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



## VOL. XII NO. 14 MARCH 16, 2006

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The Annual Meeting of the Electors will be held on March 23, 2006 at 7:00 pm at the Community Center. At this meeting the 2006-2007 budget will be presented and the supervisor will ask for your input on proposed projects and Township provided services. At this meeting you will also be asked to vote on the salaries of the Township Board members.

#### シャム(型マム(型マム(型マム(型マム(型マム(型マム(型)マム(型))) COMMUNITY X X LENTEN SERVICES X A Wednesday, March 15th, Lutheran Church, 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Methodist Church, 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Methodist Church, 7 p.m. Wednesday, march 29<sup>th</sup>, catholic Church, 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, Mennonite Church, 7 p.m. X X X X Maundy Thursday, April 13th, Lutheran church, 7 p.m. X GOOD FRIDAY, April 14th, Methodist church, 1 p.m. X EVERYONE IS WELCOME EASTER DAY COMMUNITY DINNER **EASTER SUNDAY** April 16, 2006 4:00 P.M. **@ FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH EVERYONE WELCOME NO COST** Please sign up by calling in reservation to 494-2709 or signing sheet at any local church Please give your name and number of people attending. Please Plan on Attending the 2006 Alger County Free Home, Sport & Craft Show **Alger Centennial Arena**

Varnum & Park Streets - Munising Saturday, April 1st 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, April 2nd 12 noon - 4 p.m.

Many Booths - Businesses - Crafters - Non-Profits Get your picture with the Easter Bunny Carnival - games for the children Health Fair on Saturday FUN

Concessions R Take a ride over - Enjoy the Home Show 

# **BURT TOWNSHIP SCHOOL RECEIVES NEW BANDSAW**

The Burt Township School shop has another piece of new equipment to go with the new table saw. Board President Frank Mead picked up a Jet band saw in Escanaba and brought it back to town on March 7. At the school it was loaded on a cart, wheeled to the shop, and set up by the members of Mike Bryers' shop class All then posed for a publicity photo. The purchase of the saw was made possible by donations from Dave Bell, Ray Gage, Wally Hull, Frank Mead, and Tom Scaife. Thanks one and all for your commitment to the revitalization of the school shop. Some of the older shop equipment is being put up for sale on bids. Call or stop by the school for information



7000000000 Daylight **Savings** Time begins April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Door

rizes

## Don't Blow Up Show up! By Marc Oglevie

The annual meeting of the electors is Thursday, March 23rd and it will be held at the Community Center. There has been a great deal of controversy lately concerning several issues that remain topics of concern. The annual meeting is the place that the electors have an opportunity to change things. While it is true, with one exception, that all suggestions are advisory only, board members rightly give considerable weight to suggestions that are supported by a majority of the people present. The greater the number present and the larger the majority the more the likelihood that the board will accept the suggestion and act upon it. The one decision made by the electorate that is binding is the salary of the elected officials. The people there can decide to either increase the salary or keep it as is. With the exception of election (of the board members) years the people can not lower the salaries. Input and questions concerning issues important to the citizens of Burt Township will be accepted by the supervisor. This meeting is not a regular board meeting; the supervisor conducts the meeting, the clerk is the record keeper and the rest of the board, if present, are citizens and have the right to vote on any issue, either binding (salary) or advisory (straw poll). No doubt this year's meeting will have discussions concerning the Breakwall project, the new water well, possible sewer installation and water system improvements, Green Space, road and sidewalk repair, salaries and benefits and of course the budget. The budget will be discussed in depth and all questions will be answered unless the information is not readily available; in that case the supervisor should get back shortly to the person and for that matter the citizenry with the answers . This is the people's meeting and is a good means to have your voice contribute to the direction your township board goes and how it gets there BE THERE, IF YOU WANT A VOICE IN HOW THINGS ARE RUN

### **ELECTION DAY - May 2, 2006**

Three (3) local proposals are going to be listed on the Burt Township Ballot on May 2, 2006. They are:

#### OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL NON-HOMESTEAD AND NON-QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY

This millage will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of 18 mills against non-homestead and non-qualified agricultural property required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation guarantee.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, exempting therefrom homestead and qualified agricultural property as defined by law, in Burt Township School District No. 2, Alger County, Michigan be increased by 3 mills (\$3.00 on each \$1000.00 of taxable valuation) for a period of 3 years, 2006, 2007, 2008 inclusive to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2006 is approximately \$24,000.00 (this millage is to restore the "Headlee" deduction)?

#### MILLAGE INCREASE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AN EMERGENCY SERVICES/FIRE BUILDING

Shall the tax limitation on general ad valorem taxes within Burt Township imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution be increased by 1 ½ Mills (\$1.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of 3 years from 2006 through 2008 inclusive for the construction of an Emergency Services/ Fire Building in Burt Township; and shall the Township levy such increase in millage for said purpose, thereby, raising in the first year an estimated \$45,000.00?

#### MILLAGE INCREASE FOR MAINTENANCE OF AN EMERGENCY SERVICES/FIRE BUILDING

Shall the tax limitation on general ad valorem taxes within Burt Township imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution be increased by ½ Mill (\$0.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of 3 years beginning after construction of the building is complete and a permit of occupancy issued for the maintenance of an Emergency Services/Fire Building in Burt Township; and shall the Township levy such increase in millage for said purpose, thereby, raising in the first year an estimated \$15,000.00?

#### **ELECTION DATES DEADLINES**

April 3, 2006 - Last day to register to vote in the May 2 election. April 29 at 2:00 p.m. - Deadline for applying for an absentee ballot by mail May 1 at 4:00 p.m. - Deadline for voters to vote an absentee ballot in person May 2 - Election Day

#### VOTER REGISTRATION

Anyone who wishes to vote in Burt Township must:

1. Must be a citizen of the United States.

2. Must be a resident of the State of Michigan and must be at a least a 30 resident of Burt Township by election day.

3. Must be at least 18 years of age by election day.

#### ABSENTEE VOTERS

Voters may apply for an absentee ballot if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. I expect to be absent from the community in which I am registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day.

- 2. I am physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.
- 3. I cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of my religion.
- 4. I have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside.
- 5. I am 60 years of age or older.
- 6. I cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

To apply for an absentee ballot, please contact the Burt Township Clerk at (906) 494-2381, or go to the Burt Township Website *www.burttownship.com and* look under Elections.

#### Lori Savage

Township Clerk



Owner: Craig & Nancy Winnie

Luce County Sheriff 911 or (906) 387-4444 Alger County Sheriff T

# JOB POSTING BURT TOWNSHIP CLERK

Burt Township is seeking applicants for the elected position of Township Clerk. The chosen applicant will be appointed by the Board until they can be put on the ballot and elected by the registered voters of Burt Township. This position conducts

national, state and local elections, serves as official custodian of the Township seal and all Township records, documents and ordinances, administers oaths of office, keeps minutes, registers voters, and does the billing for the Municipal Fuel and Water Systems. The clerk is also responsible for the General Ledger, preparation of financial statements and authorization of warrants for checks. Salary is \$13,000. Skills which will help in doing the job include computer knowledge, accounting or bookkeeping background, and good communication skills - both written and oral. Applicant must be bondable and can not have any felony convictions or election crimes. Interested parties should submit a resume and copy of the Township Employment Application to the Burt Township Board, PO Box 430, Grand Marais, MI 49839. You may get more information by calling (906) 494-2381.

Humor is truth: Humor is something that thrives between man's aspirations and his limitations.

There is more logic in humor than in anything else. Because, you see, humor is truth. - VICTOR BORGE -

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Tim & Deb McKinstry, Proprietors

MARCH 16, 2006

# GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE



STUPAK ANNOUNCES FUNDS TO ASSIST FIREFIGHTERS WASHINGTON - Congressman Bart Stupak (D-Menominee) an-

nounced that beginning March 6, 2006 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) began accepting applications for Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG). The deadline for the AFG "fire grant" applications is 5:00 p.m. eastern daylight time on April 7, 2006.

"Grants like these are a great opportunity for firefighters to improve the quality of their work and ensure their safety," Stupak said. "We must not forget that firefighters put their lives at risk every day in order to protect citizens and their property, and we have a duty to make sure that this is done in the best and the safest way possible."

According to information from DHS, AFG applications are automated and accessible via the AFG web site: www.firegrantsupport.com. The web site contains important information on the AFG, including the FY2006 funding priorities and program guidance, a web based tutorial on the application process, a listing of frequently asked questions, and other materials. Fire departments that have questions regarding this grant opportunity should contact the Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at firegrants@dhs.gov.

The AFG is administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Grants and Training in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration. The AFG program assists rural, urban and suburban fire departments throughout the United States. In addition the AFG accepts applications from nonaffiliated EMS organizations for the activities (equipment, training, vehicles, etc.) for which fire departments are also eligible to apply.

The AFG program office offers three grant opportunities in each year. AFG "fire grant" funds are used by the nation's firefighters and first responders to increase the effectiveness of firefighting and emergency response operations. The application period for SAFER grants is scheduled for June of 2006. SAFER grants provide funding for the hiring of firefighting personnel and incentives for volunteer recruitment and retention. The third grant opportunity will be in September 2006 when the AFG program office opens an application period for Fire Prevention and Safety grants.

These grants support not only fire departments, but also other organizations experienced in fire prevention and in firefighter safety research. Through the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2006, Congress provided \$648 million for the Assistance to Firefighters Grants, with \$108 million of the funding specified for SAFER grants and a minimum of \$27 million for the Fire Prevention and Safety grants.



**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
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	Grand Sable Publishing Co., Inc.
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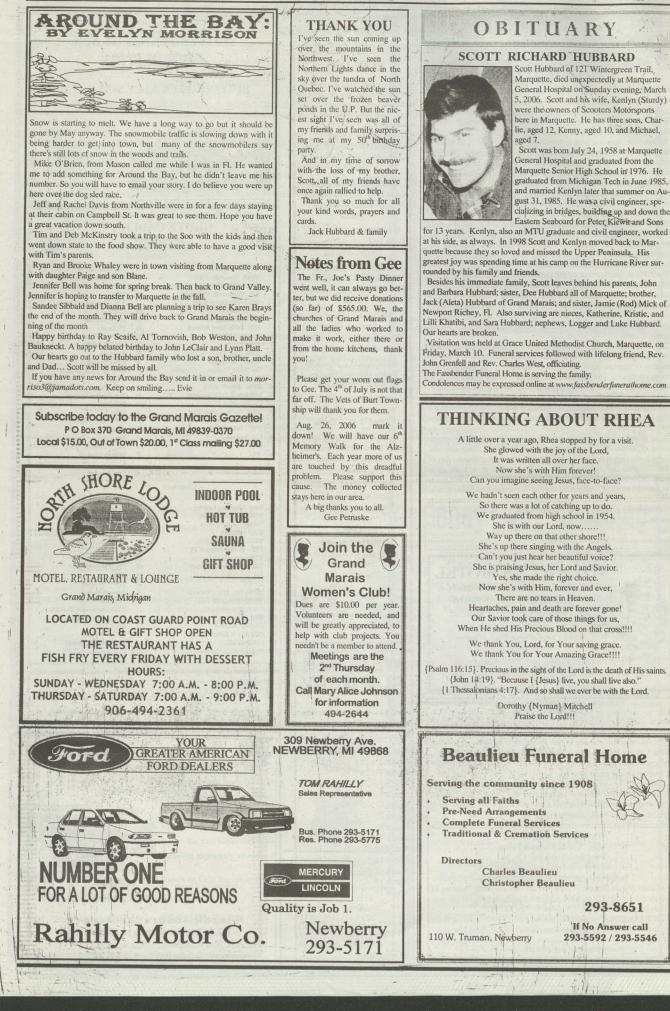
The Grand Marais Gazette is published the first and third Thursday of each month for \$15.00 per year in Grand Marais and \$20.00 per year outside of Alger County - 1<sup>st</sup> Class delivery for \$27.00. OFFICE HOURS: If you see the dark blue Chevy Suburban out front, give it a try. If you have any 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

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#### **GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE**

#### MARCH 16, 2006



#### **GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE**

# TO ALL BURT TOWNSHIP TAX PAYERS

By Rosie (Della) Meldrum

After the last Township monthly meeting, following my letter in the GM Gazette, and mailings to almost all of the property owners who were in town prior to that meeting, lack of response has made me decide it is really not worth the effort, time and cost I have put into it to proceed further. A small number did make the effort to attend and lot of questions, and opinions were presented to the board, but after all discussions I do believe that many left the meeting nothing had really been resolved.

The main topics of concern that brought about a group requesting my help, was in regard to the township board having voted full medical benefits, for themselves and spouse/family, and also the amount of salary they are getting since those positions are not full-time.

The surveys that were done indicated that Burt Township Board members were the highest paid board members of almost all the other townships, many with a population much greater then Burt. Even more questionable was the fact that none of them received any medical benefits, and that included all the townships within our own county. The boards response was to inform the people that this township had many other factors that would justify this difference, though no specifics were provided.

We, (the group) had thought to further notify every taxpayer within our township, but with the seemingly lack of interest, by the small attendance, and also follow up calls indicating people's apathy and not wanting to become involved, I certainly do not intend to spend the time, energy and cost to continue this. If the majority do not have enough interest in what their tax dollars are spent on, then I don't think they should complain. The board did offer to hear each and every individual's complaints and questions, to hopefully resolve the animosity that exists. It is apparent that not enough really care to make any effort to try and have it resolved, or be motivated to run for an office to create any changes.

The annual meeting will be held on March 23,2006 at 7:00 P.M. at the Community Center. I would urge all who do not agree with the Township Board on any problem to make it a point to attend, or at least write. This is the time for you to be heard. You do have a vote, and voice in these matters.

The other matter that was of discussion in the February monthly meeting, concerned the violation of the contract with Edmund Warren, for the uptown lots, or "Greenspace" as they are designated. Supervisor Durrwachter was a bit upset with me at that meeting because I had read Mr. Warren's comments to me, in that he was upset by the Supervisor's attempt to have him sign a document by which he would support his request to allow snowmobile parking. The Supervisor informed me that he did not believe this was a violation of the contract, and also that he had consulted an attorney.

I also sought out a legal opinion, by a very qualified attorney, and this is his interpretation of what the board members feels is not a binding fact. "Paragraph 12 of the recorded contract is abundantly clear to Subparagraph A, the land is subject to the contract is only to be used "for a park open to the residents of Burt Township, and the general public.". And, pursuant to Subparagraph B, only parking "incidental" to use of the land for "park purposes' is to be allowed.

In conclusion he states: "This land is NOT TO BE USED FOR GENERAL PARKING OR FOR SNOW-MOBILE PARKING.

To those board members who still seem to question the use of the word "incidental" in relation to the parking, I suggest you seek Webster's definition. It seems exceptionally clear to me: "Occurring or liable to occur in connection with something else: happening in fortuitous or subordinate conjunction with something else~ casual or accidental".

I would hope this would finally resolve this matter. I did inform Supervisor Durrwachter, who took issue to the fact that I have no "legal" position in which to speak, or act for Mr. Warren, my loyalty still is to him, as he did everything to make this purchase a possibility for our village, as he did for the Historical Society to purchase the Pickle Barrel and property. I will continue to "police" the property to see that it is used as was agreed upon by all, and especially in keeping with Mr. Warren's wishes. He is a very fine person, especially after the unfair actions taken by past boards against this same property, to still want the people of Grand Marais to always have this ownership.



PO BOX 307 Grand Marais, MI 49839

For property information: Call: Rosie @ 906-494-2720/ Fax 906-494-2489 E-mail: rmeldrum@jamadok.com Web Page: http://rosiesrealty. grandmaraismichigan.com

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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.

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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 homes.

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



#### From The Pastor's Desk: By Pastor Robert Gardner First Lutheran Church of Grand Marais Who Empowered You?

There is an amazing medicine God gave us. You will not find it in a drugstore, nor is it produced by any pharmacy. It has never been tested and ap-

proved by a governmental agency. Yet, it has the power to mend the human heart, repair wounded feelings, resurrect dead relationships, and release people paralyzed by their past so that they may get up and walk into a new future.

That medicine is forgiveness, the most powerful substance that God has ever devised. But what gives you the right to use it? Who authorized you? Who licensed you to practice with this medicine? "It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Before Jesus healed the paralyzed man he first forgave him, triggering a 'dispute over how God dispenses this precious medicine. This argument led to Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion, and finally got settled through a death and resurrection.

So we might know that Jesus has the authority on earth to forgive sins, God said to Jesus (just as Jesus said to the paralytic), "Rise, take up your bed and walk." The resurrected Jesus says the same to us as well. As Jesus said to his disciples, so he says to us: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them." And again, "Thus it is written that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead...and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations... You are witnesses of these things." It is not blasphemy for us to preach and practice forgiveness. It is our charge, our mission, and our calling. We have been raised for this.





Will wonders never cease? Georgie Boy actually backed off a little bit on the UAE-Port issue. The facts that his own party was ready to fight him and the public support was close to nonexistent surely had something to do with his decision. To say he is unhappy about having to eat a little crow is a gross understatement. How would you like to be the person who told him that it would be political suicide to refuse to back down a bit? Despite all the evidence, the overwhelming opposition of this deal by mem-bers of all political persuasions and walks of life, he still refuses to believe that the UAE was not a peace loving terror-fighting nation. Georgie Boy says this is a bad message to send to the Arabs. Hello! I think his war on Iraq, the incarceration of thousands of Arabs for years without any charges being leveled and no trials, his hard line with several Arab nations etc. have sent a much stronger "Bad Message" to Arabs. No wonder most elephants that are running for reelection are running from him instead of to

Despite the low approval rate of Georgie Boy the Asses appear to be lost without a compass. They are unorganized and have no platform to stand on except that they are anti-Elephant especially against Georgie Boy and crew. One would think that after the 2004 election that the Asses would have their act together. They assured us by their lack of a platform and pee poor campaigning, four more years under the Bush Dictatorship and the continuation of an Elephant controlled Congress. No such thing has happened in fact they are more disorganized except for their anti Bush and Elephant stance. If they don't get it together soon you can count on at least two more years of what we have now. The Elephants on the other hand are claiming the improved economy is a result of their great leadership. What good economy are they talking about? I am not making any more money than I was when they took office; in fact I am making less in buying power. Every time that I turn around I hear of a major company laying off thousands of employees who have higher than average wages and benefits. The latest being AT&T-Southern Bell that has announced job reductions of thousands. Gas, heating fuel, health insurance and around here utilities have skyrocketed during this administration. If this is "Good Economy", stop it the bounty is killing people.

Slobodan Milosevic, aka the "Butcher of the Balkans" is dead. Although he still has staunch supporters, so does Hitler. Unless I have been completely brainwashed this maniac was the closest thing to Hitler in my lifetime. Ya ya, I know that Lenin, Stalin, Mao, Sadam Insane etc. were also mass murderers. Slob, for short (pun intended)" however was killing based on ethnic cleansing, not political differences. Slob did not differentiate between children and adults, men and women, infirmed and total healthy or any other category. If you were Islam you died and often in horrible fashion. At least we can stop paying exorbitant costs for keeping him confined. The same should happen to Sadam. Why is it that we allow mass murders that are political leaders to live out their lives costing the public lots of money that could be used for something good and yet execute those who have committed one or two murders. Murder is murder and your political, economic or other status should not determine the punishment. The problem with bringing Slob and people like him to justice is that you can only kill him once.

The situation in Iraq continues to deteriorate and if it isn't in civil war by definition yet, it soon will be. The overwhelming majority of citizens of this country say that the war and attempted nation building there is going poorly or is lost. It is interesting that England in pulling 10% of its troops out and just before elections. They only had 8,000 to begin with. Hm, a little imbalance maybe? Iran has finally been recognized as a threat, number two in my opinion when Bush declared war on Iraq; North Korea was number one.

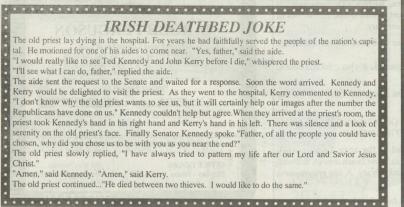
Jenny was in Seney last Saturday to do a little snowmobiling in the Veteran's Snowmobile Run. I hope that this is a sign that Michigan will get off the bottom of the barrel when it comes to Veterans' Benefits. I saw a news clip recently that stated that the VA higher echelon have been telling this congress and executive branch that the VA can not take care of the additional cases caused by the Bush war. That doesn't surprise me in the least; they haven't been able to care for all the veterans that needed help before the war began. This isn't a new development, just a larger problem. A grateful and supportive nation, my butt; this issue will not get much if any attention in the upcoming election.

And finally. Hopefully the spring type weather will dampen the hate and discontent in Grand Marais. The differences have gotten far too mean and personal. So far we have had one application for the clerks job. Being such a lucrative position because of the tremendous pay and benefits, this part time position apparently has not caused a stampede of people vying for this appointment. - FLASH: NOW THERE ARE TWO!

Stayed at Poo's on Saturday night while attending Lizzard's and Doc's basketball tournament. After the games I had expected a good meal but apparently Too had eaten almost everything in the house because w were stuck with leftovers and frozen pizza. Have to admit that the pizza was pretty good. Dizzy was asleep in my favorite chair but woke up long enough to give me a hug. Hoo was involved in some video game or something with Uncle Sean. Paul came over after the games and we had a good bull (and cow) session. The girls' teams both went on to capture first place on Sunday with undefeated records. This past weekend they had another tournament down state where there is much better competition. Both teams took second place. I heard that Lizzard was quite in dignant when she was given an A- in physical ed. She said "I beat all the boys at everything we do. How can I get an A-? Don't worry about your phys. ed. grade Lizzard, keep getting those A grades in math, science, English, social studies etc.

And finally, finally. Unrest seems to have increased in the world and our government seems to still believe that we need to be the world's police. As long as we keep putting the type of people in our government leadership positions that are there now, more and more of our troops will be in harms way. Don't forget them! Keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Until next issue.

Hungry Jim





### **GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE**



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

### TO GRAND MARAIS PEOPLE

From Rosie Meldrum

We certainly do not need any more trouble between the people here and the Township Board, but receiving this fax with the notice of a SPECIAL MEETING, for the purpose of discussing options regarding new threats from myself and Attorney Ferguson, and putting the Township Greenspace property in jeopardy, including foreclosure, was too much for me to sit down and ignore.

After the discussion of the contract being violated by someone having a portion of this property plowed, then used by snowmobiles, it was clear that many members of the board do not feel the contract clause was enforceable by their interpretation After Supervisor Durrwachters attempt to have Mr. Warren go along with this as-sumption, also stating they had legal advice in regard to it, I read Mr. Warren's indignant response at the meeting. Following that I decided to seek Attorney Ferguson's legal opinion on the contract, and informed Supervisor Durrwachter I had done so. He asked for a copy of the reply, which I sent him. This brought about the Special Meeting Notice, since they decided that the Attorney and I were placing the purchase of the property in

jeopardy, as well as threatening a Foreclosure. I follow this with my reply to the board. LETTER CONCERNING VALIDY OF L.C LANGUAGE BETWEEN WARREN AND TOWNSHIP: LC Dated March 30, 2005

"The Land Contract referred to above was recorded at the office of the Alger County Register of Deeds, on April 5, 2005, in Liber 200200919.

Paragraph 12 of the recorded contract is abundantly clear. Pursuant to Subparagraph A, the land is the subject of the contract is only to be used "for a park open to the residents of Burt Township, and the general public And, pursuant to Subparagraph B, only parking "incidental" to use of the land for "park purposes" is to be allowed

This land is not to be used for general parking or for snowmobile parking. I would believe that his comment to me to tell Mr. Warren, if he feels obliged to proceed, he would be pleased to represent him in an action to either specifically enforce, or foreclose, the contract. This certainly would be the last option that any of us would choose, but since the Township Board seems to feel this is "not binding", all of this turmoil was meant only to try and prevent any such action. I would hope for some of the people to let their opinion in this matter be heard.

#### Dear Editor:

I understand there is a lot of fuss being made over the use of the new park property the Township is purchasing, referred to as the Greenspace Property. Apparently a local contractor continued to plow an area for trailer parking, as he has for the past fifteen years. People visiting our community staying at places throughout the downtown area parked their trailers there. The Township had not given anyone permission to plow or use the area for parking. The plowing was stopped over a month ago, however, tempers have been flaring over it. We need to lighten up a bit.

The wording in the contract with the seller states, and I'll paraphrase, parking is permitted as long as it is for park purposes and incidental to the use of the park. The property is available for all of us to enjoy 12 months out of the year. People enjoying the use of the Park can get there any way they choose. They could be on a bicycle, or a motorcycle. It may be a snowmobile or a Hummer. It could be a SUV, ORV, or a school bus. In my opinion, as long as they are on Park property the parking of their vehicle must be incidental. They may be having a picnic, taking pictures, or enjoying the beautiful view of the Bay and the downtown area

Where we have a problem is if they leave the Park and their vehicle is still there. If they decide to walk around town or visit one of the local stores we have a problem. The way the language reads it could be a violation if they just walked across the street to the pavilion or the beach.

We have to be careful. If someone dislikes the people on the property, or the vehicle they used to incidently park there, the language in the contract could be enforced to the letter of the law if they were not on the property at all times. So, does this mean we can't park our cars there early in the morning on the 4th of July so we can come back at dark to enjoy the fireworks? What happens during our concerts or cookouts? Could the Pickle Barrel people leave a trailer overnight during their annual yard sale? Could a popcorn wagon, ice cream trailer, or band concert stage on a trailer be there overnight? No.

Lets not throw the baby out with the bath water folks. Lets let the Township Board with the help of our Planhing Commission work on these issues. That's why we have them. We need to work together. Over 85 people have contributed money to help with the purchase. Lets all sit back, take a deep breath and calm down. We are so fortunate to be Americans. We live in the U.P.on beautiful Lake Superior. The seller, Mr. Edmund Warren has been very philanthropic with us so we could afford the property. We have little crime. Our children and grandchildren are free to ride bikes or walk around town without fear of danger. Why don't we shift our attention to spring? Lets have a contest to see who spots the first Robin on the Park property.

Sincerely Ed Bowen Grand Marais

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#### MANAGEMENTS NEW POLICYS SICK DAYS:

We will no longer accept a doctor statement as proof of sickness. If you are able to go to the doctor, you are able to come to work. SURGERY:

Operations are now banned. As long as you are an employee here, you need all your organs. You should not consider removing anything. We hired you intact. To have something removed constitutes a breach of

#### **PERSONAL DAYS:**

Each employee will receive 104 personal days a year. They are called Saturday and Sunday VACATION DAYS:

All employees will take their vacation at the same time every year. The vacation days are as follows: Jan. 1, July 4 & Dec. 25

#### BEREAVEMENT LEAVE:

This is no excuse for missing work. There is nothing you can do for dead friends, relatives or coworkers. Every effort should be made to have non-employees attend to the arrangements. In rare cases where employee involvement is necessary, the funeral should be scheduled in the late afternoon. We will be glad to allow you to work through your lunch hour and subsequently leave one hour early, provided your share of the work is dor

#### OUT FROM YOUR OWN DEATH:

This will be accepted as an excuse. However, we require at least two veeks notice, as it is your duty to train your own replacement RESTROOM USE:

Entirely too much time is being spent in the restroom. In the future, we will follow the practice of going in alphabetical order. For instance, all employees whose names begin with 'A' will go from 8:00 to 8:20, employees whose names begin with 'B' will go from 8:20 to 8:40 and so

If you're unable to go at your allotted time, it will be necessary to wait until the next day when your turn comes again. In extreme emergencies employees may swap their time with a coworker. Both employees' su-pervisors must approve this exchange in writing. In addition, there is now a strict 3-minute time limit in the stalls. At the end of three minites, an alarm will sound, the toilet paper roll will retract, and the stall door will o

#### LUNCH BREAK:

Skinny people get an hour for lunch as they need to eat more so that they can look healthy, normal size people get 30 minutes for lunch to get a balanced meal to maintain the average figure. Fat people get 5 minutes for lunch because that's all the time needed to drink a Slim Fast and take a diet pill.

#### DRESS CODE:

It is advised that you come to work dressed according to your salary, if we see you wearing \$350 Prada sneakers and carrying a \$600 Gucc bag we assume you are doing well financially and therefore you do not need a raise

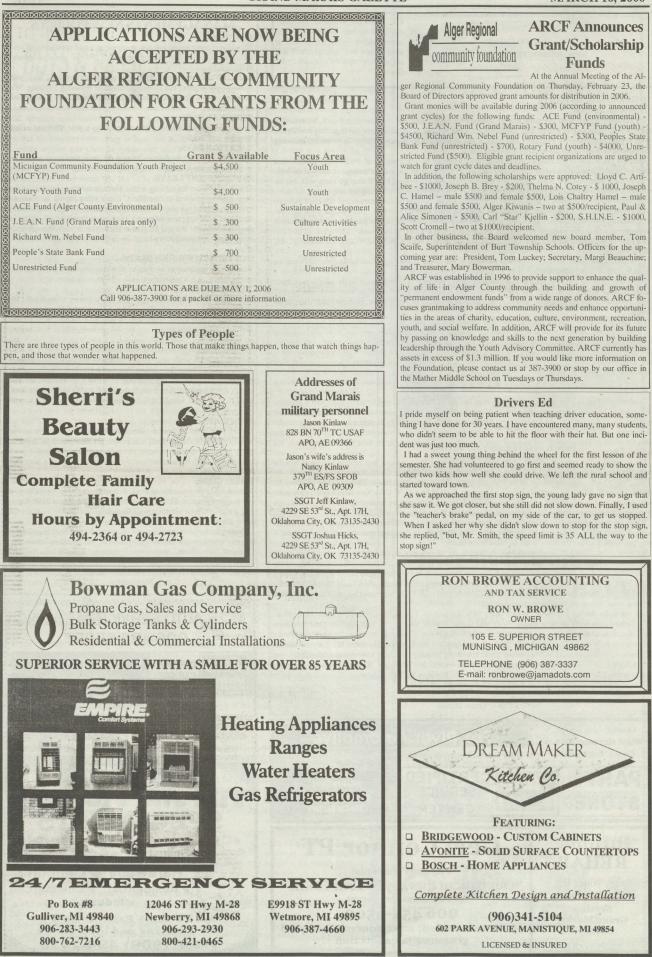
Thank you for your loyalty to our company. We are here to provide a positive employment experience. Therefore, all questions comments, concerns, complaints, frustrations, irritations, aggravations, insinuations, allegations, accusations, contemplations, consternations or input should be directed elsewhere. Have a nice week. Management

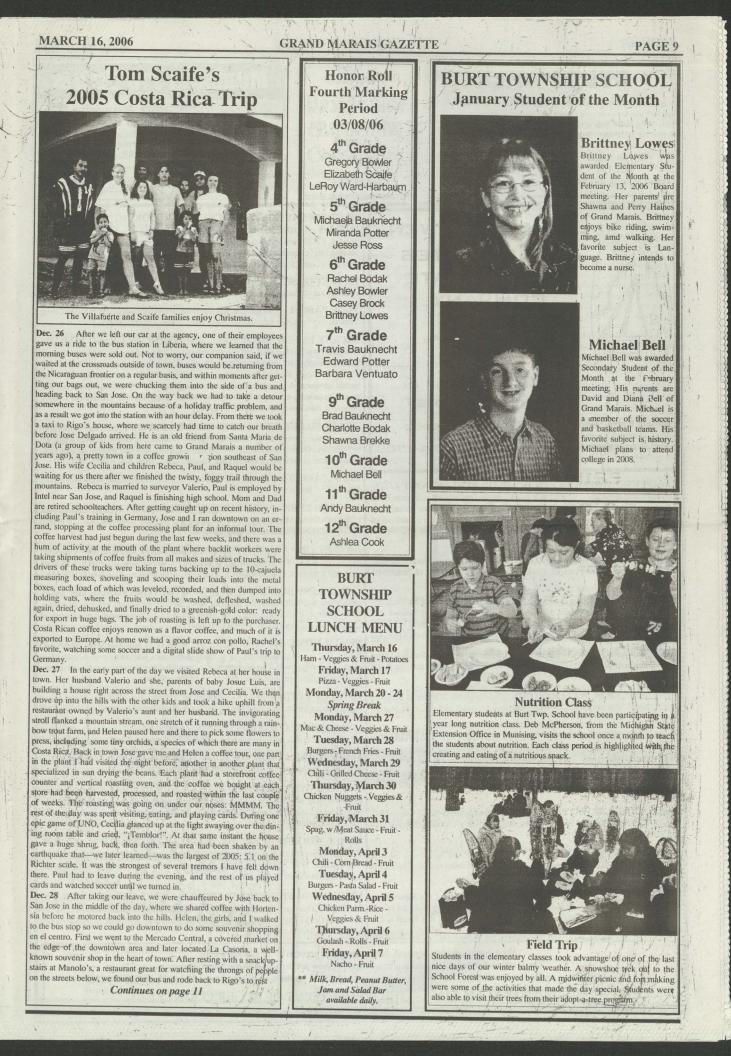


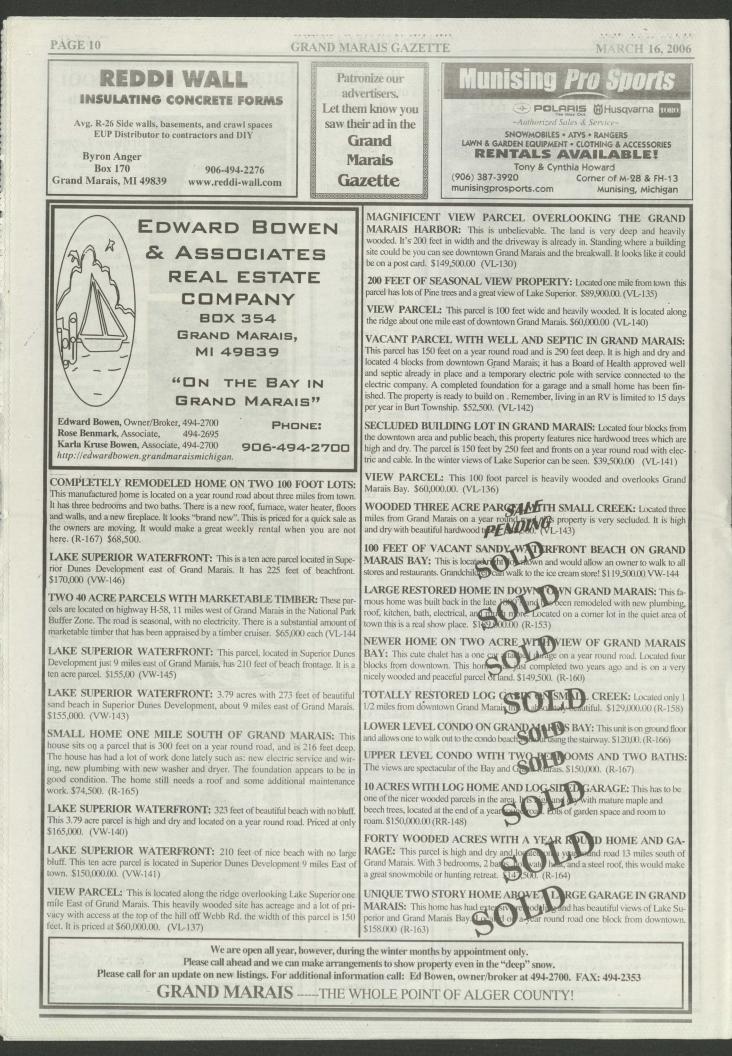
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#### **GRAND MARAIS GAZETTE**

#### MARCH 16, 2006







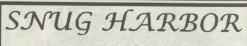
#### Continued from page 9 Tom Scaife's 2005 Costa Rica Trip

up for tomorrow's big event: Mildred and her sisters' Grandma Alvarez' birthday party in Atenas at Rigoberto's newly constructed getaway in the hills above the town, his birthplace. Mildred and Jose had other ideas, however, and we wound up goofing with the Gutierrez until much later in the evening. "Winston" the white van had been experiencing overheating problems, but he got us home OK.

Dec. 29 One of my great dilemmas in middle-age journal writing is that I sometimes abandon them in transit, sometimes for days or weeks. Such is the case now on January 26 as I desperately try to accurately recall when and where and what the heck took place. I'm trying to polish this thing off... here goes nothing Rigo came home bright and early from Atenas, about 30-40 k west of the airport, where he had been laying the groundwork for the birthday party. His three sons were still there. He gathered us, Hortensia, and her sister Cuca up for his next shuttle. It was another nice, sunny day. He told us that he had hired a marimba band to play at the party and that the Gutierrez would be arriving by bus because of their van's mechanical problems. On the way into town, we stopped at the La Negrita coffee warehouse to pick up my 10 kilos of whole bean dark roast, our preferred brand among a number of good ones. It comes out to about 22 lbs. for \$40. Rigo's "camp" is high up in the hills above town, next door to his dad and stepmom's place. The house perches above a steep slope that is dotted here and there with fruit trees and some hardwoods. At this time the tangerines were ripe and delicious, very much to Elizabeth's liking, so I had to climb the tree several times, going face to face with a sprawling spider to get her some more. The house has a glassed-in sitting room and kitchen, bedroom, and bath. Out front were a couple hammocks and a rope swing that provided endless amusement when all the cousins were there, fourteen in all, Rigo and I now took a quick side trip to visit Sergio and Lorena (his niece) Gonzalez near town. They are a family I have stayed with several times during my comings and goings. He is a beekeeper and they are the parents of two boys and one girl. His honey gathering season was just getting underway. Back at the shack Alvarez people were showing up in increasing numbers and in various order, but by the time Rene and Hortensia Alvarez, the guests of honor, showed up, their six daughters—Hortensia, Mildred, Marlene, Rosemary, Cuca, and Lilliana and all of their children had appeared. The band also showed up, some austere-looking gentlemen in pressed pants and light-colored shirts with collars. The oldest of the three was barefoot. He and another guy, both of whom chain-smoked, played the marimba, tossing their lit cigarettes on the ground as they tinkled into the next number and retrieving the still smoldering butt when the song was over. They stood behind their instrument, a kind of wooden xylophone that emits a distinctly Caribbean sound when struck by soft-tipped mallets. One hammered out the rhythm track on the bottom end while the other played the melody on top. The third guy played a squeezebox, and they had the crowd going in short order. There was plenty of food, dancing, and drink, and before it was all over, we found ourselves witnessing the cake cutting and a heartfelt speech by Rene about his wonderful wife, their daughters, and all the grandchildren. It was now getting dark and the kids were pretty much played out, so the guests began to fade into the darkness and filter back into San Jose. After yet another series of wonderful people, places, and episodes, one more visit to CostaRica was drawing to a close. We would be spending the night in Atenas before rising early to get to the airport in time to get squared away for our international flight, this one going through Dallas and Chicago

Dec. 30 Rigo had told me that the bird life at his place was interest-ing, and it sure was. There was a huge BOOM like a cannon going off, stopping everyone in his tracks. Helen spotted a bird lying outside the plate glass, stunned, as it turned out, for it eventually recovered and flew off. Well, soon it would be our turn to fly off, so we organized our luggage and hauled it to the car. Fernando, the youngest son, rode with his parents and us to the airport. There on the de partures parking ramp we entreated each other to come and "see us again soon", exchanged adios y gracias, gave healthy hugs all around, and brought yet another chapter of our Costa Rican relations to a close

At Harvard it took me ten years to develop a relationship of total hostility with my environment. I want you to know that here in Washington, D.C. I have done it in eighteen months. Henry Kissinger



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# 2006 **Bay de Noc** Gardening Conference

be offered on Saturday, April 29. The all day event will be held in the J.L. Heirman University Center on the campus of Bay de Noc Community College in Escanaba. Twenty one classes will be offered. Participants will be able to choose to attend four.

Sue Robishaw, U.P. Organic Gardener, Author & Artist from Cooks will give a month by month tour of building, managing and growing seedlings and food in a simple, attached solar pit greenhouse. Learn to eat fresh greens year around and have plenty of transplants for your garden.

Brian Black, Science Teacher, Bay College, Escanaba, will discuss gardening with native plants. Class will include a tour of the Bay College greenhouse and an introduction to seed collecting and starting your own native wildflower garden.

There are nineteen other sessions offered at the conference. Topics include: begonias, growing vegetables in cold climates, container gardening, garden design, plant bio-diversity, hydrangeas, houseplants, cooking with herbs, bats, mushrooms, peonies, roses, garden hose wreath, Siberian iris, and perennial gardening.

\$30.00 per person. This includes morning refreshments, lunch and up to four classes. Registration deadline is April 19. Only prepaid registrations will be accepted. For a registration brochure and more information contact MSU Extension in Delta County at 906-786-3032 or in Alger County call 906-387-2530. The program is open to anyone with an interest in gardening. The program also qualifies for Master Gardener educational credit.

## New organization to fundraise on behalf of the The National Parks of Lake Superior Fund (NPLSF) is a newly organ-ized, privately funded effort to fund special projects in the four U.S. national parks on Lake Superior, over and above current appropriated funds. The Fund's mission is to support the stewardship of the natural and cultural resources of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Isle Royale National Park and Grand Port-

A conference for gardeners will friends organizations are one way that we can maintain trails, support environmental education, research, natural resource management and historic building restoration," said Chair, Rita Hodgins, of Marquette,

Michigan "The kinds of special funded projects the NPLSF will help support are such things as endowed trails, endowed lakeshore environmental education, stabilization of lighthouses and research on the declining coaster brook trout populations," stated Dave Miller, board member from Supe rior, Wisconsin. "These parks are the best of Lake Superior and people who visit the parks, love them. Enhancing the visitor's experience is part of our mission.' "We currently have an eight member board and two advisors and are seeking additional board members from around the country who have strong ties or connections to these great parks. We are so fortunate to

have four National Parks on Lake Superior, this country's largest body of fresh water," said Hodgins. Board member, Pam McClelland of Washington, D.C. states, "Our fundraising efforts will include writing grants, seeking funds from foundations and corporations along with individual donations from people who visit and love these parks and want to sustain the cultural and natu al heritage for future generations.

these special places.

tional Park System

To learn more about the National Parks of Lake Superior Fund, or to donate to the fund, please contact us at: 906.228.7914, PO Box 632, Houghton, MI 49931, www.nationalparksoflakesuperior.org or

four U.S. National Parks on Lake Superior

age National Monument, and to enrich the experience of those who visit

The National Parks of Lake Superior Fund is affiliated with the Na-

tional Park Foundation, the nonprofit partner of the United States Na-

"With diminished Federal funding for operations for all national parks.



