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## Twin Lakes resort relies on wood heat

By Kelly Fosness, Gazette Writer

TWIN LAKES – If there's one resource we have in the Upper Peninsula, Kurt O'Clair said, it's wood.

"And when starting a new business," the co-owner of the Parkview Lodge & Grill in Twin Lakes added, "what we were looking to do was save money. With that natural resource in the area, we thought that made the most sense as far as what would more likely stay consistent over the next few years."

And consistent it has been for the lodge, which utilizes three large outdoor wood furnaces to heat the 16,000-square-foot hotel/restaurant, which opened December 2004. Featuring 16 hotel rooms, an indoor pool, hot tub and sauna, each of the three furnaces has separate functions.

"One is responsible for heating the pool and hot tub, another supports the heat for the hot water system in the building and the third is responsible for heating the rooms," he said.

"Between our night staff and our day staff, we go out there and feed the stoves a couple times a day in the winter. When it's really cold, it's more like three times, but since it's been mild, like it has been in the past week, we're out there just over one time a day."

Manufactured by Central Boiler out of Wisconsin, the furnaces are six feet deep, five feet wide and five feet high. The system works by pumping heated water from the central boiler furnace to the facility through insulated, underground

pipes. A heat exchanger conveys the heat into a forced-air furnace and radiant floor heating system. While a majority of the heat comes from the floor, O'Clair said, there is a forced air unit in the restaurant and lobby area to help move the air around.

"There's absolutely no wood-burning smell on the inside," O'Clair added. "But depending on the wind direction, you can sometimes smell it on the outside, just like the food from the restaurant. I hear a lot of comments like, 'it smells like campfire,' which I think gives it more lodge-like feel."