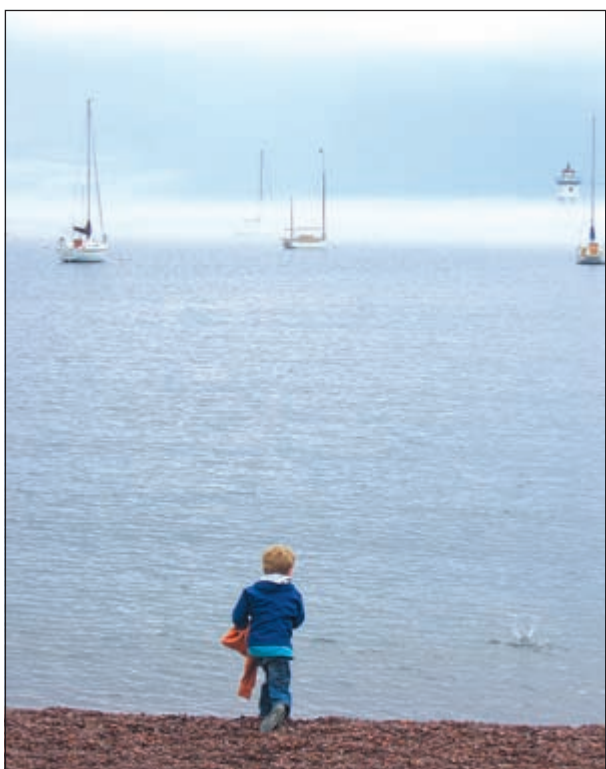




Weekly Weather



Staff photo/Andy Brostrom

This young man enjoyed a misty day on the Grand Marais harbor with a traditional pastime, rock-skiing.

Date	High	Low	Precipitation
From Dave Clutter, Poplar Lake			
Aug. 25	69.45	52.90	0.00
Aug. 26	70.35	47.40	0.00
Aug. 27	72.65	50.50	0.70
Aug. 28	59.40	45.90	0.80
Aug. 29	53.80	41.00	0.20
Aug. 30	61.03	36.60	0.00
Aug. 31	67.90	39.10	0.00

Date	High	Low	Precipitation
From Joseph & Mary Routh, Hovland			
Aug. 25	77	55	0.00
Aug. 26	66	47	0.00
Aug. 27	71	47	Trace
Aug. 28	58	50	0.47
Aug. 29	60	42	0.05
Aug. 30	66	40	0.00
Aug. 31	68	42	0.00

Do you want to be a Cook County News-Herald weather watcher? E-mail us at starnews@boreal.org or call (218) 387-9100!



Staff photo/Rhonda Silenc

Zydeco! At press time, the Grand Portage Lodge & Casino was busy setting up the giant tent on Grand Portage Bay for the 18th Annual Bayou Boogie and the folks from the Bayou Barn in New Orleans, Louisiana were preparing for Mardi Gras, North Shore style. The celebration features an excellent lineup of Bayou bands playing Cajun, Creole, Zydeco, Louisiana Blues and Dixie music; authentic Cajun cuisine, such as Jean Lafitte's Pirate Gumbo, Voodoo Shrimp, Blackened Chicken, or the not-so-spicy Grilled Gulf Shrimp; entertaining games and stories for kids and of course lots of beads! The family-friendly event is free—and fun for all ages, rain or shine. Starts Friday, September 4 at 4 p.m. and runs through the weekend.

Army deserter arrested at Grand Portage border crossing

Staff reports

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers arrested a deserter from the United States Army at the Grand Portage port of entry on Aug. 24.

Ryan Page of Deer Park, Texas was taken into custody by CBP officers after turning himself in upon his entry into the United States and after a check of his identification revealed that he was the subject of a National

Crime Information Center felony warrant for desertion.

After U.S. Army officials confirmed his status as a deserter, Page was transported by the Cook County Sheriff's Office to the Cook County jail for extradition back to the custody of the U.S. Army.

"Our vigilance and diligence are resulting in the apprehension of more fugitives attempting entry into the United States,"

said Service (Area) Port Director Mary Delaquis. "I am very proud of the enforcement efforts of our officers in Grand Portage."

The National Crime Information Center is a centralized automated data base to share information among law enforcement agencies, including outstanding warrants for a wide range of offenses.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border

agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.

Page is under investigation by the US Army for child pornography.

Sentence-to-Serve program brings benefits to county

Jane Howard

The Sentence-to-Serve program provided 936 hours of adult labor between April and June of this year. The estimated market value of completed projects was \$13,250.

Eighty-four jail days were saved by allowing offenders to work instead of sit in jail. At a cost of \$52 a day to keep a prisoner

in jail, the program saved the county \$4,368.

Juvenile offenders worked 204 hours, providing services that had a market value of \$2,390.

Agencies benefitting from the program were the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (396 hours), the county (320 hours), the school district (188 hours), the state (160 hours), the City of Grand Marais

(72 hours) and the federal government (32 hours).

According to Minnesota Department of Corrections District Supervisor Victor Moen, "The Grand Marais crews spent many hours this quarter doing storm cleanup and spring trash pickup on roadways, in parks, and on school grounds."

Letters to the editor

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Superior National brings money to community

Superior National Golf Course and Audubon Sanctuary continues to be lucrative even during these hard economic times. It has proven to be a countywide benefit.

Did you know that the Annual Health Care Golf Tournament has collected \$312,508 that was given to the hospital for new and more advanced equipment? The hospital serves everyone.

In 2009, Superior National took in \$1 million. Statistics show that each dollar a golf course earns brings in \$15 of spending in the area. \$1 million for the golf course means \$15 million for Cook County businesses. Talk about a cash cow in the worst of times!

I recently asked a visiting group of golfers if they found the cost of golf at Superior National excessive. Their answer was, "What we spend today playing golf is nothing compared to what our wives and kids will be spending shopping in Grand Marais."

There isn't a business that doesn't benefit from the flow of tourists that use the golf course. Well, maybe not the funeral home.

\$15 million comes to our county with a zero budget from taxpayers. You heard right. Not a dime of county money in the 2009 golf course budget. The downside is that after several lean years, golf course equipment is in need of replacement; ground work needs to be done and more manpower is needed.

We are not the only area in Northern Minnesota with a first class golf course to draw tourists. The Wilderness at Fortune Bay in Tower is run on casino money - talk about deep pockets. The Quarry at Giant's Ridge in Biwabik is subsidized by the State of Minnesota.

Superior National needs help. With zero dollars in the county budget, the answer could be in the 1% sales tax being considered by voters. I am anti-tax, but when 70% of the needed money would come from visitors and only 30% from folks like us, I need to make an exception.

The golf course and the ski hill are the summer and winter main draws to the area. Picture Cook County, if you can, with both gone and you may find it more palatable to support the 1% sales tax.

Superior National seeks \$150,000 per year to keep itself up to the standards demanded by today's golfers. Peanuts compared to the \$15 million the golf course brings to our county. We need \$150,000 to keep our cash cow healthy and giving milk in abundance.

The talk about total income from the 1% sales tax is \$20 million from all sources. Superior National brings in 3/4 of that total by itself in one year on a zero budget.

Even in absence of money from the county, a great deal of work has been done in the last three years by unpaid volunteers, in flower gardens and landscaping, saving the golf course thousands of dollars. Positive administration changes have recently been made so that for the first time in years people who are experienced in business and marketing, with hands-on knowledge of how to run a golf course, will be making decisions on how to run Superior National.

Visitors will want to return again and again to Cook County. It may not be the whole answer, but it is a heck of a good start. If you could make \$15 million by investing \$150,000, wouldn't you do it?

Eugene Utecht
Lutsen

North House brings money to community

Many of us are familiar with North House Folk School and the brightly colored buildings adjacent to the Grand Marais harbor and the steady flow of human activity at its site. People may be not knowledgeable about how significant this activity is to our local economy.

The school was originally conceived by local artisans to teach old school crafts and enrich the lives of all participants. From its origins in 1997, it now reaches more than 1,500 students each year (from 36 states) through more than 130 different instructors. North House hosts 5,000 other guests through its sailing excursions, and its principal seasonal programs, the Wooden Boat Show (June) and Unplugged (September).

To measure the economic impact on our local economy we used conventional research methodology to reflect the spending of visitors who come to Cook County principally to: attend conventional or custom classes; instruct or assist in teaching; participate in sailing or other special events.

The aggregate economic impact of these visitor days is calculated by using an average visitor's spending during visits to Northeast Minnesota conducted by the University of Minnesota Tourism Center in 2006. That survey data identified the following spending patterns for each visit day:

Lodging	\$33.00
Food	\$36.80
Retail	\$35.80
Recreation	\$35.85
Ground Transportation	\$17.00
Total	\$157.40

To determine the direct economic impact we calculated course days, additional days before or after class days, accompanying visitors, instructors and their parties, and volunteer visitor days. When we account for those

visitor days and others attributable to ticketed events (sailing, Boat Show, Unplugged, Winterer's Gathering, etc.) we total 21,425 visitor days.

At \$157.40/visitor day, this translates into direct spending of \$3.4 million dollars. When you add the direct spending of the school on wages, goods and services (\$559,000), the total direct economic impact on our economy is just under \$4,000,000.

The impact of direct spending of \$4,000,000 on local businesses (ignoring the impact on the hospital and clinic) creates additional spending by the recipients of these revenues. This "indirect" impact has been measured by economists at the University of Minnesota and determined to be 55% of the direct purchases. This additional "recycling" of traveler dollars generates an additional \$2.2 million in revenues (55% of \$4 million) for a total impact on our economy of \$6.2 million. According to the Minnesota Department of Revenue, this represents 4.51% of total countywide retail sales.

Certainly the impact on the Grand Marais economy is significantly higher. For example, the lodging component (\$707,025) represents 12% of aggregate spending on lodging during 2007 in Grand Marais.

From its humble origins and lofty vision in 1997, this staff, its instructors, volunteers, donors and its board have developed its physical plant, programming and personnel to implement its vision. Not only is North House Folk School a significant source of cultural events, which help rejuvenate our community artistically and spiritually, its economic impact on our community is substantial and growing.

Scott Harrison
Chair
North House Folk School board



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