

MARCH/NEWS

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**MARCH 28**

**Northport may cut teachers**

**NORTHPORT** — The teaching staff at Northport Public Schools, which has been cut from 28 to 18 over the last two years, could lose three more positions next year through layoffs.

Meanwhile, officials from Traverse City Area Public Schools, which is seeking to annex the Northport district, said it will help Northport even if a formal merger falters.

Northport superintendent Rick Cross outlined the difficulties facing the tiny K-12 district — which has seen declining enrollment in recent years — in a written report to the board of education.

Cross expects declining enrollment and the lack of inflation adjustments in state aid to cost the district between \$150,000 and \$250,000 a year for the next four years.

Northport's total operating budget is \$2.5 million annually. To deal with the shortfall, Cross anticipates laying off three teachers who fill 2½ full-time positions.

**MARCH 28**

**No pact for NMH, nurses**

**PETOSKEY** — Northern Michigan Hospital administrators and striking nurses failed to reach agreement Wednesday on an unfair labor practices claim.

The two sides were meeting to resolve an earlier charge filed by Teamsters Local 406, the union representing the nurses. The National Labor



Record-Eagle file photo/Elizabeth Conley

**Beverly Proctor, the Elks Club Exalted Ruler.**

Relations Board directed the two sides to try to reach a negotiated settlement on the issue.

The charge involved the hospital's payment of vaca-

tion pay to nurses shortly after the strike commenced Nov. 14.

**MARCH 29**

**Vandals damage cars**

**KALKASKA** — Vandals scratched 14 pickup trucks at a car dealership Tuesday night, causing up to \$7,000 in damage, according to Kalkaska police.

Police believe the damage to the trucks at Dan McCormick Ford-Chrysler-Plymouth-Dodge was done between 6 p.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. Wednesday when someone took a sharp object and scratched the vehicles in different areas.

**MARCH 31**

**Elks name female 'Ruler'**

**TRAVERSE CITY** — For all but the last seven of its

107 years, the Traverse City lodge of the Elks Club was an all-male group. Saturday it celebrated the election of its first female Exalted Ruler, Beverly H. Proctor.

At 4 feet, 11 inches tall, the 62-year-old Proctor is also its tiniest top officer and is certainly one of the lodge's most energetic, members say.

She was the second woman member of Lodge 323, following Ann Peterson, who was admitted in 1996. Today the lodge has more than 25 women among its 1,000 members.

Becoming Exalted Ruler for 2003-2004 was a great honor, Proctor said as her four children, a niece and their spouses watched. A golden chain of medallions known as the jewels of office was placed around her neck.

MARCH/SPORTS

**MARCH 1**

**Trojans move to semis**

**BATTLE CREEK** — Traverse City Central's history-making wrestling season keeps rolling on.

The Trojans (30-3) advanced to today's Division I state semifinals for the first time ever by edging Roseville 30-22 in Friday's quarterfinal round at Kellogg Arena.

The score was tied 22-22 before seniors Ty Curtis and John Ostlund posted back-to-back victories.

Curtis handed Thomas Gizowski a 21-6 technical fall at 160 pounds to put Central on top by five points, then Ostlund wrapped it up with a 9-2 decision over Darrell Brault at 171.

**MARCH 2**

**West claims district title**

**CADILLAC** — After a one-year absence, Traverse City West regained its district volleyball crown.

The Titans topped TC Central 16-14, 15-13 in the

finals of the Class A district at Cadillac on Saturday. The Titans (48-10) advance to next Saturday's regional at Petoskey.

The Titans had to dig down because nothing came easy on Saturday.

TC West opened with a 15-11, 17-19, 15-13 victory over Gaylord and downed Cadillac 15-10, 15-11 in the semifinals.

**MARCH 9**

**Marquette claims title**

**TRAVERSE CITY** — Jeff Spencer saved his best for last.

So did the Marquette Redmen.

Traverse City Central's Spencer, a 6-foot-5 senior, poured in a career-high 40 points, including 19 in the fourth quarter, but his performance wasn't enough to save the Trojans from playoff elimination on Saturday.

The Redmen hit 8 of 12 shots in the fourth quarter their best shooting period of the game and held on for a 70-62 victory over Central in

the Class A district basketball final at TC West.

The win raised Marquette's record to 22-1, matching the school's 1973 squad for most victories in team history.

The district title was also the first for the Redmen since 1990.

**MARCH 12**

**'Dogs win tourney games**

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — The Traverse City Bulldogs got off to a good start at the National Home School Tournament in Oklahoma City with a pair of wins on Tuesday.

The Bulldogs are one of 16 undefeated teams in the 64-team tournament. Teams are guaranteed four games in the tournament.

Traverse City opened with a 63-28 rout of Lubbock, Texas. All 10 Bulldogs scored in the victory, led by 16 points from Devon Hobbs and 12 from Jordan Miller.

The Bulldogs then beat Little Rock, Ark. 59-49. TC led by as many as 25 points in the contest.



Record-Eagle file photo/Elizabeth Conley

The volleyball season wound down with wins by Forest Area, above, and Traverse City West.