

APRIL/NEWS

APRIL 1

GT Resort's sale official

PESHAWBESTOWN — The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians completed the purchase of the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa Monday but will have to operate for a while without a liquor license.

The band bought the resort, the largest in the Midwest, from KSL Recreation Inc. of La Quinta, Calif.

No price was disclosed, but band officials earlier indicated the price fell somewhere between the \$45 million KSL paid for it and the \$85 million KSL was asking.

The state Liquor Control Commission received the liquor license transfer application March 3.

The process usually takes several months, according to lawyers familiar with commission procedures.

APRIL 1

Winery to expand

OLD MISSION — Chateau Chantal Winery and Bed and Breakfast is celebrating its 10th birthday in a big way — with a \$2.5 million expansion.

The new 15,000-square-foot wing will increase lodging from two to 10 suites, add a manager's apartment, expand the winery and create a large multi-purpose room with a kitchen.

The expansion will allow the winery to produce about 70,000 gallons a year, up from 30,000 now.

The project is being financed through Bank One with a partial loan guarantee from the federal Department of Agriculture.

Winery president Robert Begin said the addition should be completed and ready for business on July 1, the Chateau's 10th anniversary. The Chateau stands on the highest hill of the north end of the Old Mission Peninsula and is surrounded by vineyards and cherry orchards. Begin said the design of the building gives all rooms good views of the countryside as well as Grand Traverse Bay.

APRIL 2

Breath tests to be random

GRAYLING — Crawford AuSable Schools officials have backed off a proposal to test every student attending the prom with a preliminary breath test.

Now, prom attendees will be tested at random or if they are suspected of drinking.

The school board voted 5-to-1 March 25 to have police do random testing after further considering the proposal and getting advice from school attorneys.

School board president Karl Schreiner, who is also the Grayling City Police Chief, said legal counsel advised school officials they may have a problem if a student was denied access to the prom if he or she refused to take the test and then challenged the district.

APRIL 3

Area kids vie for title

TRAVERSE CITY — During the National Geographic Bee, contestants know the questions can be all over the map.

The winner of Friday's state competition, which will feature some area students, will be an expert not only in geography but also art, religion, culture, history and science.

According to Wayne Kiefer, a professor at Central Michigan University and the coordinator of the state competition, about 100 students in fourth through eighth grades will compete Friday for the state championship in Mount Pleasant. Seven are from northern Lower Michigan. The winner continues to the national finals on May 20.

Students qualify for the state event by placing first in a school contest and then by scoring among the top 100 in the state in a written test.

Adam Brown, a Traverse City homeschool student in the seventh grade, participated this year for the first time and earned a spot in the state competition.

Alex Lane, also of Traverse City, earned his third trip to the state contest. Lane, cur-



Record-Eagle file photo/Elizabeth Conley

Grand Traverse Resort was bought by the GT Band.

rently an eighth-grade student at East Junior High, won the state competition as a sixth grader and later finished in 14th place at the national finals. Last year, Lane lost in the state final to the eventual national winner.

Other area students competing include Sean Brennan of East Jordan, Chris Matthews of Harbor Springs, John Phillips of Manistee, David Keep of Traverse City and Mitchell Treadwell of Traverse City.

APRIL 4

Parents go to high court

HARBOR SPRINGS — The parents of a disqualified high school skier plan to take their quest to prove the Michigan High School Athletic Association is a public body subject to the Freedom of Information Act to the summit of the state judicial system.

Attorney Martin Breighner III said he and his wife, Kathryn, have filed to have

their lawsuit against the MHSAA considered by the Michigan Supreme Court.

The Breighners' son, Jordan, was disqualified from the 2001 state high school regional final ski meet, because he had allegedly skied in too many non-sanctioned events. Martin Breighner said when he asked the school for a copy of any rules his son had broken, a school official said they did not have any.

APRIL 4

Skate park opens

TRAVERSE CITY — The county skate park at the Civic Center is open for the season — although the winter-like weather during spring break has made for a slow start.

The skate park opened Wednesday with a new admission fee and operating rules that were laid down by county officials after some complaints about behavioral problems at the park last season.

The skate park now has

supervisory staff and skaters are charged a \$2.50 daily admission fee. A 30-day pass is available for \$30 and a season pass good through November costs \$75. The fees are being used to offset the cost of the supervisory personnel.

Helmets are also required for all skaters this season.

APRIL 5

Team seeks input

GAYLORD — A citizens group formed to help Gaylord Community Schools is moving forward.

The group of 20 business and community leaders, which offered to help the Gaylord school board and administration in February, has become the Gaylord Community Schools-School Improvement Team.

Under state Public Act 25, school districts are required to have such a team.

The group will be charged with defining what the community wants the Gaylord district to be like within the next three to five years.

APRIL 6

Township may buy system

ACME — Acme Township is looking at the possibility of buying the water system that serves the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa.

The township board gave supervisor Dave Amon permission to investigate the purchase from the resort's new owners, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Currently, the township does not have its own water system. Amon said buying the resort's would benefit the Town Center proposal — a plan to build a neighborhood community on a 240-acre parcel of land at M-72 and Lautner Road. The Town Center would include homes, shops, hotels, parks and government centers.

APRIL 7

Student wins competition

TRAVERSE CITY — An eighth-grade student at

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