

## JULY/NEWS

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said they oppose drilling.

## JULY 11

**Nudist quarrel exposed**

CADILLAC — The Wexford County Planning Commission on Wednesday ordered Pat and Jan Bell to build a fence within another fenced area to ensure that guests of their nudist camp stay within confines of a previously approved plot.

The commission had approved a plan for the 20-acre campground site in 2001. But neighbors squawked when the Bells fenced off 30 acres, fearing the couple was trying to expand the grounds without permission.

County building and zoning director Tim Evans had approved the Bells' fence and warning signs the couple posted to keep their guests out of the area.

Some commissioners and neighbors expressed frustration that the couple fenced off more area than initially agreed upon.

## JULY 11

**Bishop charged in assault**

TRAVERSE CITY — A man who said he was a bishop was arrested Wednesday after a woman told police the man groped her breast while she was playing a slot machine at a casino.

Demetri Khoury, 54, who identified himself as a bishop in an Orthodox church in Toledo, was charged Thursday with fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct and being drunk and disorderly.

The woman, whose age was unavailable, told police that she was playing a slot machine at the Turtle Creek Casino Wednesday when Khoury grabbed her breast without permission.

The sexual misconduct charge carries a sentence of up to two years in prison and the drunk and disorderly charge is a misdemeanor.

## JULY 12

**Sheriff called up**

KALKASKA — Sheriff

Jerry Cannon leaves today for up to two years of military service in Cuba with a Michigan National Guard military police brigade.

Cannon, 55, will head for the headquarters of the 177th Military Police Brigade in Taylor. On Wednesday, he will be one of about 70 soldiers from the brigade to travel from there to Fort Dix, N.J. He will leave there within two to four weeks for Guantanamo Bay, where suspected Taliban members from Afghanistan are being held at a U.S. Navy outpost.

Cannon, who has been Kalkaska County Sheriff for 16 years, has spent much of his time leading up to departure making sure everything will run smoothly for his department and his family while he is gone.

## JULY 13

**Bands, marchers shine on**

TRAVERSE CITY — After two days of rainy weather, the sun finally shone on Front Street as Saturday's Cherry Royale Parade wound its way past spectators.

"It has never rained on our parade," said Jim Eldridge, a member of the Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team. "We brought the good weather."

Entrants in this year's parade comprised both new participants and perennial favorites. This is the drill team's 19th year in the Cherry Royale, a parade they say they especially enjoy.

There were 135 entries in the parade, ranging from elementary school floats to queens and princesses from different Michigan festivals to veterans and others involved in military service.

## JULY 14

**Bridge permit hearing set**

TRAVERSE CITY — A critical step in the county's long-pursued plan to build a bridge over the Boardman River linking Hartman and Hammond roads begins later this week.

A public hearing is set for Thursday by the state Department of

Environmental Quality on the Grand Traverse County Road Commission's application for wetland construction permits for the bridge project.

The state's review is crucial for the county, as failure to secure those permits could derail the estimated \$30 million road and bridge proposal. If approved, it would create a bypass route south of Traverse City starting at U.S. 31 South to Hartman Road in Garfield Township, across the Boardman River to Hammond Road, then to Three Mile Road to U.S. 31 North in East Bay Township.

## JULY 15

**Merchants want cleanup**

CADILLAC — Haring Township's has renewed efforts to clean up seven properties considered eyesores and potentially dangerous by business owners along its newest paved road.

Stephen King, a lawyer representing the business owners, has asked the township to enforce nuisance and safety ordinances he claims are being violated.

The properties are more visible now that Hanthorn Street was scheduled to open Monday, King said in a letter to the township. They include: dilapidated homes, junk trailers, rubble-strewn yards and a yard with a high fence surrounding old cars and other debris.

Township zoning administrator Gary Fuller has been notifying the owners one by one and said those he has reached have been willing to comply. All are local residents.

Fuller expects it to be a while before the properties are completely up to standards.

## JULY 16

**Peshawbestown man guilty**

KALAMAZOO — Severo Garcia, 32, was found guilty Tuesday in federal court in Kalamazoo of first-degree murder in the death of Kathleen "Cottney" Floyd Garcia.

She was stabbed to death at her home on Feb. 23, 2002 at the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians' housing complex north of Suttons Bay. The slaying followed what police termed a domestic dispute involving alcohol.

Garcia is being held without bond and awaits sentencing Oct. 16 by U.S. District Judge Richard Enslen, where the maximum penalty is life in prison without the possibility of parole.

## JULY 17

**Council weighs in on review**

GRAYLING — The city manager is on the hot seat with some council members who are quibbling over his job evaluation process.

Four of the five city council members graded discuss city manager Allen Lowe's job performance with an evaluation tool provided by the Michigan Municipal League.

Jerry Hayes, the mayor pro-tem, has asked Lowe to resign so the city can move in different direction. Hayes did not submit an evaluation.

Lowe does not intend to step down from the post he's held for just over three years.

## JULY 18

**Small problem, big reply**

TRAVERSE CITY — A minor malfunction on a small plane and airfield communication problems sent local firefighters and rescue crews scrambling with lights flashing and sirens wailing to Cherry Capital Airport Thursday.

Authorities briefly blocked off Garfield Avenue shortly before noon in preparation for what they believed was the imminent crash of a small plane. Emergency workers thought the plane's landing gear failed, but the aircraft carrying three people touched down without problems.

The plane, it turned out, had minor instrumentation problems, as well as temporary trouble with its landing gear.

## JULY 18

**School, union OK deal**

KINGSLEY — School officials and the union that represents the district's support staff culminated two years of negotiations by reaching a salary agreement this week.

The 42-member Kingsley Education Support Personnel Association, an affiliate of the Michigan Education Association, worked without a contract since June 30, 2001. The board ratified a four-year contract Monday, with two years retroactive.

The contract was settled after more than 20 bargaining sessions and a report from an independent fact finder.

## JULY 19

**Driver thought he hit deer**

BOYNE CITY — A driver who told police he thought he had hit a deer was arrested for drunken driving Thursday after his car plowed into an Ellsworth woman and her husband as they worked in a driveway.

Tonja Marie Cords, 33, was pronounced dead at Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey. Her husband, Frederick William Cords, 31, was treated and released with minor injuries.

The driver of the car, Christopher David Thompson, 36, was charged Friday in Charlevoix County with operating under the influence of liquor causing death, a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

According to police reports, the Cords were sealing a driveway under contract on M-75 South near Toplinski and Dam roads in Boyne Valley Township when Thompson's car hit them.

Thompson told sheriff's Deputy Scott Behling that he was traveling at 55 mph, and thought he had struck a deer. Tonja Cord's body was found about 40 feet from the point of impact with the car.