Seniors not represented
To the editor:
Attention: District 1 Stambaugh Township, Iron River Township and Gaastra. Your commissioner is not representing the people and particularly the senior citizens in your district.
The senior programs were set up by the federal government. UPCAP administers them and they contract with DICSA to oversee the nutrition program for the senior citizen centers.
Our county votes on a millage allocated for the senior citizens. This money has now been distributed by the amount of taxes where there is a center. Fine, but then they took the money where there wasn't a center and that money from your district was not given to the Iron River center, but divided among all four centers.
The money should be given to the centers on how many meals served at the centers and meals on wheels delivered, since it is a nutrition program. This is how it turned out cost per meal served by each center.

Alpha Senior Center $19,209.95, meals served 675 receives, 28.46 per meal
Amasa Senior Center $12,852.58, meals served 4,363, receives 2.95 per meal
Crystal Falls Senior Center $26,857.66, meals served 10,186, receives 2.63 per meal
Iron River Senior Center $64,934.23, meals served 24,071, receives 2.70 per meal.
Crystal Falls and Iron River Centers are the two centers that deliver meals on wheels to the house-bound people of the county.
The commissioners on the east side and your commissioner disregarded the fact that this was a service provided. They do not like the idea that DICSA oversees the program. In my opinion, they would like to take over this program and use that money as they see fit. This would be a disaster for the senior centers.
The senior center in Iron River has been very satisfied with DICSA. I can count on one hand how many times your commissioner has been in the center, and knows how it is run. The county owns our building and does not spend one penny in maintenance or repairs of the building or grounds. They do pay out $900 in insurance. Big Deal.
Your commissioner states he was mandated by you to take office and make changes.
You elected someone to office that wants things his way or no way, not representing the people of District 1. He has made it east side, west side again; him being on the east side. If it is not broken don't fix it. The site councils should decide what best suits them and, what is good for the senior citizen centers, not the county commissioners.
-s- Nancy Beber
Site Council Member
Iron River Center

Why we need DICSA
To the editor:

Are you one of the people who work hard to make a living for your family and struggle with a light bill or fuel to keep warm? Or maybe your house is so drafty and you need but can't afford to weatherize your house, or your parent's house.

Your paycheck barely covers your food bill and you line up an hour early to get food commodities. Maybe you care for a person who needs someone with them at all times, yet you need time to run errands. Are you having difficulty getting time off from your job in order to take your elderly parent to the doctor, because she/he can no longer drive?

Did you know that you can get help for all this from a place called DICSA? But wait. Did you know that our new county chairman thinks you don't need any of that help, and as we are led to understand, he is attempting to shut DICSA out of Iron County?

Using incorrect information, some of the County Board tampered with the funding of each senior center. Now we are also getting conflicting messages about the unnecessary need to have DICSA in Iron County. What they don't seem to realize is that county funding and DICSA are like two sides of the same coin, both are necessary to operate ALL senior centers and to care for ALL the people of Iron County.

It is unfortunate that those in office don't come to the people who elected them, or to the Site Council meetings. We don't like to hear of possible changes in our programs without having our commissioners also listening to what we know. I'd like to believe that all of us are for the good of our people. I also don't believe in fixing things that aren't broken.

-s- Pat Gasperini
Iron River

Hats off to West End Players

To the editor:

Congratulations to the cast, Ann Meldrum, and the production crew of Beauty and the Beast for their stupendous performances last month at the Windsor Auditorium.

A lot of hard work goes into a musical play, and I want to thank everyone involved for their fine talents, enthusiasm, cooperation and dedication to bringing such an utterly enjoyable and delightful event to Iron County.

I saw Scrooge and South Pacific and they were great, too, but I especially enjoyed this show as the music was continuous throughout the play, therefore, presenting a special challenge to the performer. They pulled it off and rose to the occasion. Congratulations again and best wishes to you,

-s- Kathy Haile
Gaastra

Looking for family

To the editor:

I am the grandnephew of Antonette (Antonia) Webber-Battan from Iron River. She was born in 1883 and emigrated from Masi di Vigo, Austria, married to Andrew Battan. In the 1920 census, they had the following five children at home: Mary 11, Lena 9, Elvio 8, Lucy 6, William 4. In 1930 Mary and Lena had left. She may have died in 1972 or died Feb 27, 1974.

I have been in contact with a granddaughter Karen Lundsford in Germantown Wis., but have lost contact.
I have extensive Webber family history that I can share with any surviving descendants of Antonia/Antonette Webber-Battan. I can be contacted via the following: e-mail: grappadw@bellsouth.net ;
phone: (828) 891-2580; mail: 1470 Mtn Meadow Dr, Hendersonville NC 28739
-s- Dick Webber
Hendersonville, N.C.

Generosity appreciated
To the editor:
I wish to thank the following Iron River merchants for their generosity in assisting me with putting together a “wish list” package to be sent to the Ronald McDonald House in Ann Arbor: Bigari’s, Pamida, Family Foods and Tony Fittante Sales.
Several years ago, I had reason to be living at the house during my daughter’s treatment for cancer. Until you are in that type of situation, you have no idea what a need there is for the existence of these havens of respite in difficult times. The items collected will be greatly appreciated for their availability to the temporary residents at the house, as well as the staff.
Thanks again to the local businesses that helped me to pay back just a little of the kindness that was shown to us in our time of need.
-s- Sandy Wolf
Iron River

Important meeting
To the editor:
The Dickinson-Iron Community Service Agency has scheduled the Dickinson-Iron Governing Board annual meeting for Thursday, Feb. 10, for 10 a.m. at the Iron Mountain Senior Center at Iron Mountain.
If you have been following the Iron Mountain Daily News, you will see that on Wednesday, Feb. 2, DICSA advertised for an elected official from Iron County for the DICSA Governing Board. If you have been following the Iron County Reporter (Jan. 19), you will see that the Iron County Board of Commissioners has already filled their three DICSA Governing Board public sectors with Wayne Wales, Carl Lind and Bev Camp on the DICSA Board, with Fran Wills as the alternate.
It should be interesting at this annual meeting to see if DICSA is running the Iron County government or the Iron County Board of Commissioners is running the Iron County government.
The media should cover this meeting and let the public know through their papers and TV what is going on. The public should attend if they can and be informed and offer their comments. It's your millions they are spending.
-s- Gerald McCole
Channing