After school program ends

To the Editor,

The Crystal Falls Contemporary Center deeply regrets that we are no longer able to continue the After School Youth Program as it was originally intended.

The center is currently reviewing possible youth programming options. The state of Michigan licensing agency is currently reviewing the program.

An anonymous complaint was filed online stating that it was the belief of the person filing the complaint, that the center needed to obtain a daycare license to operate its after school program.

Based on the information that the center has, we do not believe we need to be licensed. It was never the center's intention to provide daycare; it is our mission to provide enriching youth programming for our small community.

We appreciate the parents who entrusted their children with us, and we are committed to creating a valuable program that children can continue to attend for the remainder of the school year. We'll keep families informed of our progress.

We'd like to thank the many, many community members who have supported the center since its inception, including individuals who have served on the board, those who have instructed and/or taken classes, and all those who have shared their time, talents, and pocketbooks through the years. It truly is a community center.

We will continue to provide both youth and adult programming at the center, including a youth pottery class to be held in November and December, and an ongoing adult pottery class on Tuesdays. Sumba class continues to be hit, and we are currently looking for an aerobics instructor.

Call the center at 875-4595 for more information.

In addition, the center will be hosting its third annual wine tasting on Dec 1st beginning at 7 p.m. Join us for a fun night out for a good cause. Tickets are on sale from any board member.

-s- Crystal Falls
Contemporary Center Board Jen Keota, Kari Divine, Alicia Lesandrini, Stephanie Siler

Training help appreciated

To the editor:

I would like to thank the West Iron County Fire Department for helping me with the training for my firefighter I state exam on Sept. 15.

They gave me their time, they gave me some gear, and most of all they gave me the knowledge I needed to pass. As a member of Caspian-Gaastra Fire Department, I would like to thank them for the unnecessary efforts they put forth to help me. Thank you goes out to: Nick Kegley, Steve Gagna, Dan Kneebone and Al Perlongo.

As instructors, those men made me feel like I could do the task at hand, while others didn't. It's easy to say that you won't fail, but going through the work, I realized it was much harder then it

sounded. But through hard work and a lot of hear, anything is possible. When others thought I would fail, I started to believe that I would too.

That is until these men put that life back in to my soul. Thank you, your efforts did not go unnoticed! I would also like to take the time to congratulate fellow firefighter Nate Newby of West Iron County Fire Department for passing the exam as well.

Thank you.

-s- Jacob Metz
Caspian

Corrected information

To the editor:

Unfortunately, in last week's "Readers Viewpoint," wrong voting information was given. The following is correct.

If you vote a straight party ticket, your ballot will be counted if you also vote for a write-in candidate or a candidate of another party or an independent candidate.

For example, if you vote in the Straight Party Ticket section for the Republican Party (by filling in the oval), everyone who is running as a Republican would get your vote.

However, if you would also like to vote for a particular Democrat, then all you have to do is to fill in the oval by that Democratic candidate's name.

The machine will read your ballot, and every Republican will get your vote, except for the race where you voted for a Democrat. Then, that Democrat will get your vote.

The same thing applies if you vote for a "No Party Affiliation" candidate or a write-in candidate. This is called "cross-over" vote, and is valid.

-s- Joan Luhtanen
Iron County Clerk
Crystal Falls

Thanks

To the editor:

I would like to thank John Erickson, Bruce Fiorani, Eugene Pellizzaro for helping me take down the old veterans' memorial in Gaastra and putting up the new one.

I would like to thank the Golden Ks and the Stambaugh Legion who helped with money for restoring the new one. To Robert Gasperini who donated all the name tags on the memorial; Don Tomasoski who donated the seven flags for the memorial; Mr. and Mrs. Terry Maki, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Place, Betty Bal, Dorothy Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Tomasoski, Mrs. Peter Coyne for the donation of money to help pay for the flag poles that will be installed next spring.

Thank you.

-s- Robert Lundquist
Gaastra

Not fair

To the editor:

The national and state forests are a public resources. But, the trees growing there are not for anyone needing an income. No, they go only to the highest bidder. Virtually every other public resource has governmental regulations to ensure the resource benefits the public.

You can hunt game and fish and otherwise enjoy these forests. Anyone can get a license from

the government to use them. It is an equal opportunity for citizens of this state, and for a slightly higher fee, anyone that wants to come here and obey the laws and enjoy our shared resources.
But, the situation is the whole forest resource is controlled to the benefit of a few. Those few also enjoy enormous privileges that allow them to own forest land and not pay taxes on it.
The small independent woodsmen have only the chance to be a contractor at a set price and assume all the risks of lost money, because things out there do go wrong. One result is, logs are not available to smaller sawmills. This just screws the local economy. And the Canadians kick our butts in the market place.
The big companies can stay in business without publicly owned land. The U.P. wood industry cannot.
Read my ad in the Help Wanted section for Wannabees.
Better to light a candle then to simply curse the Darkness.
-s- Joe Miller
Iron River

A privilege
To the editor:
Who said “Nine year olds are ‘washed up’ at age 70?” Who exclaimed, “School is nothing but reading, writing, spelling and math.”
It was my honor and privilege to be invited to a reunion of Stambaugh High School’s Class of 1962 held at Zippidy’s in Iron River, July 21, 2012.
The celebration had everything as rendered by the grads and spouses – enthusiasm, memorable nostalgic anecdotes of the past and positive outlooks at the future.
Having taught some of these former students, who thrilled me with their kindness, I encourage other students to celebrate reunions with their teachers.
(I wrote sports for The Reporter in 1957-1960)
-s- Tony Sertich
(former teacher)
Fort Collins, Colo.

Something smells
To the editor:
At the Oct. 9th Iron County Board meeting, an incident occurred that should be extremely offensive to the residents of Iron County.
Lisa Masnova, assistant to the County Administrator, stood up and said that she had applied for a position on the U.P. State Fair Board and that someone had come over to her house and said if she didn’t remove her name from contention that “under the new board, her job would be in jeopardy.”
First, congratulations, Lisa, for standing up to the bully. For that’s what he is. I hope everyone learns a lesson here and does the same.
Second, I don’t know who this individual is, although a name was mentioned, but if he has this much influence with certain members of the County Board that he can threaten her job, we all better take a very close look at these board members and the way they vote on issues. Something doesn’t smell right.
-s- Ben Smith
Iron River

Bad behavior

To the editor:

As a spectator attending a recent volleyball game at West Iron County, I was appalled to see a young lady on the Wykon junior varsity team making obscene gestures multiple times while playing on the court. These gestures were not only directed at others but also her coach when her back was turned.

Here at Northland Pines, we set high standards for our athletes. Sports are all about having good, clean fun. We were not happy being subjected to this behavior and I don't believe anyone else was either.

Hopefully, someone else has also spoken up about the student's behavior and she has been dealt with and knows there are consequences for such actions.

-s- Lauren Stevenson

Eagle River, Wis.