

DECEMBER/NEWS

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in prison.  
Witnesses said they saw the man driving a 1998 white Ford pickup truck erratically on westbound M-68 just before the collision, Wallin said. The crash occurred at M-68 and Spring Street.

**DEC. 13**

**Airport deer obliterated**  
TRAVERSE CITY — Gunmen toting silencer-equipped rifles quietly began slaying deer at Cherry Capital Airport, two days after officials said they would consider non-lethal options for removing a small herd there.

The deer kill began Thursday evening, shortly after an afternoon meeting between airport officials and representatives of the state Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Local animal rights supporters expressed outrage at the airport's quick move to kill the deer, after dozens of area residents offered to help relocate the herd.

The slaughter occurred within a time frame identified Monday by both airport workers and a local DNR wildlife biologist, a schedule airport director Steve Cassens denied when contacted Tuesday by the Record-Eagle.

On Friday, he insisted no decision was made before the Thursday discussion.

The deer are a hazard to airport safety, officials said, and the small herd of a dozen or more animals on the airport grounds has been stirred by the construction of the new airport terminal building on South Airport Road.

**DEC. 14**

**Man held in drive-by**

BEULAH — A 28-year-old man was arrested early Saturday morning in connection with a drive-by shooting in Weldon Township.

Benzie County Sheriff's deputies say the man could

be charged with four counts of attempted murder after he opened fire on a house on M-115 with a semi-automatic rifle.

The man was arrested after he fled to a house in Joyfield Township, deputies say.

He also could be charged with felony firearm violations for possessing the weapon and an illegal .22-caliber rifle.

**DEC. 15**

**Man gets 6½ to 15 years**

TRAVERSE CITY — A 34-year-old Traverse City man with no criminal record was sentenced to 6½ to 15 years in prison for causing an accident that killed one man and devastated the lives of two women.

Jeffrey A. Fetterolf was high on cocaine when he swerved his oversized SUV into the path of a minivan on U.S. 31 South on Nov. 16, 2002.

Stephen D. Hess, a 39-year-old Traverse City resident, was killed. Bernita Gear, 57, and Cathie Conway, 30, were seriously injured.

Circuit Court Judge Thomas Power noted that Fetterolf refused to take responsibility for the crash despite clear evidence that he was responsible.

Fetterolf's sentence was at the high end of what Michigan's sentencing guidelines would allow.

**DEC. 16**

**Commission taps Jackson**

TRAVERSE CITY — A career public relations man who's lived throughout the world was named to the city commission Monday night.

T. Michael Jackson was selected in a 4-2 commission appointment for the last two years of Mayor Linda Smyka's unexpired term. The vote followed a second round of interviews that began last week.

Commissioner Rick Csapo nominated Jackson and felt his experience on the Downtown Development Authority board and with other community efforts

would be an asset to the commission. Commissioners Scott Hardy and Ralph Soffredine along with Smyka supported the nomination.

Commissioners Anne Melichar and Phill Orth voted no on Jackson's appointment, although she wasn't surprised with the results.

**DEC. 17**

**City settles lawsuit**

TRAVERSE CITY — A lawsuit filed against the Traverse City Housing Commission by its former executive director has been settled for \$20,000.

The settlement, approved Monday by the housing commission, resolves a year-old legal dispute with former director Lorri Burt. She sued the commission after her dismissal 13 months ago. She alleged her dismissal violated her civil rights and labor laws.

City housing officials denied the allegations and said the firing was based on critical auditor reports about the agency's financial and policy shortcomings. Housing commission attorney Gretchen Olsen said she was confident the city would have prevailed in the lawsuit, but that it was settled for financial reasons.

**DEC. 18**

**Shooting ruled justified**

TRAVERSE CITY — County deputies received two warnings from dispatchers early Dec. 3 that Keith Snover possessed replica revolvers and would try and goad police into shooting him.

A 911 tape released Wednesday by the Grand Traverse Sheriff's Department after county Prosecutor Dennis LaBelle exonerated Deputy Brad Kirkpatrick in the fatal

shooting had three separate references to the fake Colt .44 guns brandished by Snover.

But LaBelle said Kirkpatrick acted in "lawful self-defense" in the shooting as deputies had no way of confirming that the revolvers were not real.

The prosecutor said Snover acted "aggressive" and "highly-agitated" toward police when they responded to his home on a domestic violence complaint about 1:30 a.m.

Snover, 36, was shot once in the chest, LaBelle said, which ruptured his pulmonary artery.

Both LaBelle and Sheriff Scott Fewins downplayed the significance of the warnings about the fake guns, saying that police often get incorrect and conflicting information when responding to domestic complaints.

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WINTER CLASSES NOW SCHEDULED



# LIAA

Local Information Access Association

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This hands-on session will increase your enjoyment and understanding of printed maps and those found "online".  
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6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

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**Class Offered Twice:** Thursday, January 29 & Friday, January 30  
or Thursday, February 19 & Friday, February 20  
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For full class descriptions, registration forms, or more information please visit our web site [www.liaa.org](http://www.liaa.org) or call us at 231.929.3696  
 All classes held at LIAA 324 Munson Avenue Traverse City, Mi 49686