

JULY/NEWS

JULY 1

Officials appeal recall

LELAND — Elmwood Township officials have appealed the county election commission's approval of a recall effort against them.

The appeal was filed by township attorney Michael Kronk on behalf of board members Connie Preston, Deborah Street, James O'Rourke, John Stanek, John Gallagher and supervisor Noel Flohe.

The six, as well as board member Terry Lautner, are targeted by a recall effort that was approved in June.

The recall effort is the result of years of legal wrangling over development issues in the township.

JULY 2

Dad recalls final minutes

BOYNE CITY — Family and friends will remember Jolene Marie Reinhardt, 4-years-old, today at her funeral, after she died Friday in a car accident in the driveway.

Her father, David Reinhardt, said Jolene was in the family truck Friday in the driveway of their Wilson Township home with her mother, Patricia, when he waved his wife in to answer a phone call.

In the moments that Patricia Reinhardt was out of the truck and on the telephone, the truck somehow began to roll and Jolene somehow fell out.

Reinhardt said he ran to the truck, trying to stop it from rolling, and in the process it ran over his right leg, causing minor injuries.

Reinhardt said he does not believe the truck ran over Jolene, as was reported earlier. He said he believes her head struck the ground with great force as she fell.

JULY 3

NMH, union resolve charge

PETOSKEY — One unfair labor practice charge against Northern Michigan Hospital management is near resolution while two other charges remain under investigation by the National Labor Relations

Board.

The charges were filed against hospital management by Teamsters Local 406, the union representing nurses who have been on strike nearly eight months.

The resolved charge included five allegations, three of which were dismissed by the NLRB.

Hospital management agreed to remedy two other allegations in the resolved charge, NLRB resident officer Chet Byerly Jr. said.

JULY 4

Watering lawn could cost

TRAVERSE CITY — In Garfield Township, that perfectly groomed, emerald green lawn isn't just the envy of the neighborhood — it's now a \$500 liability.

The Grand Traverse County Department of Public Works issued a ban Thursday on irrigation for homes and businesses one-quarter mile west of U.S. 31 due to a severe shortage in water levels.

That means no watering of lawns, gardens or trees until further notice — probably until early next week, said Chris Buday, Public Works director.

Violators are subject to a fine of \$500 per day and shut-off of water services.

JULY 5

Evidence violation affirmed

TRAVERSE CITY — In a motion filed last month in U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids, prosecutors in the Robert and Michael Ostrander case say unauthorized people were allowed in to the evidence room of the Traverse City FBI office in November, 2001.

According to the motion:

The individuals — two Traverse City criminal defense attorneys and their clients — were allowed into the room where evidence in the Ostrander case was stored, including the shovel that prosecutors say was used to dig the grave of victim Hansel Troy Andrews and drugs that prosecutors say belonged to Andrews.

The attorneys and their clients were at the office on an unrelated case.

Allowing the individuals into the room was a violation of FBI policy, U.S. prosecutor Timothy VerHey acknowledged in the motion.

JULY 6

Survey bill introduced

TRAVERSE CITY — At the prodding of some area parents, Sen. Michelle McManus has introduced a bill that would require school districts to obtain permission before surveying students.

The Lake Leelanau Republican said her bill would change the present law from one that requires "passive" consent from parents to opt their child out of a school survey to an "active" consent form. Active consent requires parents to give written permission in order for their child to participate in the survey.

In April, parents at Forest Area Community Schools complained they never received a form allowing them to opt their child out of a sex survey administered by the health department during a health class. Health department officials said it was an oversight and shred all the surveys given to students whose parents had not received a consent form.

The Forest Area school board later passed its own rule requiring active consent forms signed by parents.

JULY 7

Firm sues for payment

TRAVERSE CITY — Comstock Construction Co. has sued Clovelly Corp. in Grand Traverse County circuit court, saying \$41,128 of a \$98,163 bill that covered labor, materials and equipment to complete the work is still outstanding.

The suit, filed by attorney Donald Brandt, also asks for interest and attorney fees.

Reached by e-mail, Roy Henderson, president of Clovelly Corp., said he would pay the bill shortly and he apologized for the delay.

The \$98,163 included the

fence, the sidewalk, and structural work for drainage on the property.

JULY 8

Family anxious for news

PELLSTON — Lisa Janisse spent Monday by the phone with a brewed pot of coffee nearby, waiting for word on her son who sustained minor injuries over the weekend in a grenade attack in Iraq.

Pfc. Seth Janisse, 27, from Indian River suffered shrapnel wounds in the attack on a U.S. Army compound in a town 40 miles northeast of Baghdad, according to reports from the Associated Press.

Janisse said they saw the muzzle flash from the direction the rocket-propelled grenade was fired and American troops returned fire. Janisse said he didn't know if the assailant was hit, the AP reported.

Seth is a forward observer for the 3-67 Armored Division, which is part of the 4th Infantry. He performs surveillance missions in a tank to report attack points to other artillery tanks in the unit.

JULY 9

Inmates speak up

TRAVERSE CITY — They called themselves "J-Rock" and "Star," and according to statements fellow inmates have given police, they began robbing drug dealers at gunpoint shortly after they moved here last fall from Ypsilanti.

Now "J-Rock," aka Jonathon Burke, 20, and "Star," 20-year-old Heather Wade, blame each other for the slaying of a 36-year-old Traverse City man at an East Bay Township hotel room in November.

Prosecutors believe Burke is responsible for the death of Charles P. Henderson. Burke was scheduled to stand trial Tuesday.

But a flurry of new evidence — much of it from jail house interviews — caused prosecutors and Burke's defense attorney to ask for an adjournment of the case.

On Monday, Circuit Judge Thomas Power granted a delay so recently uncovered

evidence could be investigated.

JULY 10

Experts point fingers

PETOSKEY — As the nurses strike at Northern Michigan Hospital approaches its ninth month and a governor-appointed panel prepares to hear public comment tonight about its effect on health care in the community, a pair of labor experts have differing views on why the dispute has gone on so long.

Is one of the longest nurses strikes in U.S. history due to a strategic miscalculation by the union, or is it because of the ego of hospital officials?

Paul Kersey, a labor research associate with the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, said he believes the Teamsters nurses need to re-evaluate their priorities and strategy or else face risking the removal of the union as their bargaining representative.

But Hal Stack, director of the department of labor strategies at Wayne State University, said the community should be asking itself why, exactly, the hospital is spending so much money to deny citizens their legal right to union representation.

About half or more of Northern Michigan Hospital's approximately 470 nurses went on strike Nov. 14. The nurses seek increased wages and benefits, improved nurse-patient ratios and a greater say in patient-care issues.

JULY 11

Residents fear drilling

GRAYLING — Savoy Energy, a Traverse City-based oil and gas firm, hopes to drill an exploratory gas well in the Huron Manistee National Forest adjacent to the Mason Tract on the South Branch of AuSable River.

The Mason Tract includes 14 miles on the AuSable River surrounded by 1,200 acres given to the state in 1954.

Late auto executive George Mason gave the property to the state and family members

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