

Briefs from the Upper Peninsula

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MENOMINEE, Mich. (AP) -- Menominee County officials have dedicated a new patrol and water rescue boat.

The boat, called the Marine 1, is a 27-foot Boston Whaler with twin, 225 horsepower outboard engines.

The \$103,000 boat was paid for by a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the EagleHerald reported.

The new boat replaces one that was put into service in 1989.

The county's marine patrol, which started in the 1960s, covers the waters of Menominee County, including Shakey Lakes, Cedar River, Menominee River and Green Bay. The marine patrol also teaches boating safety courses, investigates boating and water accidents and assists the U.S. Coast Guard and other agencies.

The county's volunteer water rescue team was founded in 1983.

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. (AP) -- Al Klein is finding his transition into his new job as head of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Soo Locks operations to be a smooth one.

Klein, the corps' new area engineer in Sault Ste. Marie, told The Evening News that dramatic staff reductions in recent years have not hampered operations.

"There are so many good people around here who know this place so well," he said.

The current staff of 94 is a far cry from the more than 400 who until recently staffed the operation.

"We would always like to do more, but we're making do with what we have," he said.

Klein, a native of Dollar Bay in the western Upper Peninsula, is an 18-year veteran of the corps' Duluth, Minn., office.

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