Rising to occasion
To the editor:
Nothing defines the character of a small community better than when disaster strikes one of its own. It is there, at such a time, that one can experience the sense of family that exists. Members join together to help because people matter to one another.
The Chris Skrzyniarz family's meeting with misfortune happened in August when Chris and Sheri were involved in an accident with their motorcycle. Chris did not survive. Sheri was seriously injured and faces months, possibly years, of rehabilitation. It was a life-altering event for their children.

The Skrzyniarzs were known by many in Crystal Falls, but it was a group of virtually unknown Stager Lake residents who spearheaded a rummage sale fundraiser for the family. Within hours of posting signs in Crystal Falls, Iron River and Florence, people began calling offering donations. It took but a few days for the buildings to be filled to capacity where the rummage sale was to be held. Tents had to be brought in to handle the overwhelming response.
The communities of Iron Mountain/Kingsford became involved when two of their residents volunteered to have a bake sale on site and provide hot dogs, chips and beverages the day of the sale. That day, potential buyers from all over the Upper Peninsula and Northern Wisconsin came to purchase, donate and support the Skrzyniarz cause. Two days of rummaging was a huge success.
Numerous local businesses and agencies contributed and helped – Jubilee Foods, Super One, Westwood Quick Stop, Florence Subway, Bev's Supper Club, Florence Auto Parts, Riverside, Prime Assemblies and US 2 Rental. WIKB provided great coverage through their Telephone Time program and WLUC-Channel 6 ran features in their newscast. The Iron County and Florence Sheriff's departments, along with the Michigan State Police, did additional patrolling prior to the sale.
In a situation such as this, people feel helpless and don't know what they can do. This fundraiser gave members of our local communities an opportunity to "do something" and they rose to the occasion admirably. This is what living in a small community is all about and one of the greatest advantages of being where we are.
-s- Cynthia Rahoi
Organizer
Crystal Falls

Movingforward
To the editor:
As one of many members of the Iron County Fair Board, I was present at the last Iron County Fair Board meeting in October. At this meeting the Iron County Fair Board and the County Board came to an amicable agreement that benefits all parties thus hopefully putting to rest past issues.

However, there are some issues that a gentleman stated in the Reporter last week that need to be addressed. Fair Board meetings have always been open to the public (anyone can attend) and will continue to be open to the public.

Monthly and annual statements are handed out, annual statements are sent to the county and to the state. As stated by both the county civil attorney and the pro-bono Fair Board attorney, only county allotted funds could be audited. The Fair Board never had nor ever will have a $100,000 of taxpayers' money. The allotted funds that the Fair Board use to receive from the county ranged between $1,000 to $10,000 annually. Under the new agreement between the two boards this issue is now a mute point.

Some years the Iron County Fair made money, some years it lost money and some years it broke even on expenses. Usually the Fair Board starts a new fair season with a few thousand dollars.

During the course of the fair, the Fair Board may (gross) in the range of $80,000 to $100,000 at the fair. But, after all the expenses; i.e., (grandstand, premiums, equipment, raffle, taxes, insurances and 24 other some items), the Fair Board usually winds up on a good year with (net) profit of a few thousand, to start off the next fair season.

If there is a little over than what may be needed, those funds are put in a CD for emergencies. And there is nowhere near a $100,000 worth of CDs. If the gentleman believes the Fair Board has over a $100,000 lying around he is mistaken.

With the new agreement between the County Board and the Fair Board, we all can move forward and continue to put on a quality county fair for all to enjoy.

-s- Don Wolf
Iron River