

GETTING BACK ON
TRACK FINANCIALLY

OPINION, A4

LINCOLN STUDENTS
ENJOY FIELD TRIPS

EDUCATION, A8

Four generations
of family
members gather

MILESTONES, A6

THURSDAY
JUNE 2, 2011

Volume 2011, Issue 129

The Daily
REPORTER.comTHE DAILY NEWSPAPER
FOR BRANCH COUNTY —
COVERING COLDWATER,
BRONSON, QUINCY, UNION
CITY AND TEKONSHA

75¢

'EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT IN AERIAL FIGHTS'



Above, retired Capt. Al Martin receives the Distinguished Flying Cross from Col. Roger Seidel, wing commander of the Air National Guard unit based at Battle Creek, while congressman Tim Walberg looks on. DON REID PHOTO

Local war hero honored
with medal after 66 yearsBy Don Reid
dwareid@aol.com

KINDERHOOK TOWNSHIP — After 66 years since he earned the Army Air Corp's Distinguished Flying Cross, former Captain Al Martin had the medal pinned on him.

Martin's family worked since 2008 with former Congressman Mark Schauer and now Congressman Tim Walberg to get the medals Martin earned flying 102 missions in P-47 Thunderbolts, most of them in Europe.

During that time he never crashed, but lost six

Additional medals

Martin also was awarded the Air Medal with 11 clusters, but left service before he received the medals.

planes to enemy fire. Martin was a member of the Caterpillar Club, an informal association of people who have successfully used a parachute to bail out of a disabled aircraft. The certificate was displayed at a Saturday family gathering with friends for the ceremony.

See Martin, page A3

Event offers 12 steps
of recovery groupsBy Roland Stoy
rstoy@thedailyreporter.com

COLDWATER — On June 10, 1935, Dr. Robert Smith took his last drink of alcohol.

That was significant because he was, though a well-respected physician in Akron, Ohio, an alcoholic. He was

Sunday
session

The focus on Sunday will be step 11 of the program. It is "Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out." Alcoholics Anonymous is at aa.org. The 12 steps can be found at 12step.org.

There is an overeaters anonymous, as well as an emotions anonymous, and there is help for codependency in the steps, characterized as a program for spiritual and character development.

There are currently many millions all over the world engaging in 12-step programs.

A nationally-known authority on the steps, Wally P., will be in Branch County this weekend, in what is being billed as "Wally's Farewell Tour."

He is referred to as "Wally P.,"



Above, Dr. Robert Smith, who founded a 12-step program to help people overcome alcoholism, along with Bill Wilson. COURTESY PHOTO

since anonymity is a foundation of the program.

The Monroe St. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) group of Coldwater is hosting the "take all 12 steps in one day" event, for anyone who is interested in learning about them, as well as for those who are familiar with them, who can get "back to the basics."

Wally P. of Tucson, Az., has spent scores of decades researching, interviewing, documenting and archiving AA program history, and he has announced he will no longer be conducting seminars.

The 12 steps will be presented in four one-hour segments on Saturday, June 4, at Lockwood Community Church from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lunch will be included. On Sunday, June 5, there will be a special step 11 workshop

See Recovery, page A2

BRANCH COUNTY COMMUNITY THEATRE

'Dirty Rotten Scoundrels' opens tonight

By Trinity Bird
tbird@thedailyreporter.com

COLDWATER — A recent Broadway smash will open this evening at the Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater, as the Branch County Community Theatre (BCCT) closes its current season.

Opening on Broadway in March 2005, "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" received 11 Tony nominations and took Broadway by storm. Based on the popular 1988 film, the

If you go

Performances are at 8 p.m. June 2-4 at the Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater. Tickets range from \$7 to \$10 and can be purchased in advance by calling 517-278-6029 or visiting www.tibbits.org. Tickets will also be available at the door.

musical focuses on the antics of a suave and sophisticated con artist and a small-time crook. After meeting on a train, the two try to work together. Realizing they can't, they make a bet: The first to swindle \$50,000 from a young heiress will triumph and the other must leave

town.

Featuring one of the funniest Broadway scores in recent memory, "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" is a must-see. See BCCT, page A2

At right, Jackie Jonsson, Irene Grimes-Butdorf, Crystal Walczak and Sozzi Bradshaw rehearse a scene. TRINITY BIRD PHOTO

FIRST IN
PRINT

Today's First in Print stories:
■ Dave Ramsey column.
PAGE A4
■ Today in History, PAGE A5.
■ Lincoln students enjoy trip, PAGE A8.



MYSTERY PHOTO
Can you identify today's A Look Back photo? PAGE A5



NEW ARRIVALS
The area's newest arrivals are welcomed to local residents. PAGE A6

WEATHER

Fri. 87/70

Mostly sunny throughout the day, then partly cloudy at night.

Sat. 87/63

Mostly sunny throughout the day, then partly cloudy at night.

RecordA2
BranchA3OpinionA4
Looking BackA5MilestonesA6
Action AdsA7-8EducationA8
SportsA9-10ComicsA11
County LifeA12

Facebook.com/sugarbushfarms

MAY FLOWERS & HANGING BASKETS at **Petting Zoo**

Frozen Custard, Full Menu Lunch -n- Dinner, Perennials, Hanging Baskets, Bedding Plants, Maple Syrup, Candy, Fudge, and Gift Certificates are available.

9991 U.S. 12 Allen, MI.
517-869-2265