

## APRIL/NEWS

## FROM PAGE 22

ing the 911 communications department has had on the general fund. About \$340,000 will be pulled from the county's \$2.2 million general fund budget to operate the department during the current budget year.

## APRIL 18

## Board pursues renewal

GAYLORD — Otsego County Library officials will ask voters in August to renew an existing operating millage and approve a second levy that would fund construction of a new library.

The Library Board voted to ask county commissioners to place the two proposals on an Aug. 5 special election ballot.

Voters will be asked to renew for five years a 0.4-mill proposal scheduled to expire at the end of the year. If approved, the owner of a home with a \$50,000 taxable value would continue to pay \$20 in taxes per year.

The renewal would generate about \$379,000 annually, which is half the funding used to operate the library beyond the penal fines and donations collected every year, said library director Maureen Derenzy.

## APRIL 19

## Influx of people brings woes

TRAVERSE CITY — Strong population growth in much of northwest lower Michigan poses both opportunities and problems, local planners and government officials say.

A clean environment, good schools, low crime and great recreational opportunities cause thousands of people to move to the region each year.

"We're seeing people who had second homes here who are now in their 40s and 50s and either retiring early or just uprooting and moving up, and that means more residing here on a year-round basis," said Charles Clarke, Benzie County administrator.

Benzie had the region's fastest population growth rate, 5.13 percent, between the 2000 Census and July 1,

2002. The 13-county northwest region saw an average 3.08 percent gain, compared to 1.13 percent for the state, according to bureau estimates. Nine of the region's counties were among the state's top 16 for growth.

## APRIL 19

## Land deal may settle case

TRAVERSE CITY — A long-pending IOU between the county and city over thousands of dollars in unpaid court revenues could be resolved through a land deal to create more public park land at the Grand Traverse Commons.

The county has offered to turn over four lots to the city near the intersection of Division and 11th streets to resolve the county's \$181,294 debt to the city for unpaid court cost revenues from traffic tickets issued in the city from 1990 to 2001.

City officials discovered the discrepancy last year.

The issue threatened to create a major rift between the city and county, especially after some city officials suggested that interest payments be tacked on to the debt because the city went without the revenue for several years. County officials didn't want to pay interest on the debt and then questioned how many years the county was legally obligated to go back and repay the debt.

## APRIL 19

## Hospital to cut positions

GRAYLING — Mercy Hospital Grayling has found itself in the bittersweet position of having to eliminate 15 positions before proceeding with a \$2.6 million capital improvement project.

The hospital is \$1.25 million in the red, and its fiscal year doesn't end till June 30.

To address the funding shortfall, 15 hospital positions have been eliminated.

Stephanie Riemer-Matzak, the hospital's CEO, said most of the job cuts were achieved by restructuring or merging responsibilities. The hospital also combined some adminis-

trative positions, such as community education director, fiscal fund development director and community liaison, into one position.

It will be 45 days before the hospital learns the overall impact of the job cuts because some employees will move into existing vacant positions, she said.

## APRIL 19

## Hit man solicitor jailed

TRAVERSE CITY — A nurse who tried to hire a hit man to kill her husband was sentenced to jail time, during a hearing in which the judge wondered why she had not filed for divorce instead of hatching a plan to have him killed.

Diann L. Kubik, 50, of Traverse City, was sentenced to three months in jail, with credit for 42 days, and a 60-month probation. She pleaded guilty in March to a charge of solicitation of assault with intent to do great bodily harm.

Sentencing guidelines call for zero to three months of jail time for the charge.

## APRIL 19

## Region tops growth guess

TRAVERSE CITY — Benzie County posted the second fastest population growth rate in the state, while four other area counties were among the state's top 10 growing counties, according to U.S. Census Bureau population estimates released this week.

Benzie led the area with a 5.13 percent growth between the 2000 Census and 2002.

Grand Traverse was third statewide with a 4.65 percent increase. Otsego, which recorded a 3.67 percent gain, came in fourth.

Missaukee was eighth with a 3.26 percent gain and Crawford came in ninth with 3.23 percent.

Antrim was not far behind with a 3.02 percent gain that placed it 11th on the state's list of 83 counties. Leelanau ranked 14th with a 2.86 percent rise.

Kalkaska came in 15th on

the state's list, Emmet 16th and Manistee was 26th.

All but two of the region's counties — Charlevoix and Wexford — managed to top the state's average 1.13 percent growth in population.

## APRIL 19

## TCL&amp;P to get grant

TRAVERSE CITY — A \$24,000 grant is headed to Traverse City Light and Power as part of the state's "Rebuild Michigan" energy efficiency program.

The grant will be used to develop efficiency improvements through electric system upgrades in public, commercial and multi-family housing structures around the city. The grant is through the Department of Industry Service and is funded by the federal energy department.

## APRIL 20

## More agencies denied

TRAVERSE CITY — Two more longtime recipients of United Way of Northwest Michigan dollars have been denied funding this year following the agency's revised approach to grant giving.

After numerous years of receiving United Way dollars both Addiction Treatment Services and Child and Family Services of Northwest Michigan did not get grants this year.

This year United Way of Northwest Michigan is taking a new tactic to approving grants, based on a national model most United Ways are following, said Becky

Beauchamp, executive director of the local United Way. The organization is targeting agencies that partner with other nonprofits and that provide clearly demonstrated results.

Addiction Treatment Services and Child and Family Services joins The Salvation Army as longtime recipients of United Way funding turned down for grants this year.

The United Way funded 16 agencies and awarded a total of \$401,000 this year.

One agency to receive fund-

ing was Overlook Resources, which operates the recovery home Miracle Manor for women and their children. Overlook Resources will receive \$15,000, its first award from United Way.

## APRIL 20

## Garbage dumping trashed

GRAYLING — Paul Smith sighed with disbelief when he heard that Canadian trash is being dumped at the Waters landfill near his Crawford County home.

The first semi truck loads of garbage were hauled into the Waters Landfill earlier this week. The landfill anticipates one to two loads of Canadian garbage per day and about 11,000 thousand cubic yards per year, said Tom Horton, governmental affairs manager for Waste Management.

Under the North American Fair Trade Agreement, Canada can ship its garbage into the Michigan because it is part of international trade. At the start of the year, Toronto began sending all 1.1 million tons of waste into the state.

Horton said Waste Management has been accepting Canadian refuse trash at the company's landfills in Wayne County, Port Huron and now Waters.

Bruce Patrick, environmental monitor for Crawford County, said the trash is coming to the landfill from Sudbury, Ontario.

## APRIL 20

## Female exhibit bows

TRAVERSE CITY — More than 100 female visual artists, authors, culinary professionals and musicians will show and sell their works at "From Women's Hands," an all-female exhibition that kicks off Friday, May 2, from 6-10 p.m. at the Grand Traverse Heritage Center (formerly the Traverse City Library).

The opening night celebration will feature entertainment, food, local wines, a raffle for donated art works — and two floors of fine art and

PLEASE SEE PAGE 24