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INSIDE



ALL-UP GIRLS
U.P. Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association hands out awards

—Details, Page 9



EASTER PARADE
Kids enjoy Easter egg hunt in Hurley

—Details, Page 5

WEATHER INDEX

| Friday | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| High | 41 |
| Low | 33 |
| Year ago today | |
| High | 39 |
| Low | 9 |
| Records | |
| High | 72 (1986) |
| Low | -8 (1965) |
| Precipitation | |
| To 7 a.m. Thursday | .01 inch |
| Total Snowfall | |
| This season | 112.8 inches |
| Year ago | 148.8 inches |
| On the ground | none |

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Wildcat Falls hang in balance

Group tries to save waterfalls from Ottawa forest land swap

By RALPH ANSAMI
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WATERSMEET — Strong opposition continues to a proposed land swap that would turn Wildcat Falls near Watersmeet into private property.

A decision on the deal is expected in April.

The U.S. Forest Service proposes the exchange of 240 acres of Ottawa National Forest land for 420 acres of cut-over acreage owned by Robert Delich, of Wakefield, near the Porcupine Mountains.

A group called Partners in Forestry previously successfully appealed the swap, citing concerns about the comparison of the quality of the parcels being traded.

PIF's appeal also noted the loss of the unique feature of Wildcat Falls, on Scott and Howe Creek, about nine miles northwest of Watersmeet, and the rare hemlock-cedar stands there with old-growth characteristics.

Then Ottawa Acting Forest Supervisor Keith B. Lannom signed a decision notice and finding of no significant impact for the land swap on Feb. 4, 2011.

After the successful appeal, current Ottawa National Forest Supervisor Anthony Scardina signed a notice of "no significant impact," clearing the way for the land deal. It was published on Jan. 10.

Partners in Forestry has appealed that decision. Joe Hovel, of Conover, Wis., head of PIF, said the group has about 100 members. It is seeking a "no action" ruling.

Hovel said Wednesday an appeal recommendation officer from the Forest Service, someone outside of the Ottawa National Forest, is considering the appeal. The officer will make a recommendation to Scardina, who will make the final decision on the swap.



Wildcat Falls, on Scott and Howe Creek, about nine miles northwest of Watersmeet, is at the center of a controversy concerning a proposed Ottawa National Forest land swap.

Scardina did not return Wednesday phone calls.

"We think the public is getting beat up here," Hovel said. "They'll cut the timber

(in the Wildcat Falls area) and then resell the land for development."

Hovel said he met with Scardina about the latest appeal as part of the process.

Citing appraisals, Hovel added, "We

feel the timber is valued higher than what the Forest Service will get..." for the Porkies area parcel. He said aesthetics

(See WILDCAT — Page 2)

Trust to finance 73 scholarships

BESSEMER — The Gogebic County Board of Commissioners agreed Wednesday to award 73 scholarships for \$2,000 apiece from the Dal Pra trust.

The Dal Pra Educational Award Committee met earlier this month and agreed to divide the scholarships among Gogebic County high school seniors.

The committee approved 38 scholarships for the Ironwood Area Schools District, 22 to the Bessemer School District, eight to Watersmeet and five to the Marenisco-Wakefield district.

The Dal Pra trust will award \$146,000 in total.

"It's amazing what they're doing with this," said county board member George Peterson, who is also the Watersmeet School District's superintendent.

County board member Tom Gerovac, of Ironwood, said the scholarships are decided for each school district on an equal percentage basis.

Board members learned there will be only 122 graduates in the county in the spring.

Committee members said they wished to see as many students as possible receive scholarship money.

Dr. Steve and Colleen Dal

Pra and their children were killed in an airplane crash at the Gogebic-Iron Airport. The trust was then formed to honor them.

Committee members discussed performance income and expenses involved with the trust with Jeff Boehm, financial advisor for the Raymond County Financial River Valley Investment Services.

The trust earned \$131,576 in 2011, according to minutes of the committee's meeting.

High school seniors need to submit their scholarship applications by Saturday.

In other business Wednesday, the county board:

—Agreed to receive a \$1,560 hazardous materials identification grant. The local match will be an in-kind contribution.

—Supported the city of Bessemer's efforts to obtain a Passport grant for playground equipment and trail repairs.

—Agreed to seek funding through a U.S. Department of Energy project addressing energy efficiency.

—Granted a wage increase to Holly Johnson on her one-year anniversary as a county employee with the prosecuting attorney's office.

—Ralph Ansami



Ironwood Junior Alyssa Williams performs "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man" from the musical "Show Boat" during the district solo and ensemble competition at Luther L. Wright School in Ironwood Thursday. Students from area schools competed in both vocal and band solos and ensembles for the event.

Mining likely listening session topic Saturday

By JON HAWLEY
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HURLEY — Sen. Robert Jauch, D-Poplar, will enter the lions' den Saturday.

Jauch will host a listening session from 10 a.m. to noon at the Hurley K-12 School high school auditorium. The session is not dedicated to any one issue, but much of it will likely be spent debating mining legislation. Many Iron County residents are angry over his role in a failed iron mining bill, and some of them are working to launch a recall election against him.

The legislation, after months of controversy, died in the Wisconsin Senate by one vote, with all Democratic senators and one Republican, Sen. Dale Schultz, R-Richland Center, opposed to the bill. They opposed changes to environmental standards for iron mines, as well as reduced opportunities to contest iron mine permitting decisions.

The legislation's failure was a deal-breaker for the Gogebic Taconite company, which said it needed new state regulations before it would proceed with an iron mine in Ashland and Iron counties. It estimated the mine would create some 700 direct jobs and 2,100 supporting jobs.

Numerous Iron County offi-

(See JAUCH — Page 2)

Hurley fourth graders explore Spanish language, culture

By CORTNEY OFSTAD
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HURLEY — Fourth-grade students at the Hurley K-12 School are being exposed to another culture, with a little help of older students.

Students in Monica Kolpin and Rhonda Olkonen's fourth grade classes are learning Spanish, with help from Natalie Patritto's second-level, high school Spanish class.

The idea for the collaboration came after Olkonen and Patritto took a summer technology class together two years ago.

"We sat down and came up with this idea, incorporating technology with Spanish," Olkonen said. "The kids are doing a language arts lesson, where they are writing a story that takes place in a Spanish-speaking country."

The students have to incorporate characters, settings, problems and solutions into their stories, while mixing in 25 Spanish words.

The stories are written into Keynote, a software similar to Powerpoint, allowing students to make presentations with their stories. Once completed, the fourth-graders will present their stories to the

entire elementary school, and will have their stories posted on YouTube.

"The younger kids are excited about this, because it's a nice change of pace for them," Kolpin said. "It's a little different that working strictly out of a textbook, but they still get to use their core academic skills."

Both Kolpin and Olkonen agreed students enjoyed learning the different words, but really enjoyed working with the older students.

"It is wonderful for them to interact like this," Kolpin said. "The collaboration is good for both of them."

To help prepare the fourth graders for the project, different lessons were adapted to include Spanish.

"We had them learning Spanish numbers and colors for spelling, and have even done Spanish themes in our reading and language lessons," Kolpin said.

According to Patritto, having the students learn basic Spanish words early makes the lessons easier later in high school.

"I have students coming in who already know the numbers, colors and

(See HURLEY — Page 2)

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