

## NOVEMBER/NEWS

## NOV. 2

**Plane crash kills 1**

TRAVERSE CITY — A Traverse City man was killed Saturday when a small airplane he was flying crashed in a field just south of Cherry Capital Airport as he came in to land.

The name of the 50-year-old man has not been released as police try to contact his relatives.

The single-engine, possibly home-built aircraft went down about 3:50 p.m. just south of South Airport Road on land owned by the airport, said Capt. Steve Morgan of the Traverse City Police Department.

Police confirmed the pilot's death and left the body in the plane so they wouldn't have to disturb possible evidence while waiting for Federal Aviation Administration investigators to arrive from Grand Rapids, Morgan said. The federal officials were expected to be there about 8 p.m.

The pilot had circled above Cherryland Mall, communicating with the airport tower about flight control problems before attempting the landing, Morgan said.

The crash occurred about 300 feet short of the runway. It was reported by a nearby resident who heard it and saw a cloud of dust rising from the spot.

Morgan believes this is the first fatal plane crash in the city in about 15 years, he said.

Drum from Big Rock will travel to Utah.

## NOV. 3

**Nuclear shipment set**

CHARLEVOIX — Deconstruction of the Big Rock Point Nuclear Power Plant is slated to continue this week with the shipment of a 200,000-pound steam drum to a disposal location in Utah.

Shipment of the drum is scheduled to begin Tuesday, but could be rescheduled in the case of bad weather, said Tim Petrosky, a spokesman for Consumer's Energy.

A heavy haul trailer will move the drum by road to Petoskey where it will be taken by rail to a disposal facility in Clive, Utah. The rail portion of the trip is expected to take approximately 10 days, Petrosky said.

The drum, which Petrosky said is classified as low-level radioactive waste, is almost 41 feet long and has a maximum outside diameter of 10 feet. It weighs approximately 200,000 pounds. It was used to remove moisture from steam during plant operation.

## NOV. 4

**Gilbert deadline extended**

TRAVERSE CITY — Suspended 86th District Court Judge Thomas Gilbert has been given 30 more days to respond to questions from three Republican lawmakers about his marijuana use.

Monday was Gilbert's deadline, but state Sen. Michelle McManus said she and two other lawmakers decided to extend it after they received an afternoon letter from Gilbert's attorney, Michael Dettmer.

McManus, R-Lake Leelanau — along with state Rep. Ken Bradstreet of Gaylord and Sen. Alan Cropsey of DeWitt, chairman of the state Senate Judiciary Committee — sent Gilbert a letter last month saying they were considering action in the Legislature to remove him from office.

Gilbert is serving a six-month suspension for smoking marijuana at a rock concert in Detroit last year. Gilbert said alcoholism caused him to smoke marijuana and that he is in treatment.

## NOV. 5

**Smyka elected mayor**

TRAVERSE CITY — Winners say Traverse City government will be more responsive to its residents, while those who supported defeated incumbents Mayor Margaret Dodd and commissioner Ann Rogers fear a loss of diversity.

"This is going to set us back a couple of years in city politics," said Jim Carruthers, who worked on Dodd's cam-

paign. "The conservative business crowd won out."

Jeanine Easterday, who supported Mayor-elect Linda Smyka, disagreed.

She didn't buy the talk of diversity among the Dodd camp.

"Talk of diversity doesn't seem to be used to solve problems, but to create difficulty," she said. "Linda Smyka does her homework and works toward a consensus."

The other victorious candidates — former police chief Ralph Soffredine and incumbents Phill Orth and Scott Hardy — are seen to be in Smyka's camp, while defeated commissioner Rogers and Dodd were generally viewed as allies.

## NOV. 6

**Suit filed in 911 dispute**

KALKASKA — A former Kalkaska 911 dispatcher has sued the sheriff's department for wrongful termination, alleging she was fired after questioning department expenditures.

Margaret Bull is seeking attorney fees, back pay and wants her job back, according to the suit.

Bull has alleged that some of almost \$400,000 collected annually from Kalkaska County residents' monthly phone bills to pay for 911 services is improperly diverted to the county sheriff's department.

Bull's attorney, Enrico Schaefer, said he attempted to negotiate with the department to get Bull's job back before he filed suit last week in circuit court.

The suit names the department, Sheriff Nelson J. Cannon, Undersheriff Billy Spencer and Lt. Bruce Gualtiere.

## NOV. 7

**Theater to detail alliance**

TRAVERSE CITY — A press conference is scheduled today at the State Theatre to detail how Interlochen Center for the Arts will help renovate the old movie house and a vacant music store next door into a downtown performing arts

center.

Besides lending the luster of its name to fund-raising efforts, Interlochen will be involved in several different ways, including booking performances and managing center operations, State Theatre project leaders said.

Immediate goals will include setting timelines for transforming the movie house into a 750-seat venue capable of staging a wide variety of performances, and fund-raising deadlines.

The \$6-million-plus project stalled in recent years, in part because of a legal wrangle between the group and its founder Barry Cole, who started the project after he bought the State. A 2002 settlement gave Cole more than \$600,000 for the property but set the project back financially.

## NOV. 8

**Salary hike rankles GT**

TRAVERSE CITY — Grand Traverse commissioners are fuming after learning the 86th District Court officials plan to increase the court administrator's salary by nearly 16 percent.

Court administrator Carol Stocking is set to receive \$59,926 a year, a 15.7 percent increase from her current salary of \$51,815.

County officials are upset with the court and say the increase is out of line, considering the county board had to eliminate some positions and cut almost \$3 million in operational costs to balance the 2004 general fund budget.

## NOV. 9

**Kimpton inaugurated**

INTERLOCHEN — Interlochen Center for the Arts inaugurated Jeffrey Kimpton as its new president Saturday in a fashion fitting the world-renowned institution.

With short speeches interspersed with poetry, dance and several musical performances by students, Kimpton accepted the president's medallion amid hugs and cheers. He assumed leadership of the center Sept. 29 due

to the retirement of former president Edward J. Downing.

Kimpton, 52, and other speakers emphasized collaboration among students and faculty as well as with Traverse City and beyond to raise the stature of the school even higher.

## NOV. 10

**Judge sets resentencing**

CHARLEVOIX — The Michigan Court of Appeals remanded a second-degree murder conviction back to Charlevoix County Circuit Court for re-sentencing.

The court affirmed the conviction of Thomas Aryon Shulick, 23, of Charlevoix, for the April 29, 2001, murder of Scott Christopher Cook, 24, of Elk Rapids. Shulick was convicted of stabbing Cook at the city's marina, following an altercation with a member of Cook's boating party earlier that evening.

But the appellate court ruled that Charlevoix circuit Judge Richard Pajtas improperly scored the sentencing guidelines for Shulick, who received a sentence of 30 to 50 years in prison.

The appellate court stated that, correctly scored, Shulick should have faced 12 to 20 years in prison. But it noted that Pajtas exceeded guidelines when sentencing Shulick in February 2002.

The Shulick case is not yet scheduled for re-sentencing.

## NOV. 11

**Pump failure unclear**

TRAVERSE CITY — Officials still don't know how a pump and a backup pump failed Saturday morning, causing 146,000 gallons of partially treated sewage to flow into the Boardman River and West Grand Traverse Bay.

Scott Blair, plant manager for Operations Management International, the private company that operates Traverse City's wastewater treatment plant, said a computer system that controls the pumps may have failed.

Blair said workers tested the