

OCTOBER/NEWS

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almost 20 county positions. The county board decided against a recommendation to eliminate the animal control office, citing the more than 2,600 animal-related complaints, tickets and other incidents the department responds to each year. The animal control office will eliminate one position and become a two-person office, and get rid of weekend patrols. The county hopes to boost the revenue taken in by the office by expanding dog license sales through local veterinarians, increasing fees for impounded dogs to \$50 and selling multi-year dog licenses.

OCT. 10

Boundary change OK'd
GLEN ARBOR — Lawmakers this week pushed along a bill that could make way for public ownership of Crystal River frontage that once was part of a controversial golf course plan. The U.S. House on Wednesday approved legislation to amend the boundaries of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore to include 104 acres of Homestead resort property, including an extensive stretch along the Crystal River. Federal officials said it was another hurdle cleared toward making the site — which once divided the community on whether to build a golf course there — part of the national park.

OCT. 11

Library fire unites town
ARCADIA — Jean Kretzmann was devastated to hear a fire gutted the Arcadia branch of the Manistee Public Library. So much so that she joined with other volunteers to open a temporary branch Friday in the Arcadia Township hall. The blaze stuck late last month after a power surge. It destroyed everything — books, computers and furnishings — and totaled over

\$80,000 in damages.

Plans almost immediately began to set up a temporary branch in a corner of the township hall.

It will remain open while the library is cleared of debris, stripped to its foundation, rebuilt and refurbished.

An insurance policy will cover the construction cost.

OCT. 12

Gunfire spurs raid, arrest
MESICK — Repeated reports of machine gun fire at a 40-acre compound whose owner claims ties to the Michigan Militia prompted authorities to arrest him and raid his property.

Norman David Somerville, 43, was arrested by police and agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives at a business in Cadillac without incident Friday afternoon, state police Lt. William Elliott said.

Somerville, who is being held without bond until a federal court hearing Wednesday, faces charges of unlawful possession of machine guns, use of marijuana while possessing firearms and attempted manufacture of marijuana.

Police determined Somerville's daily routine in order to arrest him while he was away from his property because it is heavily fortified and they feared attempting to enter it would be dangerous, Elliott said.

Somerville's arrest stems from a "wide-ranging investigation" by a grand jury in Grand Rapids into the illegal conversion of semiautomatic rifles into machine guns, Elliott said.

OCT. 13

Troopers probe break-in
MANISTEE — Troopers from the Michigan State Police post in Manistee are investigating a Saturday morning break-in where thieves took over \$100,000 in coins, bonds, jewelry and other property from a home in Filer Township.

According to a release from

the State Police, the break-in took place sometime around 10 a.m. Saturday while the owners of the house — located on Park Avenue — were away for a brief time.

Troopers are checking on several potential leads and possible suspects, said Sgt. John Hansen, but anyone with additional information about the theft is asked to call the post as 231-723-3535.

OCT. 14

Deal shields 6,000 acres

TRAVERSE CITY — Condos and golf courses won't cover two miles of high-bluffed Lake Michigan shoreline and six square miles of farmland in Benzie and Manistee counties currently owned by CMS Energy.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm on Monday announced a deal in which the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy will buy 6,000 acres of undeveloped land between

Watervale and Arcadia from CMS Energy along with two other lakeshore properties for \$30.6 million.

The conservancy has pledged and grants for more than half that and will have three years to get the rest, said conservancy director Glen Chown. The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation of Flint provided a \$7.75-million grant plus a zero-interest loan of \$6.15 million. The Kellogg Foundation will give \$2.5 million.

OCT. 15

Man going to South Pole

FRANKFORT — Troy Wiles set out to find a job down south — and ended up way down south.

The Frankfort man packed his bags today for a 13-month stint as a physicians assistant in the Antarctic.

Wiles, 38, will be part of a two-man medical team at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole

Station.

During the austral summer — October to February — he will care for 225 people who traveled there to do scientific research, build a new station or support both endeavors.

Winter approaches in February in the South Pole and permanent daylight turns to darkness. The last flight from the continent leaves until October; until then Wiles will be left with a crew of under 60.

Together, they will weather temperatures known to be as low as 82 degrees below zero.

But what Wiles expects to bother him most is the distance between he and his wife of 13 years and their two daughters, Brooke, 6, and Jenna, 4.

OCT. 16

Lear to close plant

TRAVERSE CITY — Employees at Lear Corp.'s

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