

IN BRIEF

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Shelter sets women's support group

UNION PIER — A women's support group conducted by The Safe Shelter will be from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at HELP for Southwest Michigan Advocacy Center, 16170 Red Arrow Highway.

This is a free support group for women who have experienced emotional hurt, physical abuse or sexual assault at the hands of intimate partners. Women will be informed on ways to recognize and deal with the effects of domestic violence. Women who may or may not be involved with their abusers are welcome to attend. A variety of topics will be covered, including healthy and unhealthy relationships, red flags, myths of domestic violence, the effects of domestic violence on children, self-esteem and healing from abuse. One-on-one counseling is also available at no charge.

Pre-registration is required and can be made by calling Dana Carmona at 925-9500.

Area Agency on Aging to provide help

UNION PIER — The Region 3B Area Agency on Aging will have staff available from 10 a.m.-noon Feb. 5 at HELP for Southwest Michigan Advocacy Center, 16170 Red Arrow Highway

Assistance will be provided for completing Michigan Department of Human Services applications and connecting residents to resources available in Ber-

rien County. Outreach will be provided to anyone older than 18.

Experience and knowledge of information and assistance help area residents with nursing facility transitions, coordination of Medicare and Medicaid, as well as insurance questions relating to supplemental insurance plans. Information on alternative long-term care options including the MI-CHOICE waiver, PACE and Adult Home Help also can be furnished.

Appointments can be made by calling Kathy Flores at 338-5099.

B. Springs Camera Club meets Feb. 5

BERRIEN SPRINGS — The Berrien Springs Camera Club will meet at 7 p.m. Feb. 5 in the Berrien Springs Public Library, Cass and Union streets.

This month's program consists of a competition of prints and digital images submitted by members. The two selected topics for the month are patterns and shadows. Three additional categories are appropriate for all of competitions: nature (nothing domesticated or of a human origin), portraits and open (any other subject).

Prints, at least 5 by 7 inches in size, should be mounted, with the title and photographer's name on the back. Instructions for submitting images in digital form are available on the club's website, photoclub.berrienspringsmi.us.

Anyone who wishes to join may submit photos to the competition, up to 10 projected images and/or 10 prints. Refreshments will be served.

LMC offers classes on wine spring semester

BENTON HARBOR — Lake Michigan College is offering three wine appreciation courses this spring semester taught by Ruth Ryberg, certified sommelier and owner of Don't Whine Do Wine, a wine consulting and education business.

All classes will meet from 6-7:30 p.m. in D-116 (planetarium) on the Napier Avenue campus.

"Wines of the Veneto" will meet Jan. 30. Ryberg will present a tour of the Veneto, a region of Italy, by swirling, sniffing and tasting its wines. Participants will sample five wines from the region. Cost is \$49.

"Wine 101" will meet Thursdays, Feb. 13-March 20. This six-week introduction to the world of wine will help students decipher wine labels, understand varietal differences and grasp grape geography. The course concludes with a wine tasting. Students must be 21 years of age or older. Cost is \$89.

"Wines of the Piedmont" will be offered April 10. Five samples of wine from the region will be presented. Cost is \$49.

Advocacy Center elects officers for 2014-2016

UNION PIER — HELP for Southwest Michigan Advocacy Center has elected officers for 2014-16. Elizabeth Rettig will serve as president, Donna Messinger as secretary and Mary Fran Tieman as treasurer. Other board members are Carol Brychta, Kimberly Ramsey and Albin Sikora.

Incorporated in 2009,

HELP4SWMI is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that helps area residents use resources and agencies to gain self-sufficiency.

The Advocacy Center has been open since November 2011 and during the second year of operations experienced an 86 percent increase in the number of households who called or took advantage of its information and assistance programs.

For more information, visit www.help4swmi.org.

St. Joseph student receives scholarship

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Sarai Gruver of St. Joseph has received one of the more than 6,500 academic scholarships that has been awarded to Kansas State University students for the 2013-2014 school year.

Gruver received a scholarship from the Agricultural Enhancement Fund.

Overall, students have earned more than \$19.2 million in scholarships for the current academic year — more than \$3 million more than the previous year.

Scrap-a-thon fundraiser in Baroda

BARODA — The Baroda Queen Committee is hosting a Scrap-a-thon Fundraiser from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. March 22 at the Baroda American Legion.

Cost is \$35 and includes an 8-foot table, and lunch and dinner (water and coffee included). Soft drinks will be available for purchase.

Space is limited to 50. To reserve a table or for more information, call 422-2745 or email ajnitz@aol.com.