

Grand Marais
The Return of the Gull/Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND MARAIS SEAGULL FOUND IN PINE COUNTY BASEMENT

GRAND MARAIS, MN—No one expected this bird to ever head north again, but the seagull who once perched atop the Grand Marais billboard on I-35 and who was stolen—twice!—from that perch has been located, announced Pine County Sheriff's Deputy, Dan Kunz.

"I cannot comment on an ongoing investigation," reported Kunz, "but I can tell you this: the bird has been recovered."

Acting on an anonymous tip, Officer Kunz visited a Pine County-area residence and searched the premises, where he found the 5-foot plywood gull hanging in a basement rec-room. Other than a few ruffled feathers, the gull appeared unharmed.

The news hit Grand Marais early Wednesday morning, and word of the bird's return literally flew through the streets.

"All we wanted was for someone to give us the bird...back, and now it's happened," said Diane Brostrom, executive director of the Grand Marais Area Tourism Association. "We're so happy he's okay and that he can get back to work welcoming folks to Grand Marais."

"Flip," as the seagull is affectionately known, is an icon of Grand Marais tourism, and since his capture, has spawned a "Give Us the Bird" campaign, a Facebook site, and a healthy flock of friends. Look up Flip Marais on Facebook.

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