

'There is a lot of talent in the county with good ideas ... to move the area forward.'

— Jack Reid, chamber board member



Jason Jeannette/Daily Mining Gazette
Joan Bugni, owner of Unique Images in L'Anse works on a plaque at her business Tuesday. Unique Images is one of the charter members of newly-formed Baraga Chamber of Commerce.

CHAMBER COMEBACK

Business association returns to Baraga

By OLIVIA BARTLETT
Gazette Writer

BARAGA — Baraga residents, eying growth in their county, have created their own chamber of commerce.

Jack Reid, chamber board member and owner of Reid Funeral Service & Chapel in L'Anse, said the newly-formed organization will promote business, tourism and light industry.

"Individuals are encouraged to join and participate," Reid said. "There is a lot of talent in the county with good ideas and enthusiasm to move the area forward ... The chamber is an excellent vehicle to put this talent and energy to work."

The chamber's purpose, as stated in its bylaws, is to "advance to general welfare and prosperity of the Baraga County area so that its citizens and all areas of its business community shall prosper."

Sue Brunet, manager of the Best Western Baraga Lakeside Inn, joined the chamber because she enjoys spotlighting the area. She hopes the chamber will help welcome new people and businesses to the county.

"I feel the chamber will benefit not only the tourist industry, but also the industrial side of the county," Brunet said. "It's a needed item in the area. In the chamber, you're working to help everybody."

Reid said thousands of people travel through Baraga County on their way through the Copper Country. The chamber will create a community calendar and coordinate events in order to obtain



Jason Jeannette/Daily Mining Gazette
Debbie Hansen of Quality First Forest Products Inc. in L'Anse stands near one of their logging trucks on Tuesday. Quality First Forest Products Inc. is also one of the charter members of the Baraga Chamber of Commerce.

maximum exposure without boosting taxes for lodging and other local services.

The chamber will post dates of events on their Web page, found at <http://www.baragacountyc.org>.

Said Reid, "With people planning and timing events throughout the year, we can take advantage of the visitors that pass by looking for new

and interesting activities."

More than 25 years ago, Baraga had a chamber, but the inactive organization fell apart.

Late last summer, interested county residents met to explore the possibility of forming a chamber. More than 30 businesses and individuals took interest.

Now the chamber has 70 charter members.

Joan Bugni, owner of Unique Images of L'Anse, said being a member of the Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce helped her embroidery shop, so a new Baraga chamber appealed to her.

"Hopefully the chamber will draw new business and tourism into the area, if we can get more tourists, it will affect my business," Bugni said.

The Baraga Chamber of Commerce will work with the Baraga County Tourist Recreation Association. The association promotes the annual Aura Jamboree, basketball tournaments, snowmobile and ski trails, the Baraga County Fair, Lumberjack Days and Covington's various activities to draw visitors to the area.

"When the (chamber and recreation association) work together, it will make our county even better," Brunet said. "They're a wonderful asset to the area."

The chamber won't hire a director or outside help. It will remain a volunteer-based organization.

At an Oct. 30 meeting, the chamber elected its board of directors; officers were chosen during a Nov. 6 meeting.

Board members voted in were Reid, Brunet, Bugni, Debbie Hansen of Quality First Forest Products in L'Anse, Faye Lozier of the Baraga County Memorial Hospital; Roy Kemppainen, L'Anse Village Clerk; John Mantila, manager of the Ojibwa Casino in Baraga; Paul Lampinen, vice-president of Superior National Bank & Trust in Baraga; and Larry Denomie, owner of Baraga Mobil-Mart.

The chamber office is located inside the Baraga County Recreation Association in L'Anse. The cost to join is \$75 a year.

To become a charter member, or for more information, call (906) 353-8808.

New Chassell business offers engraved gifts, art

By OLIVIA BARTLETT
Gazette Writer

CHASSELL — A love for crafts, art and engraving spawned the opening of a new business in Chassell.

Master Engravers Gifts & Art held its grand opening Monday.

The store carries handcrafted items, ceramics, jewelry, woodwork and other gifts. There is an art and photography gallery inside the shop.

"We've got items for everybody," said office manager Paula Isakson. "There's lots of unique, unusual and handmade gifts."

Isakson, of Chassell Township, and her husband Dan, paired up with Deanna and Kevin Olsen of Hancock. Each couple found their niche in the

Master Engravers Gifts and Art

Opened: Monday
Where: 42010 Wilson Memorial Drive, Chassell
Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. 7 days a week
Call: 523-6340



business.

Deanna Olsen sells her chocolate bouquets, decorative angels, Lake Superior driftwood creations, teacher and divorce survival gag gifts and Copper Country photography, among other items.

Dan Isakson and Kevin

Olsen specialize in engraving. Using a laser and diamond-tipped engraver, they can engrave pictures or messages onto wood, metal, plastic, rubber or glass. They've made keychains, clocks, plaques, trophies, picture frames and barometers. Materials up to 18-by-24 inches can get the treatment.

"We encourage people to express what they want to see, and we can accommodate them," Kevin Olsen said. "There's a variety of projects we can do with this machine."

The four owners said Chassell is an ideal location for an art and gift shop. They purchased a former residence to house the business, transforming the living room into a display room and a bedroom

into a computer and engraving room.

The business is located across the street from the Einlerlei.

"Chassell needed something like this here," Deanna Olsen said. "There's a lot of cars that go by, and we just thought it was a good spot. Chassell deserves more credit."

Besides their own creations, the owners stock shelves with coral stone and marble pots, camel bone boxes from India, furry animals, Fenton glass, lighthouse figurines, bamboo plants, stained-glass lamps, handcrafted wildflower jewelry and paintings by Dan's Isakson's brother, Jim Isakson of Ann Arbor.

"We wanted to make shop-



Olivia Bartlett/Daily Mining Gazette
From the left, Dan and Paula Isakson, Deanna and Kevin Olsen display gifts and laser-engraved art they sell inside their new shop, Master Engravers Gifts & Art in Chassell.

ping fun, so nothing here is organized or grouped," Deanna Olsen said. "You never know

when you'll see a (stuffed) bear peeking out of the corner."

Briefs

opusWeb.com lands SmartZone firm

HOUGHTON — opusWeb.com has reached a contract agreement with GS Engineering of Houghton, one of the first businesses in the Michigan Tech Enterprise SmartZone, to overhaul and redefine their existing Web presence.

The purpose behind the project is to greatly enhance the image of GS Engineering and reflect how technologically advanced the company is.

Primarily an information-based Web site, opusWeb.com has already submitted and received approval on the new design for the company's site.

When completed their existing Web site address of gsengineering.com will remain the same.

PROGRESS REPORT

Company honors investment rep

HANCOCK — A Hancock investment representative for Edward Jones Inc. recently was honored by the firm for his job performance.

The recognition earned Stephen S. Zutter an invitation to Edward Jones' annual Managing Partner's Conference at the firm's headquarters in St. Louis.

The three-day meeting pooled the agency's most successful representatives for a discussion with John Bachmann, Edward Jones' managing partner, on is-

sues facing the firm and the financial-services industry as a whole.

Zutter was one of 300 investment representatives out of more than 9,200 Edward Jones brokers nationwide to attend the conference.

Nurse receives new certifications

HANCOCK — A local registered nurse is now a certified hospice and palliative nurse.

Susan Britz is responsible for the day-to-day management of the hospice service of the Western U.P. District Health Department's Superior Home Nursing and Hospice Division. She also manages the health department's education and staff development component.

Portage physician to chair committee

HANCOCK — Portage Health System's medical director and emergency department director will chair the membership committee of the Michigan Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Dr. Kirk Lufkin will help inform emergency physicians throughout the state about the organization and to encourage them to become MCEP members.

Lufkin earned his undergraduate degree from Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., and his medical degree from the University of Hawaii. He is board certified in



LUFKIN

emergency medicine by the American College of Emergency Physicians. In addition, Lufkin serves on the board of directors of MCEP and is a member of its Emergency Medical Services committee. He is a member of the Houghton and Keweenaw County Medical Control Authority. He also serves on the Portage Health Board of Directors.

Educator nominated for diabetes award

HANCOCK — Carol Grafford, diabetes coordinator at Portage Health System, was recently nominated for the Michigan Organization of Diabetes Educators (MODE) Educator of the Year award. The mission of MODE is to advance the role of diabetes educators and improve the quality of diabetes education and care.

Grafford, who is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator, coordinates Living Successfully with Diabetes, Portage Health's American Diabetes Association and Michigan Department of Community Health's Recognized Diabetes Program.

Grafford was nominated for the award because of her strong commitment to improving diabetes care and education at Portage Health.

For instance, she has been instrumental in assisting Dr. David Kass establish a monthly diabetes clinic within his practice.

She has also helped Dr. Douglas McKenzie to set up a monthly diabetes clinic within his practice.

Editor's note: The Progress Report notes job changes, promotions, new hires and attendance at professional functions such as seminars or forums. Please submit entries to jdrake@mininggazette.com or call 483-2202 for more information.