

Bandit Industries gets funds

State money will be used for job training

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Remus-based Bandit Industries is in line to receive \$25,000 from the state for employee training.

That's according to the Middle Michigan Development Corp., which worked with the manufacturer of wood chippers and recycling equipment to help the company qualify for the grant.

The grant comes in the

form of a Michigan Economic Development Corp.'s economic development job training pilot program grant, the local economic development agency said.

The money is to be used to train 45 employees.

"We started the process this past summer," said Carolyn Bennett, the director of promotions and work force development for Middle Michigan. "It is a process to go through."

The state economic devel-

opment agency's management team has approved the grant.

State training dollars are available to companies both for training new workers and for retraining existing workers to keep their jobs in Michigan, Bennett said.

"Sometimes it's new hires," Bennett said. "Sometimes, it's how many people you can keep employed by providing training.

Besides money through

the state economic development agency, work force training money also is available through the Michigan Works job force development organization.

Bennett said both CME Mitsuba of Mt. Pleasant and Mears Inc. of Rosebush recently had qualified for so-called "incumbent worker dollars," designed to help defray the cost of worker retraining.

"They (employers) know to call me and ask what we

can bring to the table to help," Bennett said.

Bandit Industries employs about 300 people in western Isabella County.

A second Michigan Economic Development Corp. grant also was awarded recently to the city of Mt. Pleasant and the Midori Sushi Restaurant and Martini Bar.

The state economic development board will help pay for façade improvements at the establishment, now under construction.

The establishment is being billed as a "chic and trendy restaurant" and is likely to open sometime after the first of the year.