

Local

Local briefing

BLP to consider contracts

MARQUETTE — The Marquette Board of Light and Power has scheduled a special meeting today to consider engineering and construction contracts for its new electric generating facility.

The meeting is at 5:30 p.m. at the BLP's offices at 2200 Wright St. in Marquette.

Water quality issues temporary

MARQUETTE — Marquette city officials said a recent project to replace filters at the Marquette Water Filtration Plant has led customers to report water quality issues, but there are no health risks associated with the situation.

A small number of customers have reported water quality problems, including odor, taste and air entrainment giving the water a fizzy appearance.

City officials said the problems have been associated with the type of work done at the plant, which consisted of replacing 720 microfiltration membrane modules.

Testing has been completed to confirm that other significant water quality data is within acceptable limits, according to the press release.

Board meeting rescheduled

MARQUETTE — The Marquette County Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday has been rescheduled for next Tuesday.

The board meets at 6 p.m. in room 203 of the Henry A. Skewis Courthouse Annex.

Local group to discuss 'dark stores' in Lansing

By KELSIE THOMPSON
Journal Staff Writer

MARQUETTE — Several local officials are making the nearly 400 mile trek from Marquette to Lansing this week to present information on the dark store issue to the Tax Policy Committee of the Michigan House.

County Administrator Scott Erbisch said he and others will vie for time in front of the committee during a 90-minute hearing Wednesday morning on large-scale commercial single use building property tax assessment.

"We're really pleased to have this opportunity to start engaging in a dialogue with Lansing lawmakers," Erbisch said. "It's not simply a U.P. or Marquette County issue ... this is statewide issue."

Parties from both sides of the issue from throughout the state are expected to attend, Erbisch said.

Although the Tax Policy Committee will eventually consider House Bill 4909 — a measure that would prevent business owners from placing



A group of local officials is heading to Lansing to attend a meeting of the state House's Tax Policy Committee on Wednesday to present information about the dark store taxing issue that has resulted in lower taxes for big box stores, such as Lowe's shown above in Marquette Township. (Journal file photo)

deed restrictions on their properties — sponsored by state Rep. John Kivela, D-Marquette, it will not be discussed at the hearing on Wednesday.

"(The Tax Policy Committee) doesn't want to specifically discuss the bills that have been proposed," said Amy Clickner, CEO of the Lake Superior Community Partnership.

"They want to better understand the broader issue of dark stores."

Clickner said she wants to convey the severity of the issue to the committee.

"There's a place for all types of businesses of all sizes, but the tax landscape has to be fair and equitable," she said. "At the end of the day, the issue we're dealing with, with the dark stores, doesn't leave a fair playing field with large national retailers and small mom and pop stores."

Deborah Veiht, an LSCP board member and superintendent for Marquette Alger Regional Education Service Agency, also plans to attend

the hearing to speak out on behalf of education and school services.

From 2009 to 2014, Veiht said MARESA has lost \$144,000



VEIHT

to Michigan Tax Tribunal appeals.

"Our voters voted 2 mills countywide to support special education students in our schools," she said. "It's a fabulous thing they've done, but what's happening with big box stores is it's eroding the monies we've received. ... If we lose that much money, it's less that we can do for our families and our local school districts."

By sharing information on the impacts already seen in Marquette County, Erbisch said he hopes the committee will move forward with the legislation presented by Kivela and state Sen. Tom Casperon, R-Escanaba.

"We hope to continue the

dialogue to the point where we'll be able to see some legislation going forward that will help curb the issue," Erbisch said. "In my opinion, the ultimate goal is for a legislative fix to help reduce the impact of the dark stores with the two bills already out there."

Clickner said she'd like to see Kivela's bill go before the committee before the end of the year.

"We would love to see a vote around this before the end of the year, but I'm not convinced that's going to happen ... it's going to take a lot of heavy lifting," she said. "With energy and tax policy on the front burner and only a dozen days or so of session left, its going to be tough to get it done this year, but we're not going to back away from a fight."

Kelsie Thompson can be reached at 906-228-2500, ext. 206. Her email is kthompson@miningjournal.net.

Phone scams reported across the region

By KELSIE THOMPSON
Journal Staff Writer

MARQUETTE — A large number of local residents have reported attempted phone scams, with callers claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service and local power companies, including the Marquette Board of Light and Power.

Michigan State Police at several Upper Peninsula posts and the Marquette City Police Department reported increased phone scam attempts Monday.

The state police said in a press release that callers claiming to be from the IRS are using fear and intimidation tactics or threats of arrest in an attempt to obtain credit card or bank account information.

Detective Capt. Mike Kohler of the city police

said the scammers claiming to be from the BLP or other local power companies are threatening to turn off power if a payment is not made.

If such a phone call is received, local law enforcement officials recommend residents don't give out personal or financial information, and hang up the phone and report the scam to the Federal Trade Commission, using the "FTC Complaint Assistant" at FTC.gov.

If it's known that taxes are not owed, the incident should be reported to the treasury inspector general of tax administration at 1-800-366-4484.

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Pound

Found and lodged at the Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter in Negaunee Township were a medium-haired black and orange torti young female cat found in Negaunee; a short-haired orange male tabby found in Chocoma Township; a long-haired black with white cat found in Negaunee; and a short-haired black and white adult male cat found in Negaunee. Call 475-6661 or visit upaws.org to find out about the strays and the other animals waiting for adoption.

Found and lodged at the Alger County Animal Shelter in Munising were two orange male tiger-striped cats; a calico female cat; a black and white male cat; a white male cat; a tortoiseshell female cat; a buff tiger male cat; two white and tiger male kittens; a female pit bull dog; a female beagle mix; and a male labrador/vizsla mix. All adult cats and dogs are spayed or neutered. Call 387-4131.

Lottery

Monday 7-4-7-0
DETROIT (AP) — **Daily 3** 2-3-3
These Michigan lotteries were drawn Monday:
Lucky For Life 3-6-3-6
32-36-37-39-48, Lucky Fantasy 5
Ball: 17 07-15-18-37-39
Poker Lotto 01-06-09-11-13-17-18-
QS-2H-2S-5S-9S 26-27-28-33-40-45-47-
Midday Daily 3 7-2-8 54-57-59-63-64-69-70-
Midday Daily 4 74

Police Log

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following information is collected from Marquette City Police Department dispatch log books recorded at the time the calls were received. The incidents reported may have proven to be unfounded once police investigated. Some log entries may be edited or omitted due to space constraints.

Sunday
• 2:02 p.m., private parking violations, resolved before officers arrival, North Front Street
• 2:05 p.m., suspicious noises and smells, officer checked area, nothing suspicious located, 200 block Dobson Place
• 2:57 p.m., caller reports very intoxicated male subject damaged his bike, 400 block West Washington Street
• 3:27 p.m., parking complaint, neighbors arguing over parking spot, resolved, 500 block Pioneer Road
• 4:34 p.m., 911 hang-up, all OK, Windcrest Drive
• 4:54 p.m., lockout, opened, Fitch Avenue
• 7:05 p.m., traffic control for spectacle, 200 block West Washington Street
• 7:13 p.m., vehicle broken down, owner will get it towed Monday, 1400 block Pine Street
• 7:15 p.m., double-parked vehicles, 200 block West Spring Street
• 9:52 p.m., car-deer accident, U.S. 41 South and Cliffs Power Road

Monday
• 12:17 a.m., report of depressed female, contacted, all OK, North Third Street
• 4:10 a.m., backpack found near gas pumps, 2000 block U.S. 41 West
• 6:05 a.m., parking complaint, problem vehicle cited, 500 block North Third Street
• 8:06 a.m., suspicious situation, 1200 block West Fair Avenue
• 8:39 a.m., traffic monitored for speeders, no violations, Tierney Street near Hampton Street
• 8:44 a.m., property damage accident, Fifth Street at Washington Street
• 9:30 a.m., caller reports suspicious situation, Lake Superior Village property
• 9:57 a.m., hit-and-run property damage accident, 300 block Harrison Avenue
• 10:14 a.m., disabled vehicle assist, South McClellan Avenue at Fair Avenue
• 11:04 a.m., 911 call, no problem found, 400 block Fisher Street



• 11:25 a.m., failure to pay for gas, will return and pay, 1100 block Lincoln Avenue
• 11:28 a.m., counterfeit \$20, 1100 block West Washington Street
• 12:05 p.m., confiscated marijuana, 2100 block Division Street
• 12:06 p.m., person stole ring and perhaps a necklace, 1100 block West Washington Street
• 12:35 p.m., lockout, 1200 block Wilson Street
• 12:54 p.m., alarm, no problem found, 400 block South Sixth Street
• 2:33 p.m., transport to Child and Family Services, Dobson Place
• 4:30 p.m., door frame damaged, game controllers and prescription meds stolen, 200 block Meeske Avenue
• 4:38 p.m., report of abandoned vehicle, not abandoned, owner will move, Hampton Street
• 4:41 p.m., child came home from school and is locked out of residence. Officer woke up mother and turned child over. Schaffer Avenue

• 5:55 p.m., homeowner complained of bicyclist riding by her house, advised it was not trespassing, Grove Street
• 6:39 p.m., smell of marijuana, officer unable to detect, West Baraga Avenue
• 7:20 p.m., 911 hang up, all OK, North Fourth Street
• 7:26 p.m., runaway, Champion Street
• 9:01 p.m., harassing phone calls, family dispute with sister. Both parties advised not to have contact any more. 300 block Pine Street

Today
• 12:34 a.m., loud noise complaint, renter cited, West Arch Street
• 12:41 a.m., report of a suspicious male in the area, patrols checked area and located subject, West Ridge Street
• 3:38 a.m., elderly female requesting assistance with smoke detector. Officer assisted by installing a new 9-volt battery, 200 block South Fifth Street
• 6:20 a.m., patrol, U.S. 41 South

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