Excellent award
To the editor:
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Oldenburg Group Inc. on receiving the 2010 Award of Excellence on Jan. 28, 2011. The Oldenburg Group Inc. was chosen by Operation Action U.P. to receive this award, which honors companies that have made outstanding contributions to the economic well-being of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

How fortunate we are to have this plant in Iron River. Other facilities of the Oldenburg Group are situated in Kingsford, Ontonagon and Rhinelander, Wis. Employees at the facilities design and build specialized heavy equipment used in defense, mining and energy operations around the world.
The important news of the award was listed on page 9, in the Feb. 2, 2011 edition of the Iron County Reporter. This should have been front page news to highlight the success of local industry and to demonstrate the commitment of our community to its businesses. We know our community is a great place to live. Let us also show that it is a great place for businesses to thrive and for industry to prosper.
For other companies that would like to locate their businesses in Iron River, contact the Iron County Chamber of Commerce: Phone 906-265-3822, fax 906-265-5605, or online at www.iron.org/chamber
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Reasons for companies to locate here include the following: We have dependable, hard working people in the area; the splendor of the four seasons of spring, summer, fall and winter; and we have land and buildings available. No earthquakes. No mud slides. No volcanoes. No tornadoes.
-s- Rose M. Johnson
Iron River

Use our own resources
To the editor:
Lately, a lot of people are complaining about the high cost of energy. Everyone blames the greedy oil, coal, gas and electric companies. But no one talks about the politicians who went right from law school into politics and college professors who lived all their life on federal grants, who make laws and regulations that have made a mess of American energy policy since 1973.
These politicians and regulators told us way back when to go all nuclear and hydroelectric and electrify everything in a home. They also told companies that used fuel oil and coal to switch to natural gas. Then these people said nuclear power was bad and power companies were told to build coal plants. Then coal became bad and power companies were told to use natural gas, this caused the price of household natural gas to skyrocket. Then hydroelectric dams were removed on a massive scale because they supposedly killed fish. (Remember when there was an effort to stop the power plant in Crystal Falls on the Paint River, because it supposedly killed

thousands of fish.) Now these same politicians and regulators want us to do away with natural gas, coal, nuclear, wood, fuel oil, etc., and just have solar power and windmills.

We are a nation that has more natural gas than Russia, more oil than the Arab states and a thousand year supply of low sulfur coal. Yet we have a government that says we can't touch it. No permits are being issued for offshore drilling, yet Russia is drilling for oil in international waters in the Arctic off of Alaska. Cuba with Chinese help is drilling for oil in international waters off of the Florida Straits. On the Canadian side of the Great Lakes there are over 900 oil and gas rigs on the Great Lakes. Almost 50 percent of the low sulfur coal mined in this country is exported to China to power their power plants.

We Americans need to let the government know, enough is enough. The only way America will ever have low unemployment and a better way of life, is to use the natural resources we are blessed with. Let oil and coal companies drill and dig, if they pollute, fine them and make them clean up their mess, but don't ban them. (All of Germany's electric power comes from coal.) Build more nuclear power plants. (All of France's electricity comes from nuclear power.) Build more oil refineries. One industry after another should not be shut down because of fears of pollution, or unknown global warming science.

Making Americans live a third world existence to combat global warming is nuts. How many solar and wind powered cars, trucks, trains or airplanes do you see? By the year 2020 there might be a million electric cars out of 200 million American cars on the road. Right now America needs to use all its resources in a common sense manner, to make cheap affordable energy, that all can use to make America an economic super power again.

-s- Don Wolf
Iron River

Teach your children

To the editor:

While growing up, most of us were taught that taking what does not belong to you is wrong. Yet we see in our own community some adults have no problem creating hardships on others to benefit themselves. When making decisions that affect all the seniors in Iron County, we must stick to the facts and not be swayed by those who spread misinformation. The goal by all should be to protect our senior programs and centers by being fair to all those involved.

-s- Wayne Wales
Iron County Board Chairman
Iron River

Bike path
appreciated

To the editor:

First, I wish to express my thanks to all those individuals involved with the bike path here in Crystal Falls. As a runner, I feel much safer running on the path than on the roads. I look forward to with great anticipation the path's extension to Iron River. When that comes to fulfillment, I will be able to do all my training on the bike path. Also, I can see taking the family

on a bike ride to Bewabic State park for a swim. I can imagine those staying at Bewabic campgrounds wanting to ride their bikes into town for snacks or dinner. The bike path is a great way to get some exercise and experience this beautiful scenery we have up here.

Second, I wish to thank the township of Crystal Falls for plowing the snow from the bike path. You can't imagine the joy I've experienced when heading out for a tempo run and the bike path has been recently plowed.

You've made training for my first marathon a bit easier. Thank you

-s- Cheryl Scott
Crystal Falls