

SEPTEMBER/NEWS

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man during a party that ran from Thursday evening on into Friday.

Witnesses called state police after Nichols, who had fallen asleep on a mattress in her living room, would not respond Friday afternoon and didn't seem to have a pulse.

Troopers who responded to the scene initially thought the case was a suicide, said Sgt. John Hansen of the Manistee post.

SEPT. 3

State to close loophole

CHARLEVOIX — The state wants to close a loophole in a state program that pays home help aides to help the elderly and sick without first doing criminal background checks on the workers.

Currently, the state doesn't do criminal background checks on the aides.

The FIA and health department are now developing a system that will require and do criminal history checks on anyone paid through the program. Criminal background checks probably will start sometime this fall.

SEPT. 4

DNR opposes bridge

TRAVERSE CITY — Another government wildlife agency is urging denial of state wetland construction permits for the county's proposed Hartman-Hammond bridge project.

The state Department of Natural Resources says the county road and bridge plan over the Boardman River "as now proposed will cause significant, irreparable damage" to the river's fishery and other wildlife.

That's according to an eight-page letter from DNR staff sent late last month to the state Department of Environmental Quality, which is weighing the county's wetland construction permit application for the long-proposed bridge.

The Grand Traverse County

Road Commission is seeking DEQ approval to fill more than four acres of wetlands for the bridge project. A decision is due in October.

SEPT. 5

Man dies in police pursuit

CADILLAC — A 20-year-old Cadillac man was killed early Thursday when his minivan drove into a tree shortly after police saw him speeding and began pursuing him, according to state police at the Cadillac post.

The man, whose name is being withheld pending the outcome of the investigation, was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident on the southwest side of Sunnyside Drive about 1:10 a.m.

Troopers said they saw the blue vehicle speeding westbound on Sunnyside while patrolling the south side of Cadillac due to earlier reports of a reckless driver.

They began to pursue the car with their flashing lights and sirens on, then saw the van lose control on a curve just east of M-115, run off the road and into the tree.

Police closed off Sunnyside until 7 a.m. due to the accident.

The driver was wearing a seat belt and alcohol is believed to be a factor.

SEPT. 6

Sub could double numbers

BOON — A new 29-lot subdivision is expected to double the size of this tiny settlement, but some residents don't see that as a boon for Boon.

The unincorporated village, located about 10 miles northwest of Cadillac, has about 30 homes and is sometimes jokingly referred to as a suburb of Harrietta.

The subdivision is being developed by Arbor Investment Co. of Kalkaska, though it's currently on hold.

The firm has received an OK from the county, bulldozed a road and plans to keep some open spaces in the development, possibly for bicycle trails and foot paths, township supervisor Steve

Cunningham said.

SEPT. 7

Ex-sheriff dies at age 71

TRAVERSE CITY — A former Grand Traverse County sheriff who started as a deputy in a small rural department that grew into one of the largest police agencies in northern Michigan passed away on Friday.

Former Sheriff Jack J. Canfield died in the evening at Munson Medical Center after a long battle with cancer. He was 71.

Canfield spent 35 years with the department, the last 12 years — from 1980-92 — as sheriff. When he was hired in 1957 the office included four employees, including the sheriff. When he left in 1992, the staff had grown to more than 70. He was the county's 29th sheriff.

SEPT. 8

Center offers degrees

TRAVERSE CITY — The University Center at Northwestern Michigan College will offer new degrees in engineering and business this fall, allowing students to further their education, not their time on the road driving to classes far away.

Adding the two universities marks one of the center's biggest accomplishments, said Marguerite Cotto, University Center director. Eleven universities now offer degrees through the center.

SEPT. 9

What's in a name?

INTERLOCHEN — Several years ago, administrators at Interlochen decided a New Hampshire-based camp's name sounded a bit too familiar.

Interlochen Center for the Arts had received an e-mail from New Hampshire-based Interlocken International Camp alerting them that inquiries from potential students meant for Interlocken were coming to Interlocken's Web site.

That prompted Interlochen to file a federal trademark infringement suit against Interlocken in September, 2001.

After two years, the organizations are locked in a bitter legal battle over the name, which both sides claim they used first. The case is likely headed for trial next year.

SEPT. 10

Replacements keep jobs

PETOSKEY — Northern Michigan Hospital administrators are assuring working and replacement nurses they will retain their jobs — and current work shifts — if and when the facility's nearly 10-month-old nurses strike ends.

A memo from hospital administration referring to the nurses' job status began circulating at the facility this week.

Hospital spokesman Thomas Spencer said the decision signals a changing of staffing strategy.

"Nobody expected this (strike) to last this long," he said. "Earlier, when we did our hiring, it was with the intent to be overstaffed if the strike were to end. We've assessed our strategy, and now our strategy is that if (striking nurses) were to come back to work now, we would put them where we need them."

Some striking nurses, and officials for the union that represents them, said management's announcement is an intimidation tactic.

"It's just another indication of how the hospital does things unilaterally. They have to bargain with us," said Ted Iorio, attorney for Teamsters Local 406.

SEPT. 11

A day we can't forget

Across the region residents agree that Sept. 11, 2001, marked a fundamental change in America and how they view life, liberty and security.

Robert Garbacz Sr. spent 1½ years in combat in Vietnam, where he twice was wounded. He thinks about

U.S. troops in Iraq and can't help but wonder if their mission to maintain order is realistic.

"I'm not 100 percent sure of that," he said. "It's similar to Vietnam in that the longer it goes, you just don't know ... I just hope it works, for the sake of our troops."

Garbacz, post commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7493 in Interlochen, said he believes America has changed markedly since Sept. 11. The country generally is more supportive of the military and sacrifices made by those in military service, but worries that individual liberties are being eroded by homeland security measures.

"Some of that is good, but some of that is overreaching," Garbacz said. "To sacrifice our rights for some short-term security isn't a good idea ... the Constitution and the laws we have are enough to do the job we need."

SEPT. 11

Deputy won't be charged

BEULAH — Manistee County's prosecutor says he will not charge a Benzie County sheriff's deputy with sexual assault.

"Because of disputed issues concerning consent, it is my opinion that insufficient evidence exists to proceed with a criminal case," Manistee prosecutor Ford Stone said.

Michael Bailey, 31, was accused of sexually assaulting a 33-year-old Copemish woman June 30.

Bailey was not on duty or in uniform at the time of the incident, Stone said.

The Benzie sheriff's department will now conduct an internal investigation with the help of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association's internal investigation team, Benzie sheriff Robert Blank said.

Bailey will remain on administrative leave with full pay until the investigation concludes and a determination is made as to whether disciplinary action

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