

2nd Annual "Escanaba da Festival" set for January 17-18

About this time last year, a local group of enthusiasts tossed around the idea of doing something to commemorate the movie that put us on the map. The filming of "Escanaba in da Moonlight" in late winter of 200 had captured the enthusiasms of the entire community, and they didn't want that spark to get lost. Why not an "Escanaba, da Festival?"

Those who were in the area the last weekend in January know how it went. Numerous businesses and organizations came together to sponsor activities – a parade, two dances, ice and chain saw carving demonstrations, contests, food and fun. There was even a bus tour to the sites where the filming had been done, including the Bittner camp.

"The community response was great! Over 80 businesses and organizations took part either

by sponsoring or supporting the activities in some way. It convinced us that this is something we ought to do every winter when things begin to slow down around Delta County," said Chamber director Vickie Micheau.

At the wrap-up meeting the committee set the dates of January 17-18, 2003 for the 2nd annual "Escanaba da Festival," so it's time to start planning for this year's event.

"Many of last year's event sponsors are already on board, but we definitely have room for more. We're open to all ideas, though food vendors would be especially welcome. It's a great way for organizations to raise money," said Jeanne Rose, event coordinator. "Because we can't ever count on the weather, the activities should not be dependent on snow," she cautioned.



"Escanaba da Festival" will kick off with a dance sponsored by the William Bonifas Fine Arts Center on Friday, January 17th. It will conclude Saturday evening with the Hunter's Ball at the Ruth Butler Building at the UP State Fairgrounds sponsored by Bay De Noc Habitat for Humanity. The raffle drawing – a PT Cruiser, Harley or a Dodge Dakota – will take place there. Tickets are on sale now at the Chamber for \$100 each, with only 1,000 being sold.

Anyone interested in taking part in the organization is asked to call the chamber for more information. 786-2192, and talk to Jeanne or Vickie.

Public Service Garage Becomes Lead Donor for the New Electrical Line Distribution Program

Public Service Garage recently presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 to the Lake Superior Community Partnership Foundation (LSCPF) to kick off their annual solicitation campaign.



The 501 (c)(3) foundation's primary workforce development project for 2002-03 is a U.P. wide training center for Electrical Line Distribution technicians. This one-year certificate program is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2003. Bay De Noc College will certify the program and the student application process is expected to begin in early 2003.

Shown presenting the check is Phyllis Maki, Chief Financial Officer for Public Service Garage to Lake Superior Community Partnership Foundation Vice President, Mike Skytta.

For more information regarding the LSCPF or to make a tax-deductible contribution, please call 226-9658.



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Schoolcraft Chamber of Commerce's "Commercial Lighting Contest"

The Schoolcraft County Chamber of Commerce is doing something a little different this year. The Chamber is going to sponsor a lighting contest for businesses that are interested in a little competition for the holiday season. In past year, residential homes have been the contestants, but this year, the Chamber thought it was time for a change.



If you are interested in entering your business, the entry fee is \$10.00 worth of non-perishable foods and canned goods, delivered to the Chamber Building at the time of registration. The food will be distributed to those in need.

This should prove to be an interesting project. The Christmas holiday season is always festive in its own right, but the lighting competition should be quite an enhancement of our area.

Registration deadline will be December 2nd. Judging will be done on December 12th by members of the Chamber Board of Directors.

For more information, contact the Schoolcraft County Chamber of Commerce at 906.341.5010.

Business After Hours

The River Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce would like to invite all of its members to a Business After Hours to be held on December 11, 2002 at the Best Western Riverfront Inn. If you are a chamber member and would like to attend, please RSVP to the Chamber by calling 906.863.2679.

Happy Holidays!

Program benefits Marquette agencies and NMU students

Four Marquette non-profit organizations are reaping the benefits of a Northern Michigan University pilot program that allows students to apply federal work study to off-campus positions.

The agencies are able to secure additional help for a fraction of the usual cost. In exchange, NMU students are offered more diverse employment choices, the opportunity to pursue jobs that might be more closely related to their chosen field, and a chance to make a contribution to the local community.

"It has worked out great so far," said Rhea Dever of the NMU JOBSearch Center. "We're not breaking new ground; it's fairly standard at other universities. But the agencies like it because they typically have tight budgets for personnel and sometimes can't even afford part-time help. Now they're able to hire someone with enthusiasm and desire – maybe even a career interest in that area – for 25 cents on the dollar. It's a very good proposition and a number of organizations have expressed an interest."

Dever said the program came about through a combination of two factors: a number of students

had expressed a desire to use work study off campus; and the NMU JOBSearch Center had been looking for ways to develop more employment opportunities for students, some of which might be more relevant to their academic majors. The pilot program provides a mechanism to achieve both goals.

Those participating this year include Child and Family Services, the Medical Care Access Coalition, AMCAB Headstart Program and Lutheran Social Services. The agencies make all of the hiring decisions and determine pay scales. Dever said Northern will reimburse them in work study funds for 75 percent of gross wages, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per agency.

Lutheran Social Services hired KayCee Lindeman from Felch, Mich., an NMU senior special education major. She is a life skills coordinator who works with clients in both the Welcome Home and Voices for Youth programs for homeless individuals.

"I had just finished teaching life skills and transition planning courses when I saw the ad for this job, so it timed out well," Lindeman said. "I get

together one-on-one with people, write up goals and objectives and teach them the life skills needed to reach those goals – things like how to manage money and how to develop employability skills. Before this opportunity, most of my work study jobs were in food service. I think this job pertains more to my major."

Beth Davis of LSS said the arrangement has been mutually beneficial.

"We are totally grant funded, so obviously this connection with Northern and the student employment has helped us," she added. "We're actually able to serve more people because of it. As an education major, KayCee has been a nice fit. It's working very well so far."

Through the NMU pilot program this semester, five students are employed among the four community organizations.



Workplace Safety Series Comes to Bay

The Lifelong Learning Center at Bay College along with the Delta County Community Violence Prevention Council are bringing a series of three essential workplace safety workshops this year. The three workshops to take place over the next months include: Dealing with Conflict in the Workplace; A message from Jonesboro, Littleton and Vietnam: How Kids are Learning to Kill and Learning to Like It; and Understanding Culture and How it Shapes Our Lives.

Second class in the series is A Message from Jonesboro, Littleton, & Vietnam: How Kids are Learning to Kill & Learning to Like It. Coming Thursday, February 27, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with lunch provided. Why are children killing other children, adults, and themselves? Lt. Colonel David Grossman has studied killing as a military historian, as a psychologist, as an anthropologist, and as a father who treasures children. This full day presentation will help participants to understand the scientific data linking TV, movies and video game violence to violent crime and what we can do about it as parents, educators and citizens of our community. Lt. Colonel David Grossman is one of the world's leading experts on the causes of violent crime. Recognized as a powerful and provocative speaker, he is the founder of a new field of scientific endeavor, which he

has termed AKillology. @ Fee for this class is \$30.00.

Last in the series is Understanding Culture & How It Shapes Our Lives. Coming April 28, 2003, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and includes lunch. Buck poles, pasties, and people known as Yoopers or Trolls: these are some of the cultural identifiers for people living in the Upper Peninsula. What is a culture and what is meant by cultural diversity? In this workshop, participants will learn how to better define their own cultures and gain a better understanding of others. Learn how

we shape our identity boundaries and how we interact with others. Instructor is Maartje Nolan who has a Masters in Intercultural Relations and Conflict Resolution from Lesley College, Boston. Fee for the class is \$25.

To register for these workshops or for more information, contact the Lifelong Learning Center at Bay College at 786-5802, ext. 1227 or toll-free at 1-800-221-2001 or visit our website at www.baycollege.edu and click on Lifelong Learning.



Sponsor a page in the *Michigan Works! Business is UP-Date*

The Michigan Works! Business is UP-Date is a respected area newsletter providing local business, economic, and educational information to over 3,500 business professionals throughout the Central Upper Peninsula.

There are various sponsorship opportunities for the Michigan Works Business is UP-Date Newsletter insuring that all businesses can find the publicity that they are looking for within our pages.

For sponsorship information contact Rob Carviou at:

- (906)-789-0558 extension 223
- Fax: (906)-789-9952
- rcarviou@jobforce.org



Michigan Talent Bank now contains more job postings!

Job seekers now have access to an additional 90,000 job postings on the Michigan Talent Bank (MTB) as a result of a new partnership between the Michigan Department of Career Development (MDCD) and EmployOn, Inc., a Cleveland-based online recruitment solutions company, Dr. Barbara Bolin, Department director, announced today. The 90,000 new postings have been added to the 30,000 job listings that were there for job seekers to view and consider.

“This new enhancement to the Michigan Talent Bank demonstrates the Department of Career Development’s commitment to the continuous improvement of our customer service programs,” Dr. Bolin said. The Michigan Talent Bank, which can be accessed through www.jobforce.org, is the state’s public Internet-based employment system used by all Michigan Works! Service Centers throughout the State. Job seekers can post their resumes and search job listings, and employers can post jobs and search the resume database.

In addition to the jobs posted directly by employers on the Michigan Talent Bank, thousands of other job listings can be accessed through EmployOn, Inc. The company uses sophisticated computer technology to locate jobs in Michigan and neighboring states

posted on other Internet Web sites. The job listings may come from other popular job boards, government sites, or Michigan business Web sites. In addition, EmployOn includes a salary calculator feature that provides general salary information by occupation and years of experience for major cities throughout the country.

“Our partners in Michigan understand the benefits of using the Web as a tool to serve both Michigan job seekers and employers, and we are proud to be associated with them,” said Matt Carpenter, EmployOn, Inc., president.

To take advantage of the new feature, job seekers must first search for job openings listed directly in the Michigan Talent Bank. They then are given the option of conducting a new search in the MTB for job openings or searching for jobs in EmployOn. Persons who choose to search EmployOn’s job listings do not leave the actual Web site; they access this additional job information through pop-up screens/Web pages that overlay the MTB Web pages. The EmployOn job search feature was customized for the Michigan Department of Career Development so that it has the same look and feel as the Michigan Talent Bank, and it is thoroughly integrated into the state’s labor ex-

change system.

“It can be very frustrating and time-consuming for job seekers to visit many Web sites in search of job postings,” Dr. Bolin said. “EmployOn’s approach to gathering this information and making it searchable in one place will greatly improve Michigan’s citizens’ chances of finding an appropriate position and connecting immediately to the appropriate employer.”

For assistance or additional information, please call your local Michigan Works! Service Center. All of the local addresses and phone numbers are listed on the back page of this issue.

The Michigan Department of Career Development is the state government agency that is charged with providing the skilled workforce Michigan needs to enhance and maintain its economy. To this end, the state’s career and training development agency is working with employers, K-12 schools, community colleges, and partners with all Michigan Works! Agencies to develop a comprehensive career development system. For more information about the Department of Career Development, visit the Department’s Web site at www.michigan.gov/mdcd.

Upper Peninsula Safety Conference to be held in January



Michigan Technical Education Center™ To help meet the need for safety training in our area, M-Tec at Bay College is once again holding its annual Safety Conference, on Thursday, January 30, 2003.

Safety in the workplace is a necessity to insure the success of a business. If a workplace is unsafe, there is a massive toll to the moral of the workers, and to the finances of the business itself. Moral is affected because no one wishes to go to work with the fear that they may be injured. Finances are hurt with workplace injuries because each injury raises costs for the company. The cost of workers compensation insurance, fines, and in the worst scenarios, the cost of training a new employee to take the now vacant position are all devas-

tating blows to the business. But these costs, both financial and emotional, can be lessened if preventative measures are put in place.

Though an important part of the well being of businesses, Safety Training is not always completely accessible. It may be high priced, or not readily available in a particular region. In our region, we can consider ourselves lucky because the M-TEC at Bay College has classes and programs to meet all of your safety needs.

One way that M-TEC tries to meet our area’s safety training needs is with its annual Upper Peninsula Safety Conference. This conference, which will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2003, is designed for contractors, developers, owners, suppliers, managers, human resource personnel, employees, and students in related fields.

Topics for this year’s conference include, but are not limited to:

- Preventative Body Maintenance
- Blood born Pathogens
- Productive Safety Meetings
- Chainsaw Safety
- Workman's Compensation
- MIOSHA
- Drug Testing
- Indoor Air Quality
- Crane Inspections/Heavy Equipment

The conference registration deadline for this year is January 17. It is \$25 for a regular registration, \$20 for students. Space is limited, so register now to reserve your seat. The registration form can be found online at www.baydenoc.cc.mi.us/www/mtsafety.html, or call 906.786.5802 x1510 for more information.

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