Ordinance discriminates

To the editor:

I am very concerned about an invasive species ordinance promulgated by Stambaugh Township for Chicaugon Lake in Iron County, Michigan.

According to the draft, boating permits will now be required in astronomical fees for watercraft using the lake in order to control Eurasian milfoil. They claim this problem cannot be resolved through the DNR/state of Michigan. Instead, Stambaugh Township and the Chicaugon Lake Association people have decided to take it upon themselves to tax the recreating public to force boating fees to satisfy this task.

This draft is not only discriminatory, but carries with it severe penalties and open-ended fees for waters that belong to all of us, and I have to question the legality of it.

This is Pure Michigan and it is time to go knocking on the proper doors of the agencies that are responsible for all of our lakes, not just Chicaugon.

Such an ordinance as this will spread through the other townships and we will be taxed right off our Iron County lakes. All I want to do is go fishing.

-s- Norman T. Marcell
Iron River

Pie social a success

To the editor:

The Iron County Museum wants to take this opportunity to thank all the people who donated homemade pies for our Pie Social held on Sunday, Sept. 25.

Also, to all others who volunteered their services in the kitchen and in every way possible.

Thank you to Chet and Ginny and their group for furnishing the beautiful music for dancing.

Thank you to all who attended this fund-raising event and helping to pay our winter utility costs.

-s- Pie Social Committee:
Rose M. Johnson
Audrey Ridolphi
Carol Dallavalle
Caspian

Sidnaw P.O. on closure list

To the editor:

The Postal Service is in the process of closing or consolidating thousands of post offices with no end in sight. Post offices located in rural America and impoverished sections of towns and cities will be hit hardest.

Sidnaw Post Office is on that list.

No tax dollars are saved in the closing of these offices. The U.S. Postal Service is completely supported by postage and fees.

A town without a post office will find it very difficult to attract a company to locate there. No company wants to be in a town without a post office. Closing a town's post office automatically eliminates any hopes of economic development and often results in the town drying up and disappearing, which in turn tends to sharply cut the advertising base for local media, and overall has a ruinous affect on the area's economy.

Multiply that by thousands and one has to conclude that the effect overall on rural America and its institutions (including community newspapers) would be disastrous.

Replacing a full service post office with retail service by a contract facility is a severe reduction in service. Many people still use money orders to pay bill or rely on P.O. box service because of business or other legitimate reasons.

Contract facilities called "village post offices" don't deal with those items. Another critical fact is the USPS can terminate a contract post office at any time.

Federal law prohibits the Postal Service from permanently closing a small post office to save dollars. Under Title 39, United States Code 404(b), any decision to close or consolidate a post office must be based on certain criteria. These include the effect on the community served; compliance with government policy established by law that the Postal Service must provide maximum degree of effective and regular services to rural areas, communities and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining; the economic savings to the Postal Service; and other factors the Postal Service determines necessary.

In the case of Sidnaw, the savings to the Postal Service would be $15,220.30 for a year.

This is a mere "drop in the bucket" compared to what the Postal Service needs, but could cause great harm to the little town of Sidnaw and its residents.

If after reading this, you are concerned that your post office might be in jeopardy, please write to your congressman and advise him or her that you are a constituent and adamantly oppose the U.S. Postal Service's plans to close thousands of rural post offices across the country.

-s- Faith Stenson
Resident and retired Postmaster
Sidnaw

Piemakers thanked

To the editor:

Well, the ladies of Crystal Falls came through again this year and made the most delicious pies for the Harbour House during Harvest Fest.

Thank you, ladies, for your generous donation. Everyone thought the pies were great and truly loved the large selection. Also, thank you to the Harbour House Board of Directors for their wonderful chili. And most important, thank you to the community for supporting the Harbour House, by participating in this most important fundraiser, you made this fundraiser a great success.

The money earned during Harvest Fest will help maintain the Harbour House for students, families, community members, visitors and future generations, to enjoy and to learn about the past.

If anyone would like to purchase additional Mackinac Fudge, it can be purchased at City Hall –

this wonderful fudge makes a great gift for friends and relatives or even yourself.
-s- Jackie Rowan
President
Harbour House
Crystal Falls