IronLine race 'visionaries'
To the editor:
I am a member of the Iron Range Amateur Radio Club of Iron River and would like to say "kudos" to Josh and Grace Brindle of Iron River. These two young people were not only visionaries for bringing a dog sled race to our community but have turned that vision into a reality.
The IronLine dogsled race will take place in Iron River on Jan. 18-20. Our club president, Ron Simmons (N8WIS), his wife, Lillian, and I attended a number of meetings with Josh, Grace and the rest of their crew and were amazed at the commitment, time, energy, devotion and hundreds of hours of work this group has generated to turn a vision into a reality.

We all feel it is very important to hold this event in order to "promote community vitality" for not only Iron River, but all of Iron County. The Iron Range Amateur Radio Club is very excited about this race and has agreed to coordinate all communication needs for this race.
It is my hope that the residents of our community will do likewise -- check out their web site at theironline.com and see how you may become a volunteer.
Again, I am very proud of Josh and Grace Brindle and will support them in any way I can to make this race a success. Get prepared to hear a spirit of excitement in the air in Iron River on Jan. 18-20 when the IronLine dogsled race comes to town!
-s- Alma Baumgartner
(KC8ZIM)
Iron River

'Miracles' was success
To the editor:
Noah's Never Ending Rainbow's "Miracles of Christmas Concert" was a huge success. Lots of "thank yous" to be acknowledged.
First and foremost; Thank you, God. Thank you to the individuals who shared their musical talent. Thank you to all the volunteers prior, during and after. Thank you to all who made "goodies" for the Bake Sale. Thank you to all the area businesses who donated. Thank you to all who gave monetarily. Thank you to our local media. Thank you to those who braved the inclement weather that Saturday night. Without everyone pitching in, "Miracles of Christmas Concert" would not have been the success that is was.
All totaled, our community raised $4,500 plus. Thank you from the hearts of the children who have trisomy and related chromosome disorders and their families. Most importantly we thank you, God, for the opportunity to gather for a few hours one winter evening in Your name.
-s -Dave and Barb Adamson
Iron River

NRA instructors offer their help
To the editor:

Michigan Update: SB59 was recently passed by both the Senate and the House. This bill provides for an “Enhanced CPL” (Concealed Pistol License). This would allow CPL holders to undergo nine hours of additional training (Personal Protection Outside of the Home, or Defensive Pistol) to carry a concealed firearm in current Pistol Free Zones. Gov. Rick Snyder vetoed SB59 on Dec. 18, 2012, after the Sandy Hook tragedy. It is possible that the House and the Senate may have enough votes to overturn this veto or it will be reintroduced with some tweaking.

As NRA instructors, we would like to offer our services to work together with local schools and law enforcement agencies in coming up with a plan to protect our children. The NRA has asked Congress to act immediately and appropriate whatever is necessary to put armed police officers in every school. Other suggestions have been made including arming teachers and other school staff in an attempt to provide a secure educational environment, of which is the most practical, feasible and affordable.

Should SB59 pass, those people who have received a High Standard of Training (minimum 17 hours) and passed an extensive background check will be permitted to carry concealed pistols in current pistol free zones. Please take the time to read this letter with an open mind.

Schools, churches, arenas, college campuses, to name a few are all easy targets for criminals. We refer to these areas as “Victim Zones.” Current laws restrict the carrying of self-defense firearms in these areas. Criminals know this and purposefully choose these places to inflict as much harm as possible to as many people as they can until they are stopped. Why don’t these same spree killers enter police stations or sportsmen’s clubs and start shooting? The answer is simple. They might encounter an equally armed individual that can cause them bodily harm.

Having people present who have and can legally carry a firearm for self-defense in these zones will deter mass murderers. A little known fact that the news media failed to disclose is that the Oregon mall shooting was stopped by a licensed concealed pistol carrier. He never had to fire a shot. Just the presence of a firearm aimed in the criminal’s direction was enough to end the incident when the shooter turned his own gun on himself.

We would like to offer our instructor services free of charge to train any of the school staff who is interested. Included would be both Personal Protection in the Home (the course needed to get your CPL) and Personnel Protection Outside the Home (the extra 9 hour class). We are asking that the staff entrusted with the safekeeping of our children have the opportunity to obtain the tools necessary to provide a safe and secure learning environment. Just maybe, as the criminal is outside deciding to enter the school or not, the fact that there may be individuals in the building with the tools and the resolve to stop them will deter them all together.

As proof of this fact, we submit the data from two states: Maryland and Virginia. Virginia passed their concealed carry law and upon its passing their violent crime rates started a steady decline. The state of Maryland, which borders Virginia, showed an increase in violent crime proportional to the decline of Virginia’s rate. When given the choice, violent criminals would rather cross the river and carry out their crime in an area that does not allow the people the right of self-defense. The state of Maryland at the time did not allow the carrying of concealed firearms for defense.

No parent should have to bury their child. This is even truer when events causing harm are potentially preventable. Should you like to discuss this in person, we are available at your convenience. We, as certified NRA instructors, have agreed to donate our time to provide the training necessary to reach these goals. There may be a nominal cost for materials. Until a child feels safe, learning cannot take place. It is also essential that the parents have confidence in their child’s safety. We would like to assist you in doing your job.

Thank you for your time,
-s- Mike and Kathy Sheehy
-s- Mike and Sandie Nies
Iron River