

NEWSMAKERS WDBC

October 1

Sue Gartland and Tonya Gartland, Delta Animal Shelter

Free adoptions will be sponsored by the Bissell Foundation. The shelter has a full house right now. Sue says it is a good time of year for the Bissell Foundation to sponsor the adoptions.

State Rep. Beau LaFave

Talked about the budget passed by the House and Senate. Included road funding and education funding increases. Does not include a 45 cent a gallon fuel tax increase. She walked about of negotiations.

Chris Perryman

Michigan State University marching band celebrated 100 years at a home football. Berryman was one of the alumni on the field playing. He talked about the experience.

October 2

Mark Hangman, Marc Tall, Remnants Barbershop Chorus

Talking about the Harvest of Harmony concert that will be held William Oliver Auditorium at the Upper Elementary School. Includes are performers as well as a national and regional groups.

Dave Howes, Escanaba High School Football Coach

Talk about the lack of referees. It is causing the playoff game with Menominee to be played on Saturday rather than Saturday. There is a need for more people to serve as referees.

October 3

Delta County Sheriff Ed Oswald

The Sheriff's Department is affected by the governor's budget vetoes. It affects reimbursement for holding state prisoners. It also eliminates the state's portion of road patrol funds. Talks about how it affect Delta County and other counties in the U.P.

Susan Pitcher, Players de Noc

She is the director of the Players de Noc play "Jake's Woomen" She talks about why she likes Neil Simon plays because they deal with normal life. In this case, a man's wife is leaving him.

October 4

Patrick Jordan, Escanaba City Manager

He is accepting a new position in Florida. He gave his resignation last night. still pending is the Dark Store issue. Getting deal with Proxima Development for development of former jail site was one of the greatest achievements. Talked about what needs to be done to find a new manager.

Escamaba Mayor Marc Tall

He signed the contracts to sell city property at the site of the former jail site. He says he feels pretty good about the project. Talked about what it will mean for the future of the community. Hope to see further development in that part of town.

October 7

Chris and Regina Berg, Berg's Gourmet Garlic Farm

The mother and son business started a garlic farm. They are growing two varieties, Music and Chestnut Red. There is growing interest in gourmet garlic. It turnout well. They are on a centennial farm in Bark River.

State Sen Ed McBroom

Talked about the budget dispute between the governor and legislature. The governor vetoed nearly \$1 billion from the budget and transferred funds to other departments. He says there are several critical items vetoed including rural hospitals, rural schools, PILT funding and road patrol.

October 8

Frank Pearson, Bay de Noc Great Lakes Sport Fishermen

They will be involved in the negotiations between the state and Native tribes for the annual fishing pact. He also talked about legislation that would change the commercial fishing industry in Michigan. U.P. Legislators do object to the legislation and introduced there.

Kim Peterson, Escanaba Recreation Director

Talked about students from Bay College who volunteered at the West Side Trails to do maintenance to get ready for winter. It was part of the college's day of service. Looking for more boardwalks and bridges and need to get funding for that.

October 9

Tom Sabor, Delta County Interim Administrator

The county board will be interviewing candidates for the county administrator position. Talked about the candidates and what the county might be looking for in an administrator. Also talked about the need for cleanup at the former county road commission building. The county is asking the Delta County Solid Waste Authority to help with funding on accepting the waste.

Brett Gardiner, Delta County Prosecutor

The child advocacy services is currently being run through the prosecutor's office until it can become more established. They have conducted 14 forensic interviews since taking over. Shows they need to go after abuse cases. All of the services are currently volunteered.

October 11

Doug Licensing, Delta Schoolcraft Intermediate School District Superintendent

He awarded Phil Lynch as teacher of the year at the Delta Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner. Talked about what takes to be a great teacher. Today is teacher development day. The ISD helps with programing.

Brooklyn Beauchamp, Ty Peterson, Jamie Peterson, Wizard of Oz

The two kids talk about their role as Munchkins in the Bay College play. Jamie is directing the musical at Bay. He talks about what it has taken to put the play on, including effects such as the flying monkeys.

October 14

Erin Viau, Tri County Safe Harbor and Julie Mallard, United Way of Delta County
United Way benefits from the OctoberFest at Ludington Park. It is the group's largest fundraiser. Tri County benefits from United Way. It is domestic violence awareness month. Wants people to know they are there.

Jim Hanson, Michigan Waterways Commission

He is leaving the commission after 10 years. Talks about his accomplishments and importance of having someone from the U.P. involved in the decisions.

October 15

Pat Johnson, Delta County Chair

Talks about his trip to Washington DC to represent the county. It his third trip to the White House to discuss county issues. This time, they were looking for funding for rural emergency property signs. Talked about why it's important to make contacts with administration.

Brad Mantella, Gladstone City Commissioner

No quorum last night but they still made arrangements to hire a new city manager. Talked about what he is looking for in a city manager. They also are starting to look at user fees, mostly for parks and recreation. Such as campground, boat launch, ski hill, etc.

Theresa Nelson, Bill Sharon, Delta County Democratic Party

Having a fish fry to support the senior class at Big Bay de Noc Schools. Also talked about the pending elections and some of the candidates that might attend the fish fry.

October 16

Tom Sabor, Delta County Interim Administrator

The county board narrowed the list to two people. They will conduct a second round of interviews.

Diane Latinen and Kay Johnson, GFWC

Promoting the Charity Ball in December. All the proceeds go back to the community. They help programs such as robotics, backpacks in the schools and other youth programs.

October 17

Steve Carter

He is going to be at the Island Resort Casino for a physic performance at the Island Resort & Casino. Talked about his performance. He says an accident caused him to

have physic abilities.

Dr. Mary Whitmer

Giving a presentation at the Gary Abrahamson Jr Memory Care Center on the Gift of Years. It involves dealing with loss and challenges of life to flourish.

October 18

Theresa Myers, Venison Project

It is second year with the Venison Project at the Memorial United Methodist Church in Gladstone. She is asking hunters to consider donating their venison to food pantries. Three processors will take the deer. She delivers to Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul.

October 22

Jay Kulbertis, Rapid River and Gladstone School Superintendent

Dealing with budget changes now that they have better understand on the state funding. Rapid River rural education funding was vetoed by the governor. He called it high stakes card games they are playing with education.

State Sen. Ed McBroom

Talked about his trip to Washington DC. He was invited for an executive order signing by the President. He was there because county road pavement in Marquette County was denied by EPA. Talked about his experiences.

October 23

Coby Fletcher, Escanaba School Superintendent

He is recommending the Soo Hill Elementary School building be closed next year. He talked about the decision making process and how the closure will benefit the school district. The school board should make the decision by December.

Paul Geyer, Delta County Emergency Management Coordinator

Talked about the shoreline damage from high water and strong winds that has caused serious erosion issues along Lake Michigan. Menominee County has declared a state of emergency.

October 24

Laura Coleman, Bay College President

Talked about her presentations of the millage result on the ballot in November. Need for boilers and chillers, efficient lighting and increased security.

Lorne Watson, Antonio Sanchez, Bill Cook

They produced a video of music performed by forestry tools. It was recorded and then performed the song on video for the MSU Extension's BeLeaf It Or Not online program. It is intended to promote forestry for young people.

October 25

Scott Cormier, Hilltop RV Superstore

They will be the site of the annual Deer Poll November 18. People can bring their deer to be weighed, scored and eligible for prizes. People can walk around and see the deer. Also hot dogs and cake.

Ed Legault, Escanaba Downtown Development Authority Director and Dan Bender DDA Chair

Getting ready for holiday activities in the downtown including the tree lighting and Santa as part of the Black Friday on Tuesday. They also support the Christmas Parade.

October 26

Rory Mattson, Delta Conservation District

Getting ready for clean up of the former road commission site. Talked about the process and costs. The Delta County Solid Waste Authority denied taking waste for free.

October 28

Al Danz and Ken Bucholtz, Wheeling Sportsmen

Doing a memorial fundraiser in memory of Owen Johnson at the Bowl-A-Rama. Al was Owen's step father and works at the bowling alley. Ken talked about talking Owen hunting and how it will benefit the organization.

October 29

Brad Mantella, Gladstone City Commissioner

The City Commission offered the city manager job to former city employee Eric Buckman. He has been serving as interim manager. He has suggested that the city move forward on the full 9th Street Project rather than scaling the project back.

Maggie Tall, Theresa Nelson, Dennis LaMarche, Community Thanksgiving Dinner
Plans are being made to host the Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Escanaba Area High School. People are eat at the school, have dinners delivered or picked up.

October 30

Pat Johnson, Gerald Tatrow, Delta County Commission

The county has offered the county administrator's job to a downstate man. They talked about why they selected him and what they hope the future will hold.

Sue Roll, Bonifas Arts Center

Reviewed the Night of Magic and Wizardly. Ran through upcoming workshops. in the gallery is Northern Exposure.

October 31

Glenda Schaff, 4th Grade Teacher

Talked about the pumpkin contest at the Upper Elementary School. Students put coins into jars to vote for their favorite decoration.

1st Lt Gregg Cunningham, Michigan State Police

Drivers need to be extra cautious for trick or treaters especially as it gets dark. Officers also collected food for the food pantries as part of Harvest Gathering.

November 1

Tom Butch, Bay College Board of Trustees Chair

Talked about the need to pass the college millage ballot proposal. The funds would be used to replace boilers and chillers, upgrade lighting and install new security.

Tonya Ettenhofer, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bay Area

A Night To Indulge is a fundraiser for BBBS and a night at the Island Resort & Casino. It includes wine and chocolate but also other items too. Funds used for mentoring program.

November 4

Laura Cox, Michigan Republican Party

Touring the U.P. to encourage party faithful and update on the campaign cycle. Training volunteers and talking about getting people to volunteer.

November 5

State Rep Beau LaFave

Today is election day. Talked about some of the ballot proposals. Talked about establishing a Natural Resources Commission just for the Upper Peninsula. Talked about why he thinks it's important. Started when the NRC decided to ban baiting and feeding deer in the U.P. to combat chronic wasting disease.

November 6

Sue Gartland and Tonya Gartland, Delta Animal Shelter

Talked about the results of the Fur Raiser, the shelter's largest fundraiser. Funds are used in the operations of the shelter. Also had a successful adoption day sponsored by the Bissell Foundation.

Tom Sabor, Delta County Interim Administrator

Talked about a special grant that is available for the Delta County Airport. Will help with runways and signage. Also talked about monumental survey. Getting more money from state for survey.

November 7

Delta County Sheriff Ed Oswald

A vehicle video shows a deputy hitting a buck in the city of Escanaba. It totaled the patrol car. Want people to be aware of possible deer accidents. Posted on Facebook.

November 8

Congressman Jack Bergman

He has been touring the 1st Congressional District. Still moving forward to fund the construction of new lock at Sault Ste Marie. Also working on veterans issues.

Patrick Jordan, Escanaba City Manager

Public Safety Director Rob LaMarche has been chosen as interim city manager. A list of candidates is being sent to council members. He leaves in December.

November 11

Mike Canull

Talked with Mike for Veterans Day. He served in Iraq. Talked about his service and what he went through.

Steve Kwarcianny

He was guest speaker at Veterans Day program. He talks about honoring those who serve.

November 12

Brad Mantella, Gladstone City Commissioner

Talked about a rate study of utilities at the city as part of the settlement of a lawsuit with a former city commissioner. The study showed the rates were actually low. Mantella also won re-election to the commission.

Julie Mallard, United Way of Delta County, and Michelle Shader, Communities That Care

United Way is out doing workplace campaigns and mailings will occur soon.

Communities That Care benefits from United Way. The program focuses on issues that are off concern to the community. It includes depression, low commitment to school and feeling that drugs are not harmful. Put together list of services.

November 13

Tyler Dubord, Karen Moore, Escanaba City Council

Talked about their election to the council. Both are newcomers. Talked about why they ran what their vision is for the city.

Brett Gardiner, Delta County Prosecutor

They now have a full staff of three prosecutors. Talked about how the different prosecutors work. Talked about the newly formed child advocacy center following the pervious one. Three people dedicated to it.

Samantha Hinton, Tri County Safe Harbor

She works with the food pantry at the shelter. They are one of the agencies that will be collecting canned food as part of the Can-A-Thon. Talked about their services and how the food pantry works.

November 14

James McCommons, author

The Northern Michigan University professor wrote a book about George Shiras III titled. "Camera Hunter". He is considered in the father of wildlife photography, crafting remote cameras that shot wildlife in Marquette County in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Major Alex Norton, Salvation Army

Talked about the upcoming Can-A-Thon at area grocery stores. Talked about the need for food at the food pantry. They've given out 73 tons of food in the past year.

November 15

Doug Licensing, Delta Schoolcraft Intermediate School District

Talked about the implications of having a day off for deer day in the Upper Peninsula. Although with fewer hunters would there be a time when school might not have the day off. Also talked about a \$150,000 grant to buy equipment for the ISD machine shop.

Pastor Dean Peterson

When he was a pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Escanaba he sang a parody song in 1987 called the "It's the Opening Day of Deer Camp and No One is Here." He became famous for the song recorded during the service. It is now recorded as a fundraiser for Bay College ministries.

Escanaba Mayor Marc Tall

He was re-elected mayor by members of the city council. It's a position he says he enjoys. Talked about some of the challenges still facing the city such road repairs and development of the former city property and county jail.

November 18

Colter Lubben, DNR Wildlife Technician

Talked about the number of deer are being seen in the firearm deer season. He says it is going to be a good diverse year of age class. There is concern because last year's harvest included a very low 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 year olds.

November 19

U.P. Deer Poll

The event was held at Hilltop RV Superstore. more than 60 hunters brought deer in. We included several interviews with successful hunters, especially youth hunters.

Jay Kulbertis, Rapid River and Gladstone School Superintendent

Reviewed the financial audit. It was a clean audit with few suggestions. Still grappling with budget funding from the governor's vetoes, especially Rapid River which receives rural school funding.

November 20

TJ Thomas, Delta County Economic Development Alliance

He is taking a new job with Race Driven in Escanaba. Talked about Delta County's economy. Employment is improving but still a lot of opportunity for younger people. Employers are in need of qualified workers.

Ron Miaso, Gladstone Downtown Development Authority and Stacy Carter, Thriven Financial

Talk about the Old Fashion Christmas celebration Friday in Gladstone. There will be special events such as tree lighting, Santa, open stores, live nativity, etc.

November 21

Ken Bucholtz, Wheeling Sportsmen

Talked about successful Wheeling Sportsmen hunters. Talked about some of the

hunters that were helped.

Laura Coleman, Bay College President

She is grateful that voters overwhelmingly defeated the millage request because it sent a clear message. That way they don't have to try again. Now they will consider other budget cuts and tuition increases to pay for the infrastructure needs that they want to do.

November 22

Patrick Jordan, Escanaba City Manager

He decided to stay in his current position after receiving an offer to stay. They are starting the process of borrowing money to build a wastewater plant that meets the needs of the community. Need enough capacity for expansion north of the Escanaba River in Wells Township.

Ed Legault, Escanaba Downtown Development Authority Director and Dan Bender DDA Chair

Getting ready for the Black Friday on Tuesday event that includes a tree lighting, Santa, Horse carriage rides and shopping. Also talked about the Hannahville 2 percent grant to allow them to move forward on commercial kitchen at the Escanaba Marketplace.

November 25

Michael Olson, Diane Curtis, Bay de Noc Choral Society

The Christmas concert celebrates Handel and the 300th anniversary of the song Joy To The World. Ran through other songs as well. Concert is at Bethany Lutheran Church.

Peggy Austin, John Gilbert, Brenda Kraut, Gladstone and Rapid River Kiwanis

They are selling lights for the Christmas Tree of Honor at Van Cleve Park in Gladstone. It is meant to honor or remember loved ones. The lighting program will be at the Gladstone Beach House. The money is used for contributions in the community.

Sue Parker, Downtown Partners in Business

Talking about Black Friday on Tuesday. There are limo and Data bus rides through the downtown. Also, a drawing will be held that night for shopping sprees.

November 26

Eric Buckman, Gladstone City Manager and brand Mantella, Gladstone City Commissioner

Buckman accepted the city manager position after serving as interim manager. He is retired after 32 years from the city. Mantel says they are pleased to have him back. Talked about the potential of Gladstone.

Tom Sabor, Delta County Interim Administrator

The county has hired Emilie DeSalvo as administrator. Talked about the transition. Also, there are budget items he wants to complete before leaving the job as interim. She is transitioning from District Court.

November 27

Julia and father Brad Nault

Julia talked about her deer hunting success. She also bagged a bear. Brad talks about why it's important to pass the love of hunting on to his daughter.

Sue Roll, Executive director of the Bonifas Arts Center

She was involved in the high school play "Elf". Talked about the upcoming art session, lifestyle classes and gallery exhibits.

December 2

1st Lt Gregg Cunningham, Michigan State Police

A lot of people have been without power for up to five days in Menominee County, about 1,200. The police have been asked to check on people in areas hard to get to. Talked about the road conditions.

Lindsey Wolsker, Kristin Trist, U.S. Post Office

Mail Carriers will be walking in the Escanaba Christmas Parade. They will be collecting letters from kids for Santa.

December 3

Sue Gartland and Tonya Gartland, Delta Animal Shelter

They are taking advantage of Giving Tuesday. They are using a story of a stray animal to encourage donations.

Dale Hongisto, Michigan State Police

The Michigan State Police will hold a Stuff the Blue Goose event at Walmart to collect toys. Troopers will distribute the toys for Christmas to families they come in contact in their jobs.

December 4

Tom Sabor, Delta County Interim Administrator

He said goodbye at the county board meeting. He talked about the few months he served in the position. He put together a list of possible budget reductions to cover the governor's veto of the PILT funds. It costs Delta County about \$300,000. Labor says he tried to find items that would not directly affect the operations of the county.

Tonya Ettenhofer, Escanaba Christmas Parade

She went through those who will be in the parade. Also, chose a prince and princess to serve during the parade.

December 5

Dave Anthony, Northern Sun Winery

Talked about the winery, the history of their vineyard and how to choose wine during the holidays.

Delta County Sheriff Ed Oswald

Getting snowmobile patrols out on the trails. Had to rescue a grooming crew that

dropped though ice and where stuck over night. Still having issues with inmates flushing unwanted items into the sewer system. Even though the new facility was suppose to address that.

December 6

Patrick Jordan, Escanaba City Manager

The city council approved a resolution asking that the state declare Michigan shorelines as a disaster area due to damage caused by high water. Escanaba has suffered shoreline damage in Ludington Park and Municipal Dock.

Colter Lubben, DNR Wildlife Technician

Talked about hunting trends in the U.P. They are seeing more 2 1/2 year olds than expected which shows a good diversity among all age groups. No CWD has been found yet in the Upper Peninsula.

December 9

Gary Roloff, MSU Biologist professor

Gave a talk about research and the future of Snowshoe Hares in the Michigan. Changing habitat is affecting the hare population. Offered ways to give hare places to stay.

Julie Mallard, United Way of Delta County and Rick Elrod Delta County Non-Motorized Trails

The United Way is sponsoring free cross country ski lessons put on by DCNT at Rapid River Ski Trail in January. Talked about the event and how people can participate. Goal is to encourage youth to anticipate in outdoor activities.

December 10

Michigan Sen. Gary Peters

Talked about PFAS legislation as part of defense authorization act. One of the items is to require firefighting foam without PFAS at U.S. Air Force Bases.

December 11

Loretta DeChristopher, Marc Tall, Festival of Choirs

A sacred music concert at St Joseph St Patrick on Sunday. It includes seven choir groups. The entire group will sing the last two songs.

December 12

Dennis Ford, Delta Door Company

Talked about the company and how homeowners can do a preventive maintenance check list to insure they are working properly for winter.

Zach Miller and Dylan Bordeau, Robomos

They are holding a spaghetti fundraiser for the robotic club. The two talked about the team and what they do. Getting ready for a new season. Funds raised help with transportation.

December 13

Doug Licensing, Delta Schoolcraft Intermediate School District

Talked about the grow of Early Middle College program. He says it certainly has required more paperwork as more students become involved in the program. Area students are also benefiting from the program.

State Sen. Ed McBroom

Talked about the governor's vetoes and the impasse on reinstating the vetoed funds. He is worried about funding for rural hospitals, isolated school district, PILT funding and road patrol.

December 16

Dana Ferguson is running for Congress as a Democrat. Furguson has never run for office. He left his position as an inventory production manager with Bell Forestry Products in Ishpeming to run for Congress and worked as a construction labor in the union. He has a degree in economics and masters in public administration from Northern Michigan University. Furguson says talking and listening to people as he campaigns is the way he expects to win next November.

Vickie Micheau, Delta Chamber of Commerce

Among the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund development projects is \$300-thousand for the U.P. State Fairgrounds for two bathhouses at the campgrounds. Micheau talks about why the facilities are important and how the fairgrounds are progressing.

December 17

Jay Kulbertis, Rapid River and Gladstone School Superintendent

Talked about snow days and how they determine when snow days are needed. Two snow days already. It affects the school calendar. So does a change in how the state considers teacher development days. Now considered as part of school day. Talked about his job assessment. He says he is attempting to communicate more.

Nicole Sanderson, Gladstone Parks and Recreation Director

They are looking for additional employees to operate the Gladstone Ski Hill. Talked about the ski hill that opens Saturday, ice rink, cross country ski trail and disc golf course.

December 18

Emile DeSalvo, Delta County Administrator and Nancy Prezwroki, Delta County Clerk
Talked about why she wanted the administrator's job. Talked about how it is going and what she needs to learn such as finances and airport operations. Nancy talked about the upcoming Presidential primaries in Michigan.

Ron Miaso, Gladstone Downtown Development Authority and Chase Derby, DDA

There is now a timeline for the 9th Street Project. He says they expect construction to begin in the spring. Chase says there are great things happening in the city.

December 19

Laura Coleman, Bay College President

Talked about registration for new classes in January. The board of trustees will also begin discussions on how to pay for infrastructure upgrades, boilers and chillers, lighting and security. Hope to have a decision in June.

Coby Fletcher, Escanaba School Superintendent

The school board decided to close the Soo Hill Elementary School building in the fall. The closure would save the school district \$275,000. Fletcher talked about some of the areas that the money can spent.

December 20

Ed Legualt, Escanaba Downtown Development Authority and Dan Bender, DDA Chair

Bender talked about why he wanted to continue as DDA Chair. They discussed the future goals of the DDA such as facade program and former jail site development.

Charles Lindquist, Audubon Society

Talked about the national Christmas bird count day. They do the count to find trends. He talked about their attempt to count birds on the Stonington Peninsula.

December 23

Elizabeth Kellor, Delta County Historical Society

The Delta County Historical Society will have a free open house at the Sand Point Lighthouse and historical museum the two days after Christmas. She talked about what people would expect. They do it to say thank you to the community.

State Rep. Beau LaFave

The governor vetoed the baiting and feeding ban of deer in Michigan. LaFave says they need seven votes to overturn the veto. Although he says it would be easier to pass a Natural Resources Commission for the U.P. than override the veto.

December 24

Roy Dahlgren, U.P. Trappers Association

He talked about trapping in all this snow. Beavers are doing well this year and good market for skins. Good market for coyotes too but a high number of wolves are limiting coyotes. He says they have seen more wolves than ever before in traps.

December 26

George Rusch

He is celebrating his 95 birthday. As former Escanaba City Council member and Mayor he talked about Escanaba. Energy continues to be an issue in the U.P. He also headed the CUPPAD Regional Development group.

Jason Allen, USDA Rural Development Michigan Director

Reviewed their achievements over the past year. It included funding for homeowners to receive mortgages and renovation loans. Communities also received loans for water system upgrades. Delta County used a loan to fund a new jail.

December 30

Tonya Henderson, Durouin's Auto Body and Collision

They sponsored the rifle drawings for successful hunters who registered their deer at the Rusty Rail. Held the drawings and called the winners for both youth and adult drawings.

Lindsey Sterns, OSF Healthcare

Talked about the Liferide program that offers free rides on New Year's Eve. Explained how it works and why it was started years ago to prevent drunk driving crashes and fatalities.

December 31

Reviewed stories from 2019