

Gitche Gitche Gumee



Letters to the editor

Appreciate the North Shore

My family and I made our first trip up the coast of Lake Superior this past July and fell in love with the area. I would like to subscribe to your newspaper to continue seeing pictures of your beautiful town and landscape, along with articles that will keep us informed of what's going on.

We look forward to being able to visit Grand Marais again someday, but for now reading your newspaper will help us feel like we're there! Don't ever take living in such a wonderful place for granted — it is a gift.

Gail Shriver
Lineville, Iowa

Million, billions, trillions

Oops! Good News! The five hundred billion stated in my letter for the Congressional jets, should be five hundred million—and then reduced to about \$200,000,000 after a public outcry. Aren't you glad?

Now if only the anticipated cost of the proposed health care overhaul could be in the billions, with nine 0s, and not trillion, with twelve 0s.

Get informed, and contact your representatives. They are working for us and not the other way around. We pay their salaries, their health care, their benefits, pensions, travel, their staff, and every other federal cost from infrastructure to military (God bless our military) with our hard earned tax dollars.

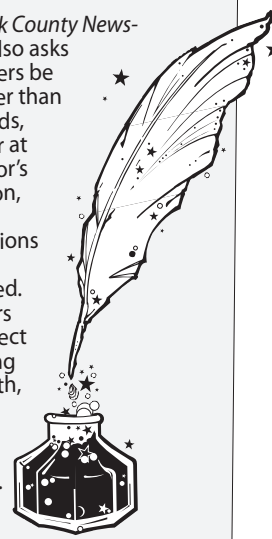
And it is our hard earned tax dollars they are throwing around to bail out failing banks, businesses and you name it. Keep them accountable to YOU!

Rae Piepho
Lutsen

Reminder for letters

Letters to the editor, columns, and cartoons are all the opinions of the contributors and not necessarily the *Cook County News-Herald*. While we encourage readers to submit letters to the editor on issues they feel strongly about, we ask that letters include name, address, and phone number. Unsigned letters or those of questionable credibility will not be published or acknowledged.

The *Cook County News-Herald* also asks that letters be no longer than 350 words, however at the editor's discretion, longer submissions may be published. All letters are subject to editing for length, clarity, and libelous content.



SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
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Hard to haul away

Although Brad Thompson of Grand Marais, owner of Thompson Performance, is heartbroken at the thought of getting rid of the many "antique" vehicles parked on his property on the outskirts of Grand Marais, he should be heartened by the strong support he has received from family, friends, neighbors—and competitors—as he seeks re-zoning of his property.

Many of Brad's friends—I am one of them—spoke or wrote letters in favor of the rezoning. We would like to see the rezoning so he can continue to operate his small engine repair business. We want him to be able to fix snowmobiles, tractors, lawn mowers and roto-tillers. We want him to continue to sell dirt bike and ATV gear and accessories—including his helmet exchange offer, which lets parents buy a helmet for their child and bring it back to trade for a larger size as their child grows, a possibly life-saving program.

Even his business competitors support the rezoning, which was nice to see. Once again our community came together to help a friend in need. Instead of acting in their own self-interest, working to remove a rival, the owners of the other two engine repair businesses in Grand Marais advocated for the rezoning that would keep Brad Thompson in business.

UnORGANIZED TERRITORY



Rhonda Silence
starnews@boreal.org

Craig Horak of Tire & Auto Lodge said although he is a direct competitor, he and Brad have a lot of "back and forth" dealings. He said the businesses support each other.

Gene Lashinski and Jason Lashinski of Grand Marais Motors both told the planning commission that Grand Marais needs all of its businesses. As nearby property owners, they voiced support for Brad's business as well. Jason summed up the feeling

of many in the crowded commissioner's room when he said the sight of Brad's cluttered yard didn't bother him out his window.

However, zoning laws set a limit to the number of inoperable vehicles that can be stored on a piece of property. Brad's "approximately 25" is about 20 too many. Even Brad's lifelong friend, Tom Bernier, acknowledged that the vehicles that he and Brad had "wrecked, rebuilt, and wrecked again" need to be hauled away.

The planning commission recommended giving Brad until the end of November to get rid of his collection of clunkers. It won't be an easy task, especially since he has an emotional attachment to so many of the vehicles. Each has a history of its own. It won't happen overnight. However, Brad agreed to get rid of them so he can stay in business and make a living. He'll get rid of his cars so he can keep offering his services to the community. As he said, "The cars gotta go."

And although it may not feel that way to Brad right now, that will be okay—just as long as his business stays.

The automobile engine will come, and then I will consider my life's work complete.

Rudolf Diesel

WIC available in Grand Portage too

Thank you to Teresa Borak for her excellent article about the importance of mother's milk and the changes coming in WIC. The Women, Infants and Children food program (WIC) has provided supplemental food and nutrition education to families since the 1970s. In addition to breastfeeding, the new WIC changes support food choices that we all need to make for good health: more vegetables and fruits, more whole grains and fiber, and less fat and sugar.

Families living in Cook County should know that WIC is also available in Grand Portage. The Grand Portage Health Service

provides WIC as one of its community health programs for young families. These include home-visiting before and after birth, doula support during birth, breastfeeding support, prenatal care, well child checks, immunizations, and car seats, to name just a few.

To sign up for WIC, or to find out about the many community health services available for all ages, call the clinic at 475-2235.

Jennifer Schulz and Jennifer Sorenson
Community Health Nurses
Grand Portage Health Service

Library Friends sale a team effort

The letter to the editor (Aug. 15) from Helen Muth, president of Library Friends of Cook County, very eloquently stated how much appreciation is due to all those who volunteer, donate books or buy books to make the Annual Used Book Sale of Library Friends a success.

But as a person named in the letter, I want to emphasize that a successful sale is very much a team effort by several board members. Those on the board who work on the Used Book Sale throughout the entire year include Jean Bushman, Beth Blank, Jane Burley, Helen Muth, Connie Tuthill and Mike Schelmeske. We each bring our special skills to the process of putting together a collection of categorized books from the thousands donated each year.

Then during the two months prior to the sale, we call on other members of the board for assistance with such functions as publicity by Bea Sorenson, Judy Siegle and Helen Muth; sign production by Emma Bradley; and sale set-up assistance from Peggy Struck and Barb Wiltz. Even though all the board members work on the sale in some capacity, we still need and appreciate our faithful volunteers from the community. So whether it is the gift of your used books, your time, the use of your vehicle or your purchase at the sale, please know that all are necessary to the success of our efforts in support of Cook County libraries.

Ina Sinkeldam
Board member
Library Friends of Cook County

Lodging tax income down for first half of 2009

Jane Howard

Grand Marais area lodging establishments are faring much better so far this year than lodging establishments in the West End and on the Gunflint Trail, according to a quarterly report on the 3% tax assessed in the three lodging districts.

Of Lutsen-Tofte Tourism Association lodging establishments that have submitted their taxes, business was down 15.6% from what it was in the first six months of 2008.

Of Gunflint Trail Tourism Association lodging establishments that have submitted their taxes, business was down 15.4% from what it was

in the first six months of 2008.

Grand Marais Area Tourism Association lodging establishments that have submitted their taxes show an increase of 1.3% over the same time frame last year, a better figure than the other two areas but possibly still not keeping up with inflation.

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