

AUGUST/NEWS

**FROM PAGE 40**

land preservation and restoration of urban areas.

**AUG. 19**

**Mom blasts fair's stance**  
 KINGSLEY — Alexander Gaither and his sister Mariah each spent \$180 to raise two pigs for 4-H, but didn't bring home any bacon because they were 30 minutes late registering the animals at the Northern District Fair in Cadillac.

It didn't matter to fair officials that the animals ran hog wild shortly before they were trucked to the fairgrounds for the Aug. 10 registration.

Alexander, 9, and Mariah, 6, took the news like a kick in the chops, their mother said.

Alexander is autistic and had trouble understanding why he couldn't show his pig.

Rules are rules, a fair board official said, adding that mother Lisa Gaither had ample opportunity to arrange for the animals' late arrival.

**AUG. 20**

**Benzie settles sex assault**  
 BEULAH — Benzie County officials have agreed to pay a woman who said a deputy sexually assaulted her in the county jail.

The attorney representing the unidentified woman in Jane Doe vs. Benzie County in U.S. District Court said the parties agreed to an undisclosed settlement.

The woman was in jail following a drunken driving arrest in 2000 when she reported she was sexually

assaulted by Walter "Ted" Peltier, a 14-year department veteran.

Peltier maintained the woman consented to sex, but pleaded guilty to attempted fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct. He was sentenced to 120 days in jail.

County administrator Chuck Clarke said officials agreed to settle the case on advice from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority.

**AUG. 21**

**Lightning rocks region**

TRAVERSE CITY — It wasn't just rumbling and booming thunder that jolted Marian Hanson early Thursday.

A huge tree fell outside the Traverse City woman's house — and across power lines and atop her new car — during the violent storm that swept through the region.

Thousands of area residents lost power after a strong line of pre-dawn storms rumbled through.

Lightning strikes and downed trees were blamed for much of the trouble, which was scattered across several counties in the Grand Traverse region. Most of the electricity was back on by mid-morning, according to area utilities, although isolated locations didn't have power restored until late afternoon.

Close to 1,500 Cherryland Electric Cooperative customers lost power, including pockets in Garfield Township west of Traverse City, in the

Suttons Bay and Omena area of Leelanau County and in the High and Spider lakes areas east of Traverse City.

There were also scattered outages near Cedar, Interlochen, Copemish and Thompsonville.

**AUG. 22**

**GT native picked for ATF**

TRAVERSE CITY — The first woman in Michigan to head up the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives jokes that her toughest law enforcement assignment was her first — as a meter maid for the Traverse City Police Department.

"People get really upset about parking tickets," said Valerie Goddard. "I probably went through more stuff with that than as a federal agent."

Goddard grew up in the Grand Traverse area — she wouldn't specify where, due to her line of work and for the safety of family members still in the area. She worked summer internships for both the city police and the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department in 1984 while pursuing her degree in criminal justice from Northern Michigan University.

She also graduated from the Northern Michigan Regional Police Academy in Marquette.

**AUG. 23**

**County may sue court**

GRAYLING — Crawford County is considering an appeal of a recent court ruling ordering it to fund the

46th Trial Court before spending on other county departments.

The 46th Trial Court serves Crawford, Kalkaska and Otsego counties. In an opinion issued last month, Kent County Circuit Judge Dennis Kolenda ruled that Crawford and Kalkaska must pay post-retirement health insurance for employees and their spouses, and pension benefits.

Kolenda also ordered the counties to fund the courts before spending money on non-mandated services.

Crawford County objected to paying for medical benefits and upgraded pension benefits, arguing it would cost an added \$1.3 million for the pension and \$5 million for medical benefits. Kolenda said the three counties will have to pay the \$1.3 million for the pension bene-

fits over a 30-year period.

The Crawford board on Wednesday agreed to pay \$77,405 in back payments owed to Otsego County, the court's fiscal agent, to fund court operations.

**AUG. 24**


**Workers may face layoffs**

TRAVERSE CITY — The budget ax could fall on a dozen or more Grand Traverse County workers as the county board struggles to close a projected \$3 million shortfall in its 2004 general fund budget.

County administrator Dennis Aloia is scheduled to release his recommended budget this week. Commissioners said it could include up to 15 position cuts for the 2004 budget year as Grand Traverse joins the


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