

The Daily Mining Gazette

Houghton, Michigan

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THE KEWEENAW



SportsFriday

Finlandia's baseball and softball teams busy working to improve in inaugural season.

Local & Region

Omega House fund-raising on track.

Obituaries

David Norden.

WEATHER

Tonight mostly clear, then partly cloudy with a chance of snow showers. Saturday partly cloudy a chance of snow. Windy. For details, see page 2A.

LOTTERY

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

Midday Daily 3: 5-5-2; Midday Daily 4: 6-8-2-8; Daily 3: 6-9-1; Daily 4: 6-3-6-7; Roll Down: 5-10-19-21-22; Keno: 5, 6, 8, 10, 14, 15, 17, 21, 26, 31, 33, 41, 45, 49, 53, 55, 61, 64, 69, 72, 75, 80.

THE NATION

Anger management lessons unlearned

WOODLAWN, Md. (AP) — A brawl broke out during an anger management assembly at a suburban high school.

Two people were arrested and 11 students were suspended after a shoving match escalated into a melee during Thursday's assembly.

Authorities said a confrontation between a student's mother and a group of girls who had been bothering her daughter turned into a shouting match, and led to pushing and hitting, before the crowd of 750 students erupted into "chaos," said C. Anthony Thompson, principal of Woodlawn High School.

The melee began as students on stage acted out peaceful ways to resolve conflict during the assembly was organized by Sheppard Pratt Health System.

It took about 15 minutes to defuse the situation, Thompson said.

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Soldier returns after long year

Reunited with family, friends

By BRAD SALMEN
Gazette Writer

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP — Much had happened since U.S. Army Sgt. Bob Johnson of Mohawk left for Iraq more than a year ago.

While Johnson's convoy was under fire from Iraqi insurgents, his five-year-old son Trevor was learning to ride a bike.

While Johnson's platoon was logging more a million miles in the scorching desert, his father Don had met his new fiancée.

And while he counted the days until he could finally come home, his wife Lauri bought a new dog.

As Johnson stepped off the plane at the Houghton County Memorial Airport Thursday, a year's worth of changes rushed at him all at once.

"I'm not at you all beer," Johnson smiled as friends and family enveloped him.



Brad Salmen/Daily Mining Gazette
Army Sgt. Bob Johnson of Mohawk reunites with his wife Lauri and son Trevor Thursday after returning from a year's duty in Iraq.

It had been a long year for Johnson and his family. Originally he thought that he was going to be in Iraq only until July of last year. But as July came and went, word arrived that they were staying put until at

least September.

And then, in September, they learned their tour would be a full year.

"There were a lot of broken

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General vows to 'pacify' Fallujah

By SAMEER N. YACOB
Associated Press Writer

FALLUJAH, Iraq — A U.S. general vowed an "overwhelming" response to the murder and mutilation of four American contractors, but U.S. troops stayed out of this anti-American city Thursday and fearful Iraqi police took no action.

Residents said they were ready to take on the Americans if they try to enter Fallujah, where schools and shops remained open a day after insurgents ambushed the contractors' SUVs and mobs strung up two of their charred corpses on an iron bridge spanning the Euphrates River.

"We wish that they would

try to enter Fallujah so we'd let hell break loose," Ahmed al-Dulaimi said. "We will not let any foreigner enter Fallujah," said Sameer Sami. "Yesterday's attack is proof of how much we hate the Americans."

Near Fallujah on Thursday, insurgents set off a bomb beside a U.S. military patrol, wounding three troops. Associated Press Television News footage showed smoke and fire pouring from an abandoned Humvee on the side of a road.

In Ramadi, west of Fallujah, six Iraqi civilians died and four were wounded Wednesday evening in a car bombing

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From skates to street



William A. Rice/Daily Mining Gazette
Tyler Hauswirth, 12, sneaks a shot past the pads of Jared Monticello, 13, at Laurin Grove Park in Hancock Thursday. Hancock students had a half-day of school and a group of about 12 kids spent the afternoon and evening in the park playing street hockey as the weather begins to warm up for spring. The temperature is predicted to reach 42 degrees today before cooling off for the weekend with an expected high of 38 degrees Saturday. Also pictured is Kyle Kelly, 14, all three are from Hancock.

Man sentenced for biting cops

Judge gives him 2-4 years in prison

By BRAD SALMEN
Gazette Writer

HOUGHTON — A Hancock man was sentenced to 2 to 4 years in state prison Thursday for biting two Houghton County Sheriff's Department officers.

Twelfth Circuit Judge Garfield Hood gave Brandon L. Jutila, 23, the maximum sentence allowed under state sentencing guidelines.

Jutila pleaded guilty March 24 to two counts of assaulting a police officer and one count of attempting to escape. All of the charges are felonies.

The charges stem from two separate January incidents where Jutila bit, kicked and fought Sgt. Dan Judnich and Deputy Kevin Coppo as the officers attempted to transfer him to a different cell at the Houghton County Jail.

Coppo was hospitalized at Portage Health System in Hancock for a large bite mark on his forearm.

Judge Phillip Kukkonen, of the 97th District Court, had ordered Jutila to undergo a psychiatric evaluation in Marquette where case workers declared him fit to stand trial.

As part of a plea agreement with prosecutors, the sentence on all three counts will run concurrently and Jutila will not be designated as a habitual offender.

Houghton County Assistant Prosecutor Fraser Strome asked Hood to depart from the guidelines and raise the minimum sentence to 32 months.

Strome contended that Jutila had inflicted serious

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JUTILA

Bush signs bill making it a crime to harm a fetus

Speech highlights Laci Peterson

By JENNIFER LOVEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Accompanied by grieving families, President Bush on Thursday signed into law new protections for the unborn that for the first time make it a separate federal crime to harm a fetus during an assault on the mother.

"If the crime is murder and the unborn child's life ends, justice demands a full accounting under the law," Bush said before signing the measure, a major priority for many of the president's most loyal political supporters. "The suffering of two victims can never equal only one offense."

Abortion-rights proponents, meanwhile, called the measure an assault on reproductive

freedom because it represents the first recognition of federal legal rights for an embryo or fetus as a person separate from the woman.

An exuberant audience of his opponent cheered the president during his remarks, while a few of the family members who shared the East Room stage wiped away tears. Included in the group were the mother and stepfather of California murder victim Laci Peterson, who was eight months pregnant when she died in December 2002 in a highly publicized case.

Bush devoted a large share of his speech to the loss of "a beautiful young woman who was joyfully awaiting the arrival of a new son." Peterson's mother, Sharon Rocha, and stepfather, Ron Grantski, looked on.

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Lake Linden, teachers settle

Board ratifies new contract Thursday

By GARRETT NEESE
Gazette Writer

LAKE LINDEN — Teachers at Lake Linden-Hubbell Public Schools have a new contract following unanimous ratification of an agreement by the school's board of education Thursday.

The deal, which is retroactive to Aug. 31, provides a 1.75 percent pay raise in the first year, in addition to regular salary progression from increased experience and earned education credits.

Barbara Heikkinen, president of the 36-member Lake Linden Education Association, said she was satisfied. Union members approved the contract Tuesday.

"We are a small district, and we felt they offered us what they could afford to offer us," she said.

During the second year, teachers will receive a salary increase of 2 percent, but the raise will be delayed until the beginning of the 14th payroll period in mid-February.

"It just enhances cash flow to the district," said Superintendent Randall Roberts.

The district will continue to cover all of the teachers' health, vision and dental insurance premium costs. According to information provided by the district, health costs are about \$492,000 this year.

Next year, the premiums are expected to jump about 18 percent, to about \$600,000.

Despite the costs, Roberts praised the coverage provided through the Michigan Education Special Services Association.

He said the MESSA insurance is relatively inexpensive compared to other, comparable policies.

"You can't weigh the price of an insurance premium against the lack of continuity in a class-



HEIKKINEN

"We are a small district, and we felt they offered us what they could afford ..."

room when you have a teacher out with a long-term illness," he said. "We want our teachers in the classroom everyday, that's the bottom line."

Heikkinen said the length of the talks made a two-year deal attractive.

"What we would have had to do in a month or two was turn around and start negotiating again, and both parties didn't want that," she said.

Roberts said despite the difficulty of the economic factors addressed during talks, the two-year contract gives the district better long-range plan-

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