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“We must learn our limits. We are all something, but none of us are everything.”

-Blaise Pascal-

MEETINGS and EVENTS:

Links will provide additional information. Dates for new additions are in **bold**.

<i>What</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Where</i>
BCEDC Board Meeting	Jan. 15th	10 AM – Noon	Washburn Library
Lake Superior Binational Forum	Jan. 26-27	All Day	Northland College, Ashland
Inventors & Entrepreneur's Club	Feb. 1 st	5:30 PM	Iron River Community Center
Living Green Conference	Feb. 3 rd	12:00-5:00 PM	Duluth – Coppertop Church
Global Warming Lecture Program**	Feb. 9 th	6:00-8:00 PM	Duluth Labor Temple, Wellstone Hall
Sustainable Forestry Conference	Feb. 27 th	All Day	Keshena WI
Staying Competitive in Today's Markets (Wood Products)	Feb. 28 th	All Day	Oshkosh WI
Superior Days	Feb. 27-28 th	All Day	Madison WI
Fusion 2007 CEI-CIO Symposium	Feb. 27-28 th	All Day	Fluno Center, Madison WI
Inventors & Entrepreneur's Club	Mar. 1 st	5:30 PM	Iron River Community Center
Renewable Energy Conference	Mar. 8 th & 9 th	All Day	Milwaukee
Future of Farming Statewide Conference	May 14 & 15	All Day	TBA
2007 Entrepreneur's Conference	June. 12-13	All day	Milwaukee

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OREGON and THE NORTHERN TIER

Oregonian business interests are pushing state government to adopt a *green image* in order to enhance economic growth. [An article](#) from the Portland newspaper, *The Oregonian* describes the consensus of over 1,000 business, academic and legislative leaders that Oregon should emphasize environmental values in building a market strategy for Oregon businesses, products and services. Months back a group of Economic Development leaders sponsored by **Vern Kenas** and **Mike BeBeau** from **Xcel Energy** talked about developing a similar image for NW Wisconsin. Maybe we should resurrect the discussions.

MAINE and THE NORTHERN TIER

An [article](#) in the **Boston Globe** highlighted an effort in the State of Maine to consolidate school costs by reducing the number of administrative units from over 150 to 26. The Governor of Maine, **John Baldacci**, has made the proposal as a way of cutting the State's budget. I know this will arouse a few comments among TGIF Readers who have questioned why our Northern Wisconsin School Districts are not looking at potential savings by consolidating administrative functions.

CALIFORNIA and THE NORTHERN TIER

California's **Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger**'s State of the State address was carried on *C-SPAN*. He struck very harmonious chords as he referred to California's investment in research including the "Clean Technology" effort there that I have been following, and advocating for our area, for several months. He said (with some slight modification and emphasis that I've added):

*By nearly any measure, California is the national leader in innovation. The Golden State has more scientists, engineers and researchers—and spends more on research and development—than any other state. **Supported by some of the world's finest universities and research institutions**, California is responsible for **one in four patents**, **attracts half of all venture capital** and **provides 20 percent of all technology jobs** in the United States. From our world-leading stem cell research initiative to renewable energy and alternative fuels, California is the birthplace of innovation. **To maintain California's leadership** in the fastest growing fields, I am proposing \$253.4 million in the 2007-08 budget to support research at the University of California, and am unveiling a Strategic Research and Innovation Initiative, which will provide \$95 million to major projects in three key sectors: "**clean**" **technology**, biotechnology and nanotechnology.*

[Check out the full Web presentation of Schwarzenegger's speech.](#)

How to Start a Business

An “overview” business development course will begin on February 20th . Over five sessions, the course content is designed to develop planning, organizing, financing and management functions needed to start a small business. Included are identification of the resources to create, and develop business plans and techniques to solutions to problem solving within your business environment. Students will also develop appropriate strategies to initiate or maintain a small business. Content is applicable across all business sectors.

Instructor **David Miller** has been doing a great job as Executive Director for the **Barron County Economic Development Corporation** (also BCEDC). The course is provided through **WITC-Rice lake** and will meet from 6:30 until 8:30 PM on Tuesdays Feb. 20th, March 13, 20, 27 and 30, and April 3rd. Register by calling WITC at 1-800-243-9482.

Our Crazy World

A Florida mobile home park is being sold for \$510,000,000 and will potentially displace 500 mobile home owners. The property is on the ocean and many of the owners are sufficiently well-heeled that they don't need to take the money and run. The key to the transaction is that **every** home-owner must agree to move. One of cynical persuasion would think that in this day and age \$510 MM would be better spent paying off politicians. Fortunately Florida's constitution was amended in 2006 to restrict use of eminent domain and prevent its use for private benefit. That the developer is apparently unable to simply buy the political actions needed for, say, a mere \$250 MM, says something about the contemporary power of people, and, about the loud public reaction to the recent 5-4 decision of the US Supreme Court ([Susette Kelo, et al. v. City of New London.](#)) enabling an economic development organization (private developer) to displace home-owners via eminent domain proceedings; thus enabling development of commercial spaces surrounding a new **Pfizer** research facility. In my humble opinion the Kelo decision is an egregious embarrassment for the so-called liberal block on the Court. Dissent included **Justices O'Connor, Rehnquist, Thomas, and Scalia**. Wednesday evening, according to a [CNN report](#), the folks at the mobile home park voted to take the money and run. A \$1,000,000 return on a \$35,000 investment isn't bad even if you have been sitting on (and enjoying) the investment for 30-40 years.

Inventors and Entrepreneur's Club

The following was received this week from **Terry Whipple**:

I usually do not "reply to all" but I just wanted to say to each of you, "Thank You,.... for those that are old and those that are not born yet"...you are fostering a culture and a base of people that are not intimidated by change or problems but instead see them as opportunities to find solutions.... to better our lives.

Many of you have heard me say that, if we have a base of people that know the proper steps to exploring an idea, are supported/motivated by their peers and are introduced to needed resources as soon as possible, It doesn't matter what happensthese people will see it as an opportunity and work to better the situation. Well, here is an example: a few of years ago I had read that it was being predicted that antibiotics will have no effect on the human body within 10

years. I was quite alarmed, hearing of neighbors and relatives that had ailments that were not responding to numerous types of antibiotics. Just a few weeks ago I met with a small group of entrepreneurs within our I&E Club region, made up of young doctors and researchers. They formed a little company that is identifying successful new antibiotic compounds found in certain mushroom2006s. They have all the same struggles that most innovators & entrepreneurs face but they saw the problem and are working to find a solution. This is what make America Great!

Best wishes to your I&E Club....and be well,

*Terry Whipple
JCEDC and the Juneau County I&E Club*

5th Anniversary of NCLB

Monday evening C-SPAN highlighted events in Washington DC celebrating the fifth year since passage of the **No Child Left Behind** (NCLB) Act.

US Chamber of Commerce in Washington DC sponsored a morning celebration of the anniversary. President & CEO **Tom Donohue** said that in last week's *State of the Business Economy* address he placed education reform is at the top of the list of Chamber priorities.

He commented that persistently low performing schools demanded reauthorization of NCLB. Next month the US Chamber of Commerce will issue a state by state report card validated by a highly credentialed panel selected by the Chamber. He mentioned that 40% of students enrolling in college have to take one or more remedial courses, typically in Math, but English proficiency is a common problem for many of these students. The reasons for students falling short of college entry standards are many and certainly not always the responsibility of the middle schools and high schools they attended. The report card will be accompanied by an “agenda for change”, serving as a road map for state and local governments.

A keynote speaker at the US Chamber gathering on Monday was Secretary **Margaret Spelling**, [US Department of Education](#). From behind her goggle-like glasses she exhorted that the US Business Community must stand strong behind the national effort for reauthorization of the NCLB Act. Spelling is a Bush follower from Texas, an early political ally who was Executive Director of the **Texas Association of School Boards**. Forgive my irreverent bias, but her School Board connection is not a power credential for anything attached to contemporary understanding of instruction, learning or assessment, although to be fair, many School Board members make a real effort to support strong educational values. Chamber links and influences for election of sympathizers to school boards in many communities are sometimes pretty obvious. Spelling said she “choose the Chamber to make the presentation” recognizing that the Chamber is the “Amen Chorus.” Then adding that it “takes a village of business people to reauthorize NCLB.” I can easily imagine some listener leaning over to a neighbor and whispering, “heh, heh, Hillary should hear *that*, heh, heh, heh.”

An article by **Amanda Paulson** in the [Christian Science Monitor](#) argues that reauthorization is viewed as unlikely by some Washington insiders interviewed by the **Thomas Fordham Foundation**. Although even critics admit that NCLB has changed the national conversation

about education, there is a sense that the Act, as implemented, leaves serious gaps that preclude real reform and advancement.

NCLB requires states to assess performance and schools must make adequate yearly progress projecting that ALL students will be proficient by 2014. **Senator Edward Kennedy** (D-MA), an early and enthusiastic proponent of the NCLB Act, is now harshly critical of the extent to which ALL children are being served by certain provisions of NCLB. A provision of the Act provides for supplementary services for those students not measuring up. It is the inadequacy of these supplementary services that Kennedy criticizes most strongly. In a speech to the **Center for American Progress**, also on Monday, Kennedy proudly highlighted Massachusetts' high performance scores and described a Massachusetts initiative to increase student's classroom time.

LAKE SUPERIOR BINATIONAL FORUM

The quarterly meeting of the Lake Superior Binational Forum (LSBF) is a lot closer to home this month, meeting in Ashland on the **Northland College** campus on Friday and at **Explorer's Point Restaurant** on Saturday morning. On Friday afternoon, January 26th, the Forum will address the sustainability movement in a Public Input Session. Although there is still one uncertainty in the speaker lineup, we are expecting **Tim Nolan** of **Minnesota's Pollution Control Agency** to talk about Eco-industrial Development, Dr. **Kim Bro**, Director of Sustainability at Northland College to talk about the implementation of high performance energy measures at the college, **Steve Sandstrom**, Chairman of the **Alliance For Sustainability** Steering Committee and **Brandon Boys**, **Ashland City Council** President to talk about the Eco-Municipality resolutions adopted by Chequamegon Bay communities. **Jason Fischbach**, UWEX Agriculture Agent for Bayfield and Ashland Counties and **Sue Martinson**, Explorer's Point Developer, will provide the Forum with insight about how Bayfield County and the Martinsons worked successfully with the development of Explorer's Point to protect Chequamegon Bay both during and after construction.

Following the Public Input Session on Friday, Northland students will lead a campus tour – weather permitting – Is this Winter or what?

Take care and have a great weekend!

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Bruce Lindgren is Principal of [B.Lindgren CONSULTING](#). The consulting practice serves small business, local government, school districts and non-profits providing support for research, grant development, technical writing, marketing support and project management. Bruce brings his background in biological sciences, education, small business and media technology to generate and implement ideas contributing solutions to mission critical challenges.

In addition Bruce maintains the following affiliations:

[Bayfield County Economic Development Corporation](#), (BCEDC) *Director*

[Inland Sea Society](#), *Director*

[Lake Superior Binational Forum](#), *US Delegation Co-Chair*

[Raindrop Garden Gallery](#), *Co-owner*

[IDEA Consortium LLC](#), *Owner*

[Chequamegon Institute, Inc.](#) *Initial Registered Agent*

The encircled fractal triangle represents an integrated cluster of seven ideas – economics, ecology, equity, ethics, education, experience and energy – that may be considered a core for sustainability studies. Bruce is available to present illustrated lectures and facilitate discussions about Sustainable Economic Development and the Sustainability Revolution.