



### SEW BIG!

Ashland quilt shop moves to larger quarters

A3

### FISH FACTS

Emily Stone explores Lake Superior fishery

A10



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## Appliance store coming to Sears building

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The owner of a Superior appliance sales and repair business is buying the former Sears building in Ashland and expanding his business into the Bay Area.

Prime Appliance owner Jonathan Mertz said the Bay Area has needed such a service since the Sears Hometown chain filed for bankruptcy and the store closed in December.



Mertz

“There really isn’t a viable appliance dealer in the area,” since former owners Andy and Liz Lajcak put the building up for sale, Mertz said.

“We want to keep the market share over there and expand the market share east as well,” Mertz said.

Developer Mark Gutteter, who owns several downtown Ashland properties, had a similar vision to purchase the building and bring in an appliance dealer, but things didn’t work out. He is convinced residents need the services Mertz will bring.

“Sears closing happened suddenly and left a gap. It’s huge for the area. There’s too much population that needs access to buy a stove, washer, dryer or refrigerator,” he said.

The building will need some time and work done before the business can open, Mertz said. He hopes to have the doors open in September.

“We’re doing a facelift on the building. We’re painting the inside, putting in new flooring and replacing the parking lot,” he said. “The siding is in good shape. Andy put a

More SEARS | A5



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY ED MONROE

The chicks’ parents Scottie and Penny furiously squawk at researchers. Male peregrine falcons are smaller than their mates and have higher-pitched voices.

## Ashland falcons banded, named

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To scientists who track his health, movement and mating habits, he will forever be known as 27U 1266-07989.

But his friends will call him Dash.

Dash was the first of four peregrine falcon chicks whose health was assessed Thursday atop the Xcel Energy power plant in downtown Ashland.

After withdrawing the chicks from their nesting box overlooking Chequamegon Bay, avian experts John Howe and Amy Ries gave them cursory examinations, then took blood and saliva samples to check for signs of exposure to avian flu.

Next, they clamped aluminum bands



PETER J. WASSON/STAFF PHOTO

John Howe of the Raptor Resource Project holds Poppy as his colleague Amy Ries secures bands to the chick’s leg. The bands will be added to a database that will allow scientists anywhere to track the birds.

around their legs bearing the numbers that will allow raptor experts to track them.

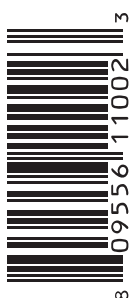
Finally, the chicks were assigned their names, suggested by Ashland School District students and voted on by Daily Press readers. The top vote-getters were Dash and Jet, assigned to two males, and Poppy and Lightning, given to two

females.

Three of those four names are particularly appropriate to chicks that were born above the whirring generators of a power plant and that one day will grow to be the fastest animals on the planet.

More FALCONS | A5

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- Christopher Elkins:** Drummond
- Dolores E. Knapp:** Hawthorne
- Edgar Joseph Lajeunesse:** formerly of Ashland