



OCTOBER 2, 2003

GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE

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A Message from the Supervisor By Lee Durrwachter, **Burt Township Supervisor**

Are We Prepared?

Two weeks ago I had the opportunity to attend an Incident Command Course at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama at the request of our former ambulance directors, Bob and Nancy Weston. Although created in 1998 and overseen by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), it wasn't until after 9/11/2001 that this training center became a part of the Office for Domestic Preparedness (OPD) under Homeland Security. Since then they have stepped up their training efforts. This Alabama federal training center is designed to prepare emergency responders, emergency management officials and State/Local and Federal officials to respond to terrorist acts involving Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), including chemical, biological, and radiological systems. I noticed during my classes there were other courses going on at the same time in other areas of proficiency. Besides emergency management, classes were being conducted in advanced hands-on training for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel in responding to terrorist incidents of WMD.

Although, my purpose in attending the WMD Incident Command Course was to learn and understand what's involved, I soon was in a training session entangled with potential terrorist targets and protocols of response. Good lessons to draw upon when trying to implement their recommendations in our remote rural area Response Plan. Needless to say I became an oddity when they found out our closest mall and signal light was 100 miles away. Monikers abound, as I became known as Northern Exposure. Our most experienced firefighter on our team was known as Ocala Joe, who was from Florida. In fact, everytime the instructors would talk about a new piece of safety equipment, Ocala Joe had it. It seems Florida is equipped with all the latest equipment, first responder protection and hazardous materials protection gear. He became the envy of all the other firefighters. Does being the governor of Florida and brother to the president in anyway influence equipment dispersal? No, I didn't think so. It became an eye opening experience for me. Luckily, I found myself swimming in unfamiliar waters with Full Time Professional Responders. Classmates included full time firefighters, fire chiefs, paramedics, fire marshals, EMTs, state police intelligence officers, sheriff swat teams, RNs, 911 dispatchers, health care providers, and health emergency teams. They came together from all over the country to learn how to become even more effective. And they did.

An increased effort is being made from the top down to involve, educate, and equip local agencies to contain the threat of terrorist employment of chemical and biological agents and radiological material. With first responders better prepared, they will be ready to take early and effective action in the event of an incident involving terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction. To increase response capability at all levels, the U.S. Congress has instituted a nationwide preparedness initiative through the appropriation of additional funding,

creation of new coordinating organizations, and pass ing legislation regarding weapons of mass destruction. OPD's traditional view of WMD has diminished with the proliferation of "improvised" high explosive, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear devices which are no longer limited to superpower nations. As a consequence the "improvised" devices have become relatively easy to produce, hide and utilize. A "terrorist" incident now becomes the "area of operations" and is considered a crime scene, a hazardous materials site, and a disaster area. As such, this "event" may extend across jurisdiction boundaries and/or require response assets beyond the capability of affected jurisdictions.

The first line of defense against terrorism is community agencies and organizations comprising the first response infrastructures. OPD believes what these or ganizations are capable of successfully completing will make the difference between life and death for a large segment of its local community.

Any emergency created by a terrorism event requires an unexpected and heightened degree of coordination between internal and external response organizations which includes organizing a complex on-scene operation. It also includes the aspect for operational boundaries to be clearly defined, and procedures to contain common, easily understood terminology.

Crammed into our last day of training was an exercise in real time of an emergency, which as it evolved became a terrorism event. Fifteen different situations were presented during that exercise which challenged "first line of defense". Operational boundaries our were drawn and control access was assigned. Even targeted public information was included. Assignment of sectors of responsibility was implemented. Assessing the population, environmental and infrastructure impacts was incorporated, as well as the physical location of boundaries, which from time to time switched from fixed to flexible, depending upon the quantity and type of chemical or biological agents or radiological material that was released.

An emergency created by a terrorism event can present itself at any time and with minimum or no warning. The bottom line is when a terrorism situation occurs; it will likely be more challenging for response forces to manage than are most other emergency events. However, if we don't have a "workable" Response Plan in place, even a routine event can become an overwhelming emergency. Without a Response Plan in place, future funding requests to federal and/or state agencies won't even be considered.

Therefore in the next couple of months we will be putting together a Response Plan, fashioned after the Federal Response Plan and tailored to our assets, including: policy and leadership, incident response team community emergency management plan, communications, and training, exercising and maintenance. We will also assess threats, vulnerabilities, and capabilities and needs related to terrorism incidents at our local level.

And on a personal note: In working with these full time first responders, I noticed at times they tend to make light of their situation among themselves. Here's an item they shared with me:

Latest terrorist news

FBI officials have arrested a teacher possessing a compass, protractor, and straight edge. They claim he is an Al-Gebra operative with weapons of math instruction.

Date

Sept. 16 67

Sept. 20 58

Sept. 21 68

Sept. 17 79 52

Sept. 18 78 53

Sept. 19 76 56

Sept. 22 66 51

MY DAVINE DIR

SUM M A RY

DATA is compiled by

Karla Bugg.

Cooperative Weather Observer.

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7 WDIV- Detroit (NBC)	28 FX
8 WTBSAtlanta, GA	29 G.M. Community Channel
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11 ESPN 2	32 TV Land
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14 The Movie Channel Premium	35 Hallmark
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16 WXYZDetroit (ABC) 17 A&E-Arts & Entertainment	37 QVCShopping Channel 38 C-Span
18 The Discovery Channel	39 CHS - Country Music Videos
19 The Learning Channel 20 TNNThe Nashville Network	40 The Weather Channel 41 FOX News
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Editorial Policy

We encourage our readers to use these pages as a community forum for a free exchange of ideas. Your letters are welcome The one stipulation is that letters to the editor must be signed. Pen names will

not be accepted. We will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity, and we will publish your comments as space allows

Further, the views expressed by our writers and guest correspondents are welcome additions to the forum. They reflect, however, opinions of the writers and correspondents and are not those explicitly endorsed by the Gazette.

The Grand Marais Gazette Marc Oglevie, Owner & Editor Grand Sable Publishing Co., Inc. PHONE: 906-494-2492 FAX: 906-494-2492 E-MAIL: thonyous@jamadots.com

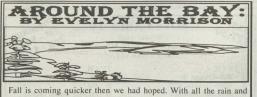
The Grand Marais Gazette is published the first and third Thursday of each month for \$15.00 per year in Grand Marais and \$20.00 per year outside of Alger County - 1" Class delivery for \$27.00. OFFICE HOURS: If you see the dark blue Chevy Suburban out front, give it a try. If you have any questions please call and leave your name and phone number on the answering machine. We'll get back to you.

Postmaster send address changes to: Grand Marais Gazette, P.O. Box 370, Grand Marais, MI. 49839-0370

Sept. 23 55 48 Sept. 24 61 45 Sept. 25 54 42 26 50 Sept. 40 Sept. 27 52 47 Sept. 28 52 43 Sept. 29 47 38 We have received 5.20 inches of rain in September.

GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE

OCTOBER 2, 2003



cool weather it has stopped us from getting all that yard work done we promised ourselves we would do. I know I have lots to put away before the snowfall that they are predicting for this week. There have been lots of hunters in town this week. With bear season

and bird season underway the restaurants and motels seem to be pretty busy. Still fisherman around too, though most say it too darn cold to fish the stream.

The EMS conference is coming up in Marquette this weekend. Most of our Corps members will be taking classes for continuing education at Northern Michigan University. It is always exciting to learn new things and to brush up on EMS skills.

It was nice to have family in for Sara (Morrison) and Ray Scaife's reception. In were Maggie (Bailey) and Greg Smith from Ithaca along with daughter Allie and son Matt. Wendy (Morrison) and Steven Sohl from Hazel Park were in, along with son Johnny.

Jenny (Morrison) and Ben Cooley from Ithaca were in too. Larry and Terri Morrison were also in from Calumet City, IL. Good friends, Cheryl and Sid Hull from Ithaca came in for the reception and helped with organizing. Penny Barney and Seth Hoopingarner were in from Marquette, along with Ryan and Brooke (Barney) Whaley, with their daughter Paige Marais.

A special thanks to Dick Casebeer and John Dettwiler for pulling off the LAST Morrison reception. Without their help and expertise, this would not have been the same. Thanks to all the helpers, Kay Wampler, Norm Geiger, Gerrie Bailey, (Mom), Barb Whaley, Dianna Bell, Nancy Connor, Sandee Sibbald and sister Candice, and Renee' Beaver. All the guys that helped get the chairs and tables and help clean up after the reception. You were so much help.

Renee' Beaver from Grand Rapids spent some time in Marquette with daughter Brooke. She was able to spend some quiet time with granddaughter Paige, while Brooke worked. Renee' says Paige was as good as gold the whole time she was there. Renee' came to Grand Marais and stayed with her folks, Neil and Ruth for the week, and Bob Stocking from Grand Rapids joined them for a long weekend. He was going to try and get some last minute fishing in while he was here.

Sidney and Rose Hermanson are in for the month visiting their mother Nelmi Hermanson. Hope you get better weather before you have to leave back to California.

Bruce and Yvonne Essex were in from Whitehall, along with friends Kelly and Regg that celebrated their 18th anniversary. Bruce and Yvonne will be back up in a few weeks and will be bring the grandchildren with them. I am sure they will have a good time exploring around the camp.

Congratulations on the new addition to the Capogrossa family. Another grandbaby to spoil in Grand Marais.

Happy birthday to Sarah Bell, Bill and Fran DeWolf, Bill Bailey, Stevie Nyman and Rick Capogrossa. Happy 25th Anniversary to Dianna and Dave Bell.

The E-MAIL address for the

Hope to see you Around the Bay. Keep on smiling Evie You can e-mail any interesting tidbits to me at: morriso3@jamadots. com



......... BIRTH ANOUNCEMENT Ashleigh Capogrossa and Michael Butkovich are proud to announce the birth of their daughter. Paitten Mackenzie **Butkovich on** September 26, 2003 at **Marquette General** Hospital. Paitten weighted in at 7 lbs. 13.2 oz and stands 20 inches tall.

.......

GRAND MARAIS **SENIOR MEALS** LUNCH **SCHEDULE**

FRIDAY Oct. 3 Shepard's Pie -Cauliflower w/peas - Dessert

MONDAY Oct. 6 Roast Beef - Mashed potatoes/Gravy - Corn - Fruit WEDNESDAY Oct. 8 Baked Chicken - Oven Brown Potatoes - Baked Beans - Bars

FRIDAY Oct. 10 Pepper Steak - Mashed Pota-

toes - Green Beans - Dessert **MONDAY** Oct 13 Chili - Combread - Fruit

Salad - Cake WEDNESDAY Oct. 15

Veal Cutlet - Scalloped Potatoes - Peas - Fruit

FRIDAY Oct. 17 Hamburger Steak w/Onions -Baked Potatoes - Broccoli -Fruit

(Items subject to change.) Senior Nutrition Program meals are provided by Alger-Marquette Community Action Board (AMCAB) for persons 60 or older & their spouses.

The

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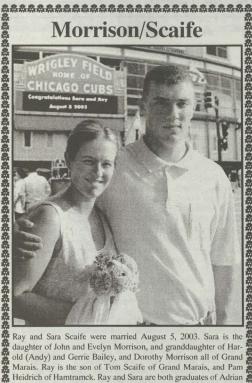
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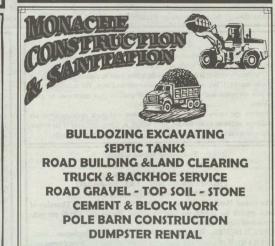
Candy

Books



old (Andy) and Gerrie Bailey, and Dorothy Morrison all of Grand Marais. Ray is the son of Tom Scaife of Grand Marais, and Pam Heidrich of Hamtramck. Ray and Sara are both graduates of Adrian College and are now living in Pleasant Lake. Ray is a Supply Operations Coordinator at CMS in Jackson and Sara is employed as a deputy treasurer in Napoleon Township. A reception was held in Grand Marais September 20. Many friends and family were able to attend which made it a very special occasion



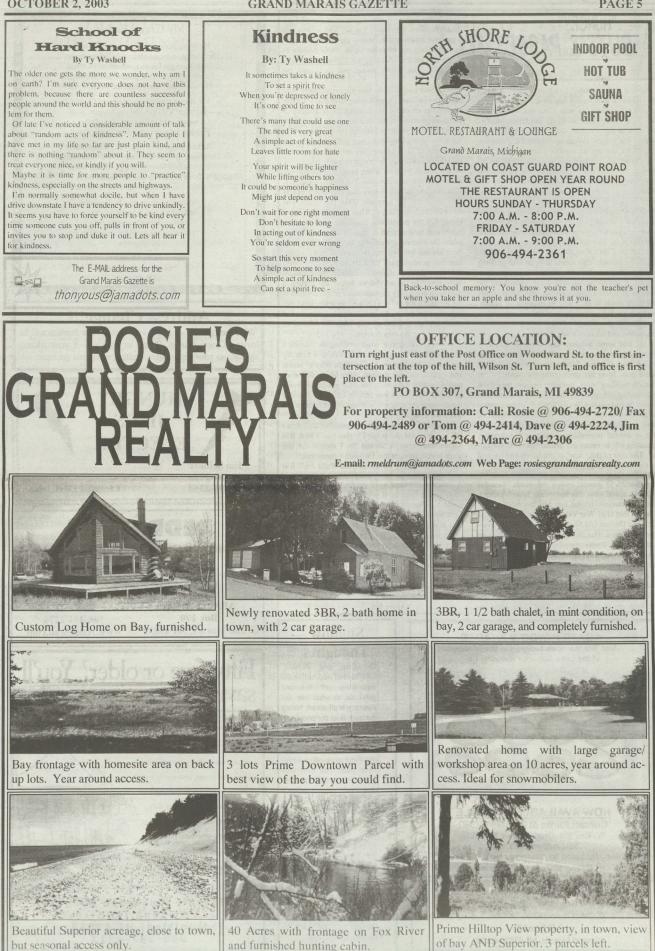


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Ain't it amazing what our government can do if they want? It took only a few days for the Congress to almost unanimously pass a bill that would allow the "Don't Call List" law to go into effect. Most of the time it takes longer than that for them to be seated. The judges' rulings that blocked implementation of the law are yet another example of the judicial branch of our government overstepping its authority. Any idiot that overruled the law on the basis of it being unconstitutional should be in a loony bin. When the Constitution was written, Alex had not even thought of the telephone and I seriously doubt that the Constitution ever meant to impose the nuisance of telemarketers on the people. There does however exist a bigger problem underlying this issue and that is the fact that many judges are of the opinion that they should make law, the purpose of the legislative branch. This seems to be an ever-growing problem and one that should have everyone concerned. It is unconstitutional! I can understand the need to give some judges all but irrevocable tenure but there needs to be a way to impeach all judges. Make it tough to impeach them but not impossible; they like all government officers need to be held accountable, and we need a way to do it.

I see that some Senators and Congressmen from both sides are questioning "Crybaby's request for \$87 Billion for Iraq. Maybe there are a few with some guts. Most are questioning the funds for the "nation building" only, probably because they think questioning the pork in the military expenditures would be bad politics. Well I don't. Prior to approval of an amount that size, a lot of research should be done and most of the pork eliminated. If some funding is needed immediately, approve a temporary spending bill to insure our armed forces do not suf-fer. The cost of this "war" is ridiculous and the cost of the "nation building" is worse.

How in God's name can this government and the Republicans in general mouth the words "Grateful Nation", spend what they are on the Bush Vendetta, and cut Veterans Health Care. Just this week I heard a report that Gulf War Veterans are contracting Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS) at twice the rate of the average population. Has this grateful nation jumped up and said, "We'll take care of you"? The answer is of course no. What this government is saying is "Go to Hell until you can prove you contracted the disease as a result of Gulf war action. In the meantime you and your family will have to suffer and go bankrupt. After you and several more die of this disease and the facts are indisputable, we might take some re-

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sponsibility just as in the Agent Orange and Gult War Syndrome instances." Yes sir! Sure sounds like a grateful nation to me. Makes me want to recommend military service to the youth of this country as a give and get deal. Actually it is a give and get deal, you give your blood, sweat and tears and get crewed.

Move over Iraq! It looks like the warmongers have their eyes on Iran. I keep hearing how Iran's nuclear capabilities are on the increase thus the probability of weapons of mass destruction increase. If that doesn't sound familiar you have been out of the solar system for a few years. Maybe the new call ups of reserves and National Guard troops are for something other than replacements for the troops in Iraq?

Californians must be some kind of different animals; yes that includes you Terri and DoughBoy. First the "Asses" run a man that they don't like as their candidate for governor. Then the voters who don't like him vote him in. Then a rich Elephant gets enough of the people that don't like him to sign a petition to have a recall election. Then a judge postpones the election and another un-postpones it. Now there are one hundred plus people running for a position that is responsible for a bankrupt state. After a debate of the front runners, in which the questions were given to the candidates before the debate, a man with absolutely no experience in government is the leader in the polls. This guy, an actor, has positions that are in direct opposition to his party and at times appears to have no idea what his position is. Whatever they get they deserve.

And finally. Last issue while proofing the Gazette, I emulated Redd Foxx by shouting, "I think it's the big one". I was reading my friend "Right Way's" article and agreed with every word. After taking 385 nitro tablets, getting a dozen defibrillator jolts, and having an octuple bypass, I was able to carry on. Actually we do agree on quite a few things, it just is more fun when we disagree

Sherri had a birthday Sunday September 28, I won't tell you how old she is but I'll give you a hint. It is somewhere between 56 and 58. I understand that some people thought that I wouldn't remember.

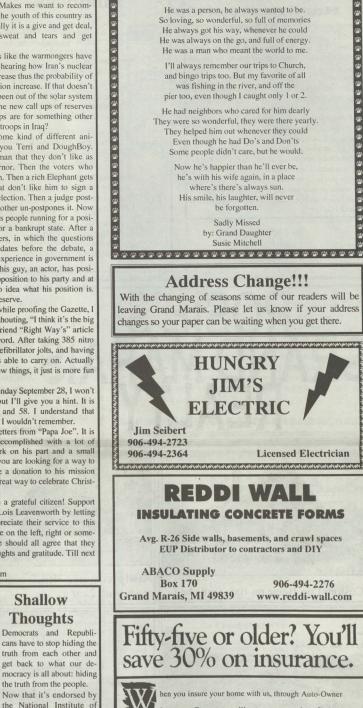
It was nice seeing the letters from "Papa Joe". It is amazing what can be accomplished with a lot of dedication and hard work on his part and a small contribution from us. If you are looking for a way to make a difference, make a donation to his mission fund at the bank. It is a great way to celebrate Christmas as it should be.

And finally, finally. Be a grateful citizen! Support our troops like Jim and Lois Leavenworth by lettin them know that we appreciate their service to this country. Whether you are on the left, right or somewhere in the middle, we should all agree that they deserve our prayers, thoughts and gratitude. Till next issue

morphine

became a father

Hungry Jim





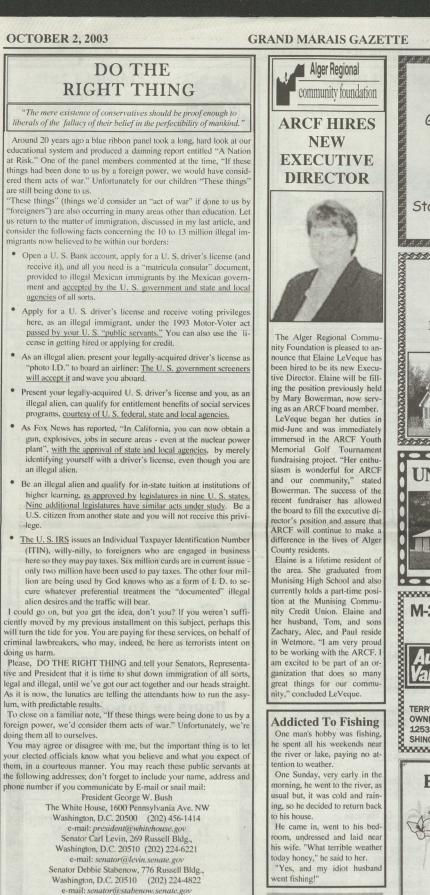
OCTOBER 2, 2003

They helped him out whenever they could Even though he had Do's and Don'ts Some people didn't care, but he would. Now he's happier than he'll ever be,

My Grand Father

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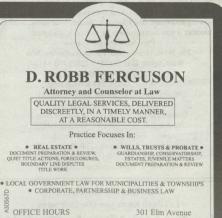
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NEWS



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Burt Township School District Superintendent's Corner

Brenda M. Greenhoe / Smith bgrandmarais@hotmail.com

I am sitting in my office writing on this somewhat dreary Saturday afternoon. The weather has become increasingly cool and rainy over the past few weeks. Autumn is definitely upon us.

Despite the cloudy cool days, Grand Marais remains a most lovely location to be. It is amazing how beautiful it truly is here. The beauty shines through the foggy mist, because it lies in the people and surroundings. It is not dependent upon the sunshine to unleash it. There is no other place on the earth quite as special as Grand Marais.

no other place on the earth quite as special as Grand Marais. Fall is especially nice in Grand Marais. The tourists have lessened their presence. The bugs have just about disappeared. The cool nights enhance the warmth of our days. The days remain long enough to enjoy the out of doors. The smell in the air is refreshing. The school is alive with laughter, learning and camaraderie. Indeed, fall has got to be one of the four best seasons to enjoy life here in Grand Marais.

We are currently in our fourth week of school and the emergence of autumn. Both are intriguing in their own way. The new students each add an element of 'color' and diversity to our school. The leaves in the forest are beginning to add the same to their surroundings.

Twenty five percent of our students are new to Grand Marais school. Predominately the new students are in grades 8, 9 and 10. Many of our new students were previously home-schooled. The adjustment for us and them is continuing smoothly. It is so nice to have these students join us.

We welcome you to join us, also. You are invited to join us for lunch, to visit our school or just to drop by to say 'hi'. We are proud of our school and the 'magic' that lies within. And welcome the chance to share that with you.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding our school.

School Phone 494-2543 Home Phone 494-2227 School Fax 494-2522 E-mail bgrandmarais@hotmail.com Until next time, Happy Living, Happy Learning, Happy Teaching ©brenda

Thespians Wanted

We are preparing to begin our fall theater season. We hope you will join in the fun! Our fall production will be on November 7th and 8th. We will be doing a one-act play, which proves to be entertaining for us all. For additional information, contact Dorinda or Brenda at school.

Thoughts of the Season by Mrs. Smith's Language arts students:

Section of

It is autumn. In the fall, I like to ...

- . .jump in the leaves. Stormi
- . .ride my bike through the leaves. Jerry
- . .ride my mom's four-wheeler, all by myself. Jamie
- ... run and jump in the leaves. Austin C.
- . .smoosh the leaves. Michael
- .jump in the leaves. *Kelcie* ..go hunting with my dad and Warren. *Elizabeth*
- . .play in the leaves. *Mike*
- .rake up the leaves and play with my dog. Gregory
- .jump in the leaves. Nicole
- .go get candy with my mom and dad. LeRoy
- .play with my toys and make leaf piles and jump in them. Austin D.

Burt Township School District 2003-04 School Calendar

 October 10th
 Teach

 October 17^h
 End of

 October 18th
 Autum

 October 23rd
 Parent

 October 23rd
 Photo

 November 7th
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 November 7th & 8th
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 November 14th
 No Sc

 November 25th
 End of

 November 26th, 27th, 28th
 Thank

 December 19th
 Progra

 December 19th
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 December 19th
 Schoo

 January 5th
 Schoo

 January 16th
 End of

Teacher Professional Development End of first six weeks marking period Autumn Festival Parent Teacher Conferences Photo Retakes Progress Reports Due Community Theater Production No School End of second six weeks marking period Sth Thanksgiving Break Christmas Program (December 22nd Stormdate) Progress Reports Due Christmas Break School Resumes End of first semester marking period

BURT TOWNSHIP SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

Thursday, October 2 Pizza - Salad - Dessert Friday, October 3 Nachos w/Works - Refried Beans - Fruit Monday, October 6 Chicken Legs - Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy - Veggie - Dessert Tuesday, October 7 Hamburger - French Fries -Salad - Pudding

Salad - Pudding Wednesday, October 8 First Come - First Serve Thursday, October 9 Turkey - Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy - Dressing - Cranberries Friday, October 10

Pizza - Carrots - Cake Monday, October 13 Hot Dog w/Bun - Tater Tots -

Carrots - Pudding Tuesday, October 14

Goulash - Cheese Bread - Salad -Dessert

Wednesday, October 15 Nachos w/Works - Refried Beans - Dessert

Thursday, October 16 Pizza - Salad - Fruit

Friday, October 17 Ravioli - Bread Sticks - Veggie -Dessert

** Milk, Bread, Peanut Butter, Jam and Salad Bar available daily



second you get up in the morning and never stops until you get asked a question in class! Playing truant from school is like a credit card. Fun now, pay later! Teacher: Class, we will have only half a day of school this morning. Class: Hooray Teacher: We will have the other half this afternoon! Be sure that you go straight home, I can't, I live just round the corner!

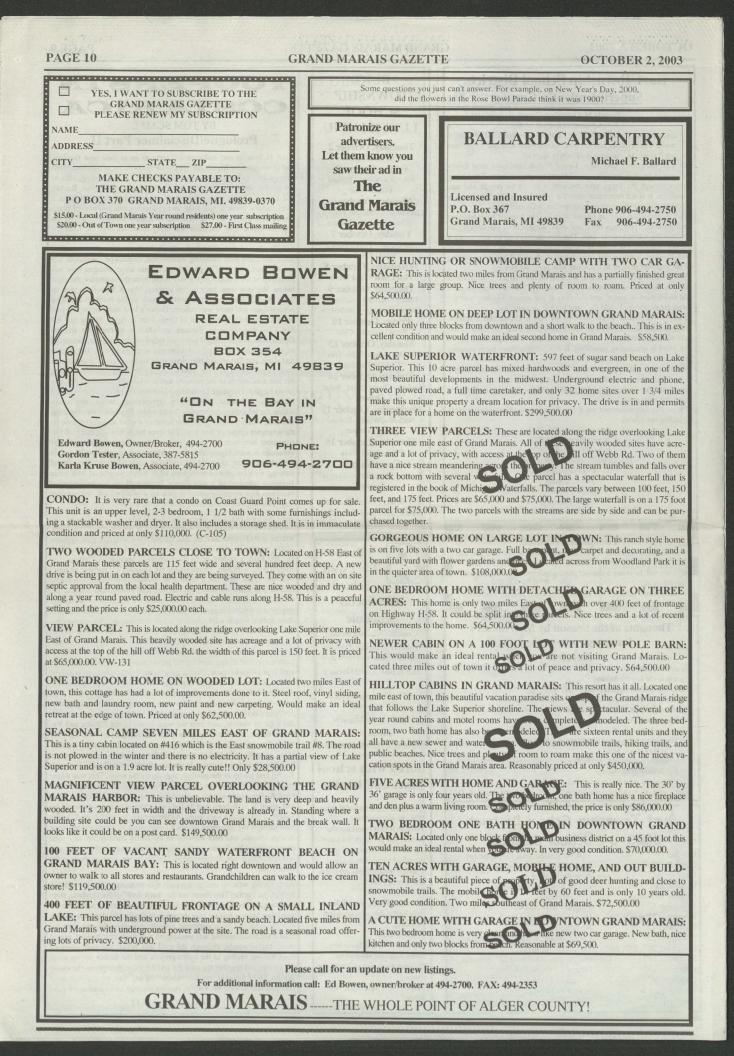


April 11-Jennifer and Ashleigh left early to go to their host families, and to our surprise Rigo's wife Hortensia showed up to transport them because he was having some stomach trouble. She was coming back to get Rachel and me at about 11:00. In the meanwhile Devan, Rachel, and I had breakfast on the terrace as a tremendous fire evolved at a paint factory about a half mile away. Tremendous billows of black smoke drifted away from us westward on a fairly strong breeze over the city. Simultaneously, the blaze was being broadcast over the local TV networks, and it was several hours before firefighters had it under control. Our breakfast consisted of a simple buffet featuring toast, coffee, juice, and fresh fruit, including watermelon, cantaloupe, pineapple, bananitos, and papaya. The girls also tore into some mangos they had picked up at the grocery on the way home from the restaurant the night before. We now went back to this grocery, Mas X Menos, to pick up some items. When we were arriving back at the hotel, a car door popped open and there was Arlene, Devan's host sister from last year when Devan and Rachel went to Costa Rica in April. Arlene had left San Vito, way down by Panama, at 5:00 a.m. to come up and get Devan, who was so excited last week when she learned that she would be staying with them again. Arlene was accompanied by her mother and sister, and Devan and they were soon on their way. Hortensia was back to get Rachel and me shortly, and we bounced and darted along the San José streets in the rampant traffic while she described her new job as English Language Department Director at a private high school. I listened with interest, occasionally commenting on the similarities within the education community world wide. Rigoberto was sleeping, still sick, when we arrived at their home in a quiet residential zone or the southeast corner of San José. The three boys, Riri 13 (many of you remember him from his winter visit two years ago), Francisco 9, and Fernando 7 were highly shy about coming out to greet us, but soon enough they were enjoying our company, especially after we warmed them up with the gifts of some toys, all of which we played with while Hortensia prepared us a nice dinner. In the evening we accompanied Hortensia to a shopping center to pick up a wedding gift, the younger boys amusing themselves energetically in the aisles of a toy store.

April 12-José Delgado, who visited Grand Marais several years ago with his daughter Raquel and whom I have known for almost ten years, arrived at 9:00am to take me and Rachel for a two day visit in Santa Maria, a pretty town in the mountains an hour and a half from San José. His son Paul, a student in the Technological Institute in Cartago, and Raquel were with him. I have visited the Delgado's a number of times over the years: they are a close knit, spiritually oriented, fun-loving family. The other members are Cecilia, José's wife, and Rebeca, the oldest child, now married to Valerio Fallas. We stored some of our luggage and booty and hopped in José's 1998 dark green Subaru all-wheel drive station wagon with which he again demonstrated his mastery behind the wheel, picking his way with horn, brake, and throttle though the video game of city traffic and ultimately negotiating some hair raising mountain curves, up and down, before sliding gracefully past his remote-controlled sliding steel-barred portón and into the driveway of the well kept Delgado home. Cecilia gave us the bienvenidos and welcome back -- Rachel was there for two weeks last April -- and were soon being shown José's latest home improvements, including a new shop where he makes furniture. He also does welding to keep himself busy José and Cecilia both retired from teaching in the last couple years. We did a lot of visiting, and later we went down to see Rebeca and Valerio's house, which was not done when Rachel was last here. They are doing fine, not planning a family just yet, but LO! out back, the consummate gallinera (chicken coop) built by José and Valerio, complete with happily laying chickens. In the late afternoon Cecilia and José took Rachel and me up to the pavilion high above the town. This was where the wedding was held last December, one that Rachel had hoped to attend. As fate would have it, a friend had made a video tape of the affair and given it to Rebeca and Valerio only recently, and we would be watching it later that very night. As the sun set, we took a walk up the road through the darkening woods. Coyotes barked, strange birds made strange sounds, and bats wavered as the moon climbed the sky. José drove without headlights on the way down to preserve the ambience, and one stretch was illuminated by fireflies as we crawled back to the main road.

April 13-We were up and at 'em early this morning to head to a beach spot on the Pacific. This meant out the "back door" of Santa Maria, stopping to add Rebeea and Valerio's Suzuki to our excursion, and down toward San Marcos and up over the range to the Pacific. José assured me that the road had been improved considerably since the last time we tried it because someone was working on a hydroelectric project around there. Unfortunately, although the road was better, our path diverged from the one leading to the hydro project, and the further up we went, the rockier and muddier the road got and the more precipitous the shoulder got. Did I forget to mention narrow? At any rate, we crawled down the other side toward the Pacific, passing through an extensive oil palm

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GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE

ORENT ELECTED

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YOOPERS IN COSTA RICA Prologue/Disclaimer Part II Continued

plantation before reaching the coastal highway and locating the right beach and the property of José's brother-in-law's brother-in-law, when we were greeted and welcomed by the family to the beach house with a roofed, open-air gathering place. The first item of business was swim ming, and Rachel and I had a chance to practice our body surfing tech-niques in the fair-to-middlin' conditions. We later rinsed the brine off in the outdoor shower and took a walk up the beach, picking shells and feeling the breeze. Back at camp, we lounged and visited while lunch was prepared, most of it unpacked from insulated containers that were loaded before we left. After lunch we toured the grounds, checking out and eating whatever fruits we found to be ripe, including star fruit and cashew fruit. We also watched a long line of ants marching up and down one variety of tree. They were chewing off pieces of leaves and taking them back to their home to prepare a mushroom culture for a winter's food supply, as José informed us. He next got a ladder and a long board and began flicking hard-to-reach cashew fruits down to Ce cilia, Rachel, and me on the ground. After another swim, we packed up our things and headed home via another route, this one blacktop all the way, over the fresh water crocodiles beneath the bridge, circling around to Santa Maria up above San José and the central valley, which was now brilliantly lit up in the late summer night. We stopped on the outskirts of San José for some KFC at a mall food court (per request by Raquel) and then chugged back up into the mountains and fog for the home stretch.

April 14-What a pretty morning in the valley - birds chirping, house cleaning, wash hanging, breakfast working, extended snoozing-- José knocked, telling me we were expected at Rigo's by 11:00. He, Rachel, and I went to the coffee plant and grabbed several kilos of coffee right where they were packaging it up. Then we went to Valerio and Rebeca's place to say goodbye and give them a couple gifts. Back at the Delgado's we snapped some photos, shared a nice blessing, and hopped back in the car, enlisting Paul for the ride back. Another pleasant stay José chauffered us back with typical efficiency, continuing his updates on the volcano and earthquake situations, among other things. He and Paul did not tarry long at Rigo's house, so we bade them a too hasty good-bye. Now Hortensia gave the kids a Spanish lesson/orientation to introduce them to Costa Rican culture, and then Rachel's dad Gerardo showed up, joining me and Ashleigh's dad Luis (already there) in a discussion about Costa Rican agriculture and the history of the coffee harvest. Both men work with Rigo at the high school. We soon piled into Rigoberto's van to "distribute" the kids to their host families, and Josh walked across the street to Gaby's house. The other three (Devan is still with her host family) live in or near Cartago in the next valley south. First we left Rachel in the middle of Cartago, then Jennifer halfway up the hill, and finally Ashleigh almost all the way up to the volcano Irazu, in the town of Tierras Blancas. Rigo and I had coffee and snacks with Luis and his wife before descending through onion fields to Cartago and then back to San José. Tomorrow we would recollect them all to visit the cloud forest some forty miles up the interamerican highway from

Stay tuned for the continued adventures of the intrepid group from Burt Township School in the next Gazette.

Shallow Thought

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TO NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS Munising, MI—The National Exchange Carriers Association (NECA), a non-profit exchange carriers association, has announced the election of Robert W. Orent to its 15-member

board of directors. Election results were announced at NECA's annual meeting held in San Antonio, Texas on September 17, 2003. Orent's one-year term will begin on January 1, 2004.

Orent, the Senior Vice President of Industry Affairs for Hiawatha Communications, Inc (HCI), will serve as one of six board members representing all local exchange carriers with less than \$40 million in annual revenues. On the national level Or ent also holds board seats with the Rural Telephone Finance Cooperative (RTFC), a nonprofit lending cooperative established in 1987 to serve the financial needs of the rural telecom munications industry, and with the Organization for the Promo tion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO), a national association representing trade more than 500 small, independ ently owned local exchange car riers (LECs) and their affiliate telecommunications companies. On the state level, Orent is also a board member of the Michigan Exchange Carriers Association, which advocates for rural local exchange carriers in Michigan in matters of regulation and interconnection. NECA, based in Whippany,

NJ, administers complex regulatory and financial programs for telecommunications companies and is the administrator of the FCC's interstate access charge plan.

HCl is the parent company of four (4) local exchange telephone companies located in the Upper Peninsula; Chippewa County Telephone Co., Hiawatha Telephone Co., Midway Telephone Co. and Ontonagon County Telephone Co. HCI also owns and operates Jamadots. com, which provides dial-up and broadband Internet service.

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