

JUNE/NEWS

JUNE 1

Donation preserves bears

CADILLAC — Larry and Mary Copley have helped ensure that black bears have room to roam west of Cadillac by donating 134 acres of crucial bear corridor to the Manistee National Forest.

The land contains hardwood and softwood ridges, swales and swamps. It has been identified in studies as a major route for bears to take while moving in and out of surrounding wetlands west of Lake Mitchell, said Kenneth Arbogast, spokesman for the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

The land will be open to hunting and other recreation, he said.

On Friday, the forest service dedicated a wooden sign on the north side of M-55 about five miles west of M-115 to recognize the Copleys for their gift.

JUNE 2

Agency to raffle off cabin

LAKE CITY — A county conservation agency will raffle off a log cabin on two acres Dec. 2 to help make up for unstable state funding.

The Missaukee County Conservation District is selling 2,500 tickets at \$50 each for the chance to win the two-bedroom cabin. The cabin is located on Phelps Road a quarter mile west of M-66, a few miles north of Lake City, according to Sherry Blaszak, administrator of the district.

The idea came after the agency learned that its funding from the Michigan Department of Agriculture for this year was being cut from the usual \$58,000 to \$20,000 and will likely be dropped next year, Blaszak said.

JUNE 3

Nurses seek to decertify

PETOSKEY — Northern Michigan Hospital nurses who chose not to go on strike are trying to end the impasse a new way — by decertifying the Teamsters Union that currently represents the nurses.

Laura Hart, a non-striking



Spc. Evonne Williams, from the 182nd Transportation Company listens to her daughter, Keisha Case, 13, as she holds her other daughter Kelsey Case, 10, during a luncheon.

Record-Eagle file photo/Elizabeth Conley

emergency room nurse at the hospital, and some colleagues announced Monday that they will petition the National Labor Relations Board for a vote to decertify Teamsters Local 406 as the nurses' representative.

Hart declined to discuss how many petition signatures were gathered but said it exceeds the 30 percent of the nurses in the bargaining unit required by the NLRB. That percentage includes striking and non-striking nurses, but not replacement, travel or temporary nurses, she said.

Teamsters 406 attorney Ted Iorio said he is confident that the union's certification would be affirmed if any election takes place. He said 270 of the hospital's approximately 470 nurses are striking, numbers that hospital officials dispute.

JUNE 4

Charlevoix FIA to close

CHARLEVOIX — The state Family Independence Agency apparently will close its Charlevoix County office as soon as next month and merge operations with the agency's Petoskey office.

Local FIA board members

confirmed the impending closure Tuesday but said they did not yet know the date.

A county satellite office will be created, that will be open at least twice a week. Officials will locate the office in county's area of greatest need, which is yet to be determined, Conlan said.

Officials last month announced the Leelanau County FIA office will merge with the office in Traverse City by July 31.

JUNE 5

Antrim cow tests positive

BELLAIRE — A beef cow from an Antrim County farm has tested positive for bovine tuberculosis, state animal health officials announced Wednesday.

The cow is providing a puzzling mystery to officials who track the infectious disease. It originated from a farm in Presque Isle County — inside the state's known TB-infected area in northeast Lower Michigan. But the Presque Isle farm had undergone two annual whole-herd tests for the disease — and the disease was only discovered on the second test of the Antrim farm.

State officials will do further testing in Presque Isle County. If no evidence is found confirming that the disease came from there, "we are going to have to go back and look at Antrim County," said Bridget Patrick, state bovine TB eradication coordinator.

JUNE 6

Standoff ends with arrest

PELLSTON — An Emmet County emergency response team averted a possible armed standoff between a despondent teenager and police early Thursday, sheriff Pete Wallin said.

The incident occurred at a home in McKinley Township. Deputies and emergency medical personnel were dispatched to the home for an intoxicated 17-year-old needing medical attention.

The boy became combative and ran into the home's upstairs. As deputies spoke with him, the boy said he was holding a gun. He threatened to shoot and kill officers, or himself.

The team was called in and de-escalated the situation. The boy was taken into custody without incident, Wallin said.

JUNE 7

182nd elated to be home

TRAVERSE CITY — At a homecoming briefing Friday for members of the 182nd Transportation Co. based in Traverse City, soldiers were told to expect things to be different since their March 17 mobilization.

The 160 Army Reservists returned late Thursday night after almost three months of training at Fort McCoy, Wis. Although never sent to Iraq, the reservists were given advice Friday by officers from the 88th Regional Support Command in Minnesota.

Reservists say that while they know they will eventually have to return to their normal lives, for now all many of them want to do is spend time with family and friends.

That reunion with family began late Thursday night when three buses carrying reservists pulled into the base around 10 p.m.

JUNE 8

Students look back, ahead

INTERLOCHEN — Some 750 students from Traverse City Central and West high schools strode across the Kresge Auditorium stage at separate commencement ceremonies Saturday, in front of thousands of family and friends who gathered to celebrate their accomplishments.

West high school had 403 graduates; Central high had more than 360 graduates, and its Achievement of Excellence awards went to Alisha Falberg, Andrew Olson and Lauren Thompson.

Graduates from Traverse City St. Francis High School will go through commencement ceremonies this afternoon at 3 p.m. at the school gymnasium.

Traverse City High School had 60 graduates at its commencement ceremonies held Friday night at the Dennon Museum Center.

JUNE 9

Commons board cutting

TRAVERSE CITY — Faced
PLEASE SEE PAGE 32