Thanks for your support
To the editor:
The Iron County Cancer Unit Board extends a heart-felt thank you to all of the folks who donated during the WIKB Radio-thon on March 6.
The ICCU would not be ale to provide the necessary assistance to Iron County cancer patients without the help of such generous people. As Mo mentioned during the Telephone Time program, the ICCU functions solely on donations and the need to increase financial support is necessary.

WIKB has been a dependable friend to the Iron County Cancer Unit and the ICCU Board is grateful for the opportunity the radio station has provided in allowing the radio-thon.
Also, a huge thank you to Mo, he makes the whole event fun and fruitful. Mo promotes this event before, during and after which is so important. A thank you goes to Leslie for answering calls and our questions and helping us have a successful fund-raiser.
The ICCU Board members send appreciation to Marilyn Budzak for helping at the event and also for promoting the cancer unit. A big thank you goes to Linda Dobson for assisting with taking phone calls and accepting donations at the door.
If you were out of town or happened to miss the fundraiser and would like to donate, please do so. The ICCU is so important to the residents of Iron County who are fighting cancer.
In order for the cancer unit to assist these patients, we really need your help. If you would like to donate please send your check to the Iron County Cancer Unit, P.O. Box 45, Iron River, MI 49935.
-s-Jolane Spoke, President
Darlene Gendron, Vice President
Linda Colombino, Secretary
Donna Bond, Treasurer;
Beverley Dallafior
ICCU Board

In response
To the editor:
This is a factual reply to the letter to the editor submitted by Mary Jane Colombino, Amasa Site Council chairman, Amasa, published in the Iron Mountain Daily News on March 14, 2012, under the heading "This can be avoided," and the Iron County Reporter on Feb. 29, 2012, under the heading "Support your senior centers."
DICSA (Dickinson Iron Community Services Agency) is a contractor who is responsible for doing the bidding of the U.P. Area Agency on Aging, UPCAP Services Inc.
UPCAP serves all 15 counties in the U.P. including Iron and Dickinson. Jonathon Mead is the executive director of UPCAP and the UPCAP Board is made up of 15 appointed county commissioners (one from each county).

Wayne Wales is the Iron County appointee and Joe Stevens is the Dickinson County appointee. UPCAP and the Board, under strict federal and state guidelines, distribute federal and state funds and are supposed to monitor USDA funds for all 15 counties.

UPCAP, through the U.P. Area Agency on Aging has at least 21 services available to senior citizens, but we are only concerned with two, congregate meals at senior centers and home-delivered meals (Meals on Wheels). UPCAP can be reached at 1-800-338-7227 or on the Internet, www.upcap.org for all programs.

The basic problems with the meal programs at the senior centers in Dickinson and Iron counties go back to the previous DICSA Governing Board, which was made up of six elected county commissioners.

During their tenures, the meal programs declined because of cuts in days centers were open even though more and more money was put into the meal programs through federal and state funding, USDA funding, senior millage and program income.

The new state of Michigan mandated 15-person DICSA Governing Board, along with UPCAP is responsible for the closing of the senior center meals program in Alpha in Iron County. They made many attempts to close down the Crystal Falls meals program but the senior citizens fought them and are winning.

Before they closed the kitchen at Alpha they (DICSA and UPCAP) did not tell the Alpha seniors that they would lose their meals and their portion of federal, state, and USDA funding (which they have already lost for this year), and their share of senior millage (based on meals served this year) they will lose next year.

I am sure Commissioner Wales and the Board of Commissioners will change this and see that the Alpha seniors get their meals and funding back.

Now the letters. Ms. Colombino signs as Amasa Site Council chairman. Each center has a Site Council. These Site Councils do not have any power or voting on any decisions regarding the meal programs at any of their centers. DICSA runs a strict dictatorship on all of the kitchens and meal programs at all of their centers.

Ms. Colombino does have a say and vote regarding DICSA as she is one of the 15 DICSA Governing Board members on the state-mandated board.

She was one of the majority who voted to close the Alpha kitchen depriving their seniors of their meals and funding. She and the DICSA Governing Board and UPCAP can change this and move to feed all of the seniors in Dickinson and Iron Counties five days a week as the Norway Center does and as Delta, Menominee, and Schoolcraft Community Services Agencies do.

This would also be a request for UPCAP to get all of the funding information out to all of the people before any more of the centers are shut down.

-s- Gerald McCole
Channing

Enough is enough

To the editor:

Enough is enough with the environmental extremism. Yes, certain regulations are needed, but the overkill has to stop. Right now we have a president and a secretary of energy who believe that if we stop using gasoline and drive all electric vehicles, we will no longer use oil. Nothing

could be further from the truth.

Even if all the cars in America were electric we would still need more oil than ever. Why, because everything from plastic to asphalt to plywood is made from fossil fuels.

Even windmills and solar panels are made from and with oil. Windmills and electric cars need oil based produces for lubrication. Trucks, buses, trains and ships burn forms of diesel fuel made from oil. Aircraft use aviation fuel and lubricants made from oil.

Fuel oil is used to heat homes and run some electric plants. Four-wheelers, lawnmowers, tractors, boats, etc. will still use oil based products.

The president uses over 4,000 gallons of aviation fuel made from oil every time Air Force One goes up, at $5 a gallon. The secret service has a 20-40 car motorcade that goes with the president that uses gasoline at $4 a gallon. There is no way right now or in the next 30 years, the human race can survive without oil.

Just to keep the price of gas where it is right now we will have to import or use more of our own fossil fuels. We cannot conserve our way out of this.

The United States has more oil reserves than the Arab states, more natural gas than Russia and a thousand year supply of coal. The Cubans with Russian help are drilling for oil right now off of Florida and the Russians are drilling for oil in the Arctic North of Alaska.

Maybe one day technology will make fossil fuel obsolete. But, for right now, we Americans must use the natural resources we have to create cheap energy to benefit all. If that means drilling wisely and safely in the wastelands of Alaska or in the Gulf or off of our coasts, or a pipeline from Canada, so be it.

-s- Don Wolf
Iron River