Community deserves the band
To the editor:
The West Side Veterans Council is a volunteer group of local veterans who volunteer their time without compensation to organize three major events in Iron River every year. The Memorial Day parade, the 4th of July parade and the 4th of July fireworks display. The cost of these events is about $7,000-$8,000 for the cost of fireworks and $500-$800 for float prizes in the 4th of July parade. These funds are raised every year through solicitation.

The only other item the West Side Veterans' Council asks of the community is the participation of the West Iron County School bands. We request that a band march in both the Memorial Day and 4th of July parades. The council is also willing every year to assist with the cost of the bands marching if necessary. Throughout the years, veterans, their families and friends have supported the West Iron County Schools through millages (18 mills on non-homestead properties, businesses, hunting camps, second properties, etc.), student fund-raisers and band uniform fund-raisers
Starting this year the West Iron County band will not march in the 4th of July parade, but the Rodeo parade which is a commercial parade. The band will alternate year after year between the 4th of July parade and the Rodeo parade. The band will also continue to play at all football games. The West Side Veterans' Council and a lot of local citizens believe this is wrong. The Memorial Day parade commemorates those who made the ultimate sacrifice for this country, and the 4h of July to commemorate our independence. These are patriotic events which should take priority over a commercial event. This is also only right since the community supports our local schools. By marching in these two patriotic parades it demonstrates a way for our local band students to give back to the community.
In closing I would like to express gratitude to Forest Park and the East Side Veterans, because even with a lower student enrollment and a worse financial outlook the Forest Park band will continue to march in full uniform in all eastside patriotic events. The West Side Veterans' Council hopes the West Iron County School Board will change their decision and allow the band to continue to march in the 4th of July parade.
-s- Don Wolf
Adjutant, West Side
Veterans Council

Show your support
To the editor:
Recently I attended a public hearing at the Iron County Courthouse for comments and questions pertaining to the Iron County Medical Care Facility's proposed building project. I was, to say the least, appalled at the handling of that meeting, for it was a lengthy meeting which started out with a one-hour presentation from the Iron County Building Authority's legal counsel focusing on every negative he could find to make the proposed project look like doom and

gloom.

We all know that the Iron County Medical Care Facility is an excellent facility that has over the years been progressive in providing the services to meet the needs of our citizens. This project is no different. The need for expanded special needs beds, a distinct unit for short-term rehab and upgrading of the 1976 portion of the building is not only necessary, but also stays within the parameters of the current 200-beds, at no cost to the citizens of Iron County.

Based upon information shared at the meeting, the facility did its due diligence in streamlining the project cost from $16,000,000 to $9,000,000, of which only $7,500,000 would need to be borrowed, thus significantly responding to the concerns of the County Board to scale back the cost of the project.

Along with continuing to meet the needs of the citizens of Iron County, this project brings a lot of good for local economy and businessmen. The facility would employ approximately 10-15 more people, generate new revenues in excess of $2 million annually, provide job opportunities to our local contractors for the next 2-3 years while construction is in process, and in general will provide a boost in our overall economy. The facility's track record stands for itself, having completed three successful building projects in the last 20 years. Should we not be listening to the experts vs. all of the political rhetoric going around?

Your support is needed. Please contact your local County Commissioner or plan to attend the meeting on June 14, at 1:30, in the Courthouse in Crystal Falls, at which time the Iron County Board of Commissioners will be deciding the fate of this project.

Keep our citizens close to home by showing your support.

-s- Ron Basso
Iron River