



Today

High 39
Low 26

Good morning!

Saturday/Sunday
May 1/2, 2004

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COMPROMISE

Class C regional heading east



Prom season brings new styles to fore



WEEKEND EDITION

The Daily Mining Gazette

Houghton, Michigan

Serving Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga and Ontonagon counties since 1858

75 cents

KEWEENAW FEEDBACK

WEB POLL



In The Daily Mining Gazette's online edition we asked the following question:

IN LIGHT OF THEIR APPARENT INCREASING NUMBERS, SHOULD TIMBERWOLVES BE REMOVED FROM THE THREATENED SPECIES LIST?

Results



No. of votes at 10:30 p.m. Fri: 240

To cast your ballots in The Gazette's Web polls, visit our online edition at:

www.mininggazette.com

MORNING MAIL

Media coverage of Mid East biased

To the editor:

The news on television on April 19 described two news reporters working for a US-supported TV station who were shot dead by coalition forces in Iraq.

After the news was finished, I went downstairs to read The Daily Gazette. The front page described ROTC training exercises in Baraga Plains, in which a "group of soldiers stands over three dead civilians." The news tonight described 68 civilians killed by car bombs in Iraq.

While it is commendable...

David Mendenhall Hancock

TO READ THE REST OF THIS LETTER, AND FOR OTHER READER VIEWS, SEE PAGE 5A

FRIDAY LOTTERY

MIDDAY: 7-8-5
MIDDAY 4: 2-6-3-3
DAILY 3: 8-2-1
DAILY 4: 4-9-7-4
ROLLOVER: 11-12-14-21-28
KENO: 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 18, 26, 30, 33, 34, 45, 51, 55, 57, 59, 61, 64, 65, 72, 76, 80
MEGA MILLIONS: 15-21-32-39-50
MEGA BALL: 34

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Official: Arson cause of fire

\$5,000 reward offered

By Garrett Neese
Gazette Writer

HOUGHTON — A state fire marshal has concluded that the April 23 blaze that destroyed the Herman Gundlach Inc. building in Houghton is an arson.

"It's a set fire ... I'm investigating it in conjunction with the Houghton Police and Houghton

Fire Department," said Sgt. Jeffrey Hubbard of the Michigan State Police post in Negaunee Township.

Hubbard announced his conclusion Friday after a return visit to the building with Jim Lightfoot, chief of the City of Houghton Volunteer Fire Department. On Monday, Hubbard conducted an all-day investiga-

tion at the site on the Portage Lake Shipping Canal.

Lightfoot, who echoed Hubbard's conclusions, said a fire marshal investigates many factors.

"They go through the building and look at things you and I

wouldn't normally look at," he said.

Officials said the fire began around 6:30 a.m. last Saturday, continuing throughout most of the morning. It then restarted from 4:50 p.m. to 6 p.m. the same day.

Hubbard declined to comment on what evidence led him to deem the fire an arson, since the state police is still conducting a criminal investigation.

Gundlach Champion had no

comment until receiving official word about the investigation, according to Patrick Beausoleil, manager of business development.

Gundlach Champion President Dan LeVeque said the company currently is soliciting bids for demolition of the building.

"It's not going to be days," LeVeque said. "It might be a

Please see **Fire** page 8A



LIGHTFOOT

Iraqis take over in Fallujah

U.S. Marines turn over some positions

By Bassem Mroue
Associated Press Writer

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Led by a former Saddam Hussein general, Iraqi troops replaced U.S. Marines on Friday and raised the Iraqi flag at the entrance to Fallujah under a plan to end the monthlong siege of the city. A suicide car bomb on the outskirts that killed two Americans and wounded six failed to disrupt the pullout of Marines from bitterly contested parts of the city.

The two deaths on the final day of April destroyed the U.S. death toll to 136, making it the deadliest month for American forces since President Bush launched the war in March 2003. More Iraqis have died — some 1,360 according to count by The Associated Press — than any month since Saddam's fall.

U.S. officials provided no further details on the bombing. The shift of security responsibilities to Iraqis — with U.S. forces pulling back from most of their positions inside the city — was a move toward ending the intense fighting that had evoked strong international criticism and from America's Iraqi allies.

Negotiations also were taking place in the southern city of Najaf, where tribal leaders and police agreed to a three-day truce as part of a plan to resolve a standoff between soldiers and militiamen loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

A defiant al-Sadr said: "America is the enemy of Islam."

Elsewhere, Iraqi police Col.



Iraqi soldiers from the newly-formed Fallujah Brigade enter Fallujah, Iraq as U.S. Marines, left, pull out from the town Friday.

Ahmad al-Khazraji was shot to death Thursday night in Baghdad, the U.S. command said. The body of a Baghdad local official also was found hung with a sign on his chest that said "al-Mahdi Army business," a reference to al-Sadr's militia.

Convoys of U.S. troops and equipment could be seen heading out of parts of Fallujah, replaced by red-bereted Iraqi troopers from the new force due to control the city. Residents said that by Friday evening, U.S. troops had left several neighborhoods that had been the scene of heavy fighting, including Nazzal, Shuhada, Nueimiyah and the industrial area. As U.S. Marines withdrew, Iraqi police and civil defense units moved in.

Please see **Iraq** page 2A

Bush defends speech

By Terence Hunt
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Friday defended his speech a year ago on the deck of an aircraft carrier proclaiming the end of major combat in Iraq and said "we're making progress, you bet" in bringing stability to the war-torn country.

Answering reporters' questions in the White House Rose Garden with Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin at his side, Bush said that on the day he spoke aboard an aircraft carrier off San Diego, he also noted that

"there was still difficult work ahead."

It will be a year on Saturday since Bush stood on the deck of the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln beneath a banner proclaiming "Mission Accomplished" and announced that major combat in Iraq had ended.

Critics have derided the banner's declaration as U.S. casualties mounted over the past year, with fighting particularly deadly in recent weeks.

"A year ago I did give the speech from the carrier saying we had achieved an im-

Please see **Bush** page 8A

Lumber in limbo

Effort to recover logs tied up in court

By Paul Peterson
For the Gazette

BARAGA — They're holdovers, albeit potentially valuable ones, from a bygone era.

But plans to recover century-old logs from the bottom of Keweenaw, Munising and Grand Traverse bays remain up in the air.

Michigan residents Lenore Smith of Ontonagon and Graham Kelly of downstate Grand Ledge applied for permits to recover the logs, which sank long ago.

Smith said the case is currently before the Michigan Court of Appeals, where it was sent last year after the permit to recover the logs was upheld in Baraga County Circuit Court.

"We're still waiting on word from the (court of appeals)," Smith said this week. "And that could happen very soon."

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community opposes the project and went to court to stop it. The tribe maintains that fish habitats might be harmed by the work.

Remarkably, the logs are considered far more valuable today than when they were harvested from virgin forests in the region.

"I think those logs would certainly fetch a higher price today," said John "Jack" Hornick, president of the Alberta Village Museum and a former U.S. Forest Service forester. "Those logs

Please see **Logs** page 8A

Blighted house may have new owner

Purchase could end lengthy litigation

By Erin Alberty
Gazette Writer

HANCOCK — A Calumet couple may rescue a derelict house on Summit Street from litigation and possible demolition by the City of Hancock.

Theresa Orzechowski and Jeremy Shebby, of Calumet, have signed a purchase agreement for the residence at 840

Summit St. The property is currently owned by Gerald Anderson Sr., of Oconomowoc, Wis.

The couple has until May 3 to close the sale.

The former rental property has been the target of several neighborhood complaints — and a lawsuit the city filed to enforce property codes.

In a complaint filed in the Houghton County Circuit Court last November, Hancock building inspector Ray Gerhart cited six property maintenance violations at the residence, including unlocked doors, overgrown

weeds, and a deteriorating garage.

Litigation could be a complicated process that could take months to produce a demolition order, City Manager Glenn Anderson said.

"The ultimate goal is to have all of our housing units brought up to code, versus demolition," Anderson said, adding that the city had held \$30,000 in rental rehabilitation funds for the previous owner.

Orzechowski and Shebby sub-

Please see **House** page 8A



The house at 840 Summit Street, pictured above, may avoid demolition if prospective buyers rehabilitate the building so that it meets Hancock's city building code.

DAILY MINING GAZETTE/WILLIAM A. RICE