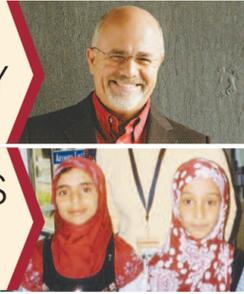


### GETTING BACK ON TRACK FINANCIALLY

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.com

THE 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 years

By Don Reid  
dweid@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 groups

By 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 able to stop drinking with the help of one Bill Wilson, another alcoholic, and they discovered that working together, people could overcome alcoholism.

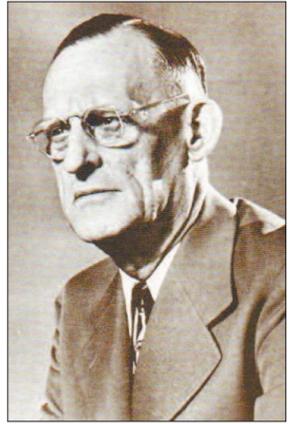
They formulated a 12-step program that continues to this day to help not only alcoholics, but people addicted to anything, including drugs, sex and gambling.

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 Sooz 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.



Record .....A2  
Branch .....A3

Opinion .....A4  
Looking Back .....A5

Milestones .....A6  
Action Ads .....A7-8

Education .....A8  
Sports .....A9-10

Comics .....A11  
County Life .....A12

**MAY FLOWERS & HANGING BASKETS at**

**Petting Zoo**

**Sugar Bush Farms**

Facebook.com/sugarbushfarms

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