MARQUETTE COUNTY | Sold | County | Cou

Billion Dollar Bash!

The LSCP celebrates/Marquette County's recent success

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- NMU is one of about 195 universities in the U.S. to be awarded the Community Engagement classification by the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching.
- Academic Service Learning with students serving in fields as diverse as community health nursing, children's literacy public relations message design.
- The Student Leader Fellowship Program pairs community members with student leaders who design and carry out year long community service internships, most in Marquette County.
- The Superior Edge citizen-leader development program will begin its fourth year and has with 2,353 participants who have provided 33,000 hours of volunteer work in and around our community.
- In the last three years, 21 NMU students and 4 faculty members have been awarded Michigan Campus Compact honors for community service.



www.nmu.edu

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About This Magazine:

Marquette County Vision is published by The Mining Journal of Marquette and is sponsored by the Lake Superior Community Partnership. In print and online, Vision gives readers the essence of Marquette County, from business and education to sports, health care, and the arts, as well as the closely-knit communities and people that make up Marquette County.

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NELCOME TO LARQUETTE COUNTY

FAST FACTS:

Population: (2006 estimate)

Marquette County: 64, 675 City of Marquette: 20, 488

Location:

Marquette County is in the central Upper Peninsula on the south shore of Lake Superior.

History:

The County of Marquette was first settled in the mid-1800's. The city of Marquette was established in 1848. It was named after Jacques Marquette, a Jesuit priest.

For More Info:

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Unspoiled wilderness and waters are abundant in our clean forests and crystal clear waters. The sportsman in you will not be disappointed. Check with the Department of Natural Resources for seasons and rules.

The average snowfall is over 200 inches! Bring your snowshoes, skis, snowmobile and sleds to experience a true winter wonderland.



Awarding Marquette

America's Promise Alliance

For the third year in a row, Marquette and Alger counties were awarded the 100 Best Communities for Young People honor.

Men's Journal

Marquette was deemed one of the top 7 places in the world to buy a vacation home in Men's Journal.

Outdoor Life Magazine

In Outdoor Life Magazine's 200 top towns for outdoorsmen, Marquette was ranked #7!

Bike Magazine

Marquette's LakeShore Bike was named shop of the week in Bike Magazine!



Cultural foods abound as Marquette County is a historical crossroad of cultures. Sample some of the local fare. Pasties and cudighis for example are true off-the-beaten-path delicacies.

Northern Michigan University has the largest laptop program within a public university and features the densest wireless network hub in the world. Fall colors in September and October are another claim to fame in Marquette County. Check with the Chamber of Commerce to coincide with one of many fall events.



Billion Dollar, Bash.

LSCP celebrates Marquette County's recent success

hile 2008 may have marked the year that the economy went sour for much of the nation, for Marquette County and its business community,

things were looking up.

Last year, Marquette County celebrated its economic gains with a Billion Dollar Bash in October 2008, recognizing the combined committed investments of \$1.3 billion by twelve corporations. The event was hosted at Northern Michigan University by the Lake Superior Community Partnership.

"We understand that many communities in lower Michigan are in dire circumstances due to the difficulties the automotive industry is experiencing," said Amy Clickner, CEO of the LSCP. "We are really proud of our efforts here in Marquette County and we are experiencing a billion-dollar boom now due to our own mini-economic crisis a decade ago."

The crisis Clickner referred to struck in

1998 - the closure of the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base in Gwinn. When the base closed, the county lost 10,000 people and more than \$119 million annually.

"We realized that the private and public sectors needed to work together in order to diversify our economic base and cultivate an economic environment that is conducive to growth," Clickner said.

Diversification was indeed the name of the game, with county industries and businesses expanding to embody everything from mining to small manufacturing to tourism, creating 1,432 new jobs in the county in 2008.

"That was our lesson learned from the closing of the Air Force base," Clickner said. "Previously, if one egg cracked, there would be nothing left in the basket. That's not the case here anymore." Now with a strong, diverse economic base provided by the companies who contributed to the billion dollar investment, Marquette County is catching the attention of investors and legislators.

Photo by The Mining Journal

Renewafuel president Jim Mennell holds biofuel cubes, which are used in industrial boilers.



"The sticks and stones that build the U.P. are still up here," said Sen. Mike Prusi, D-Ishpeming. "The best resource we have up here is the people."

In a region founded on mining, Cliffs Natural Resources, formerly Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., has continued to be a driving force in the community. Always one of the area's principal employers, the company announced in 2008 the a \$765 million expansion of operations with the addition of a new processing facility that will create iron nuggets from the ore extracted from the Empire and Tilden Mines. The nuggets will be created in addition to the iron pellets already produced by the mines, containing 97 percent iron that can be melted in an electric furnace, as opposed to a blast furnace. Though Cliffs is currently in the permitting process for the nugget plant, the new facility will create over 300 jobs during construction and 100 jobs to operate the plant.

In addition to the proposed nugget project, Cliffs is working to establish a second company at K.I. Sawyer. **Renewafuel**, which is majority-owned by Cliffs, uses wood and other agricultural feedstocks, such as corn stalks and grasses, to produce low-emission biofuel cubes. The new plant, which is set to open in late 2009, would create 25 jobs. "It's not only the 25 jobs, but the extra market for feedstock from farmers and loggers... This is a big deal for

a lot of small communities in and outside Marquette County," said Marquette County Board Chair Gerry Corkin. The biofuel cubes are used in industrial boilers and plants.

Not only are industries making a financial impact. Marquette County's education sector is also doing its part. **Northern Michigan University** boasts 180 degree programs and attracts 9,400 graduate and undergraduate students. In 2008, NMU announced its Road Map to 2015 and

Beyond master plan, which focuses on innovation, helping students create meaningful lives, campus attributes and community engagement. The university has planned for a \$13.8 million investment into the county. With some road map initiatives already underway, NMU has seen an increase in corporate internship sponsors, an increase in global engagement opportunities, the creation of the WiMax network, as well as other improvements to make campus life more eco-friendly.



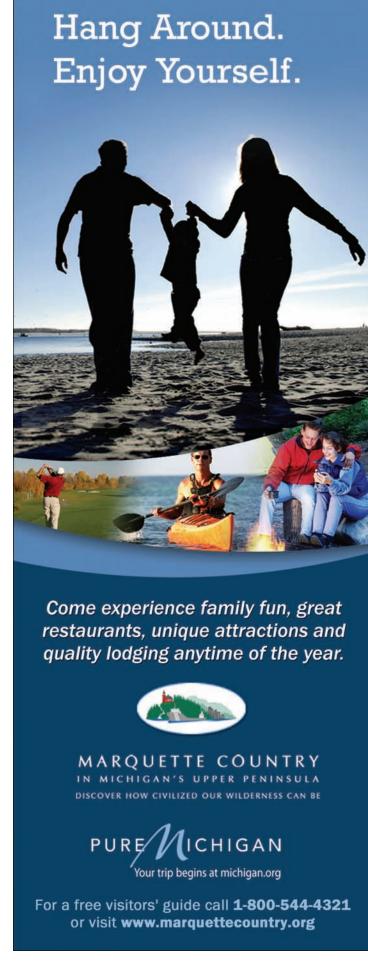


Though formerly located in one of the oldest hospital buildings in Michigan, Ishpeming's **Bell Hospital** became one of the newest hospitals when it invested in a new facility in September 2008. The brand-new 25-bed facility was a \$40 million project that added around 50 new jobs to the local economy. Patients can find the services of both a hospital and a clinic within the new building, with expanded women's health services and a specialty clinic just for employees of Cliffs. In addition, the 130,000-square-foot building hosts a gym, an inhouse pharmacy and a childcare area which is staffed by a dedicated group of volunteers.

With a start appropriate for its reputation as a home-improvement center, **Lowe's** opened its doors at its new Marquette location in November with an official "board cutting" ceremony. The 117,000-square foot store employs about 130 people and has an additional 31,600-square-foot garden center. It represents an \$8 million investment. Founded in 1946 and based in Mooresville, N.C., Lowe's is the second-largest home improvement retailer in the world.

Although Cliffs has always been a part of the U.P. community, a new mining company has discovered what Marquette County has to offer. **Rio-Tinto** is the parent company of the Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company, which is working to construct a nickel mine in northern Marquette County on the Yellow Dog Plains. While the mine itself will provide 100 new jobs, the use of the old Humboldt Mill to process the ore will also provide 70 full-time jobs. Constructing both the mine and the mill total a \$380 million investment in the county.

Companies with their roots within Marquette County are also expanding. **Argonics, Inc.**, which manufactures industrial polyurethane products, has outgrown its current location on Wright Street in Marquette and is working on moving to Sawyer to a larger facility. The expansion means a potential



15 new jobs and a \$2.1 million investment. Renovations to Building 727 at Sawyer would more than double the manufacturer's current space. "The building is ideally suited for manufacturing," said owner Bob Flood. "It fits our needs very well...my goal is to create a first-class manufacturing facility."

With its flagship hospital classified as a Level II trauma center, Marquette General Health System made an \$8 million contribution to the the county in 2008. MGHS saw a financial turnaround last year and was able to hire for 60 open positions. According to CEO Gary Muller, the hospital is concentrating on recruiting more physicians and staff for specialty cancer and stroke care, as well as orthopedic and women's services. "The good news is, for people who want jobs, we have jobs, and we continue to hire, Muller said. The hospital is people-centered, whether that's the employees or patients, and the current plan is to focus on collaboration and continuous improvement.

With an \$8 million investment in a new facility at Sawyer, **Superior Extrusion**, a manufacturer of aluminum components, hopes to add around 50 new employees to their workforce over the next few



years. The 100,000-square-foot Sawyer facility houses a refurbished 9-inch press, which will allow the company to produce 36 million pounds of products per year. Even with the slower economy, Superior Extrusion has actually been able to add to their customer base thanks to the excitement over the capabilities of the new press and facility.

American Transmission Company owns over 9,300 miles of high-voltage transmission lines throughout the U.P. and Wisconsin. In 2008, ATC committed \$15 million to projects in Marquette County. Connecting power companies and communities, ATC continually works to upgrade its transmission lines and to ensure electrical systems run reliably.

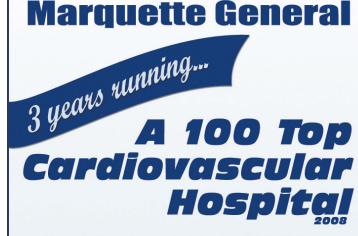


The **Alger Delta Cooperative Electrical Association** serves a portion of Marquette County and in 2008 committed \$4.75 million in investments. Alger Delta provides services to both the community of Big Bay and the residences along County Road 550, as well as the Kennecott Eagle Minerals project on the Yellow Dog Plains.

The **Upper Peninsula Power Company** provides electrical power to 10 counties across the U.P. In Marquette County, UPPCO committed to \$10 million in investments.







Marquette General is one of only four hospitals in Michigan to receive this honor for three consecutive years.

To garner the 100 Top Cardiovascular Hospital designation, it takes an exemplary team—cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons of Upper Michigan Cardiovascular Associates, PC; and the approximately 250 health professionals, including Marquette General Heart Institute staff, supporting specialists and hospital employees. Their expert skill and commitment to providing outstanding patient care has earned this special national distinction for Marquette General.

The 100 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals were selected by Thomson Reuters from nearly one thousand peer hospitals evaluated on eight measures including clinical quality, numbers of procedures performed, and patient outcomes.

For patients across the Upper Peninsula and northern Great Lakes region, the 100 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals designation confirms that the cardiac care received at Marquette General and the dedicated people who provide it are second to none.

For information about the Marquette General Heart Institute, go to http://www.mgh.org/heart/heart. html,or call the Marquette General Heartline at 1-888-644-4787 or 906-225-4942.

For more information about Upper Michigan Cardiovascular Associates, PC, call 906-225-3870 or 1-800-628-3333, or go to www.upheart.net.







Good Stuff!

Former engineer finds success in Marquette Baking Company

eter Claybaker is what the last half of his name suggests: a baker.

After working as an engineer for 20 years, he turned his hobby into a full-time job and opened the Marquette Baking Company on Baraga Avenue.

Tucked into the corner, adjacent to the Upper Peninsula Children's Museum, the bakery is barely visible from the street, yet once people walk up to the museum, they'll discover the smell of pastries, cookies and breads hovering in the air.

"It's an interest I had for a very long time," Claybaker, 44, said about baking. "It started out with someone giving me a sourdough culture 18 years ago." Then Claybaker still worked as an engineer in Green Bay and other places. After experimenting with making European-style breads, studying under international chefs at the San Francisco Baking Institute and taking classes from Bread Bakers Guild of America, he moved to Marquette in 2002 and started baking for the Marquette Farmer's Market. After being successful there, he opened the bakery in November 2008.

"It was more of a need to open a bakery, or a calling," he said. "I'm at a point where I really needed to do this." Along with three other bakers, Claybaker makes pastries, croissants, cookies but mostly different styles of bread including French baguettes, German whole meal or "Vollkornbrot," Italian breads, pan breads and more. Using organic ingredients and local

products is important to Claybaker.

"I prefer to use local products: eggs from Seeds and Spores and milk from Jilberts," he said.

Although Claybaker's ingredients are not 100 percent organic, they will be in the near future.

"All of our breads are going to have all organic flour," he said.

As for the location on 117 W. Baraga Ave., Claybaker said he likes being close to similar minded businesses such as the Marquette Food Co-op and Garden Bouquet and Design — both stores that also embrace the green trend of offering eco-friendly and organic products.

"Business has been doing pretty well," he said. "Things are improving literally every week."

For more information, check out the store's Web site at www.marquettebaking.com or call 906-228-3777.





Huron Earth Deli

Neighborhood delicatessen makes big local impact

It's a specialty deli with the neighborhood feeling of a corner store. A deli that makes as much of a conscious effort to welcome its customers as it does to buy locally-grown produce.

The Huron Earth Deli opened in December at 425 S. Third St. and is focused on providing more than just the typical items found at a party store.

"Our full vision will be a full deli with our roasted meats, fine cheeses and a unique selection of wine and beer," said Matt Meehleder, who owns the deli with his wife, Jill.

Although Matt said he was in the process of obtaining a full deli case, Huron Earth already provides customers with a range of salads and sandwiches available for dining in or carry out. Once the deli case is installed, customers will also be treated to bowls of salad on display, as well as a variety of specialty cheeses.

Also outside the realm of the typical party store is the Huron Earth soup calendar. The deli serves two different soup choices that change every two days with unique choices like Carrot Ginger or Crawfish Chowder.

"With fresh ingredients and using them with proper technique, you can really set



yourself apart," Matt said.

That proper technique comes from Jill's training as a chef and dietitian, which plays a large role in creating menu items that rely on locally-grown produce.

"When you have that kind of knowledge, you really want to make things with the best ingredients," Matt said.

The drive to support local farmers and vendors helps the deli to fit in with its eco-friendly neighbors, like the Marquette Food Co-op, as do several vegan and vegetarian menu items.

Its downtown location across from the fire hall doesn't hurt either.

"You feel like you're really part of the town," Matt said. "The firemen come in all day and we really try to take care of them."

The deli building itself is also a Marquette original, built in the 1880s,

and has been a corner store since it was first built, Matt said.

"We redid the whole thing. I think one of the most notable things on the inside of the building is one white pine," he said, waving toward the new planks covering the walls. The pine was also used to construct the main counter top and several of the dining tables.

And for those who do not wish to eat at the deli, there is also a pickup window for orders called in ahead of time.

For Matt and Jill, the deli has been an excellent way to connect their love of good food and the community.

"Business goes up and down, but it's great," Matt said, adding that his favorite part of the job is interacting with customers. "We've constantly been evolving and we're still evolving."

For more information call 906-226-3354.



Successful Gwinn pizzeria expands to Marquette

Even though Rodney's Pizzeria is Marquette's newest pizza place, its owner is anything but new to the business.

Rodney Filizetti has been cooking since 1971 and has operated the original Rodney's Pizzeria in Gwinn for 20 years.

"The opportunity was right," Filizetti said of the second location in Marquette. "The market up here is a lot larger market to draw from. Gwinn is probably as big as it's going to get so I figured the best thing to do would be to try to expand and start a new one."

Since opening in October 2008, business has picked up steadily, though slowly, Filizetti said.

"It's growing, little by little. You can't expect, with the economy the way it is, leaps and bounds. But we're doing okay," he said. "I feel I'm known for the portion size and the quality of food. Everything I make is homemade. All my breads, my sauces, the sausage."

Aside from meeting the demands of its everyday customers, the restaurant caters and can make pizzas for large events. Filizetti said he recently baked 90 pizzas in an hour and a half for just such an event.

In the future Filizetti may move his Marquette location to a bigger building with enough room for a sit-down area, depending on how well the business does. Also in the works are additions to the menu.

"I want to start getting my pastas in, down the road. In Gwinn we have a bigger menu with gnocchi, tortellini, spaghetti and bow-tie pastas. Those are some of my specialties I do in Gwinn," he said.

Everything at Rodney's is his own recipe, Filizetti said. He started cooking at the Northland Bar in Northland in 1971. He quit cooking when he started work at Cleveland Cliffs Inc. — now Cliffs Natural Resources — in the late 1970s.

After being laid off in 1981, Filizetti started a new career as a meat cutter.

"From there I realized without a retirement I had to do something, so that's

when I decided to go into business," he said. "I like the restaurant business, I like cooking and I like when people eat my food and rave about it." He said a lot of people in Marquette supported his business in Gwinn and he was pleased with his second location in the "We do have good food. Our portions are big. I try to give people their money's worth. I don't skimp," Filizetti said. "I know my prices, you go to a (pizza restaurant chain) you're going to get a little cheaper pizza but you're going to get cheaper quality. That's just the way I look at it." Rodney's features specialty pizzas, madeto-order pizzas, salads, bread and breadsticks, pop, nachos and 10 different sandwiches. It is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. The restaurant delivers after 4 p.m. with a \$3 delivery charge. To place your order, call 906-228-8888. Rodney Filizetti of Rodney's Pizzeria shows off one of his specialty stuffed pizzas in Marquette

FULL THROTTLE

Local restaurant owners add fourth food establishment

A longtime Little Lake restaurant has new owners, a new look and a new name. For the owners, it's also a new challenge.

The Full Throttle Saloon is the new name of Brown's Tavern, an establishment in Gwinn since the 1940s. New owners Scott and Sally Searle bought the bar in August 2008 from Kerry and Deb Sorensen.

"This is the fourth food establishment that we have opened," Sally said. "We are co-owners of The Up North Lodge and while we are still heavily involved with the lodge, we were looking for one more thing to do."

The saloon has been extensively remodeled, including a new furnace/air conditioning system, new windows, siding, interior finishings and bathrooms.

"Located in beautiful downtown Little Lake, our saloon is biker friendly but we like to cater to folks of all sorts," Sally said. The new kitchen has been open since March 16.

"The hamburgers we offer are made from ground chuck that Val from Brown's Store grinds fresh for us daily," Sally said.

She said the saloon is an official dealer for The Broaster Chicken Company and she

expected the restaurant to become well-known for its broasted chicken, along with specialty hot dogs - like the Chi Dog and Coney Dog - and sandwiches.

"We are open seven days a week — serving food until 9 daily — but of course the bar stays open much later with pizzas being offered during all hours of operation," Sally said.

She said the saloon's first winter saw many happy customers and she looked forward to a summer full of baseball, volleyball and biking.

To contact the establishment, call 906-346-9855.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



A Bright Idea!

Business helps area residents become more energy efficient

T.J. Brown climbed into the crawl space of a 118-year-old building complex, inspecting the foundation, insulation and the pipes that run into and out of the heating units.

"This is copper," he said, indicating the hot water line. "Copper hot water lines lose heat all the time; the energy just goes into the crawl space."

Brandon Croney — owner of The Compound on Division Street — stood nearby and listened as Brown advised him to wrap the line in pipe wrap to avoid losing energy.

What Brown was doing is called a home energy assessment — a low-cost service offered by the energy education center Northern Options in Marquette.

Northern Options, created in 2004, is a branch of the downstate based non-profit organization Urban Options, which provides energy and environmental information and services.

A state-designated and grant-funded energy demonstration center, Northern Options educates residents on energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable building practices, and alternative fuels.

The Upper Peninsula Children's Museum had an energy assessment done in October 2007, and according to Director Nheena Weyer Ittner the museum has implemented several of the suggestions made by Northern Options.

"We were able to do the things that



weren't outrageously expensive, but many of the recommendations were very plausible," Weyer Ittner said.

In addition to changing light bulbs to energy efficient ones, Weyer Ittner had the thermostats in the building switched to programmable ones, "so they are programmed down at non-use times," she said.

Other changes included lowering the temperatures of water heaters to 120 degrees, adjusting float levels in the toilets to the minimum water amount, turning down water pressure in the sinks and placing insulation blankets on

the water heaters.

"In regards to recognizing an immediate change, it's very hard," Weyer Ittner said. "Since weather is always a factor and energy prices have fluctuated, it may take years of logging in data before we can emphatically give real numbers and savings. That said, I feel good about every change we have made, we are going in the right direction in being wise stewards of our environment and fiscally responsible."

For more information, go to www.northernoptions.org or call 906-226-1136.



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Good Business

Marquette women create resource center for entrepreneurs

A business owner usually is an expert on their product. But where do they turn to for help on the business end of things? That's why two Marquette women have created The E Loft, a sort of resource center for entrepreneurs. The business, located in downtown Marquette, is the brain-child of Dar Shepherd and Christi Pentecost.

"I refer to it as a business owners clubhouse. A place for entrepreneurs to gather, share ideas, share resources and support each other," Shepherd said.

Pentecost said it is a place for entrepreneurs to create, develop and find support for their business.

"You can become so overwhelmed in your business life that you don't know where to even turn so we want to be that source of information and say 'go over to this place, they have something that can help you," she said.

The building features office space for private and semi-private meetings, conference rooms, office equipment, business coaching, shared administrative assistant services and bookkeeping services, Shepherd said.

"What we want is a casual atmosphere where people can build relationships," she said.

Part of the casual atmosphere the two are looking for includes a tie check, where entrepreneurs coming in are asked to remove their ties, a symbol for "letting go of the corporate world," the two said.

There are lunch-time events called "lunch and learns" where local business owners speak to other entrepreneurs about how they grew their business.

"It's not a coffee shop but its not a

stodgy 'come in and sit behind a little school desk and learn.' It's a casual environment for the entrepreneur to really work with other entrepreneurs and strengthen their skills and their business," Pentecost said.

She said they have already gotten an enthusiastic response from the business community and a student from Northern Michigan University, majoring in entrepreneurship and accounting, has already volunteered to intern at the business.

For those who are interested or have ideas for the business, visit www.theeloft.com or call Shepherd at 906-315-5555.

"We want the entrepreneurial community to develop the center and let us know what are the resources, what are the needs that you have to help build your business," Pentecost said.

UP Rehab Services focuses on root problem

Relieving pain is what certified orthopedic specialist Terry Tripp does for a living. Tripp co-owns U.P. Rehab Services along with registered occupational therapist Eric Paulitch. Since opening in 2005, U.P. Rehab has provided physical and occupational therapy to a number of local nursing homes.

Then in January 2009, they opened a physical therapy outpatient clinic next door to Goodwill at 3135 U.S. 41 West.

"We find the root cause of the problem and fix it," Tripp said.

At the physical therapy clinic, Tripp works with patients in a series of sessions to determine the best methods to reducing their pain and getting them back to normal. Tripp is also certified in the McKenzie Method, which focuses on patient involvement and education. Focus is placed on building muscle strength and flexibility, as well as improving balance, coordination and endurance.

"If someone wants to return to running, we set up a goal to get them back

to that level," Tripp, an orthopedic and spinal expert, said. The physical therapy sessions are designed to meet the specific needs of each patient, who are referred to the service by their doctors, he added.

Another important aspect of Tripp's work is educating the patient so that improvements in health can be made at home after the therapy sessions have ended.

The clinic also features an in-house gym, complete with exercise balls, weights, stationary bikes and resistance bands.

In addition to the physical therapy clinic, the second prong of U.P. Rehab Services' business is providing physical, occupational and speech therapy to eight local nursing homes, three of which are located in Marquette County. Since starting with the nursing home contracts four years ago, the staff of therapists has grown to over 25, many of which provide therapy services to the

available therapists gives patients a greater base of experience and specialization to rely on when receiving care, Tripp said.

Although half of his business centers on older adult patients, Tripp said he treats patients of any age and condition, from spinal care to post-operative care, and is working to let area residents know about his services.

For more information, call 906-225-5900.



more services more products more options

nursing home residents. The number of

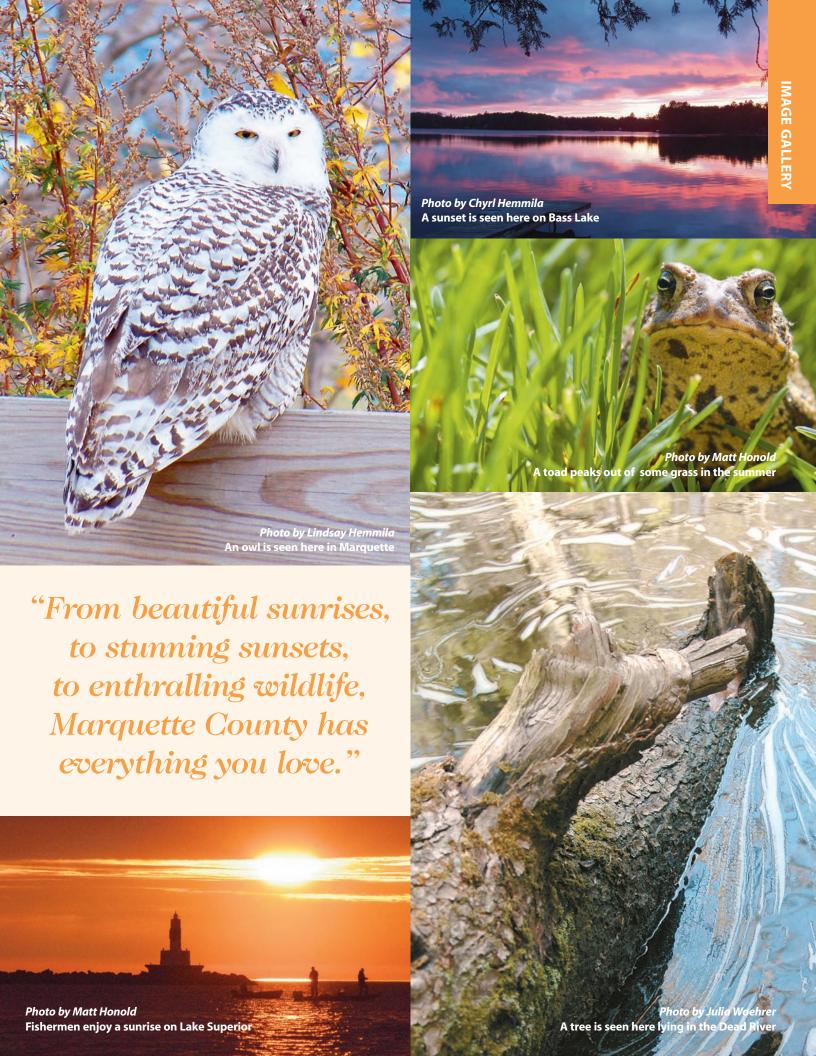


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Local Bankers making Local Decisions for your Community





Unique theater offers local flavor

Think of it as watching Shakespeare at the Globe Theater in London or the musical 42nd Street on Broadway. Taking in a play about the U.P. in a working Lake Superior boathouse is as close as you can get to the real thing.

That's what the Lake Superior Theater has been doing since 1998. The theater company puts on plays throughout its season at Frazier's Lake Superior Boathouse, located between the breakwall and the Mattson Lower Harbor Park in Marquette.

A fully functional boathouse for the rest of the year, during the summer months, the building is transformed into a theater decked out in maps, old sails and other shipping memorabilia.

And while performances of more mainstream musicals and plays do pop up in most summer season lineups, the cast and crews of the LST always manage to fit in a production centering on Upper Peninsula themes.

One of the original LST productions was Beacon on the Rock, which follows the lives of several immigrants first arriving in Marquette in the 1800s. Beacon on the Rock was written by local theater professor Shelley Russell. Another of Russell's productions, Haywire, is another LST staple.

A more recent addition to the locallythemed plays is Holdin' Our Own: The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald has also been performed at the boathouse.

This year brings a crop of new shows, all with a U.P. theme.

- Guys on Ice will run July 8-12 and 15-19, focusing on the stories and escapades of two ice fishermen
- Anatomy of a Murder will run July 22-26 and July 29-Aug. 2. The stage version of the classic film, based on the book by local writer John Voelker, the play will run as part of the local celebration of the 50th anniversary of the movie.
- MacSith will run Aug. 5-9, an adaptation of Shakespeare's Macbeth by local actor Orion Couling, MacSith combines the original tragedy with elements from popular sci-fi movies.
- The Orphan Train, running Aug. 12-16 follows the stories of orphan children brought out of eastern United States cities to live in Michigan.

For more information, check out www.lakesuperiortheatre.com

Symphony orchestra provides mix of old and new music

Looking for an evening at the symphony? There's no need to travel to Chicago or Green Bay. Marquette County has had its own 70-piece orchestra since 1997.

With most of the 72 members coming from Marquette County, the orchestra provides a chance for residents to hear high-quality classical and contemporary music. The ensemble is also a chance for many area high school music students to perform more challenging pieces. Whether the music is classical or written during the 20th century, the orchestra draws an audience of 400 to 500 people each concert. Typically there are four concerts each season, which runs from September to May.

For more information, check out www.marquettesymphony.org.





www.uprehab.com















Festival Fun!

Marquette offers a wide variety of special events to enjoy

In an area with such a range of special events — whether your interest is music, Renaissance life or racing an outhouse — it's difficult to single out a few that stand above the rest.

So why try?

If there's any one trend that stands out among them, these events come fastest in our legendary mild summers. From the Fourth of July through Labor Day, a weekend doesn't go by where multiple events leave those who can't pass up a chance to binge on food, culture or sports crying "Uncle."

Don't worry, though. You'll just have to hit the events you missed next year.

Here's a partial list of some of the can'tmiss events planned throughout Marquette County:

• A week after the traditional Fourth of July celebrations of parades and fireworks is Negaunee's annual homecoming festival, the weeklong Pioneer Days, which is full of events and fireworks to rival communities much larger.

And in Gwinn, the annual Fun Daze offers similar sentiments for this southern Marquette County community with family-oriented fun just after the holiday.

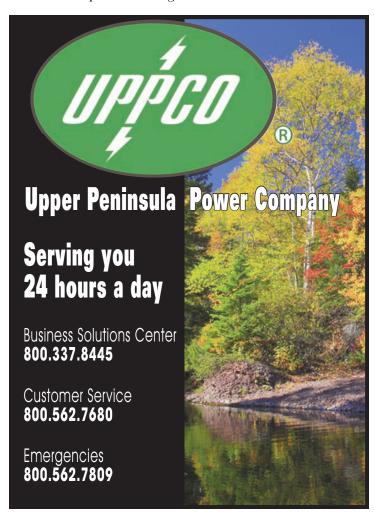
• Marquette is one of the places hosting food-centered festivals, including the International Food Festival around the Fourth of July and the Seafood Festival a week before the traditional summer-ending Labor Day weekend. Both are held at the Ellwood Mattson Lower Harbor Park

near downtown.

Between these summer-bookend events is the **Blueberry Festival**, held along several blocked-off downtown Marquette streets in the latter part of July. The blueberries sold can be measured in the tons as the streets are lined with vendors offering art, music, clothing and other items

• Art fills the city one late weekend in July when Art on the Rocks and the Outback Art Fair take up residence.

Art on the Rocks has become so popular in its over 50 years that it is moving from Presque Isle Park to the Lower Harbor Park in 2009. Displays and sales include painting, photography, sculpture, furniture, jewelry, ceramics and even clothing.













The show has been so popular that it spawned another show, the Outback Art Fair. This more informal exhibition and market has been going on for more than a decade, most recently near the Picnic Rocks area near Lake Superior in Marquette.

- The Great Lakes Rodeo, formerly the Sawyer Stampede Rodeo, is in just its fourth year but has already become a staple of the summer events scene, being held at the Marquette County fairgrounds in late June. Parades, pageants, food and traditional rodeo competitions like bull riding, calf roping and barrel racing are featured.
- Music-themed events prove popular every year.

The Hiawatha Traditional Music Festival will be held July 17-19 at the city of Marquette's Tourist Park. Unique in size and scope for the U.P., musical styles on its four stages include bluegrass, old-time, Cajun, Celtic, acoustic blues and folk. Camping, interaction with the performers and the juried arts and crafts show are all a part of the festival, which is run by the local Hiawatha Music Co-op.

• Cultural events take on many forms in the U.P. summertime. Ishpeming hosts big events on consecutive Saturdays, starting with the Italian Fest put on by the St. Rocco-St. Anthony Society of Ishpeming. Food — of course — music and family are the primary emphasis of this 110-year-old event held at Al Quaal Recreation Area on July 25.

Then on Aug. 1, the 10th annual Ishpeming Renaissance Festival will be held at the city's Bancroft Park and Cliffs Shaft Mining Museum property near Lakeshore Drive. Dozens of arts and crafts booths go along with a handful of themed merchants and food vendors — and a lot of people dressed like they're ready for a trip back to the Middle Ages, as dancers, musicians and swordsmen.

The 11th annual Midsummer Scandinavian Festival is about as big as a one-day festival can be. This year's celebration at Marquette's Presque Isle park will be held Saturday, June 20, a day before summer begins.

Past features of celebrating Scandinavian culture include music and dancing, a marketplace, food, a traditional bonfire and even a "wife-carrying race."

The annual Marquette Kennel Club's All Breed Dog Show is held the weekend before Labor Day at Lakeview Arena. Last year, around 300 dogs representing more than 90 breeds were on hand strutting their stuff before the judges.

• One event is unique to 2009.

The "Anatomy of a Murder" celebration marks the 50th anniversary of the film shot all around Marquette County, based on the book by local author John Voelker. Events are planned in Marquette, Big Bay, Michigamme and Ishpeming throughout the summer.

• Winter also has its share of festivals.

Ski jumping at Suicide Hill along the Negaunee-Ishpeming border is a tradition more than a century old, with competitors from Europe dominating the standings on a hill more than 300 feet high.

Silly and competition don't sound compatible, but they work together in Trenary at the end of February for the annual **Outhouse Classic**. Cabin fever is banished as teams race custom-built standalone latrines to see who can go the fastest — down a hill, that is.

• Also in winter, the **New Year's Ball Drop** draws thousands to downtown Marquette to ring in the new year. Just a few weeks later, Negaunee holds its **Heikki Lunta winter festival**, the coldweather version of its summertime Pioneer Days.





...continued

"We anticipate seeing more organized teams with strong riders competing, all wanting to claim a state championship trophy.

"We'll see the level of competition step up a notch," he added.

Wolf, who has ridden in the SBF in the past, said riders will be competing in one of five USA Cycling racing categories from Novice to Pro.

Riders who are Michigan residents will be able to claim a state title, as well as earn points in the Michigan Series.

"It's the first time a state road bike championship will be been held in the Upper Peninsula," Wolf said. "It's huge.

"We think riders will appreciate traveling to Marquette and enjoy the community." Both the Marquette community and the race itself are a big hit with the riders.

"I won the overall last year; it was so intense," said rider Jamie Smith. "This year I came for fun."

Smith raced in the Twilight Criterium in downtown Marquette, Friday, and afterwards he got behind the microphone as an announcer.

"Last year I volunteered," he said about announcing the Friday race. This year bike fest organizers asked Smith to come back and provide commentary. "Twe been doing it for pay," he said about his commentator jobs at bike races all over the country. "Here I gladly do it for free."

Smith, who was stationed at K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base back in the 1980s, studied radio and television at Northern Michigan University after the base closed. He was at Sawyer when he started riding road bikes.

"I didn't fit in with that culture (at Sawyer) and as a means of separating myself from the culture, I started riding my bike."

After he received his university degree, he left the area, but the Superior Bike Fest

brought him back to Marquette three years ago.

"It was pretty much this event that brought me back on a regular basis," he said. "I love this event — it should be a model for other bike events."

Smith added that he likes the race courses, the spectators and the fact that the Superior Bike Fest offers a race for every age group, even for kids.

Grundstrom said by being awarded a state

championship event this year, the SBF will automatically gain the same designation in 2010

"It's very exciting for the Marquette County community," he said.

"Another nice part of it is, our event has brought road bike riders in for two nights in the past. Now, there's the potential they'll stay for mountain biking on Sunday, as well." For more information, visit www.superior-bikefest.com.

Speedskating comes to Marquette

Old pros when it comes to holding big events, Northern Michigan University and the United States Olympic Education Center will bring some of the best short track speedskaters in the world to Marquette again in 2009.

The United States Olympic Team Trials for short track will be held Sept. 8-12, 2009, on the Berry Events Center ice, according to a USA Speedskating press release and the Northern Michigan University president.

Then in November 2009, the fourth and final leg of the short track World Cup will return to Marquette, also hosted at the BEC.

"We ... just learned that NMU will host two major speed-skating events," NMU President Les Wong said in his Aug. 20 convocation speech. "NMU will host the Olympic Trials that will determine the U.S. Winter Olympics speed-skating team in September 2009, followed by a World Cup in November involving over 30 nations in the largest speedskating



competition prior to the (2010) winter Olympic Games in British Columbia." Robert Crowley, U.S. Speedskating's executive director, lauded the area when announcing Marquette's selection in a press release.

"Marquette has been historically a very strong place for short track speedskating in the United States for many years," Crowley said. "The facility is an excellent event facility, and hosting this event in the upper Midwest should attract many spectators from the heart of speedskating in the United States." For more information, visit www.nmu.edu/usoec.

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THE TRESURE IN THE PINES



Happy Trails

Iron Ore Heritage Trail offers family adventure

Mining is a common theme that unites communities across the Upper Peninsula. The connection is now quite literal in Marquette County with the creation of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail, which runs for 48 miles between Republic and Chocolay Township.

Although in the November 2008 election a 0.2-mill levy to fund the trail failed, officials affiliated with the trail are still seeing signs of progress.

The overall vote gave the millage a 4,500-vote margin of approval, but because it had to pass in every one of the 10 cities and townships the trail passes through, that vote total by itself couldn't insure victory.

As it was, the millage was turned down in two less populous townships — Ely and Humboldt — by a total of 40 votes out of more than 1,000 votes cast in those western Marquette County rural areas.

Approving the millage were the cities of Marquette, Ishpeming and Negaunee; and the townships of Republic, Tilden, Negaunee, Marquette and Chocolay.

So it was back to the drawing board for organizers, which include Iron Ore Heritage Trail Authority chairman Jim Thomas of Negaunee and treasurer Carol Fulsher of Marquette.



"If we had gotten the millage, it would have allowed us to do larger portions of the trail all at once," Fulsher said. "But we still want to keep the momentum that has been built since the project began." In that spirit, the city of Ishpeming was granted a request for \$354,800 for the

In that spirit, the city of Ishpeming was granted a request for \$354,800 for the trail from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund in December.

The funds will be used to construct 2.2 miles of paved trails within the city limits. That part of the trail will meet up with a completed stretch in a wooded section between Ishpeming and Negaunee.

Urban areas of the trail will be paved, generally with asphalt, while in more rural settings, the trail will be made of crushed limestone, Fulsher said.

In addition, Republic Township received \$32,300 from the trust fund to acquire a vacant bank building that will be turned into a trailhead — including restrooms and a pavilion — at the western end of the trail.

In 2008, almost \$1,300 was donated by local physician Michael Grossman and his wife Helen to groom the trail for cross country skiing in the link between

Negaunee and Ishpeming. She said it's the kind of activity the trail is designed for.

The 0.2-mill funding proposal, which the authority wants to ask the 10 governmental units for again in 2010, would be used as "seed" money for securing the trail property and developing it.

Other parts of the trail are also planned out. For example, bike paths in the city of Marquette will be incorporated into the Heritage Trail, as will a former railroad grade that became a snowmobile trail in Chocolay Township.

The trail is also a teaching tool.

"Signs on the trail will help area residents, students and visitors interpret what happened here 150 years ago," Thomas said. "It's a subject area that doesn't usually get covered well in the schools — local history."

He explained how some signs on the trail will explain the role of mines such as the Jackson Mine in Negaunee and the Cleveland and Lake Superior mines in Ishpeming, which were part of the Civil War effort.

For more information, visit www.ironore-heritage.com.





Mush!

Dog sledding a celebration of winter

It takes a whole year to plan the U.P. 200 and Midnight Run Sled Dog races, pulling together mushers, dogs, volunteers and, of course, thousands of spectators. The two races, plus the shorter Jack Pine 30, create an entire weekend of dog-sledding fun in the Marquette area.

"It's a monumental task," said Linda Storms, one of the race coordinators. Storms and her husband have been helping with the race for five years.

Upper Peninsula Sled Dog Association, the organization that hosts the race, President Pat Torreano agreed.

"It's one of the larger crowds," she said.

Attendance has num-

bered around 7,000 in previous years, although an estimate fourth

is hard to get, Torreano said. "You can't beat this start."

The U.P. 200 runs for 240 miles from Marquette to Grand Marais and back, and includes 27 sled dog teams this year. The shorter Midnight Run also begins that weekend in Gwinn and ends in Munising. It covers 91 miles and has 36 mushers competing this year.

Before the start of the U.P. 200, mushers line up on Washington Street, waiting to be checked over by volunteers and keeping their excited teams in check.

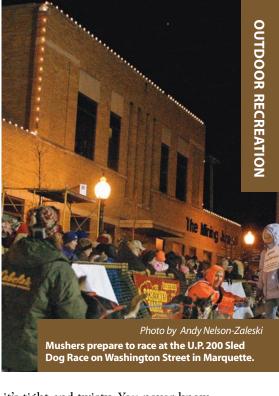
"Good. Ready to get on the trail," said Rebekah Chapman of Angora, Minn. describing her mindset before the race. Chapman was the third musher to leave the starting gate in 2009, and it was her fourth time running the U.P. 200.

> Marquette's downtown start is one of the attractions this race has for the mushers, she said.

"It's a lot of fun, starting downtown here with all the people," she said. "It makes a lot of us come back year after year."

The U.P. 200 trail also provides a challenge, even for experienced mushers, she said.

"I love this trail because



it's tight and twisty. You never know what's going to be out there," she said. The main challenge, however, is keeping the team happy, she added.

Apart from drawing a large local crowd, the race also brings in spectators from across the country, some driving for days to get here.

The Freeman family from downstate Grand Rapids got their first experience at the race after getting to try out sled dog racing earlier in 2009.

"What's interesting is the conditions they deal with," Kevin Freeman said of the teams.

The Freemans brought along their two sons, Matthew, 9, and Chris, 7.

"I like that the dogs have fun," Chris said.

For more information, visit www.up200.org.







Powering UP

Technical training provides education alternative

Nowadays, continuing education past a high school diploma is not just helpful in getting a job, but critical. Although there are several universities scattered around the Upper Peninsula, there are other options for those who want to get a quality education without committing to a four-year degree.

The Lake Superior Community Partnership Foundation has organized the Midwest Skills Development Center and the West End Vocational Education Program to provide technical training and education to help meet the demands of skilled workers throughout the U.P.

The Midwest Skills Development Center, located in Gwinn, focuses on an electrical line technician program and a electrical power technician program, both certified through Northern Michigan University.

The line technician program is a year-long series of classes designed as a pre-apprentice-ship program that will prepare students to install, maintain and operate electrical systems for commercial, residential and industrial customers.

In April 2009, the sixth class

graduated from the program, able to construct electrical transmission systems, climb poles and towers, operate and construct power distribution systems and communicate technical information. Classes are taught through field and classroom work.

The electrical power technician program is an associates degree program through NMU that prepares students for careers as electrical substation technicians or in renewable energy systems, among others.

Beginning in the fall semester of 2009, students will begin learning to fill positions in manufacturing, construction and maintenance of electrical power distribution.

Finally, there are also courses for high school students who think they might want to explore technical fields. The Career and Technical Education programs are offered for students in the Marquette, Ishpeming, Gwinn, Negaunee, NICE and Republic-Michigamme school districts.

Held at the Westwood High School, students receive vocational training, which allows them to train while still enrolled at their normal school districts. Students can also earn college credits.

The program is designed to help students find good-paying jobs in the U.P.

For more information, visit www.lscpfoundation.org.







Leadership Academy works to educate leaders

Leaders learning from leaders is the model for the Lake Superior Leadership Academy.

Organized in 1998, the LSLA is a year-long program through the Lake Superior Community Partnership which offers workshops and seminars to help community members and business people grow into leadership roles.

"What we're trying to do is get them to take leadership positions within the community," said Carol Fulsher, administrator for the LSLA and director of recreation development for the LSCP.

The purpose of the LSLA is to "establish and maintain a climate where individuals may develop their potential and maximize their contributions to our area."

With around 20 members per class, program participants attend one fall weekend retreat, nine day-long seminars throughout the year and a spring graduation ceremony. Those participants then go on to volunteer with the program to help foster the next graduating class.

Around 190 participants have

graduated from the program since its inception, Fulsher said.

The fall retreat includes structured exercises to explore societal dynamics and analysis of leadership and decision making styles.

Each seminar then focuses on a different topic: regional economy, justice, education, government, tourism, leadership development, media, health and human services and arts and culture.

During the seminar, the classes might tour facilities in the subject areas and speak with various people involved in all aspects of the area, among other activities.

Attendance at both the retreat and all nine seminars are required for graduation.

The different subjects are all intended to help identify potential leaders, educate participants about community needs, improve management and leadership skills, develop relationships of value when working together on community projects and to create bonds between participants and present community leaders.

North Star Academy



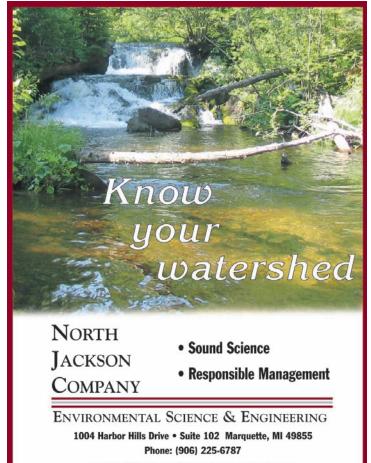
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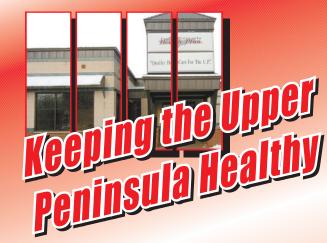
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The health plan is proud to provide salaries and benefits to a staff of 58 talented people who live and work in Marquette County.



he county's largest hospital has been busy in the past year racking up a pair of prestigious distinctions.

Marquette General Hospital, a 315-bed hospital and Level II trauma center, was named one of the nation's 100 top hospitals for cardiovascular care for the third year in a row.

The honor was awarded by Thomson Reuters, which gathers, catalogs and markets information about a number of industries, including health care, science, finance and media.

MGH is one of 94 hospitals in Michigan to receive the award for three or more consecutive years since 1998. The annual study examined the performance of 970 hospitals by analyzing clinical out-



comes for patients diagnosed with heart failure and heart attacks, and for those who received coronary bypass surgery and angioplasties.

"This is an outstanding achievement for Marquette General Hospital. To continue our leading role in providing enhanced cardiac care to residents of the Upper Peninsula and beyond is an important milestone," said Gary Muller, MGHS president and CEO. "This prestigious designation is the result of exemplary efforts by our talented physicians and employees - we are proud to have them on the MGHS team."

While the average mortality rate for cardiovascular patients is low, at 3.4 percent, the mortality rate for bypass surgery was 26 percent lower in the 100 top hospitals cardiovascular winners, according to the study.

Now in its tenth year, the study found that the cardiovascular award winners, as a group, performed 63 percent more bypass surgeries and 42 percent more angioplasties than peer hospitals.

Another area of the hospital getting national attention was the Marquette General Surgical Weight Loss, which received a national designation for excellence in bariatric surgery.

The center was named an American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence, which recognizes programs with a demonstrated track record of favorable outcomes in bariatric surgery.

To earn the designation, the Surgical Weight Loss Center underwent a series of site inspections during which the program's surgical processes were closely examined and data on health outcomes was collected.

"This designation reaffirms the commitment, expertise and quality of care and services we provide to our patients," Muller said.

The center offers a comprehensive approach to treatment led by board-certified surgeon Dr. Wayne English, a specialist in weight loss surgery. English heads a team of medical experts in surgery, anesthesiology, health psychology, nursing, nutrition and exercise. The team provides continuous support before and after surgery to help patients with the physical, emotional and social issues associated with morbid obesity.

For more information, visit www.mgh.org.

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Billed as the gateway to Lake Superior's splendor, historic downtown Marquette is a treasure trove of clothing and gift shops, a waterfront park, galleries, historic lodging and museums.

More than 500 miles of groomed trails beckon snowmobilers to Marquette County every winter. Ishpeming is the home of the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum (906-485-6323).

The rich culinary history of the region can be tasted at the area's fine restaurants with menus featuring fresh whitefish and trout, steaks and pasta.

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Marquette Symphony Orchestra:	228-0472
Peninsula Arts Appreciation Council:	475-7188
Pine Mountain Music Festival:	(888) 309-7861
Lake Superior Theatre:	228-0472
DeVos Art Museum:	227-2235

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