

DDA, Chamber

BY ASHLYN KORIENEK
Staff Writer

MANISTEE — Economic development has been a widely discussed topic in Manistee for months, as the city has yet to make a decision on a consultant for economic development services.

A plan was presented to the Manistee City Council on Tuesday at a work session, by the Downtown

Development Authority (DDA), city manager Thad Taylor and Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce, where all parties would work together on economic development.

Taylor first announced the initial plan for the city to open up a search for an economic development consultant on Nov. 8, during a regular council

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Study finds lethal methods to control wolves is ineffective

From Staff Reports

MANISTEE COUNTY — A study of Michigan's wolf control methods finds the state should take a different approach to how it manages wolf attacks on livestock.

The published, peer-reviewed evaluation conducted by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI) and the University of Wisconsin shows the current practice of killing wolves to protect livestock has done more harm than good.

"The Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) practice of killing wolves to prevent predation on livestock doesn't reduce the risk of attacks on livestock any more than non-lethal interventions," said Ari M. Cornman of the LRBOI Natural Resources Department. "Furthermore, there is unexpected evidence of a side-effect where after killing one or more wolves on one property,

neighboring properties in the surrounding area faced elevated risk. The research shows that killing wolves is not a solution to the problem of losing livestock."

The DNR responds to wolf complaints in the Upper Peninsula, although it also contracts with a little-known Department of Agriculture bureau called Wildlife Services to kill wolves when they harm livestock.

"Coexistence in mixed-use landscape is challenging because some people perceive carnivores on the landscape as dangerous and because they sometimes threaten human property and safety," said University of Wisconsin Dr. Adrian Treves, of the Carnivore Coexistence Lab. "Governments may respond by killing carnivores in an effort to prevent repeated conflicts or threats."

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A gray wolf at the Wildlife Science Center in Forest Lake, Minn. Conservationists in Wisconsin pushed back Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018, against a bill that would end state wolf management efforts and bar state police from investigating wolf poaching, saying the measure will open the door to indiscriminate wolf hunts and won't help get the animals off the federal endangered species list. (Courtesy Photo/Dawn Villella)



Manistee Township Hall for the annual Cornhole Tournament, which aids the Michigan Special Olympics. (Ashlyn Korienek/News Advocate)

PLAYING FOR A CAUSE



Manistee Township Hall.

Cornhole tournament benefits the Special Olympics

BY ASHLYN KORIENEK
Staff Writer

STRONACH — Combining friendly competition and charity, members of the community in Manistee County joined together for a cornhole tournament on Saturday.

Manistee Moose Lodge No. 1128 and Dr. Shink Inc. held its annual fundraiser, this year benefiting the Michigan Special Olympics through the Wertz's Warriors, who do a snowmobile ride to the Winter Special Olympics in Traverse City.

The group uses the ride to raise funds and awareness for the annual event.

Melissa Spoor, organizer for the event, said the turnout on Saturday was more than expected. The Stronach Township Hall was packed with local residents, who formed a total of 24 teams for the tournament — a record number of participants.

"Last year we did it for the Wertz's Warriors for the

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Item applications on city agenda

finance, fuel, medical supply costs and personnel costs.

Council members will also revisit the curbside recycling program on Tuesday, where council members can approve or deny services at \$2.76 a month for a 96 gallon cart, which is emptied two times a month.

Council tabled this item at a regular meeting on Dec. 19, and further discussed it at a work session on Jan. 9. After plenty of discussion, council members held a general consensus that the city is not ready for the program. An official vote was not made.

The new program would have eliminated the current drop off site at 350 N. Glocheski Drive.

Several council members voiced their concerns about the program on Jan. 9.

Mayor Jim Smith said plenty of residents expressed an interest in the program, but are not willing to pay an additional cost for curbside recycling. He said other options should be examined in the future.

"We will park (the curbside program discussion) at this time and consider other options going forward in the future," said Smith, on Jan. 9. "I do appreciate everybody's time and energy with this."

Matt Biolette, municipal services manager, said Republic Services will work with the city on any option.

"As the city service provider we do not have a preference as to which way you should want to go," said Biolette, on Jan. 9. "We will provide you with whatever you want."

A report will also be made on Tuesday night from Barry Lind, who will address updates with the Manistee Blacker Airport.

Another work session is scheduled at 7 p.m. for Feb. 13, located in the city council chambers at City Hall. Council members will discuss the city manager's Quarterly Strategic Plan Update, a MERS presentation and other business.

Council has a full agenda for council members on Tuesday for the City of

EMA grant application for two heart monitors for the 2017 firefighters

The department is requesting a grant amount to purchase for the equipment that is required. The city would match of \$2,500, 50 percent or \$2,500. The department is working with a submission

Two heart monitors approved, the city would match grant match at 5 percent of the equipment if

consider increasing Group, which the ALS services. The cost to billing services remained the same

With Darling, of the public safety services in three areas. The vehicle maintenance

WOLVES

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But after analyzing the effectiveness of this strategy, the paper finds that the number of wolves killed did not predict the delay to recurrence of livestock losses at any spatial scale.

Cornman, Dr. Treves and University of Wisconsin PhD student Francisco J. Santiago Ávila analyzed the state of Michigan's wolf control methods since 1998. According to the researchers, societies around the world place priority on preserving nature.

They recognize that meeting both goals has been challenging for millennia when it comes to large carnivores, such as gray wolves. Researchers accentuate there has never been a gold-standard experiment without bias to test, if killing carnivores will prevent future attacks on domestic animals.

The paper argues for raising the standards of science used for managing wildlife, endangered species and protecting domestic and wild animals. The research team evaluated state and federal government interventions following 230 independent verified wolf attacks on livestock in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan from 1998-2014.

Since 2003, the state contracted federal agents to live-trap and terminate wolves on or near livestock farms for up to several weeks after an incident.

Unlike a farmer shooting a predator whose jaws are clamped on a calf, federal trappers work far from the attack site and often long after an attack has occurred to capture and kill wolves. According to the research team, a properly science-based government

program would have treated the trapping as an experiment and monitored the outcomes.

Before 2003 and intermittently from 2003 to 2014, the state sometimes also intervened with non-lethal methods of various sorts. Therefore, researchers investigated what they call a "silver-standard experiment" or case-control design to examine the risk of future attacks on livestock before and after the two treatments (lethal or non-lethal state intervention).

Researchers investigated whether killing wolves reduced the risk of a future attack on the original farm or in its vicinity, based on previous research suggesting that, after lethal intervention, remaining pack members may scatter and cause more conflicts.

Researchers conducted analyses at three spatial scales, from the one square mile section around a verified site of livestock loss up to the 320 square mile neighborhood of townships around it. The use of three spatial scales allowed them to measure recurrence of wolf attacks beyond the original sites of verified wolf attack (spill-over effects).

Researchers detected spill-over effects that they characterize as follows: a small percentage of farms with verified livestock losses did benefit from state-run wolf-killing, by suffering slightly fewer losses in the following months; but this was entirely compensated for by slightly elevated losses at a small number of neighboring farms in the same township.

The net benefit of killing wolves was zero.

Meanwhile, a small number of satisfied livestock owners might celebrate the success on their property,

while their neighbors suddenly suffer more losses. If the farmers did not perceive the spill-over effects researchers detected, they might agree among themselves that the killing was helpful and more was needed.

The research shows that killing wolves is not a solution to the problem of losing livestock. Experiments with non-lethal methods in the very same region showed – with gold-standard evidence – that one can protect livestock without killing wolves.

Experiments run by Dr. Tom Gehring of Central Michigan University using livestock-guarding dogs and using fladry, a visual deterrent designed around flags hanging from fence-lines, proved effective during the short grazing seasons in the U.P. of Michigan. Other non-lethal methods have shown promise as well, though they have not yet been tested with gold-standard experiments with Great Lakes wolves.

Study further analyzed past scientific literature and found that there is no strong scientific support for killing wolves to protect livestock, at least using prevalent government methods.

The researchers conclude, based on their review of past studies, their findings and the new standards set by their research, that "no study in North America has yet proven with strong inference that killing wolves is effective in preventing future livestock losses."

The research team argues for raising the standards of science used for managing wildlife, endangered species and protecting domestic and wild animals. Moreover, they point the way to eventual gold-standard experiments that should test government policy on wild animals.

Michigan woman reunited with childhood diary 45 years later

From Staff Reports

BLENDON TOWNSHIP (AP) — A Michigan father and son have returned a nearly 45-year-old diary to its original owner, who was a teenager when she made entries in it during the 1970s.

Kodi Brandt found the diary earlier this month in a storage area in one of the bedrooms of his family's farmhouse in Blendon Township, WOOD-TV reported. The book had the words "One Year Diary" on the cover. The last entry was from 1974.

Brandt and his father, Dave Brandt, read the diary for details and researched online to locate the diary's owner. Dave Brandt said he wasn't sure they were going to find the owner. But Kodi Brandt was determined to track her down.

"I keep all kinds of little mementos from my younger age. I figured she might like it, too," he said.

He and his father met with Rae Green earlier this month to return the diary to her. Green was 13 years old when she began writing in the book.

"I remember this so vividly now that it's in my hands," Green said.

The Brandts were able to track Green down thanks to the mention of her little brother Vic.

"How many Victors and Raes come together on one voter registration card? It's got to be her," Dave Brandt said.

Green is unsure how the diary ended up in the Brandts' home since she grew up in Ferndale on the other side of the state.

Green is the founder and president of Sanford House Addiction and Treatment Centers in Grand Rapids.