

# The Daily Mining Gazette

Houghton, Michigan

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50 Cents

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## THE KEWEENAW



SportsFriday

Familiar names return to lead area high school track and field teams in 2004.

## Local & Region

Hancock plans for homecoming.

## Obituaries

Mary L. Finnegan, Elaine Kallio, John R. Houle, Philip E. Medlyn.

## WEATHER

Tonight, partly cloudy, low around 25. Northwest wind 10 to 20 mph. Saturday, mostly sunny. High around 53. For details, see page 2A.

## LOTTERY

Here are the winning numbers selected Thursday in the Michigan State Lottery:

Midday Daily 3: 0-8-9; Midday Daily 4: 1-3-3-4; Daily 3: 1-3-9; Daily 4: 6-8-0-2; Roll Down: 1-17-24-28-31; Keno: 1, 3, 4, 8, 15, 16, 20, 24, 27, 32, 38, 39, 42, 45, 51, 64, 66, 67, 68, 70, 73, 78.

## THE NATION

### Pledging allegiance an inconvenience

EAST NASSAU, N.Y. (AP) — The Pledge of Allegiance didn't incite arguments over the separation of church and state. It was simply too long.

Officials in this village just east of Albany decided to forgo reciting the 31-word pledge before board meetings.

"Given the fact people are pressed for time, my whole goal is to move the meetings along and try to remove things that are duplicative and generally not really necessary," said Mayor Robert Henriksen.

Henriksen told the Troy Record the omission was not a political protest.

## Index

Annie's Mailbox	9A
Classifieds	5-7B
Church	8A
Comics	8B
Courts	2A
Horoscope	8B
Lifestyles	9A
Local & Region	3A
Nation	6A
Obituaries	2A
Opinion	4A
SportsFriday	1-4B
State	5A
TV Listings	8B
World	7A

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# C-L-K superintendent to step down

### Tiberg makes announcement at meeting

By MARK WILCOX and ERIN ALBERTY

HOUGHTON — C-L-K Schools Superintendent Ray Tiberg is retiring at the end of this school year after a three-decade career with the district that is also his alma mater.

"Overall, I feel good about leaving the district to my successor because it is financially sound, has first-rate facilities, solid academic scores, and, best of all, a group of young people second to none," Tiberg said in a written statement released late this morning.

School board members were caught off guard by the announcement, which came after Thursday's school board meeting.



TIBERG

"We had no idea he was retiring until he announced it in closed session last night," said school board member Matt Vertin. "We were taken by surprise. There had been rumors that he was thinking about it, but nobody really saw it coming."

Vertin, who studied at Calumet High School while Tiberg was principal, complimented his work as superintendent.

"I've only been on the board for about a year, but in that time I've come to realize the leadership and vast knowledge he brings to the table," he said. "He is one of the reasons the C-L-K district is as strong as it is."

School board vice-president Wanda Frimodig said Tiberg will be missed.

"He's been such an asset to our district," Frimodig said. "Certainly it will be a big impact."

Please see page 10

# HS principal to return to teaching

By GARRETT NEESE  
Gazette Writer

CALUMET — Citing a desire to work more directly with students, Calumet High School Principal George Twardzik has resigned to accept a district teaching position.

The C-L-K Board of Education Thursday accepted Twardzik's resignation as principal effective at the conclusion of the current school year. Moments later, the board passed another motion hiring him as a teacher in the district's new alternative middle school.

Twardzik, who served as high school principal since last July, said he hadn't planned to return to teaching when he accepted the principal's job.

But he said he wanted to get back to working Calumet direct-

ly with students and the alternative middle school teaching position will enable him to do that.

"I didn't go into it knowing where my future would go, but I realized I missed teaching and working with kids," he said. "I had an opportunity, so I took it."

Twardzik replaced former principal Donald Poshak last July, after serving one and a half years as assistant principal at the school.

The 1983 CHS graduate first began teaching at the high school in 1996 after seven years at schools in Illinois and Wisconsin.

Superintendent Ray Tiberg lauded Twardzik for his performance during the past school year.

"He has a good vision and he works hard at his job ... the working relations between



Garrett Neese  
Daily Mining Gazette  
Calumet High School Principal George Twardzik is seen shortly after his resignation at a school board meeting Thursday.

the administrative staff have just been tremendous," he said.

Washington Middle School Principal Michael Steber,

Please see page 10

# Aid worker: 150 killed in train crash

### 1,249 injured in N. Korean blast

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN  
Associated Press Writer

DANDONG, China — The fearsome picture of devastation from the North Korean train explosions near the Chinese border took shape today with initial reports saying 150 were killed, 1,249 injured and 1,850 households destroyed.

North Korea's government said the explosion occurred when train cars carrying dynamite touched power lines, according to Anne O'Mahony, regional director of the Irish aid agency Concern.

"It says 150 people died, including some school children," O'Mahony told Irish radio station RTE by telephone from Pyongyang, the North's capital.

Red Cross spokesman John Sparrow in Beijing said the blast had killed at least 54 people and injured 1,249, but that he expected the toll to rise, citing the massive damage.

The explosion damaged another 6,350 buildings, Sparrow said, citing information from Red Cross officials in the North.

"When you look at the number of buildings destroyed, you have to be afraid of what you're going to find," Sparrow said. "We are anticipating that the casualty figures will increase," Sparrow said, citing figures from Red Cross officials in the North.

Initial reports by South Korean media said 3,000 people were killed or hurt in the disaster at a railway station in Ryongchon, a bustling town about 90 miles north of the North Korean capital, Pyongyang.

The secretive North's communist government was silent today about the disaster, despite confirmation from the South Korean and Chinese governments.

Reports also varied over what exactly exploded.

"What they've said is that two carriages of a train carrying dynamite — they were trying to disconnect the carriages and link them up to another train," she said. "They got caught in the overhead electric wiring, the dynamite exploded, and that was the cause of the explosion."

Sparrow said the trains were carrying explosives similar to those used in mining. China's Xinhua News Agency reported the blast was blamed on ammonium

Please see page 10

# Keeping things green



William A. Rice/Daily Mining Gazette  
Drew Meyer, 6, of Hancock rakes leaves Thursday at the Third Street Park in Hancock and other members of the Cub Scouts of Wolf Pack 207 in Hancock spent Earth Day cleaning up the park. Also pictured is Rickie Lister and Danny Wood, both 8 and from Hancock.

## Children take part in Earth Day activities

By MARK WILCOX  
Gazette Writer

HOUGHTON — Children from throughout the area participated in Earth Day activities in a variety of ways yesterday.

In South Range, Steve Aho's second grade class made Earth Day hats before going outside to collect trash in the school yard and along the banks of a nearby creek. Mandy Maatta, 9, daughter of

Patty and Mike Maatta, enjoyed being outside on Earth Day. Mandy had her own reasons why everyone should pitch in to pick up trash.

"If an animal found a piece of plastic, they might think it was food and eat it," she said. "Then it would stick in their throat."

At Hancock Elementary School, students cleaned up refuse near a pond.

And earlier in the week, Lois Jambakar's fifth graders at Houghton Elementary School picked up garbage along the streets of west Houghton, en route to a party at their teacher's house.

All week, Laura Rowe's fifth grade students at Lake Linden-Hubbell Elementary School performed an Earth Day-themed

Please see page 10

# Economists see Michigan set for turnaround

## Manufacturing holds steady in U.P.

By KATHY BARKS HOFFMAN  
Associated Press Writer  
and BRAD SALMEN  
Gazette Writer

LANSING — Michigan's economy is poised for a turnaround, with job growth replacing years of job losses later this year, several economists said Thursday.

But don't expect those new jobs to be in manufacturing, which has been declining nationally for the past 50 years and probably will continue to do so, they said.

"There's no reason that I know of to believe this will

change," said Charles Ballard, an economics professor at Michigan State University. "The decline of the manufacturing sector would have occurred even if there was no other country besides the United States."

But Phil Musser, executive director of the Keweenaw Industrial Council in Houghton, said said today that in the Upper Peninsula, manufacturing has rebounded slightly in the past year with orders continuing to hold steady.

"I've spent a lot of time talking with manufacturing companies in the past few weeks, and they've told me that they've been slowly and steadily increasing their productivity and workforce," he said. "But

they're also telling me they're not back to levels before 2000-01, when the manufacturing sector (hit a downturn.)"

Manufacturing accounts for 12 percent of the U.P.'s employment force, down from 14 percent in the 1980s, said Tawni Ferrarini, a Northern Michigan University associate professor of economics.

"Part of it is that we're relying more heavily on international production," she said.

Statewide, the manufacturing slump will likely continue. And although foreign competition is blamed for many of the lost manufacturing jobs, other losses are tied more to productivity gains and technological advances, said Ballard.

That's good news for manufacturers becoming more efficient but bad news for Michigan's manufacturing workers and for the state economy, which relies more heavily on manufacturing than the nation's.

"Manufacturing is going to go down regardless of what we do," said John Czarnecki, vice president of the Michigan Economic Development Corp., the state's main agency for attracting and retaining jobs. "The key is to soften the blow."

He said the state may need to offer more training for displaced workers and more steps to help former manufacturing workers — often men in their 50s without college degrees —

find other jobs.

"We need to figure out some way for those people to have a decent rest of their life," Czarnecki said.

The state lost 4,000 manufacturing jobs in March, when its unemployment rate rose from 6.6 percent to 6.9 percent. The state has seen 134,000 manufacturing jobs disappear during the past three years, according to Mitchell Bean, director of the nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency, including 27,000 from March 2003 to March 2004.

But job growth is occurring in other sectors, with trade, transportation, health, education, leisure and hospitality seeing

Please see page 10