ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED: GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE P.O. BOX 370, GRAND MARAIS, MI 49839-0370

GRAND MARAIS GAZETT

#### VOL. XII NO. 11 FEBRUARY 2, 2006

HE

#### Township Board Meets to Discuss Sewer Project

At 7:00 pm January 31 the Township Board held a special meeting to discuss the construction of a sewer system for Grand Marais. Mike Pond from STS Consultants attended and gave an overview of available financing, construction options and eventual charges for the service. In addition to the board, a few citizens attended. The proposed system has five options and the possibility of a water system upgrade to be done in conjunction with the sewer project. The options increase the area, customers served and construction costs ranging from a basic cost of \$1,300,000.00 serving a small area (basically the downtown area) and those residents along H-58 where the sewer line will run to the collection ponds. The "Cadillac" option would include those places now on the water system plus Ridge Rd, Everett St. to just past Webb Rd., Webb Rd. from Cemetery Rd. half-way to Everett and Cemetery Rd. to Webb Rd. with a price tag of \$4,620,000.00. There is no doubt that a sewer system would be a plus for the community, especially the business community; but can the customers afford to pay the minimum rate of \$34.00 per month for the service? This problem was posed by a few citizens present who felt that the increase would be difficult if not impossible for some people on fixed incomes. One Business represenand then being required to hook up to the sewer system. Further study is needed and no decision on the project was made. Gerou Excavaling was award the bid for the new water well for \$259,192.78, a reduction of \$21,000.00 from their initial bid and now within our budgeted \$260,000.00 for the project.

GRAND MARAIS WOMEN'S CLUB VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION POTLUCK DINNER BBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> 6:00 P.M. COMMUNITY CENTER EVERYONE IS WELCOME. Come show your gratitude for our many volunteers. Table service and meat will be provided. This service provided by the Grand Marais Women's Club.

# UP COMING EVENTS IN GRAND MARAIS

Cabin Fever Saturday Snowmobile Poker Run, Chili Feed, Kids Cookie Decorating Contest, Cardboard Sledding Contest, Snowshoe Poker and the annual Cabin Fever Bash at Lake Superior Brewing Co. February 11, 2006

> Chocolate Sunday February 12, 2006

UP 200 Sled Dog Race February 17 - 19

Pasties Dinner to Help Support Father Joe's Mission Monday, February 27, 2006 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. @ the Community Center

# WINTER SCENES AROUND TOWN FOR OUR SNOWBIRDS

Established 1994 - Published the first & third Thursday of each month.





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Grand Marais, MI 49839

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**Burt Township** 

**GRAND MARAIS** 

**SENIOR MEALS** 

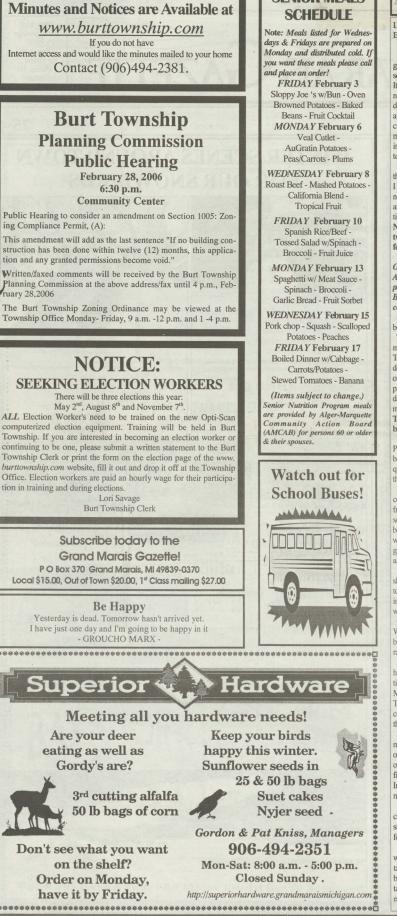
#### **FEBRUARY 2, 2006**

Your letters are welcomed. The views expressed by

our writers and guest correspondents reflect the

opinions of those writers and correspondents and

are not those explicitly endorsed by the Gazette



LETTER TO BURT TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR, AND BOARD MEM-BERS ADDRESSING CONCERNS OF MANY OF OUR PEOPLE BY: Rosalie (Rosie) Meldrum Some matters that have arisen lately that people have asked for my help in getting answers for. I guess I've established credibility of "leading the pack",

getting answers for. I guess I've established credibility of "leading the pack", so to speak when such questions and incidents that are of concern come up. It's not that I really enjoy this, but I do think there needs to be better communication between our Township Board, and the people. Many things are done it seems, when the majority of the people here have left for the year, and a fact also that very few of the older people do attend meetings, especially in inclement weather. Many too have become so discouraged by the manner in which the board acts upon these types of problems, either ignoring them entirely or "shelving" them they feel it's too frustrating to even attend a meeting.

I don't mind trying to help, but I feel it's always a better situation to see if things can be resolved by going directly to the Board, so that is exactly what I did, but I felt it might help for everyone to be informed also. Hopefully the notice of these concerns will bring about a full disclosure of these matters, and it might take care of the questions and the animosity of all who are questioning the boards actions.

Number 1: A violation of the contract terms in the Land Contract between Edmund T. Warren, and the Township for the limitation of use for Lots 4-6-8-10-12, of Block 18----

This property was sold for, and designated to be reserved and used ONLY for a park purpose. #12-A and B in Land Contract: A: The Land that is the subject of this agreement shall only be used for a park open to the residents of Burt Township, and the general public. B. The township will not designate the property for parking or camping except for incidental parking for park purposes.

It is easily observed that a portion of this property has been plowed and is being used as a parking space for snowmobiles and snowmobile trailers. This is a violation of the contract agreements. I don't know what the seller might do in regard to this, but I feel I need to bring this to your attention. This violation would legally allow him the right to negate this contract. I don't know if you are aware of this situation, but, if you remember, this was one of the main concerns when all attending the board meeting for the approval of purchasing this land. It was vehemently agreed, by all in attendance this restriction be in the contract, and the records of that "special" meeting should substantiate this.

The other matter is concerning the township providing full medical benefits for all of the elected board members, and their spouses/families. This concerned group had checked many, many Townships in the Upper Peninsula and could not find <u>any</u> Township who provided full medical benefits to their board members. This brought about even more concern and questions. Their question to the board, at meetings were totally ignored by the board when they brought it up.

When I was approached to help in getting more information about this, I contacted the Michigan Townships Association. I had an immediate reply from an Evelyn M. David, Member information Director, who gave me some statistics, and information to seek as to the validity of any Township being able to do this. She did advise that the people concerned might consult with the township board and attempt to resolve any differences. I think it was good advice, and I'm hoping that perhaps if this can be done it could resolve all those problems.

I sought out information from ALL of the other six Alger County Townships as to whether any of them provide such benefits. I cannot but help relay to you their responses. They were all quite shocked to learn this, and I was informed that one of the Townships, actually having one member who did work full time, did not even receive this benefit.

 I can understand the concerns of our people in regard to the cost of this.
We have had to forgo law enforcement, and perhaps other services. Our tax base is limited in our Township because of all the Federal, State and Corporate land.

My thoughts were of the limited income residents we have here who are having a very difficult time, what with the fast increasing costs of medications, not to mention fuel and other things. The COLA granted this year for Medicare recipients was almost totally absorbed by the raise for medicare. The costs for supplemental policies are very high, and many of them simply cannot afford it. Many of our retirees are having their medical benefits cut by their companies also.

I think everyone should be able to understand why there is so much resentment. I personally did not believe any person, not working full time, in any occupation, was provided with these benefits. Apparently I was wrong. One of the questions most ask is: Do the members pay any portion for this benefit, or does the Township take care of it all?

In most cases, those receiving medical benefits pay a large share of the premiums.

I believe, as suggested by the information Director of the Township Association, the Township Board needs to inform all taxpayers of all circumstances that brought about the granting of these benefits, and the total costs for them.

I really do not enjoy being the one always involved in so many disputes with our Township Board. I guess some of it goes along with being a real estate person. Unfortunately, my own experiences, in having to deal with our board in the past years, has not been good. I do not feel it is truly a representative board, and trying to get action and answers to problems has not been easy. This is not a good situation and needs to be changed.

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#### **FEBRUARY 2, 2006**

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## **GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE**

# **Tahquamenon Falls Hosts Annual Winter Festival**

State recreation officials today announced Tahquamenon Falls State Park will host its annual winter festival Feb. 4 from 3 to 8 p.m. at the Upper

NEWS Falls parking area. Events include free snowshoe rental, hot chocolate by the campfire, an up-close visit with an Iditarod dog sled team, evening lantern-lit cross-country skiing, and guided snowshoe hikes at 3:30 and 5 p.m.

"The famous Upper Falls are truly spectacular during the winter months," said Park Interpreter Theresa Grattan. "The staircase and viewing platform at the falls are kept clear of snow, and the Lower Falls campground is open for those park visitors who are looking to enjoy a unique experience.

The semi-modern campsites available this winter at Tahquamenon Falls State Park include electrical outlets, but no flush toilets or running water. To make a camping reservation, call 800-44-PARKS or go online at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

A 2006 state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into the park. Permits are \$6 for the day or \$24 for a resident annual permit, which is valid at any state park. For more information, contact Tahquamenon Falls State Park located at 41382 West M-123 in Paradise or phone (906) 492-3415.

# **JOINING ROSIE'S GRAND MARAIS REALT** It was a long-time dream of mine, and it also took me a long

ime, but I finally got my son to obtain his real estate license. Though he still has two years to go before retirement, hopefully he can help out on week-ends and also in the summer, get his feet wet, and if he likes it, take it all over when he moves back to the old home town. Most of you know Mike so I do not need to introduce him, or point out all his qualifications.

# \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Another Year, Another

Pot of Soup Yes, another year has passed and again the Women's Club is putting out a call for soup. The dogsled races are coming up and Grand Marais will be hosting and feeding the mushers and spectators on February 18th. If you are willing to donate a pot of soup, muffins or cookies, please contact Mary Alice at 494-2644. The profits from this endeavor all go to local projects. Last year we were able to donate to many projects and good organizations and hope to do the same this year. We hope to hear from you and receive your support. If you would like to work for an hour or two we can also arrange for that. Thank you.

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#### Virtue

Virtue has never been as respectable as money MARK TWAIN -



NEW LISTING: A lovely older, 3 BR home in mint condition with spectacular view of bay and lake, just across street from large area of public beach. You'll love this place, and so will the kids.

2+ Acres Superior frontage property, directly east of Agate Beach, and across from the Marina with over 160 feet of beach and Superior frontage, with probably the best view on the Lake Superior beach.

One of the most beautiful, quality built large (over 3000 sq. ft. ) homes , in town, and with a very good view. Just Reduced. Must really be seen to appreciate

Very nice 2 BR energy efficient ranch home on 10 acres, REDUCED. Snowmobilers would love this as with the large garage/workshop, that is insulated, heated would furnish lots of storage room for the machines and ideal place to work on them, if necessary.

Two, prime lots on hillside, with a view plus small mobile to use until you decide to build. Price very affordable.

Private, but easy all year access, with electric, 5 ACRE parcel. It's beautiful and close to downtown.

ONLY ONE LEFT of these very prime hilltop view lots on Ridge St. There won't be any more like these. Very private, yet in town.

LAKE SUPERIOR ACREAGE PARCEL JUST NORTH OF SCHOOL FOREST AREA. ELECTRIC AVAILABLE. 8+ ACRES, SANDY, AGATE HUNTING BEACH.

One of the most spectacular waterfront parcels you'll find in the area. Located on two large lots on East Bay. Septic system, well, water and access road to lower beach area in. Seasonal access in a subdivision, with covenants to protect your property and privacy. A fast growing area with beautiful home:

Have four, very nice wooded lots in Agate Point Subdivision at fantastic prices.



# **Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore** Works to Enhance Community Ties



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Superintendent Jim Northup announced today several new efforts to further the lakeshore's positive relationship with gate way communities and local citizens.

"2006 marks the Lakeshore's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary," Northup said. "As part of that year of celebration, the park staff and I are committed to working even more closely with our gateway communities and local citizens who care about public lands and appreciate how special it is to have America's first national lakeshore right here in our own backyard!"

"We are in the early stages of planning a series of events in 2006 to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary," Northup said, "but we also view this as an excellent opportunity to build on existing successful programs and pursue even stronger partnerships.

One new initiative is the park's Community Partner Program, which will further strengthen communications and relationships with local business interests to ensure that visitors to our area have easy access to accurate and up-to-date information about the park

Another new initiative, which will be formally announced this spring, is the Adopt-a-Trail and Adopt-a-Campsite Program. This program will solicit the support of local citizens who love to hike in the park to serve as volunteer citizen stewards of short sections of trail and/or backcountry campsites to assist the park's paid staff in keeping these facilities in good condition for all to enjoy.

A third initiative, which will take place this summer or fall, is the park's Experience Your Lakeshore Program. The park will invite local civic leaders and citizens to spend time in the park with park staff, as part of a structured program, to learn more about the park and parkrelated issues. "This program will give us a great opportunity to learn from our neighbors and to hear about their concerns as well," Northup said. "If successful, we hope to make this an annual program.

While not directly related to the park's 40th anniversary, Northup also wanted local communities to be aware of the recent establishment of the National Parks of Lake Superior Fund. This new organization, associated with the National Park Foundation, has been formed to help support the four U.S. national park units on Lake Superior: Isle Royale National Park, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and Grand Portage National Monum

"This organization will be conducting a variety of fund raising activities to help us protect park resources and improve visitor services a these four parks," Northup said. "We are very grateful for their support and energy for our parks."

In announcing these initiatives, Northup said, "We are very proud to be a part of such a beautiful and interesting area and hope that local citizens will join with us in celebrating and supporting the park during this very special year."

For more information about any of these programs, please contact National Lakeshore Headquarters at 906-387-2607. Later this winter, information will be posted on the park's website at www.nps.gov/piro





More signs of the ineffectiveness of Georgie Boy's "War on Terror," continue to rear their ugly heads. The latest is the landslide victory "Hamas" in the Palestinian elections; it screamed that the United States' actions in the Middle East are hated by the Arabs; and so are we. If Georgie Boy figured that he won some political clout in his narrow victory over a weak candidate, Kerry, what in God's name did "Hamas" win with a huge margin (approximately 40% [70% to 30%])? I don't know if any president was ever elected with that kind of margin. It does make me wonder if their election fraud is as bad or worse than ours. Regardless, I have heard no demands for a recount, with a margin that wide it would be rather futile. Therefore Hamas will have control of the Palestine territories' government and like it or not other countries will have to deal with them. Regardless of the BS put out by Bush and his spin-doctors, it would be stupid to carry out Bush's threat to not recognize or negotiate with the new government. It may be a plus that Hamas did win, now they have to deal with their country's problems and foreign aid is critical if not downright mandatory. They will find, I'm sure that they will not get far with their terrorist image and do even worse if they try to carry out Jihad. We will see what we will see but this landslide victory ought to awaken at least some of the Bushites. Yasir Arafat's party, Fatah, has a lot of angry members; they are as angry with their party chiefs as they are at Hamas. Of course these guys are part of the corrupt government of the Fatah party that the people threw out.

In a related story, the health of Ariel Sharon could make the Middle East an even hotter spot. Sharon was willing to compromise with the Palestinians and give up some land to them. Palestine now has a party in power that promotes the elimination of Israel A new election in Israel might find a hard liner replacing Sharon and make the probability of war very high. If you think that the price of gas is high now, you ain't seen nothin' yet!

It is another example of Bush's hypocrisy that he has asked the U.N. to handle the nuclear situation in Iran. Seems like our "intelligence" has detected expansion of nuclear capabilities and the threat of Iran's development of nuclear weapons in the near future. WMDs I suspect will not be used as a battle cry this time; it has left a bad taste in the mouths of many after the failure to find any in Iraq, the reason that we invaded them. I heard the General in charge in Iraq stating that our forces are stretched to their limit; I say well beyond. Yet Rum Dum Rumsfeld continues to lie abut the fact that there is any numbers problem. If not, I wonder why so many troops have been sent for their second, and now third, deployment in one of the many dangerous places where we have troops stationed? I assure you that the vast majority doesn't want to go back. They will however because they feel it is their duty, and many more will come home in a bag or injured in one way or another.

The trial of Sadam Insane and his criminals has become an effort in futility. We killed hundreds of innocent Iragis (collateral damage) invading and nation building Iraq and Sadam killed thousands of them yet we are spending millions of dollars in a kangaroo court effort to find them guilty of what everyone knows they are. Murder, murder and more murder. Why didn't the soldiers that found him in his hole take care of the problem by blowing him to Hell where he belongs? It makes no sense that over two thousand of our troops have been killed and tens of thousands of them have been injured but Sadam and company are living and probably quite well. I also think that I heard that there is no death penalty in Iraq. That means that the USA and Iraq will be spending millions to keep them in prison, that is if they are found guilty. In the meantime the civil war goes on in Iraq.

I am somewhat angry about the press that two ABC employees, a co-anchor, Bob Woodruff and a cam-

#### **GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE**

era man, Doug Vought are getting because they were injured when a bomb exploded near the vehicle in which they were riding. I am certain that to them and their families this incident is earth shaking (and it should be to them) but the media gives this more coverage than two hundred GIs being killed.

Here is one that ought to knock your socks off. Bush and his warmongers have decided to cut the strength of both the Reserves and National Guard. Hello! I thought we were short already according to most military experts, none of which agree with Bush and company. It is very interesting to look at the numbers. The plan is to cut the Reserves from 205,000 to 188,000, the lowest in 30 years, and the Guard from 350,000 to 333,000. It just so happens that both the Reserves and Guard, because of the inability to fill openings are at those exact numbers. can already hear Bush, Cheney and Rum Dum an swering questions about troop strength and enlist ment problems by saying; "All our positions in the Reserves and Guard are filled, how can you say we are short of troops or having difficulty recruiting? Count on it. Other cuts in equipment are being made in an attempt to realize a six billion dollar reduction in the Defense Department's spending; not counting the war on terror costs, which are "held harmless Even his own lackeys in congress are having difficulty defending this stupid move. Hell the Asses have the reputation for cutting our Military's strength. Not any more.

And finally. Sherri told me I forgot to say anything about Grannie Annie's 90th Birthday Party so I had better now. Sherri and I and all our grand kids, kids, and kids-in-law (Grannie Annie's kid-in-law, kid grandkids and great grand kids) made the trip to Green Bay for the party. My three sisters, two re-maining brothers and almost all of their families were also there plus some of my aunts, uncles and cousins and some of her friends. We had a great time and a good meal. The Snow Queens (back together for another project) had produced a slide show with pictures of Grannie Annie, her seven children, many grandchildren and great grandchildren in various poses. Seems like they had at least one picture of each of us kids in a less than flattering scene. You ain't gonna see mine. A photo album with all the picture's in the slide show and several more was given to Grannie Annie for a keepsake. We stayed a a motel with a pool that had two slides that ended in the pool. My grand kids wanted Papa Jim to go down the high one. I tried the little one but couldn't get moving. After a lot of harassment I finally tried the high one. I had no problem sticking as I wen down at an ever increasing speed and around 360 degree curves thinking that my centrifugal force was going to throw me right off the slide and into the people gathered to see a suicidal old fat man kill himself. Well I made it and even went for seconds Sherri didn't believe that I would do it and my kids probably doubted it too. The grandkids knew I would if they begged, whined and threatened me enough The roads were in great winter driving condition with the snow level decreasing as we went south; Green Bay only had snow where it had been piled up by plows. It was a great time and we will have a hard time beating it for Grannie Annie's 100th

The sled dog races are getting close and I have my annual position at four corners for the first shift. If you have nothing to do for the weekend I am sure your services would be welcome for any number of jobs. Call Brodie Block (volunteer director) or even managers Dawn Marx and Lori Savage if you can spare a few hours. Hopefully it will cool off so the snow isn't slush or worse and the dogs won't over-heat. I see another dinner for Father Joe's Mission is planned. I assure you from experience that it is well worth attending and the donations go to a very good project with little if any "administration" costs. If you can't make it, I am sure that you can contribute by seeing Bob Gardner or any Lutheran or for that matter me and your contribution will get in the pot. And finally, finally. Pam hicks called me to let me know that Josh was back in the states. Hopefully he and the Kinlaws won't be going to Iraq, Afghanistan or one of the many other places around the world that this government is trying to control. We still have hundreds of thousands of troops in those places and our unpopularity makes them prime targets for those who hate us. Keep all our troops wherever they may be in your thoughts and prayers. Till next issue. Hungry Jim

# **FEBRUARY 2, 2006 Unnecessary stress** In a relationship you need two things: trust and communication. If you have neither, then you don't have a relationship. You have a project that just creates unnecessary stress HELEN NEWBERRY JOY HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE CENTER **Gibson Family Health Center** 502 W. Harrie St. Newberry 906-293-9233 Non-Emergency Patients Appointments Available • Walk-ins Welcome 8:00am-6:00pm 7 days a week (including holidays) or for your convenience: Manistique Lakes Family Center Curtis ..... 906-586-3300 **Paradise Community Health Center** Paradise ..... 906-492-3881 West Mackinac Health Clinic Engadine ..... 906-477-6066 **RON BROWE ACCOUNTING** AND TAX SERVICE RON W. BROWE OWNER 105 E. SUPERIOR STREET MUNISING, MICHIGAN 49862 TELEPHONE (906) 387-3337 E-mail: ronbrowe@jamadots.com Stop in and see the friendly folks at.... **Peoples State Bank** In Grand Marais we are located next to the Sportsman's Restaurant. In Seney we are located next to the Seney Crossing. 24 HOUR AUTOMATIC BANKING (ATM) **AT OUR GRAND MARAIS &** SENEY BRANCHES GRAND MARAIS CALL 494-BANK (494-2265) **SENEY CALL 499-3306** Hometown Banking · Locally Managed · Full Service Banking. FD at you know The Only Bank Your Family Will Ever Need.

#### **GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE**

# MICHIGAN STATE **Make Tax Time Pay**

Working families in Alger County who apply for Earned Income Credit could receive refunds up to the maximum of \$4,400

decrease the amount of taxes they owe the IRS. According to Internal Revenue Service, an estimated \$484 million of EITC went unclaimed in 2000. Only 22 percent of Michigan's eligible taxpayers applied for Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

The EITC is refundable, meaning that a household can receive a tax refund above and beyond the amount of tax withheld from their paychecks. For example, a married couple raising two or more children in their home in 2005, with earned income less than \$37,263 could get a tax credit up to \$4,400. The average EITC credit is near \$1,700. To receive the EITC, a federal tax return must be filed. See if you are eligible to claim the Earned Income

Tax Credit. Who qualifies for the EITC? You must work and your adjusted gross income is up to:

- \$31,030 for taxpayers in 2005 with one qualifying child (\$33,030 for married and filing jointly) to receive a credit up to \$2,662.
- \$35,263 for taxpayers in 2005 with more than one qualifying child (\$37,263 for married and filing jointly) to receive a credit up to \$4,400.
- \$11,750 for taxpayers in 2005 with no qualifying child (\$13,750 for married and filing jointly) to receive a credit up to \$399

Additional information:

Child Tax Credit is up to \$1,000 per dependent child. The additional Child Tax Earnings amount is \$11,000 in 2005.

A serious concern of programs that work with low to moderate income families is the number of taxpayers who do not fill out their own tax forms, even though forms have been simplified and free tax assistance is available.

Using the services of a commercial tax preparer reduces the money available to families. Keep the whole refund! If a taxpayer qualifies for EITC, that refund belongs to the individual, not to a commercial tax preparer. Some taxpayers may think paying \$100 to \$200 or more to a tax service is not very much money when a large refund is expected, but those extra dollars could be used directly for family needs. Beware of Refund Anticipation Loans! The quick refunds offered by commercial tax services are actually high interest loans. New electronic filing procedures, assure refunds will be direct deposited into the taxpayers bank account usually within a week to ten days. File early! Gather tax receipts together now, so that as soon as W-2 forms are re-ceived, the tax forms can be filed. Check out the free options for lower-income taxpavers. Local information about taxpayer resources is available from the Alger County MSU Extension office. Michigan's EITC Statewide Initiative is sponsoring a number of tax preparation sites that will be staffed by volunteers who have received IRS training. To find out where free tax preparation sites are located throughout Michigan, call 1-800-865-8683, or click on www. michiganeic.org This web site also has a link to the "I-CAN!" program, which provides free online tax preparation and filing for low-income tax filers. Five more federal\_and state tax credits could also benefit low-to-moderate-income individuals. Federal tax credits include: Child Tax Credit and Federal Child and Dependent Care Credit. Michigan tax credits are: Home Heating Tax Credit, Homestead Property Tax Credit and Child Deduction. Some



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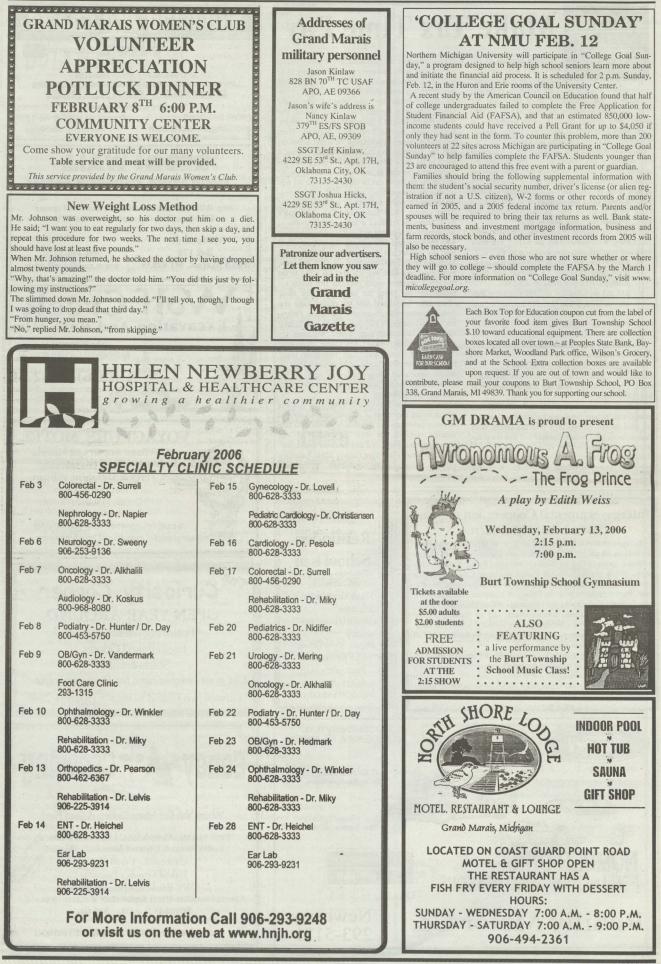
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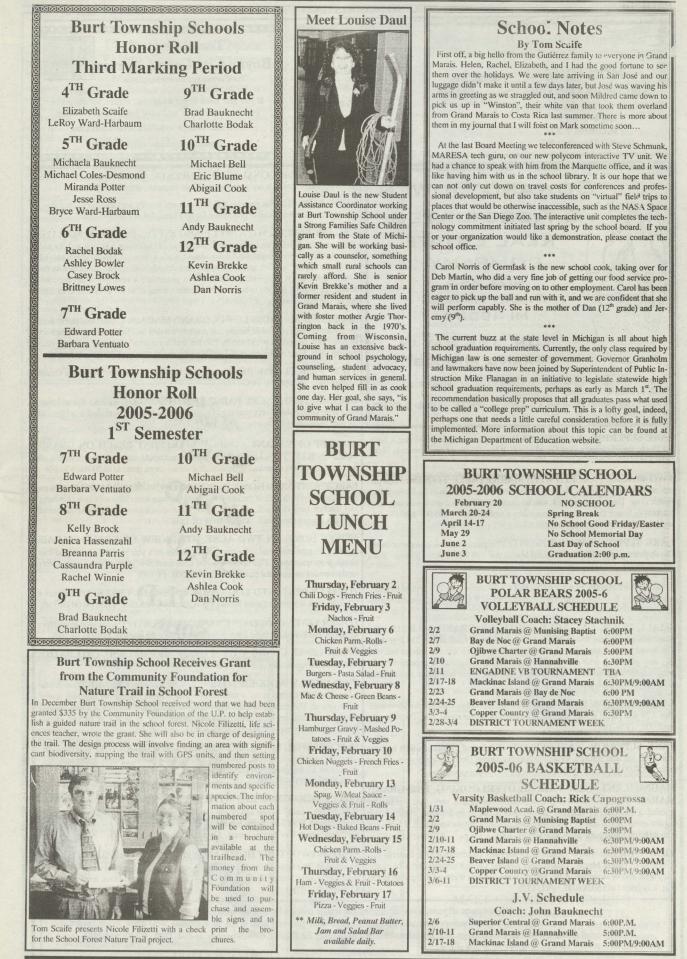
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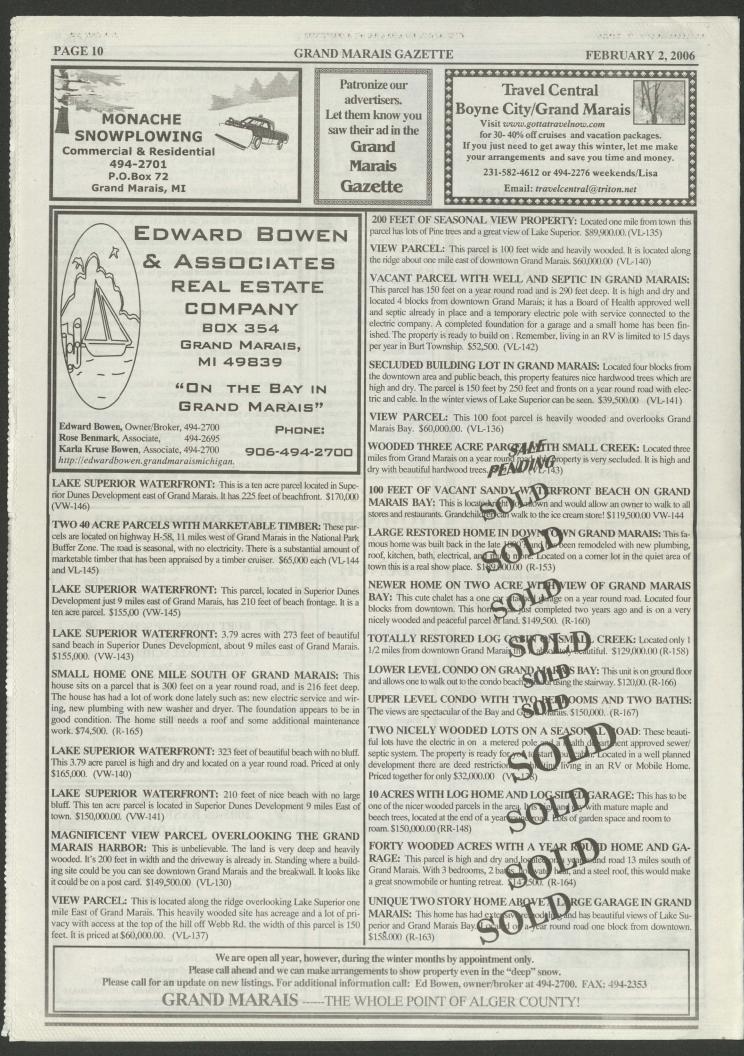
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#### **GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE**

## DNR Offers Hunter Education Online

DNRUNEWS The Michigan Department of Natural Resources today announced that first-time hunters now can use the Internet to complete a part of their hunter education course. The online course can be found on the DNR's new

"The online course material is essentially the same as the printed material currently used in the traditional class, and it is a good alternative

terial currently used in the traditional class, and it is a good alternative to the home study course as well." said Sgt. Kevin Davis, field coordinator for the DNR hunter education program. The current home study course requires the student to receive materi-

The current nome study course requires the student to receive materials a few weeks ahead of the scheduled field-day portion of the hunter education course, where each student must demonstrate safe firearm handling. The home study course also requires the hunter education instructor to check in with the student to ensure he or she has "done their homework."

Students who successfully complete the online course will be issued a pre-certification exam certificate which they will provide to a certified hunter education instructor in order to take the field or skills portion of the class. At the end of this one-day session, all students must take and pass a proctored exam to earn their hunter safety certificate.

"The pre-certification exam certificate earned from the online course is not sufficient to meet the requirements to purchase a hunting license," Davis said.

There is a \$15 fee for the online course, which covers the cost of maintaining the site and processing the exam. If a student does not pass the exam it will cost \$15 to retake the test.

"The online course is not intended to replace traditional hunter education classes, but it can be effective in reaching more youngsters," said Lt. Sherry Chandler, supervisor of the DNR's hunter education section. "I am confident this teaching method will produce students who will be every bit as safe, responsible and knowledgeable as the students who attend traditional classes."

### Make Summer Camping Reservations Now

#### Don't let summer slip away without reserving a campsite at a Michigan

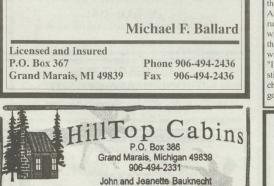
state park or recreation area, state recreation officials urged today. Reservations for the early summer season are up 1.2 percent from 2005 levels for reservations through mid-July. The central reservation system takes reservations for campsites up to six months in advance.

"It's not too early to start planning a summer vacation for late July and August," said Ron Olson, chief of the DNR parks and recreation division. "With reservation numbers up, demand for campsites is going to be at a premium."

Michigan state parks and recreation areas offer 13,496 campsites in 70 of the state's 97 state parks and recreation areas. Camping fees are based on amenities and demand, ranging from a full-hookup site at \$33 a night to a rustic campsite for \$10 a night. Full-hookup sites offer 30 or 50-amp electrical sites with water and sewer line connections at the campsite. Modern campsites, which range from \$16 to \$29 a night offer 50- or 30-amp electrical service and tollet/showers facilities. For a complete listing of locations, prices and amenities, visit the DNR Web site at *www.michigan.gov/dnrrecreationcamping*.

Reservations are strongly encouraged and can be made by calling 800-447-2757 (800-44PARKS) or online at *www.midnrreservations.com*. Reservations are accepted up to six months in advance and as late as the time of arrival.

# BALLARD CARPENTRY



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www.hilltopcabins.net or www.fishweb.com

#### **Getting Older**

A very elderly gentleman, (mid nineties) very well dressed, hair well groomed, great looking suit, flower in his lapel smelling slightly of a good after shave, presenting a well looked-after image, walks into an upscale cocktail lounge. Seated at the bar is an elderly looking lady, (mid eighties).

The gentleman walks over, sits alongside of her, orders a drink, takes a sip, turns to her and says, "So tell me, do I come here often?"

#### **Getting Older**

Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement center were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says: "Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?" Slim says, "I feel just like a

newborn baby." "Really? Like a newborn baby!"

"Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants.

#### **Getting Older**

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly.

The other man said, "What is the name of the restaurant?" The first man thought and thought and finally said, "What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know ... the one that's red and has thorns."

"Do you mean a rose?"

"Yes, that's the one," replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?

#### **Getting Older**

Hospital regulations require a wheelchair for patients being discharged.

However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman--already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet--who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. "I don't know," he! Said. "She's

"I don't know," he! Said. "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."



### PWT Super Pro Set for Keweenaw Waterway in Houghton

The In-Fisherman Professional Walleye Trail will stop at scenic Houghton/Hancock in Michigan's Upper Peninsula for a summer tournament. The touring professional anglers will be on the Keweenaw Waterway and Portage and Torch Lakes June 28-30. At the Outdoor Channel Super Pro, only the top 50 North American walleye pros have earned the right to compete. They have won the most money, scored the most top-10 finishes, own the best averages and fished the most Championships.

In the Super Pro series, presented by MinnKota, names like Gofron, Good, Martin, Parsons, Kavajecz, Seelhoff, Plautz, Glorvigen and Skarlis head the prestigious list. Amateurs/co-anglers will fish with the "Who's Who" in the walleye world. When the Mercury Championships were held on the Keweenaw in 2003 and 2004, local anglers rode along as observers. This time, they will be active participants, and even win prizes like a Lund/Mercury walleye boat. The Houghton event and other Super Pro tournaments are among the best values in the fishing world. Entries are now being accepted. Call PWT headquarters, 218-829-0620, or go to the PWT website: www.professionalwalleyetrail.com. For Houghton lodging information, contact www.keweenaw.org or call 866-304-5722.

Co-chair Gary Lubinski, owner of the Best Western Franklin Square Inn, and avid outdoorsman said, "Houghton is delighted to host another PWT event. The PWT staff and the pro anglers do a phenomenal job of inviting community participation and creating excitement. June brings a huge potential to learn walleye techniques from the experts." Fishing the peak walleye "bite" in Houghton, amateurs/co-anglers use

Fishing the peak walleye "bite" in Houghton, amateurs/co-anglers use the pro's gear, ride in the pro's boat; learn electronics, walleye tactics and boat control; and win prizes. Amateurs/co-anglers become integrally involved in each day's fishing. During the course of each 3-day tournament, two things happen:1) Amateurs/co-anglers learn tactics and fish alongside the pros; 2) Amateurs/co-anglers become very proficient walleye anglers.

PWT Pro-Am Super Pro Series, presented by MinnKota

May 10-12, Missouri River & Lake Francis Case, Chamberlain, SD June 13-15, Ottertail Lake, Ottertail, MN

June 28-30, Keweenaw Waterway and Portage & Torch Lakes, Houghton, MI

Aug. 9-11, Mille Lacs, Isle, MN

The other PWT circuit, the Regional series, includes an event in Mobridge, SD, one at Devils Lake, ND, a stop on the Winnebago lake and river system at Winneconne, WI, and the season-finale at Bay de Noc in Escanaba, MI.

The award-winning PWT television series is now airing on the Outdoor Channel through March 2006. Each show airs three times per week. On Monday, it airs at 8 p.m.; on Tuesday, shows play at 5:30 p.m.; and on Saturday mornings, shows are at 1:30 a.m. These are Eastern times.



\$15.00 - Local (Grand M \$20.00 - Out of Town

