

MARCH/NEWS

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MARCH 11

TC reserve unit called up
TRAVERSE CITY — The 182nd Army Reserve transportation company based in Traverse City has been mobilized, affecting around 200 reservists in the area who could be sent away from home for up to a year.

“Most individuals are upbeat about it,” said Capt. Jeff Dukavas, the unit’s commander. “Obviously there are the usual difficulties associated with saying goodbye, and that’s to be expected.”

The unit is trained to transport bulk fuel, but Dukavas does not know where the reservists are headed or for how long. The unit will head to a mobilization station this weekend, but Dukavas said he does not know which station.

The most recent time the 182nd was called into active

duty was in 1991, when the unit was sent to Saudi Arabia to serve during the Gulf War.

MARCH 11**Skate park fees approved**

TRAVERSE CITY — In-line skaters and skateboarders will likely have to pay to use the skate park at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center when it opens this spring.

Fees would be \$75 for a season pass, \$30 for a 30-day pass and \$2.50 for a one-day pass under a plan approved by the county Parks and Recreation Commission Monday. Last August the county board closed the park after complaints from parents that volunteer supervision of skaters wasn’t working. Parents complained of bad behavior, violence and cursing, and said some older kids had bullied smaller ones. The facility was reopened three weeks later with park staff supervision for the rest of the season.

The county board made it clear that the 2-year-old park would no longer be open without staff supervision and called for a plan to cover the payroll.

MARCH 12**Deed completes Fox swap**

TRAVERSE CITY — Nine years of what was termed “highly politicized” debate over the future of South Fox Island land described by environmentalists as “magnificent” was resolved quietly Friday with the filing of a simple quit claim deed.

The deed filed in the Leelanau County Register of Deeds office in Leland completed a controversial land swap between state officials and Auburn Hills developer David V. Johnson.

Johnson, who developed the Bay Harbor resort outside Petoskey, owns some two-thirds of the nearly 3,400-acre island northwest of the Leelanau peninsula.

The deal angered state and local environmental groups which have vigorously opposed the exchange. They say the Michigan Department of Natural Resources gave up state land on the island that was environmentally unique. State officials defended the transfer as making the island more accessible and useable for the public.

MARCH 12**School merger unlikely**

TRAVERSE CITY — An annexation with Traverse City Area Public Schools is unlikely if a proposal by the governor is approved, says the superintendent of Northport Public School.

“Frankly, I’m hoping what appears to be isn’t the truth,” Richard Cross said. “But I am also on to the next thing. I want a school here, and I am going to do everything it takes.”

Under her proposed state budget, Gov. Jennifer

Granholm would eliminate a law providing financial incentives for schools to consolidate.

An annexation with Northport School would bring in an additional \$14 million for Traverse City schools under the current law.

MARCH 13**NMC tuition will increase**

TRAVERSE CITY — Six days after being told to expect a 6.5 percent reduction in state aid, Northwestern Michigan College trustees voted to raise tuition by 9 percent for the coming year.

It was the largest tuition hike at the school in 10 years.

NMC President Timothy Nelson said there are concerns state aid cuts could actually be as much as 14 percent, well above the 6.5 percent cut announced by Gov. Jennifer Granholm last

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