEB. 21

**Stoppage hits 100 days**

PETOSKEY — Today marks the nurse strike at Northern Michigan Hospital's 100th day — and the day after an imposed deadline by hospital administrators for the nurses' union to accept their "final offer."

Hospital spokesman Thomas Spencer said administrators plan to announce today whether they will now begin to implement portions of their final offer for nurses who did not strike. Those portions include a 3-percent wage increase and increases in starting pay for nurses.

"We are greatly disappointed that the union ... failed to take that historic opportunity and accept our final offer," Spencer said.

Spencer also noted the hospital's "months of good-faith bargaining" that preceded the strike, and that the decision to implement portions of the final offer comes after a "lengthy impasse between the parties."

Ted Iorio, attorney for Teamsters Local 406, said union officials can't control what the hospital does.