Thanks for the support
To the editor:
Thanks to all who supported the Iron County Museum rummage fundraisers in 2011.
The community response both last spring and this fall was astounding. The numerous volunteers at the museum were in awe of the quantity and quality of the donated treasures dropped off for the fundraising events.

We rolled up our sleeves and worked hard to pass on the bargain priced goods to the multitude of eager resale shoppers. The community generosity will live on by funding future projects planned to maintain the historical integrity of the old buildings on the grounds at the museum.
A 'Big Thanks' to all who made the rummage fundraiser possible… the museum staff and volunteers, the donors and, of course, the shoppers. We will see you all in the spring of 2012.
-s- Faye Ballinger
Chairman
Iron County Museum
Rummage Fundraiser, Caspian

Heartfelt thanks
To the editor:
Whoever said the East Side and West Side of Iron County do not get along doesn't know anything about the character of the people.
I live on the East Side and had the misfortune of losing my handbag while I was traveling through the West Side.
The next time I saw the handbag it was on the arm of a West Side deputy, retuning it, fully intact.
I don't know the name of the finder, but I offer him my heartfelt thanks.
May God bless you, He knows who you are.
-s- Barbara Benda
Crystal Falls

Thanks for
your support
To the editor:
The members of Iron County Right to Life would like to thank all those who attended our first ever Focus on Life benefit dinner last Thursday at the Circle Café in Alpha.
There were 150 people who came to hear Barbara Listing, president of Right to Life of Michigan, speak and to show their support for life.
Barbara gave us some very encouraging news: 1) The reported number of abortions performed

in Michigan fell by 13.9 percent in 2009. 2) Abortions for minors (under 18) fell by a stunning 18.6 percent in 2009. 3) Since the peak year in 1987, abortions have fallen 54.4 percent – an all time low! 4) The abortion rate among women under age 25 is trending downward.

We commend the State Legislature and Gov. Rick Snyder in banning the gruesome practice of partial birth abortion in our state. It has taken 15 years to get this important piece of prolife legislation passed, and now as Mrs. Listing states, "Partial birth abortion shall be no more in the great state of Michigan."

We were honored to have in the audience Diane Casperson, representing her husband Sen. Tom Casperson and Janell Huuki who served as our emcee and was there to represent her husband, Rep. Matt Huuki. Also in attendance was Judy Benishek, representing her husband, Congressman Dan Benishek.

There is still much work to be done to bring the message of hope and healing to the Iron County community. We need your support. If you are interested in learning more, please consider joining us at our monthly meetings held on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church on Selden Road.

We will begin nominating new officers in a few short months. Please pray about how you can become more involved in the prolife movement in Iron County. Take some time to visit our website www.ironcountyrighttolife.org and join our Facebook Page to stay informed. We look forward to next year's Focus on Life Dinner – I hope you will too!

-s- Christina Velie, President
Iron County Right to Life
Iron River

A sad time

To the editor:

I have been reading with interest the conflict between the Iron County Board of Commissioners and the Iron County Fair Association.

It is sad at any time when groups cannot work together, but especially when the economy is so bad and it is difficult to keep any function solvent.

There is 150 years of history with the Iron County Fair. It has helped many people young and old to feel like a part of the community, instill leadership and provide entertainment for many.

The Fair Board has always been individuals who are dedicated volunteers. Many of these volunteers have been involved since they were youngsters participating in 4-H. The children of these volunteers now play an important role in the year-to-year operation of the Fair.

Having worked with both the Fair for many years and also on the Rodeo Committee, it has always been necessary to coordinate the dates for the rodeo. It has always been a good working relationship and it was never a question of the Fair Board not cooperating. It was a matter of time, regulations from the state of Michigan and trying to space both events so that it would be to the best advantage of both.

We have a wonderful facility in Iron County that should be used for any and all activities that benefit the county. It would be a terrible loss to our area if all those many volunteers decide that they will not be a part of all the controversy. No one really knows how many hours a person puts in to making the Fair happen, unless you have been a part of it.

Is a new committee prepared for the many hours of work? Do they have the many years of

experience that the current Fair Board has?

The Iron County Fair is an asset to all of us. It was state in the paper that the County Board was not accusing the Fair Board of being dishonest, but it could certainly appear that way to readers. Accusations, name calling and personalities should be put aside and everyone needs to work together for the betterment of Iron County.

Thank you to the Iron County Fair Board and all the many volunteers that have kept the Iron County Fair going all these years. Keep up the good work.

Sometimes, the path you are on doesn't seem like the one you chose, but like driving, you have to steer around the obstacles in order to get where you need to be. Work together to make the best better.

-s- Lois Goriesky-Assmann
Iron River

A sad consequence

To the editor:

Because of a $12,000 annual shortfall, the agency in charge of administering the senior citizen and meals on wheels programs in two counties finds it necessary to curtail services, cut some time ago to four days per week, and now to three. It is hard to believe that there are not funds available from various sources to fill that minor budget gap.

I have enjoyed the center in Crystal Falls during my summer visits for quite a few years, in large part because congregate meals provide an opportunity to encounter a circle of new friends on a regular basis. The menus are in general quite good and the staff and local board members quite friendly and well organized.

One facet of the curtailment that might not be obvious relates to staffing the meals centers. Those employed receive modest compensation at best, and as hours per week are cut, it could well become difficult to retain people necessary for meal preparation and other duties.

Starving the Beast is not a sensible approach when it comes to providing what seems to me a very worthwhile social service.

-s- Rudy Dalpra
Safford, Ariz.

Millage
support

To the editor:

I am writing regarding the Crystal Falls Township Millage proposal to be voted on at the Nov. 8 election.

First of all, I would like to express my support for the present Township Board's efforts in the past and the goals they have set for the future of the township.

As a former township trustee and charter member of the former Crystal Falls Fire Authority Board, I know that without the support of taxpayers, very little can be done to maintain and improve the manner in which the township operates.

I am proud of the many good things the township has accomplished through the years and am

encouraging taxpayers to support the millage proposal on Nov. 8 so that the present and future successful operation of the township can be maintained.

The millage proposal packet mailed out by the township recently includes a lot of good information. Please read it.

-s- Norb Dishaw
Crystal Falls Township

Rest of the
story

To the editor:

This is in reference to a news article that appeared in the Sept. 28 issue of the Reporter entitled, “Recall supporters give their side of the story.” As Paul Harvey used to say “Now…the rest of the story.

I originally thought there were only two instigators passing recall petitions against Wayne Wales, but I now see that there are four and I’m glad they all came out of the closet. I am going to comment on some of the statements they each made.

Rosalie King said there was no contract between DICSA and Iron County, then right after that says there is a contract but it is probably 100 years old. For my own curiosity, I checked on this at the courthouse and there is such a contract.

Rosalie was chair of the County Board for a few years and should have known this. She contradicted herself with her statement. The real reason for getting involved with this recall is a personal vendetta on her part.

Tom King said he as animal control officer was on call 24/7. I used to listen to my police scanner and heard police agencies calling the Sheriff Department dispatcher to call Tom to come to a certain location for a particular problem.

There were many times that the dispatcher responded that Tom wasn’t coming out or he was out of town. I would see him maybe an hour later when I was shopping in Iron River. What happened to the on call 24/7? He also has a personal vendetta here and is out for personal gain too.

-s- Patrick Ward
Crystal Falls

Repair what’s necessary

To the editor:

While driving around the road work in downtown Stambaugh (Iron River) this past week, I thought about my dad and a particular story he would talk about that involved his mother.

On more than one occasion, she would tell him to have on clean underwear before he went out, lest he get into an accident and someone would see he had dirty ones one.

This leads me up to the road work in town or rather, the brand spanking new sidewalks, curbs and street islands laid out on the main street.

Now, I do see the need to repair and replace the curbs and sidewalks as they are falling into disrepair, but with a city that is strapped for cash, I should think it would make more sense to

repair the streets that pretty much everyone uses, rather than the sidewalks that only some use.
Take Blossom for example, which has had its cracks and potholes filled in so many times that it looks like a deranged patchwork quilt. Or Roosevelt, and any number of other streets which have partial asphalt but some sections have only the original concrete when the street was made.
But just look at all those new sidewalks, curbs and street islands on the main street.
Don't forget to put on clean underwear because the outward appearance seems to be the only thing important right now, not the fact that you should bathe before putting on clean clothes.
Just like not bothering to take up the task of tearing apart the broken up, patched up, potholed streets throughout the city, but instead take the time, man power and materials to beautify sections of the main street, not the street itself though, mind you.
Because apparently, what looks good is all that matters.
-s- Susan Ketchum
Iron River