

JUNE/NEWS

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named Grand Traverse and Saginaw bays as two pilot areas for a special review that was allowed in an amendment to a new state law passed last month.

Though a state permit is not needed, lakefront owners in the two areas must still ask written permission from the DEQ before removing shoreline vegetation. And a federal permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers remains a requirement.

JUNE 26

Sugar Loaf owner jailed

DETROIT — Sugar Loaf Resort owner Remo Polselli was sentenced Wednesday in federal court to 27 months in prison and must pay \$2.9 million in restitution on tax charges involving a Southfield hotel.

Polselli, 47, of Bloomfield Township, had pleaded guilty on Jan. 9 to one count of failing to account for and pay withholding and Social Security taxes and two counts of failing to file federal income tax returns for the years 1995 and 1996.

According to his indictment, Polselli had owned and operated the Plaza Hotel in Southfield through Prudential Management Corp. and Infinity Group Ltd. from 1993 to 1997.

During that time, the hotel deducted and collected more than \$2.4 million in federal income and Social Security taxes from employee wages but failed to pay the withholdings to the Internal Revenue Service.

In addition, Polselli failed to file personal income tax returns after grossing \$602,000 in 1995 and \$697,000 in 1996.

JUNE 27

Judge sentences man

TRAVERSE CITY — After more than two years on the run in Florida, Harry J. Dobek III, 27, was captured and returned to Michigan to

face the charge of first-degree criminal sexual conduct.

But prosecutors determined the credibility of the witness against Dobek was questionable and he was offered a plea to misdemeanor assault.

On Thursday (June 26), District Judge Thomas J. Phillips sentenced Dobek to a year in jail, the maximum penalty allowed.

Dobek's attorney, Wilson Brott, said the witness against Dobek admitted to police that she had trouble telling the truth.

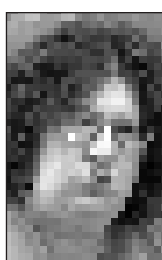
Dobek also faces possible prison time for violating his probation.

A former reptile salesman, he was convicted of felony theft after he stole an estimated \$1,200 worth of lizards, exotic turtles and poisonous snakes from another reptile dealer.

JUNE 28

Stabber pleads guilty, ill

MANISTEE — Alicia Famiano, 23, pleaded guilty but mentally ill to a charge of second-degree murder Thursday (June 26) for stabbing a man more than 50



Famiano

times with an open pair of scissors.

She was scheduled to go to trial in two weeks.

Famiano had faced a charge of first-degree murder.

Having been found guilty but mentally ill of second-degree murder, Famiano faces a minimum sentence of 18½ to 30 years in prison to a maximum of life with a possibility of parole.

She will receive mental health treatment while in prison.

Famiano was accused of stabbing Dale Gannon, 47, more than 50 times with an open pair of scissors in his Manistee apartment in February 2002 after the two met at a bar.

She was arrested three days

later.

She told police she attacked Gannon to ward off a sexual assault.

JUNE 29

Cherry board eyes diversion

TRAVERSE CITY — Local cherry growers doubt an industry forecast of surplus crop and some oppose a proposal to set aside 15 percent of their cherries.

The Cherry Industry Administrative Board on Thursday called for 15 percent of Michigan's crop this year to be set aside or "diverted."

That means they can either be sold overseas, stored by processors in case of a short crop in the future, used for new products or left on orchard grounds to rot.

The board estimates 150 million pounds of tart cherries harvested in Michigan this year, out of a total 218 million pounds in the entire United States.

JUNE 30

Stupak: Saving land tops

GRAYLING — Opposition to a plan to drill under a prized portion of the Huron Manistee National Forest near the AuSable River is mounting, as U.S.

Congressman Bart Stupak is calling on the state to carefully evaluate the proposal and a sportsman's group is considering creative measures to thwart the idea.

Savoy Energy of Traverse City wants to slant drill an exploratory well in the Huron Manistee National Forest adjacent to the Mason Tract.

The tract, 1,200 acres and 14 miles of AuSable River, were given to the state to remain undeveloped by auto executive George Mason upon his death in 1954.

Stupak, D-Menominee, is urging Department of Environmental Quality officials to exercise all of its authority under oil and gas regulations when considering the drill-permit request.

JUNE/SPORTS

JUNE 1

Central ends drought

TRAVERSE CITY — You've heard about the 400-pound gorilla.

He doesn't live in Traverse City anymore.

The Trojans captured the Division I district baseball title on Saturday with a 4-2 victory over Alpena in the final game.

The title is the first district baseball crown ever for a Traverse City public school.

"Yes, the monkey is off TC's back," Central coach Ian Hearn said. "Actually, that's not a monkey, it's a gorilla.

"It felt great. The kids responded well; it was awesome."

JUNE 17

Trojan has 'great' time

DETROIT — It was just one at-bat in one game.

It's a trip to the plate Traverse City Central senior catcher Joe Lazar won't soon forget.

Lazar played — and started — in the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Game on Monday at Comerica Park in Detroit.

Lazar played the first three innings behind the plate for the West team, which lost 3-1 to East in the nine-inning contest.

But Lazar batted just once. He struck out against Garden City left-hander Marco DiMichele.

In addition to playing in the game, Joe Lazar attended a banquet on Sunday night with all the other players selected.

Hearn said Lazar is the third Traverse City player picked for the All-Star Game, joining Frank Rokos and Jason Cairns (2001).

JUNE 22

Beckstrom wins MichAm

CHARLEVOIX (AP) — Colby Beckstrom defeated A.J. Balulis 5 and 3 Saturday to win the 92nd Michigan Amateur Championship at

Belvedere Golf Club here.

Blaulis, 19, of Baldwin conceded the 15th hole to give the victory to Beckstrom, 20, of North Muskegon.

Beckstrom carded five birdies in the 15 holes of the final match, but his performance left him as surprised as he was pleased.

Beckstrom, a member of the Texas Christian University golf team, won the first three holes. Balulis, who just finished his first year at Ferris State but didn't play on the golf team, cut the lead to 1-up after six.

JUNE 27

A playoff payoff

ACME — Bob Ackerman, the last amateur to win the Michigan Open, waited 28 years to claim his second title.

So he didn't mind playing an extra hole to get it.

Besides, this time around Ackerman not only picked up a winner's check, he saved something much more precious than money.

Ackerman, a 50-year-old teaching pro who runs his own golf academy in West Bloomfield, defeated Detroit Golf Club assistant Bryan Snyder in a playoff Thursday afternoon to win the annual state Open tournament on The Bear at Grand Traverse Resort & Spa.

Based on available records, Ackerman became the second-oldest player to win the event. Walter Burkemo was 52 when he won in 1970.

More importantly, Ackerman said he saved the life of a 3-year-old boy who jumped into the deep end of the pool at his hotel the day before tournament began.

"I guess things work out the way they're supposed to," said Ackerman, who also won the Michigan Senior Open three weeks ago. "I'd really hoped to play in the U.S. Senior Open, but I missed qualifying by a stroke. If I had made it, I wouldn't have been here this week."