

NEWSMAKERS WDBC

April 1

Ken Bucholtz, Wheeling Sportsmen

He received the Elks Citizen of the Year award for his involvement in helping disabled people hunt and enjoy shooting sports. Talked about how the program works, who they are able to help and upcoming turkey hunting.

April 2

State Sen. Ed McBroom

The Attorney General declared the agreement with Enbridge to build a tunnel beneath the Straits of Mackinac as unconstitutional and the Governor has halted the state's effort to fulfill the agreement. McBroom says no one is asking where the propane and other energy will come from. Says the tunnel is a win win for everyone except those who no longer want fossil energy.

April 3

Delta County Administrator Phil Strom

Talked about the upcoming millage proposal in May. Questions people were asking included, does road patrol funds pay for transporting inmates from jail to courthouse. Storm says it does not. Funds are separate. Why is a millage needed for road patrol? Storm says it is not a requirement of the county provide the service.

Estylle Smyth and Pat Rudden, Kiwanis

The Kiwanis Home and Garden Show and Pancake Days will be held at the U.P. State Fairgrounds. The pancakes raise funds for Kiwanis. There will be vendors for people attending for home improvement. MSU Extension will offer gardening sessions.

April 4

Thomas Claycomb, BraveBots high school robotics

The robotic team is heading to district competition. Talked about how people can find information on the team. Says strength is teamwork.

Sue Gartland, Tonya Gartland, Delta Animal Shelter

They will have animals and products at the Home and Garden Show. This is kitten season. People are encouraging people to come to the shelter to see the kittens. They will hold a Bow Wow Bruch at the Eagles to raise funds for the shelter.

Delta County Sheriff Ed Oswald

Deputies are wearing cameras. Says people conversation changes when see green light. But conversations are not recorded. The cameras are automatically activated when vehicle lights are activated. The videos are automatically downloaded at office.

Warren Shauer

The Bay de Noc Gardening Conference will be held at Bay College. Registrations are being taken now. Shauer talked about how to register and some of the sessions.

April 5

Escanaba City Manager Patrick Jordan

City Council approved a bid for construction of a new dock at the Escanaba Marina. Talked about the need for a new dock. They are addressing electrical needs at Breezy Point which is outside of the city limits. They have an agreement with Ford River Township.

Jeff Woerpel, Players de Noc

Players competed at state competition with a production of Cut Throat. They were one of the finalist and now go to regionals. The play is written locally by JJ Spaulding. Woerpel talked about how the competition works.

April 8

Julie Mallard, United Way of Delta County and Clare Nutinen, Bay Cliff Health Camp
Mallard talked about upcoming kids event at the Delta Plaza Mall with several groups. United Way will promote its Dolly Parton Imagination Library. At Bay Cliff, they use United Way funds to support their summer youth programs for those with disabilities.

Erin Viau, Tri County Safe Harbor

Talked about Crime Victims Awareness Week. The staff deals with clients in the shelter who can be victims of crimes such as domestic violence and sexual assault. Talked about the services available such as court support and counseling. Says its important for public to be aware of the issue.

April 9

Darcy Long, Gladstone City Manager and Brad Mantella, Gladstone City Commissioner
Had a presentation from the Gladstone Housing Commission to build a new facility. They would take one building down and build a new one. The other building would be renovated. Commission encouraged them to move forward and develop a site plan.

Wendy Middaugh and Amanda Bloxton-Kipola, Hannahville Indian Community Victims Services

As part of Crime Victim Awareness Week, Hannahville is expanding its programs to meet the needs of the Hannahville Indian Community. They say domestic violence is higher on the Indian reservation.

April 10

Mike Olson, Bay de Noc Choral Society

The spring concert will be Sunday. Have a large crowd of performers this year. Music has a peace theme for Easter. Will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church.

Laurie Mathews, Delta Conservation District

Talked about the annual Tree Sale and how to order. Can order a large number of trees and some individual trees. The sale supports the conservation district. Picked up at the U.P. State Fairgrounds.

April 11

Tom Casperson, Great Lakes Commission

He was appointed by the Michigan Legislature to the Great Lakes Commission. It's a multi-state commission dealing with the Great Lakes. One issue he is interested in is what to do with zebra and quagga mussels. The mussels are cleaning the water and adversely affecting the fishery.

Karen Alvord, Hope Animal Assistance Crisis Response and Betsy Harris, Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Talked about how their organizations help those who are victims of crime as part of Crime Victim Awareness Week. Harris says 1 in 3 crashes in the Upper Peninsula are a result of drunk driving. They are also focusing on drugged driving. MADD can help with victim services and emotional support. Alvord uses dogs to support victims. Talked about the training program locally.

April 12

Doug Licensing, Delta Schoolcraft Intermediate School District

One of the services they offer local school district is fiber optics for Internet and now phone services. It offers a tremendous savings for districts.

Kim Rudden and Carla Lemin, Child Advocacy Center

In its first year, they have conducted 115 forensic interviews of children victim of sexual abuse. They talked about their services as part of Crime Victims Awareness Week. Talked about why the service is needed and how it works.

April 16

Jay Kulbertis, Rapid River and Gladstone School Superintendent

Talked about the success of the BraveBots robotic team at state competition. Talked about the state budget not being established by June so that school district would know by July 1 when their budgets get implemented. It may not happen in the state until Oct. 1. He says it means more guessing in developing a budget.

Patrick Jordan, Escanaba City Manager and Jeff Lampi, Water Wastewater Superintendent

Escanaba is looking at raising water rates by 40 percent and wastewater rates by 20 percent as well as an increase in electricity. Lampi says they are being proactive. Escanaba has more lines than other communities with lead gooseneck connectors that need to be replaced.

April 17

Ron Miaso, Gladstone Downtown Development Authority and Brad Mantella, Gladstone City Commission

Movement is being made on the 9th Street Project. A bid opening will be held. DDA is funding 70 percent of project. It is a joint DDA and city project.

Brett Gardiner, Delta County Prosecutor

Talked about victim rights program at the prosecutor's office. Says victim advocates are

very important to help those who are victim of crimes. Talked about how they are used in the court system.

April 18

Kristi Steger, Delta and Menominee Public Health and Kelly Hanson, Hannahville Indian Community

As part of Women Health Month they are bring a mobile mammography unit to the Island Resort and Casino to offer a quick and easy appointment. Talked about the importance of getting mammograms.

Laura Coleman, Bay College President

Bay College held a legislative day with local legislatures to express to them what Bay College is concerned about especially budget concerns with the state. Bay College needs to finalize its budget by July 1 but the state doesn't need its budget by Oct. 1.

April 19

State Rep. Beau LaFave

Talked about his opposition to the state Passport program to enter state parks. He also wants to exempt public transits, tour buses and taxis for needing a pass. As talked about his opposition to the governor's 45 cent a gallon tax increase to fund road repairs.

Coby Fletcher, Escanaba School Superintendent

The school is now using a Mobot to serve students who are homebound. The student at home controls the robot with the use of camera. They can attend school all day. Teachers support the program. He says it is fun to see the reaction of students in the school.

April 23

Brad Mantella, Gladstone City Commission

Talked about the upcoming Fourth of July activities. The city commission approved the fireworks and agreed to move them to the previous location. Last year's location was not well received. The bids for the 9th Street Project came in higher than expected. Nearly \$1 million higher. The city is going to reassess the project.

Jesse Vanzile, Jesse Taub and Sara Larmarch, Players de Noc

Moon Over Buffalo opens at the Bonifas Theater. Talks about the their parts and the play.

Diane Lathinen and Paula Johnson, GFWC

Talks about its Table Celebration fundraiser for Operation Smile. It provides clef palette surgeries. The event has 20-25 different themed table settings for people to see and vote on.

April 24

Sue Roll, Bonifas Arts Center

Talked about opening of Players de Noc production, Moon Over Buffalo. Talked about how to get tickets at the Bonifas. Friday night includes On 7th and Ludington. It includes

dinner at Hereford & Hops and eligibility for a drawing during the play. The exhibit in gallery features various artists includes wood, sketch and clay.

April 25

1st Lt Gregg Cunningham, Michigan State Police

Explained the Every Fifteen Minute program that is currently being held at the Gladstone High School. It simulates a traffic crash. Students disappear from class and go through a crash and funeral simulation. The purpose is to prevent drunk driving. He says it is an emotional and impactful program.

April 26

Ed Laugault, Escanaba Downtown Development Authority

Talked about the sewer issue at the 600 block of Ludington Street. The city is digging up the newly paved Ludington Street. Original plans called for new utilities. City could not afford that so sewer and water issues continue. Talked about the summer music performances on Wednesdays at the Escanaba Marketplace.

Patrick Jordan, Escanaba City Manager

Talked about water system issues in the city and the need to replace piping. Talked about Verison wanting to add a pole at the Escanaba Athletic Field by replacing a light pole.

Jamie Peterson, Social Security Administration

Reviewed questions asked of the social security administration.

April 29

Rory Mattson, Delta Conservation District

Still have trees left including fruit trees as part of the annual Tree Sale. Available in larger bundles for reforestation projects. He is holding an informational session taking advantage of forestry designations to reduce property taxes.

April 30

Dave Chislea, manager of the Michigan Public Service Commission Gas Operations

Is warning property owners to use Miss Dig before construction to avoid damage of utility lines. Talked about how to use Miss Dig at no cost. He says there are many natural gas lines beneath the ground.

May 2

Delta County Sheriff Ed Oswald and Delta County Administrator Phil Strom

Talked about the Road Patrol millage on the ballot next week. They are asking for a slight increase because of the role of the deputies have changed over the past 30 years when it started.

Pricilla Green, 1st Presbyterian Church

Talked about the annual Spring Salad Luncheon at the church. There is a wide variety of salads with some being unusual. This is the 50th annual. Talked about the changes in salads over the years. Funds go to help with churches outreach programs.

May 3

Patrick Jordan, Escanaba City Manager

Talked about the utility rate increases and the second town hall meeting to explain the increases. Water Wastewater Superintendent Jeff Lampi offered a powerpoint on the issue. There were Wells Township residents there concerned how it would affect them under the agreement with the city.

Todd Mohr, Aurora Media

Mohr is purchasing KMB Broadcasting which includes WDBC and WYKX. Talked about his plans for the stations and why he wanted to purchase the company.

May 6

TJ Thomes, Delta County Economic Development Alliance and Phil Strom, Delta County Administrator

Talked about the NextUP program that will be held at the Bonifas Arts Center. It replaces the economic club presentations. Want to offer young professionals a continuous learning environment.

May 7

State Sen. Ed McBroom

Talked about the tussle between the governor and legislature over the budget. He says House and Senate are on track to be down by end of June. Education fund remains different. She also wants a 45 cent a gallon fuel tax to fund road repair.

Sue Gartland and Tonya Gartland, Delta Animal Shelter

Talked about the response to the Bow Wow Brunch fundraiser at the Eagles. This month is the Wag The Tail Rummage Sale. They are looking for items to sell. Looking for household items except clothes.

May 8

Rory Mattson, Delta Conservation District

Talked about upcoming Opportunity for U.P. Landowners session at Manistique to talk about how to manage property for forest land.

Cindy Carter, Bay College

Talked about the Kids on Campus summer youth program to expose students to the college with hands on projects. For grades 4th through 7th. Sessions include hiking and observing nature, electricity and exploring with cameras.

May 9

Mark Ammel, Bobaloon's Cafe

Bobaloon's is in the running for the Best Coney Hot Dog in Michigan from USA Today. Voting is being done online. Talked about his recipe and how people can vote online.

May 10

Doug Licensing, Delta Schoolcraft Intermediate School District

There are new members of the ISD Board. He explained how elections are held. Talked about how the ISD is collaborating with Bay College. He says there has been more collaboration than ever before.

Ken Groh, Bay College Board of Trustee

He was just appointed the new member of the board. Talked about the process. He is a former school administrator. Talked about his interest in Bay and working with local school districts.

May 13

State Rep. Beau LaFave

The House passed an auto insurance reform bill and passed it back to the Senate. The vote was at 2 a.m. LaFave says it offers real insurance reform and considered the governor's changes. She threatened to veto the Senate version. It did not take as long as LaFave thought it might.

Julie Mallard, United Way of Delta County and Heather Jensen and Jenny Tourengou, U.P. Foster Closet of Delta County

United Way board is doing strategic planning on the programs they are doing. It included a community conversation with area teachers. The Foster Closet is available to kids in the foster program. Often kids end up at foster homes or relatives with nothing. The Foster Closet gives kids clothes of their own.

May 14

Gladstone City Manager Darcy Long

Talked about the city's Economic Development Committee's effort to promote the industrial park. New members were appointed to the EDC's board. Talked about the 9th Street Projects were over bid estimates. Looking at the project to see what they can eliminate to stay within budget.

May 15

Brett Gardiner, Delta County Prosecutor

He has now worked a prosecutor for a year in Delta County. Talked about his accomplishments including the fight against drugs. He followed the plan set by law enforcement to target 25 people. They are now all arrested.

Delta County Administrator Phil Strom

Central Dispatch 911 and Road Patrol millage passed in the election. Talked about what the 911 millage will mean. Looking for ways to improve communication in the county. Also looking for additional road patrol officers.

May 16

TJ Thomas, Delta County Economic Development Alliance

Talking about the upcoming Uppertunities event that promotes business and tourism. Talked about the presenters including Ken Waska with Gordon Foods. The session is called Live Like You Mean It.

Laura Coleman, Bay College President

Reflecting on graduation last weekend. Talked about success stories of students at the college. They refer to the data of surveys of students and the community. Says MTEC activities are very busy. Twice as many activities as the year before.

May 17

Patrick Jordan, Escanaba City Manager

Adding more panels at the solar garden. Sales have not been what they expected but it has still been beneficial for the city. He thinks people are not aware that they can purchase panels. Looked at a rate study of electrical rates that shows they are on the right track. Electric rates are going up.

Peg Sandin, Ironwood artist

Part of the residency program at the Bonifas Arts Center. She says she has been able to experiment through the program. She says Lake Michigan has also offered inspiration. She is working on a 4 foot by 8 foot painting.

May 20

John Beck, Choral Music Teacher

Beck is retiring after 41 years. He took over from his father at the Escanaba High School. Talked about the legacy of being there and the students he taught over the years.

Scott Knauf, Upper Peninsula Honor Flight

Talked about the upcoming Honor Flight. They will be meeting up with Mid Michigan Honor Flight for some of the activities. Looking for people to welcome them home at the Delta County Airport Wednesday night. Two veterans are still from Word War II.

May 21

Jay Kulberis, Rapid River and Gladstone School Superintendent

Seniors participate in year end programs and getting ready for graduation. Talked about the implications of graduations. Talked about the need for substitute teachers. They have a shortage.

Lorene Lapinski, Bay de Noc Quilt Guild and Emile Shada, Bay College

300 quilts in memory of 9-11 victims will be on display at Bay College. The exhibit is traveling the country. She says the quilts were made of love for the country.

May 22

Coby Fletcher

Talked about the graduation for the Success Center. 18 Students overcame adversity to be able to graduate. Tonight is senior banquet including awarding scholarships. Coby says it offers recognition and opportunity. Talked about a new rental policy and rates for school facilities.

Arthur Ulanski, Marv Gibson and Ralph Johnson

The three talked about their experiences as participants in the Upper Peninsula Honor

Flight. They felt the trip to Washington DC was an overwhelming and wonderful experience. They could not believe the welcome home they were receiving at the Delta County Airport.

Dave Lorenz, Travel Michigan

He was a presenter at Uppertunities, a business and tourism conference at Island Resort and Casino. He talked about the need for collaboration in marketing.

Nancy Prezwroki, Delta County Clerk

Talked about holding an election with new rules. Votes approved the rules including same day registration. Less than 10 people registered countywide.

May 24

Bob Berbohn, Delta County Emergency Management Coordinator

Talked about a table top discussion with law enforcement, first responders and stockholders in how they might react in a major power outage during winter. Addressed equipment issues for responders and backup generation.

Mary Ulman, Gary Abrahamson Jr Memory Care Center and Jake Bilodeau, U.P. Alzhiener's Association

Jake will be talking with the public on living with alzheimer's and dementia and how to limit risk of letting the disease over take our lives.

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

Bender says the facade program is the most impactful program in the downtown. Talked about wanting develop a new vision for the downtown.

May 28

Casey Danielson, Semetra Tour Golf and Tim Kramer, Director of Tournament Business Affairs

Talked about the upcoming Island Resort Championship. Casey talked about her golf game and competing on the tour. Kramer talked about how people can attend the championship.

Charles Lindquist, president of Delta County Historical Society

The Sand Point Lighthouse and Historical Museum opens Memorial Day weekend. They are expanding the historic wedding gown exhibit including photos. Talked about the traffic that comes to the museum and where they come from.

May 29

Sue Roll, Executive Director of the Bonifas Arts Center and Mary Stewart Adams, stargazer

Mary will be hosting a session on stargazing, including a compass rose. It including a craft project that relates to the stars. Sue talked about Music Mondays that will be held each Monday in Ludington Park. A different band will perform each week.

Dale Hongisto, Community Service Trooper, Michigan State Police
MSP is holding a citizen's academy for six weeks. Want the public to be more familiar and awareness of the role of state police. It will include a different topic each week.

Warren Schauer, Our Savior Lutheran Church
The Gospel Guys, a quartet from Chatham will be performing at the church. Everyone is welcome for a brat and hot dog dinner.

May 30

1st Lt Gregg Cunningham, Michigan State Police
They will have a historic patrol car in the Kruizzing Klassics car show. It is a 1954 Ford. Talked about the difference between those vehicles and today's vehicles. Also promote 100 years of MSP at the U.P. State Fairgrounds. They will hold a legislative meeting at a traffic safety group in Manistique. Talk about construction and drugged driving.

May 31

Coby Fletcher, Escanaba School Superintendent and Linda Beauchamp, Escanaba Fan Club President
Talked about the fan club support of athletics in the school. Looking for fan club members. The need to support sports grows each year with funding and budget cuts. Attempting to keep as many sports they can.

Jamie Peterson, Social Security Administration
Talk about questions of interest to social security. It includes issuing new Medicare cards. They are no longer using social security numbers on the Medicare card. Talked about how to get a card if a new one was not issued. It is meant to prevent fraud and identify theft.

June 10

Julie Mallard, United Way of Delta County and Jake Bilodeau, U.P. Alzheimer's Association
This month is Alzheimer's Awareness Month. Want to get information out about the Alzheimer's and dementia. United Way supports their integrated healthcare partnership program that assists families with a member with the disease.

June 11

Crystal Prior and Kristine Madylnski, Esky Pops
The Esky Pops will be performing Friday at the Escanaba Upper Elementary School Auditorium. Include's a jazz version of Over the Rainbow and Aerosmith's Dream On. It's choral music with pop songs.

Phil Strom, Delta County Administrator and TJ Thomas, Delta County Economic Development Alliance
Both are part of NextUP, the economic group in Delta County. They are holding a free professional development event includes several speakers talking about generational communications and accommodations of different age groups.

June 12

Brett Gardiner, Delta County Prosecutor

A new law will now automatically charge 17-years-olds as juveniles rather than adults. Gardiner says it will change the system. They account for about 5 percent of violent crimes. Talked about how it might affect Delta County.

Pam Mitchell, Ferdinand's Restaurant

Celebrating 30 years in business. Talked about her business, how it started. It comes her experiences as a child in Nebraska. They are holding special events.

June 13

Dave Anthony, Northern Sun Winery and Mimy Klotz, Clear Lake Education Center

A concert will be held Sunday at the winery to benefit the education center. It is run independently as part of the Hiawatha National Forest. They have educational programs for the kids.

June 14

Doug Lisenring, Delta Schoolcraft Intermediate School District

School has now ended. They are in the process of hiring new staff and working on the budget. Doing multiple plans based on what the state budget might be. Talked about needing funding to increase scores.

June 17

State Rep. Beau LaFave

Talked about the Governor's U.P. Energy Committee to see how to provide energy to the U.P. with the closure of Enbridge's Line 5. The task force is made up of 19 people including 7 members who are not from the U.P.

Karen Salo, Housing chair of Semetra Tour

Need a few more people to house golfers because more golfers need housing. Talked about what is expected of those who can provide housing.

June 18

Emile Shada, Bay College

The college is offering live music during lunchtime on Thursdays during the summer. Lunchtime Live will be held in the courtyard. Food vendors will be there.

Ester Lee, Semetra Tour Golfer

Talked about golfing on the tour, their game and competing in the Island Resort Championship.

June 19

Pat Johnson, Water's Edge Chiropractic

Talked about the Power Words Project that is will painted on the side of the Rialto Center in Gladstone. They are looking for word suggestions. The mural is meant to bring people into the downtown. They have become attractions throughout the Upper Peninsula.

Phil Strom, Delta County Administrator and Joey Walker, intern
Walker is back from Michigan State University in political science, pre-law and city design. Learning out the county government works. Storm talked about the different aspects of the county.

Ron Miaso, Gladstone Downtown Development Authority
Talked about the downsizing of the 9th Street Project to meet the budget restraints. Postponed to July. Need to hold public hearings. Meeting with bond financial experts to put together assessments proposals.

June 20

Coby Fletcher, Escanaba School Superintendent

The girl's softball team are state champions. They have also been recognized by the governor for their academic achievements. Talked about the Leader In Me leadership program. Training is being done in the seven habits of highly successful people.

Laura Coleman, Bay College President

Talked about the need for further education to meet the demand of jobs in the area. The Early Middle College program helps move students into careers needed to fill positions in the area. Gave an update on the construction of the locker rooms at the gymnasium.

June 21

Patrick Jordan, Escanaba City Manager

The city council talked about pulling the construction area of the new hotel and retail out the TIF district of the Downtown Development Authority. Jordan says other taxes groups such as schools, etc need the money. Says the developers are excited about the development.

June 24

Ed Legault

Talked about the 200 volunteers at the Semetra Tour golf championship. He coordinate the volunteers at the three day golf event. He says the volunteers put a good face on the community.

Pasqua Wastler

Working on projects around the U.P. including the 60th anniversary of Fayette Historic State Park. They are holding a concert on the front porch of the hotel at Fayette. Talked about the event and when people can attend.

June 25

Roy Dahlgren, U.P. Trappers Association

The 57th annual U.P. Trappers Convention and Outdoor Expo will be held at the U.P. State Fairgrounds. Biggest show in the midwest. Talked about types of vendors who will attend.

June 26

Michigan U.S. Senator Gary Peters

Talked about his manufacturing initiative and national strategy to encourage manufacturing. Consolidates 58 different programs to focus on manufacturing.

Sue Roll, Executive director of the Bonifas Arts Center

Music Mondays started at Ludington Park. Opportunity to see local talent. Talked about the workshops during the summer at the Bonifas.

Jesse Zambon, Race Driven

Talked about the expansion into Marquette and a new location in Escanaba. Moving into the former Northern Motors building on Ludington Street. Talked about the niche they found in the all terrain market and the parts they manufacture.

June 27

1st Lt Gregg Cunningham, Michigan State Police

Talked about mental health issues in the county. The workgroup is through the Intermediate School District. They have a shortage of outpatient councilors. Also talked about the shortage of beds in the U.P. That means law enforcement has to transport downstate.

June 28

Carolyn and Nate Pecard, Tony's Greentumb and Cindy Bedard, St Vincent de Paul Planting for a Reason offers free plants and flowers that can be given to people who can't get out or need a smile. Ned wants to spread an act of kindness to other. They will be offered at St Vincent de Paul.

Ed Legault, director Escanaba Downtown Development Authority and Dan Bender, chair They are objecting to the city council attempting to take out the site of construction of the former county jail and city property from the TIF district of the DDA. Bender says he is appalled by the effort to carve out the district. They believe it could affect the development of the downtown.