

APRIL / NEWS

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Traverse City West Junior High took top honors at the state competition of the National Geographic Bee Friday. Mitchell Treadwell, 13, was the state winner in the contest. He will go to Washington, D.C., to represent Michigan in the national competition on May 20.

For winning the competition, Treadwell will receive an all-expense paid trip to the national contest as well as \$100.

This was the second time Treadwell, who is the son of Frank Treadwell and Melinda Mitchell of Traverse City, qualified for the state contest. He competed against 97 other Michigan fourth through eighth graders at the competition, held on the campus of Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant.

APRIL 8

Deck dedicated to Hardy

TRAVERSE CITY — One of the largest public projects in the city's history will be named after former city commissioner Larry C. Hardy.

The city commission voted unanimously Monday night to dedicate the new downtown parking deck at Front and State streets to the former mayor, who died a year ago next week after a long battle with cancer just weeks after delivering the deciding vote on financing the \$8 million parking deck.

The proposal to name the deck for Hardy was made by the city's Downtown Development Authority board. DDA officials said Hardy was a staunch supporter of the parking deck, which will open in late June, and a longtime advocate of the downtown business community.

APRIL 8

Experts discuss arts

TRAVERSE CITY — Calling Traverse City an "auspicious setting" in which to discuss the role of the arts

in education, a series of speakers foretold that an inaugural weeklong seminar hosted by the city would serve as a model for other communities.

The National Overture of Education and the Arts, sponsored by The Institute for Education and the Arts, began Monday with an opening ceremony at Milliken Auditorium at Northwestern Michigan College.

At the event, a number of national and area experts discussed how to strengthen education and the community through the arts.

APRIL 8

Cleanup plans on hold

TRAVERSE CITY — The state's budget woes could jeopardize a \$1 million grant that developers say is crucial to some of the environmental cleanup around the Grand Traverse Commons.

The state has placed a moratorium on a brownfield grant program administered by the Department of Environmental Quality. The Minervini Group was counting on \$1 million from the program for environmental cleanup and building demolition around historic Building 50 and other parts of the Grand Traverse Commons campus.

The grant has been held up since fall because of the state's budget problems. State officials put a moratorium on issuing any new brownfield development grants created through the Clean Michigan Initiative approved by voters five years ago, holding off on selling the remaining \$5 million in bonds from the \$20 million originally created in the program.

DEQ officials said the state is planning to sell those remaining bonds sometime this spring, pending approval by the state Department of Treasury.

APRIL 9

Hoffa to speak at rally

PETOSKEY — James Hoffa, general president of the

International Brotherhood of Teamsters will speak at a Saturday "unity rally" for striking nurses at Petoskey's Northern Michigan Hospital.

Hoffa will join Michigan AFL-CIO director Mark Gaffney and other officials at the 2 p.m. rally, which will be held at the Knights of Columbus hall at 1106 Charlevoix Ave.

Nurses at the hospital have been on strike since Nov. 14 when negotiations for a first-time contract between the Teamsters union and the hospital broke down.

APRIL 10

Agencies weigh merger

TRAVERSE CITY — Two area mental health agencies serving six counties and more than 6,000 clients could merge later this year.

A group representing the Great Lakes and North Central community mental health boards is working on a

plan to combine the two agencies. The move would be subject to approval by county boards in the six counties that would be involved in the merger.

Under the proposal, the two agencies would become a single mental health board serving Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties — which presently make up Great Lakes CMH — along with Wexford, Missaukee, Crawford and Roscommon counties, which comprise North Central.

To reduce administrative overhead, the state Department of Community Health has been pressing local governments to combine mental health agencies into areas that service at least 20,000 Medicaid-eligible residents each.

APRIL 11

Ice arena may close early

CADILLAC — County offi-

cial are proposing to close the ice arena at the Wexford County Civic Center two months early and reduce summer hours for the rest of the building to help slow continuing deficits.

Members of the county board's finance subcommittee will recommend next week that the county close the rink May 3, according to commissioner Alan Devereaux.

It usually remains open through the end of June.

APRIL 12


Project is \$18M short

TRAVERSE CITY — Grand Traverse County is short \$18 million for its Hartman-Hammond road and bridge project, but officials are confident the money will be there when they need it.

The county has secured a

PLEASE SEE PAGE 22

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The Raymond James & Associates Equity Research Department has released their *Analysts' Best Picks* for 2004. The list includes individual stocks our analysts expect to produce superior overall results during the upcoming year—stocks that may help your portfolio pick up the pace.

| | Best Picks List ¹ | S&P 500 |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| 5-yr. avg. ² | 46.5% | -0.9% |
| 2003 ³ | 35.3% | 17.8% |
| 2002 | -1.3% | -24.0% |
| 2001 | 10.3% | -16.2% |
| 2000 | 45.1% | -6.0% |
| 1999 | 143.1% | 23.7% |
| 1998 | 37.6% | 28.7% |


For more information on the 2004 *Analysts' Best Picks* or a no-obligation portfolio review, please contact me today.

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¹Price appreciation only with stock performances averaged as if an equal dollar allocation was made to each stock at the beginning of the period and held to the end of the following year. ²An average of 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 (YTD through 12/12/03). ³*Analysts' Best Picks* and S&P performance for 2003 based on prices through the close of 12/12/03. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Individual results will vary and transaction costs related to investing in these stocks will affect overall performance. There is no assurance that the list will achieve the results expected and investors may incur profits or losses. The S&P is an unmanaged index of 500 widely held stocks that is generally considered representative of the U.S. Stock Market.

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