‘It was just another day’
To the editor:
On Monday this past week there was a major water leak by the house next door to me. Water was gushing forth from the ground against the foundation of the house and running all around it. The city crew was on the scene and determined that the main line had ruptured. This all started about 8:15 a.m. Soon the hammering to clear the frost and digging around the gas line started, and the leak was found.

It was fixed and water was restored by 3:35 p.m. With the help of the office and the crew, the owner, who lives out of town, was notified. A check to see if the furnace was still on was done by the gas company and the city crew. The next day again the city crew checked on the residence to see if the furnace was on and the leak had been stopped.

For me as a neighbor it was quite an experience, as I had no water for the duration of the fix and to see all the work that had to be done. I thanked the crew and the office help and breathed a sigh of relief. For them they told me it was just another day.
It’s good that we have people like this on our city crew and to put in a little extra effort.
Thanks to the city crew.
-s- Paul Hytinen
Oh! From now on I know that it’s just another day.

Foundation thanks donor
To the editor:
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the individual who made an anonymous cash donation to the NorthStar Health System Foundation received Feb. 26, 2013. This quiet spirit of charity is respectfully acknowledged and gratefully appreciated.
As a separate not-for-profit organization, supporting the mission of NorthStar Health System, we are dedicated to advancing the healthcare of this region by securing, distributing and stewarding financial investments.
Our current health initiative is the acquisition of three dialysis chairs. Three of which have been already purchased (six total). Other endeavors include the development of a digital resource library and our continued support of the 64-slice CT scanner and digital mammography.
With the complexity of our current national health care system and our continued efforts to enhance the quality of health care, charitable gifts and pledges become increasingly essential.
We appreciate your consideration. Thank you.
-s- Peg James, director
NorthStar Health System Foundation

Happy about ‘a souper success’
To the editor:

We wish to extend a big “thank you” to the people who helped to make one of our major fundraisers “a souper success!”

What a wonderful day we had! If you didn’t come out for the Ladies Auxiliary of VFW’s soup and sandwich luncheon, you really missed it! We had seven different kinds of soup, one better than the other!! Sandwiches and a chocolate lovers fill of delicious bars and cookies. We want to thank all the Auxiliary members for their generous donations; the exceptional crew of kitchen workers and cooks; the community for coming out and supporting our efforts, as well as getting their “belly full” of good food. A thank you also for participating in the 50-50 drawing. The lucky winner was Larry Hegstrom. Again, the community has come together to help out the veterans and their activities.

-s- President Hazel Salin, co-chairmen Corinne Holm and Helen Beck

A better way to fight blight

To the editor:

Recently, there have been several articles that appeared in the Iron County Reporter regarding blight issues in Iron River and Caspian. Several citizens have filed complaints to the appropriate authorities to deal with the blight enforcement issue. Yet the city officials will continue to claim they have no money or that the police are too busy to enforce the same ordinances that they have agreed to uphold. Now the discussion is a shared Blight Enforcement Officer.

The blight enforcement issue can be enhanced by all the municipalities of Iron County with the usage of the provisions as outlined in a pdf file, “Restoring Michigan Communities: Building by Building,” courtesy of the Michigan Municipal League, November/December 2007.

1. Identify and evaluate those specific problems, conditions or eyesores that “hold back” your community.
2. Make a list and review your municipality’s existing tools (ordinances) and enforcement procedures.
3. Develop goals and an action plan for your community, recommending changes to the existing tools and enforcement procedures.
4. Put your plan in action by educating the public of what the blight ordinances entail for the entire public.

The pamphlet/brochure can be produced at very little cost to the municipality.

Blight enforcement can be achieved if the public is informed in how to deal with the blight issues in a manner that is cost efficient, by utilizing preventative maintenance standards for vacant buildings and rental properties registrations.

Blight enforcement is only to be achieved if the municipality will update its tools and update a plan action of inform, educate, develop action plans for preventative maintenance (vacant building registry and rental property registry) and enforcement.

By noting that Caspian, Gaastra and Iron River plan to utilize a sharing of a Blight Enforcement Officer, the outcome will be that for a larger municipality (4300) of enforcement will mean that the state statutes will change, thus making for different types of changes in the ordinances, regulating in more in depth ordinances.

-s- Paul Joseph Van Minsel

Wolf dispute continues

To the editor:

I am not surprised by the reply to my letter regarding the recently enacted Wolf Law from

Nancy Warren of Ewen. She represented the Defenders of Wildlife on the Wolf Management Roundtable. They are an intolerant and uncompromising protectionist organization.

Two of her statements are false. For example:

"We only accepted the harvest of wolves by licensed hunters and trappers as a possible tool to reduce wolf-related conflicts under specific conditions."

However, she was one of only six like-minded Roundtable members who voted against a proposal to allow public hunting and trapping for management purposes. As for their support for lethal control, it is not without a lot of if's, ands or buts.

"I believe Mr. Hongisto was incorrect when he implied that the DNR must establish a wolf hunting season."

I never implied that. The DNR doesn't have the authority to establish a wolf hunting season. That is the role of the Natural Resources Commission.

Referring to the DNR, I wrote. "Failure to do their job is a slap in the face to the Legislature and the Governor who signed the law classifying the wolf as a game species and authorizing the Natural Resources Commission to set harvest seasons."

Four animal protection/animal rights groups were represented on the Roundtable. They are the Defenders of Wildlife, the Sierra Club, the Michigan Humane Society and the Timber Wolf Alliance. Animal protection is their raison' d'etre.

As for the DNR inviting two Indian tribes and these groups to participate in our discussions, it was clear from the beginning, that you cannot work with people on a wildlife management plan who are fundamentally opposed to the purpose of wildlife management. That, along with the consensus rule, are the reasons why the Wolf Management Plan is deeply, if not fatally flawed.

The proof of this became apparent, when anti-hunting groups, including the Sierra Club, which was represented on the Roundtable, filed a lawsuit to overturn the recently enacted Wolf Law. They are also collecting signatures to put this issue on the 2014 election ballot.

Their unyielding opposition to the killing of animals should have disqualified these groups from serving on the Wolf Management Roundtable in the first place. Politics does indeed make for strange bedfellows.

-s- John Hongisto
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