

JUNE/NEWS

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JUNE 16

Deer feeding plan dropped

MUNISING — The Michigan Natural Resources Commission has dropped plans to create a special rule allowing feeding of free-ranging deer in parts of the Upper Peninsula.

A statewide ban on feeding deer to supplement their food supplies during winter took effect May 16 after being endorsed by the commission last year.

The commission voted 4-3 earlier this month against a motion to continue so-called supplemental feeding in parts of the Upper Peninsula. The Mining Journal of Marquette reported.

JUNE 17

Hotels may be allowed

BOYNE CITY — Hotels could come to the city's Lake Charlevoix waterfront, but only if developers diversify uses to allow not just hotel guests but the public to use the properties, the city planning commission recommended Monday.

The commission voted 7-1 to allow hotels as a conditional use in the city's Waterfront Marina District zoning area, but only as part of a mixed use that could include retail, service or other uses.

The recommendation will be forwarded to the city commission for a final decision.

JUNE 18

Indian ally dies of cancer

TRAVERSE CITY — Some remember June Soper as a tireless advocate for American Indians — particularly youngsters who'd fallen afoul of the court system. For others, she was a brash individualist who said exactly what was on her mind, no matter where she was.

But to most people who met her, Soper was the fascinating and eccentric woman who lived in an Indian tipi out in the woods behind the Traverse City State Park and



Record-Eagle file photo/John L. Russell

With low water levels, plants normally submerged were exposed.

rode a small motor scooter around town almost all seasons of the year.

Soper died Monday after a long battle with cancer that took her from her home in the woods and confined her to a nursing home bed for six months. She would have been 73 on June 25.

JUNE 19

Bay turns yellow

TRAVERSE CITY — The yellowish film covering portions of Grand Traverse Bay beaches isn't what you think it is.

It's pollen.

Dr. Martin Dubravec of Allergy and Asthma Specialists of Cadillac, who said he measures pollen counts at his office on a daily basis, said "There's definitely more pine pollen than there was last year."

Dubravec said research suggests that increased precipitation in the fall and winter will increase the pollination of trees in the spring.

"We definitely had more snow than last year, that's probably the main factor in the increase in pine pollen," he said.

Trees are much more sensitive to changes in moisture than grasses, Dubravec said, adding that the amount of grass pollen in the air is the same as it was last year.

JUNE 20

Festival bars pro-life entry

TRAVERSE CITY — The

National Cherry Festival has barred a group of pro-life students from the Junior Royale Parade, saying "issues" are inappropriate for an event highlighting cherries and the community.

Tom Kern, the festival's executive director, said the decision was made by a committee of community volunteers who review applications for all three of the festival's parades.

Kern said the committee notched up its efforts this year to ensure participants are in-line with the National Cherry Festival focus for the Junior Royale Parade, namely "cherries, children and fun."

"The festival is about the promotion of cherries and the community; it should not be used as a platform for their issues," he said. "We aren't making a statement that these issues are good or bad but that the festival isn't the place."

JUNE 21

Boy pulled from river

TRAVERSE CITY — A college student walking her dog along the Boardman River Friday heard screams for help before diving into the frigid water to save a 2-year-old boy from drowning.

Brianne Becker, 22, of Traverse City and 24-year-old Lindsay Kratky, a former Traverse City resident who now lives in East Lansing, were credited by authorities

for saving the life of a Rapid City boy who fell into the river around 4:15 p.m. Friday. Becker swam to the victim and pulled him to shore, before Kratky and the young boy's mother administered CPR until medical help arrived.

The boy, Nicholas A. Parsons, who will turn 3 later this month, was listed in fair condition at Munson Medical Center Friday night.

City police described the two women as heroes and said their quick action averted a potential tragedy.

JUNE 22

Energy cost disputed

TRAVERSE CITY — Two electric utilities in a complaint to state regulators are questioning whether Cherryland Electric Cooperative is using its more than 28,000 customers to subsidize a cheaper rate for the Great Wolf Lodge.

Traverse City Light and Power Co. and Consumers Energy have filed petitions with the Michigan Public Service Commission challenging the service rate being offered by Cherryland Electric to the 360,000-square-foot resort along U.S. 31 South.

Utility service at the lodge already is the subject of a pending lawsuit between Cherryland and Light and Power. The city utility claims Cherryland illegally interfered with an earlier contract Light and Power had to service the lodge. Cherryland says Light and Power did not have a valid contract.

JUNE 23

Plan to drill upsets anglers

GRAYLING — Anglers and nature lovers are up in arms over an oil and gas company's plan to drill a well next to a hallowed trout fishing stream.

Savoy Energy of Traverse City is proposing to drill an exploratory well in the Huron Manistee National Forest adjacent to the Mason Tract on the south branch of the AuSable River.

The tract, a gift to the state by auto executive George Mason upon his death in 1954, includes 14 miles on the AuSable River and 1,200 acres.

Savoy Energy has applied for a permit to drill a half-mile from the river on federal land. The company plans to slant drill two miles below the surface to extract oil and gas.

After public comment, Weber said an environmental analysis will be done on the proposal and a final determination would be made this fall.

JUNE 24

GT Band applauds ruling

PESHAWBESTOWN — A lawyer for a local American Indian tribe applauded the Supreme Court for upholding the general concept of affirmative action Monday.

"The great thing about today's decision is it says the federal government and state governments can treat diversity as a compelling governmental interest," said Matthew Fletcher, an attorney for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Fletcher, who signed a court brief for the tribe in support of the university's policy, said American Indian enrollment in top universities is still low, but would be practically nothing without race-conscious admissions policies.

The court also ruled the university's point system for achieving diversity among its undergraduate students was unconstitutional.

JUNE 25

Plants may be removed

TRAVERSE CITY — Shoreline owners on Grand Traverse Bay now can remove plants from exposed bottomlands above what is allowable without a permit — if they meet certain state and federal conditions.

Steven Chester, director of the state Department of Environmental Quality,

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