

# Mike Rowe: Don't 'Follow Your Passion' To Choose a Job - Take It With You

**Jobs:** From page 3

bartending, since he has a difficult time making a beer choice and often holds up the entire crew before placing his order. Mr. Barsky, who is afraid of heights, was filmed changing the flag on Grand Hotel's copula. Other scenes were shot at Mission Point Resort.

Often, people featured have never seen a television camera before, said Mr. Barsky, and have no idea how to deal with it, so the crew must work to make them comfortable. Mr. Rowe brings humor to some of the dirtiest jobs and the crew is working right there with him, said Mr. Barsky, as are those people whose job is featured.

"We like to call the people we go to the hosts of the show," he said. "They really are, because they are teaching us. It is truly a group effort."

The show is considered one of the most efficient in television, said Mr. Barsky, who attributes this to the teamwork of the crew. The crew

is sometimes able to film an hour of television in one day, which is rare, he said.

"Nobody else does that," he added. "That's a fact."

"Dirty Jobs" is shown nationally on the Discovery Channel and in 173 countries around the world.

"It is a big deal and it freaked me out for awhile," said Mr. Rowe. "Then I decided these aren't bad cards, play them, but, honestly, don't just look at the entertainment value of the show, look at the themes that are under it and what decent thing might you be able to do or what might you be able to talk about as a result of this."

That is when he came up with the idea of mikeroweWorks.com.

The show's themes of working in a trade are timeless, universal, and current, particularly based on the country's job market today, he said. The Web site offers visitors a place to chat about work and is a place for trades people and students who want to learn more about a career in

a trade. The site also includes information on trade schools, scholarships, and state colleges.

He does not believe in the platitude "work smart, not hard," and considers it one of the worse pieces of advice he has ever gotten.

"What nonsense that is, and you'll see it hanging on posters in corporate boardrooms hanging all over the country," he said. "It's ridiculous. Work is under siege in this country. The attitude of what it means to labor, literally, has just been so redefined we're all so confused. We're upside down. We're trying to create jobs that people don't aspire to. They'll take them because they are desperate for work, but there is no love of shovel-ready jobs that there used to be. That's got us in a mess, you know."

Mr. Rowe, who admits to sleeping about four hours a night and is on the road three weeks of every month, said he devotes as much time to the Web site as he can. Since its launch on Labor Day last year, he

has hired people to help with it.

He is quick to say he loves his job and he is serious about his work.

"Dirty Jobs" started out on a San Francisco show as three features called "Somebody's Got To Do It." Mr. Rowe had the intention of highlighting jobs his grandfather had done. The man was born knowing how to fix things, he said, including building a house without a blueprint.

Mr. Rowe admits that he did not inherit his grandfather's talents and so turned to entertainment for a career. Although he comes off on the show as being easygoing, he is serious and passionate about the promotion of skilled trades and those who have the talent for a craft.

"I do believe, whatever your job is, if you approach it like a trade, you'll be better for it," he said. "There are many performers who simply are in the business because they want a measure of fame, or notoriety, or money and they are imitating everybody around them. And that's OK. That's what the business rewards, but if they worked it more like an electrician, or a carpenter, or a welder approaches their work, I think they'd have a lot more success. Most people who do what I do don't really look at it that way, and even though I don't really have any of the talent my granddad did, I do remember very clearly the way he looked at work and I try and approach my career that way."

For "Dirty Jobs," he said, the crew looks for people who may not be doing what they had envisioned, but rather have taken a different path, and still brought enthusiasm to their job.

"Don't follow your passion," said Mr. Rowe. "You take your passion with you and you go out into the world passionately looking to make your way. This business of following your passion is not what we expose on 'Dirty Jobs.' All these dirty industries that people are avoiding, we feature people who went toward them on purpose and then they figured out a way to make money and then they figured out a way to love it. To me, that's the lesson that ought to be out there and those are the role models we ought to be finding. People who have figured out a way to love what they do, not because they had a dream of doing it, but because they are practical people who need to make ends meet and they are out there in the world with the rest of us."

"To me those are the people with stories worth telling," he added. Mr. Rowe has found those kind of stories and people on Mackinac Island.

"I don't think anybody on Mackinac lives here by accident," he said. "It is not a place you pass through. This is a place you come to and while it is all vacation and fun and tourist driven as an economy, the reality of living here takes work. You've got to ship stuff in, you've got to dig into the rock, and you've got to hang on."

"It can't be easy to live on an Island that doesn't really grow anything, doesn't mine anything, it's all got to come to you. The people who are here are deliberate people who

made an intentional choice and as a rule, I like being around deliberate and intentional people. They're interesting. They know who they are. They tend to know what they want. I like 'em."

In addition to "Dirty Jobs," Mr. Rowe is the voice on Discovery Channel's "Deadliest Catch" and a spokesman for Ford Motor Company. He has turned down movie and television offers and book deals.

He has accepted a few endorsements like Ford Motor Company, which fits the theme of "Dirty Jobs."

"Ford is in Michigan and this is one of my favorite states," he said.

He is not sure how many more seasons "Dirty Jobs" will continue to air.

"I haven't had an original idea since 2006," he admits. "All the ideas for the show come from viewers. As long as they keep coming, as long as my shoulder holds out, my knee doesn't collapse, I'll keep doing it. I don't know when it ends, or how."

Along with Mr. Rowe and Mr. Barsky, crew members visiting the Island last week included cameramen Troy Paff, Doug Glover, and Dan Eggiman, field coordinator Greg Brandon, sound mixer Chris Jones, and assistant cameraman Ryan Walsh.

In addition to Mackinac Island, episodes filmed this year in the Upper Peninsula include building a log cabin in Rapid River and working on the Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie. They are expected to air in November or December.

## Mackinaw City Voters Elect 5 Sept. 15

**Election:** From page 1

his old seat on the council, and he plans to do that at the October 1 meeting. He also plans to choose a president pro-tem.

Mr. Hingston plans to fill other open seats on several village boards and commissions, including the Economic Development Corporation and Downtown Development Authority.

A student at North Central Michigan College in Petoskey, Mr. Celez will be busy in the upcoming year. In addition to serving as village trustee, he will also be a man-

ager at the Starlite Budget Inn. In light of his new village government position, Mr. Celez is poring over village ordinances and municipal laws. His primary goal in the upcoming meetings, he said, is to learn more about his role in village government. He will also listen closely to everyone who approaches the council to learn about what the public needs and is concerned about, he said.

Trustee James Alford wants to see renewed focus on village business after the election. Many projects need to be started, he said, including remodeling in the back of

the village hall. With an increasing number of people attending village council meetings, it must be made more accommodating, he said. New carpeting, better seating arrangements, and a speaker system are planned for the improvements.

The water and sewer system will be addressed, as well, he said. Still in the talking stages, the update will need to be conducted in the next few years.

Ms. Jaggi will slowly move into her new position as clerk, she said, and will work with Mrs. Clemens to learn the basics of the job in October.

## Police Car Requests, Parking on City Agenda

**City:** From page 1

Once grant requests begin to be accepted online, the city will have 30 days to complete and turn in its application for the funding. Other grants through the EECBG program pay for other kinds of weatherization, like replacing old windows with newer, more energy efficient ones, and the city plans to apply for these, also, as they become available.

### City Requests Fund for Police Cars

The St. Ignace Police Department applied for stimulus funding in April through the Office of Justice Programs to purchase two new police cars to supplement its aging fleet.

The police department will know on or before September 30 if it will be getting the \$42,000 grant, at which time the city's public safety committee would consider purchasing the new cars. There would be some additional cost to the city, which would need to pay the difference between the grant and the cost of buying and equipping two new cars.

One of the four cars being used by the department, Police Chief Tim Matelski said, has 153,000 miles on it while another car has 143,000 miles. These numbers can be deceiving, he said, since the police cars are used for such long periods at a time.

"One hundred fifty thousand is an artificial number," Mr. Dodson said. "These cars are running up to 16 to 18 hours a day."

The department also plans to get a used car from the Mackinac County Sheriff's Office, which recently replaced many of its fleet and has made its old cars available to other area law enforcement offices.

This car is waiting to be stripped of lights and equipment so the police department can install its own, but City Police Chief Tim Matelski said this could take up to 30 days. Even this car has 97,000 miles on it and the two other vehicles owned by the city police department are starting to have problems, as well. Regular maintenance is key to keeping these old cars running and safe for officers.

"It wasn't for the maintenance on them, the wheels would have fallen off a long time ago," Mr. Matelski said. There is also the opportunity to get used cars from other police departments like the Sault Tribal Police, but Mr. Matelski said the best solution would be to purchase new cars through the grant, if it is

awarded.

### Marina Guests Promised Parking

Revisiting an issue brought up at City Council's last meeting, Marina Director Gene Elmer gave Council members an update on the parking problem at the marina.

After Arts Dockside this year, several seasonal guests at the city-owned marina complained about getting kicked out of the parking lot during special events. A possi-

ble solution was brokered during a Harbor Authority meeting, in which 13 paved spots and 22 spots in the grassy area north of the marina lot would be reserved for marina guests during Arts Dockside. Additional parking would be available at a city lot on Spring Street, and a marina employee would be placed at one of the lot's entrances to allow marina guests to enter and exit.


Turn to page 5: City

## Red Letter Days

Major Community Events in the Coming Year

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|--|--|
| <b>October 2009</b>  | <b>May 2010</b>  |
| •Bayside Fall Fest, October 3, St. Ignace                    | •Yooper Motorcycle Show, May 30, St. Ignace                              |
| <b>December 2009</b>   | <b>June 2010</b>   |
| Holiday Open House and Parade, December 4, St. Ignace        | •Lilac Festival, June 4 - 13, Mackinac Island                            |
| •Christmas in Mackinaw, December 4 - 6, Mackinaw City        | •Kids' Fishing Day, June 5, St. Ignace                                   |
| <b>January 2010</b>  | •Blessing of the Fleet, June 19, St. Ignace                              |
| •Winterfest, January 15 - 17, Mackinaw City                  | •Antiques on the Bay, June 18 - 19, St. Ignace                           |
| <b>February 2010</b>   | •St. Ignace Car Show, June 24 - 26, St. Ignace                           |
| •Brevort Ice Jamboree, February 13 - 14, Brevort Lake        | •Port Huron to Mackinac Island Yacht Race, July 17 - 19, Mackinac Island |
| •Snowsfeet, February 12 - 14, Cedarville                     |  |
| •Bayside Ice Festival, February 13 - 14, 19 - 21, St. Ignace |  |
| •Antique Snowmobile Show, February 19 - 20, Naubinway        |  |

### DEADLINES



**The St. Ignace News**

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**POLICIES**

- News of public meetings and events is printed without charge. Submissions a week in advance are advisable.
- Letters to the editor must be signed and include address and phone number. Names are withheld only in exceptional circumstances. Thank you letters are required to be placed as paid personal notes.
- Wedding photos will be printed only within 45 days after ceremony.

### Foolish Birthday

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

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**ACROSS**

1 Manhattan Project creation

6 HMO personnel

10 Developing area?

14 Inured, with "on"

19 Lordly

20 River of Aragon

21 Skewed type: abbr.

22 "Superman" star

23 Italian composer born 4/1/1866

26 Sub detector

27 Coined money

28 Pipsqueak

29 Can't way to take things

31 Land in the ocean

33 Top

34 Elec. letters

35 Computer expert

36 American psychologist born 4/1/1908

41 Norm

43 Andy Capp's wife

44 Raleigh's sl

45 "The Getaway" actress born 4/1/1938

51 Sudden loss of nerve

54 Cartoonist Browne

56 Freudian conscience

57 Iole collaborator?

58 Needles partner

59 Chicago-to-Frankford dir.

60 Roman route

61 Nuclear collector

62 Capone harasser

63 Inning ends

64 "Code of the West" author Gray

65 Bawls

67 Horror film actor born 4/1/1883

69 Poet Pound

70 Port opening

71 Edge of night?

72 Quite a while

73 P. Hearst's kidnappers

74 Church recess

75 Crimsom opponent

76 Masseuse employees

77 Dreaded

80 Historical miniatures

82 "The Ramparts ..."

83 Scourge's

85 "A Date with Judy" actress born 4/1/1928

87 Live

88 La hermana de mi madre

89 To crite

**DOWN**

1 Sandy from

2 Street sound

3 Beast

4 "Housewives" Cross

5 Kind of down usually

6 Brief closing words?

8 Frying aid

9 Makes solemn

10 Puff

11 Squaw speaker

12 Frenetic

13 Concealed, as a driveway

14 While lead-in

15 "Attica" actor born 4/1/1928

16 Wish granter

17 Skirt

18 Jeter or Jacob

24 Synthetic rayon trademark

25 Russia's Mountains

30 Prod cameras

32 Roast most

34 Painted tool

36 Colts' org

37 Voting unit

38 Good thing to be on

39 Photo enhancer

40 Farmer acorns

42 Bridge winner, usually

46 Pastry forth

47 Dank

48 Pave over

49 Atlas rockel stage

50 Sported

52 "The Making Game" actress born 4/1/1932

53 Steads

54 LP. far are

55 Fit

58 Novelist Robert Warren

62 Not at all

63 Wallet filters

65 Brown pigment

66 Wyatt's Christmas

67 Bohco TV drama

68 Pastry thickener

69 Comp'n

70 Religious pilgrimage

71 Reduced in rank

73 Shipping centers

76 Auction word

77 On all

78 This, in Toledo

79 Knock off

81 Impersonate

83 Norm: abbr.

84 Despondent

85 Farm land

87 Native heroine

91 "White" of Fortune creator Griffin

92 Essential stew component

93 Heavy-footed dances

94 Corn husk dish

95 Farmer 49ers coach Bill

96 Sister of Calliope

97 "Idol" judge Paula

99 "The Piano" extra

100 Legends

104 Remainder

105 Hanger in a coset

106 Box score stats

108 Essence

109 Fight

110 Eight shorteners

113 Like most fifth graders

114 up to you

## OBSERVER Crossword

Find the Solution to Last Week's Puzzle on the Classified Page.