

MARCH/NEWS

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arranged fight.”

MARCH 22

TC man faces prison

KALKASKA — A Traverse City man accused of a four-county crime rampage was denied bond by a judge Tuesday, three days after wounding a deputy in an exchange of gunfire.

Tracy Duane Lautner, 31, faces up to life in prison on 11 counts, including auto theft, fleeing police, car jacking, home invasion, armed robbery and assault with intent to murder.

He also faces counts of possessing a firearm while committing a felony and being a habitual offender.

Police believe he wanted to leave the state based on writings of his they found, Kalkaska County Prosecutor Brian Donnelly said.

MARCH 23

Eight picketers charged

TRAVERSE CITY — Misdemeanor charges have been filed against eight protesters who briefly held up a convoy of Army reservists pulling out of Traverse City Monday morning.

The eight were charged with molesting/disturbing workers, a 90-day misdemeanor.

All are free on bond. They are scheduled to be arraigned next week in 86th District Court.

They are Frances (Kay) Bond, 58, of Beulah; Sarah MacFarlane Neal, 72, of Northport; Susan L. Lavender, 55, of Honor; Robert A. Bartle, 39, of Cedar; Edmund N. Frost, 26, of Frankfort; Daniel J. Kelly, 39, of Beulah; Joseph G. Flowers, 22, of Cedar; and Zacariah G. Johnson, 22, of Ludington.

The group briefly blocked the departure of the 182nd Transportation Company as it attempted to pull out of the Army Reserve Center on Airport Access Road.

MARCH 24

Airport terminal delayed

TRAVERSE CITY — New security measures to deal with terrorism threats will delay the opening of the new Cherry Capital Airport airline terminal by up to a year.

That's because a large checked baggage processing room must be added to the terminal.

The federal Transportation Security Administration is requiring the 7,000-square-foot addition to house four large \$1 million machines to scan checked baggage for explosives, weapons and other prohibited contents. The federal agency didn't sign off on the plans for the additional space until

recently, said Mike Deegan, assistant federal security director in northern Michigan.

Without the go-ahead, airport manager Stephen Cassens said, the Northwestern Regional Airport Commission that operates the airport couldn't order final engineering work and seek bids.

MARCH 26

Kur, county settle suit

CHARLEVOIX — A fired Charlevoix County chief assistant prosecutor claimed vindication Tuesday, with the announcement that the county and its prosecutor have agreed to a judgment in his whistleblower lawsuit.

Attorneys for the county and prosecutor Mary Beth Kur, however, portrayed the judgment as a method to make further costs of the lawsuit go away.

Under terms of the stipulat-

ed judgment, former chief deputy prosecutor John Jarema will accept \$50,000 from the county and Kur, ending the suit.

Jarema last year sued the county for more than \$25,000 in damages. He claimed he was fired in February 2002 because Kur discovered he was compiling information and preparing to present it to county commissioners that showed other assistant attorneys were receiving pay for hours not worked.

Kur has denied any fraud or mismanagement. She said Jarema was fired for disloyalty and disruptions to office harmony.



Kur

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