

THIS & THAT



ENTERTAINMENT PICKS WITH JEREMY D. BONFIGLIO

Something 'Special'

Legendary bluegrass outfit **The Special Consensus** returns Friday for an 8 p.m. concert at **The Acorn Theater**, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks.

Greg Cahill, the lone original member of a band that began in the spring of 1975, will be joined by **Rick Faris**, **Dan Eubanks** and **Nick Dumas** (see photo Page 9). The four-person acoustic bluegrass band has seen its share of lineup changes over the years.

More than 45 musicians have passed through its ranks, including such notable alumni as singer-guitarist **Chris Jones** (1981-85), **Robbie Fulks** (1988-90), **Dallas Wayne** (who played bass from 1989-91), fiddler **Al Murphy** (1990-91) and mandolinists **Josh Williams** (1999-2004) and **Ron Spears** (2004-07), among many others.

The band has released 17 recordings to date and, despite the personnel changes, Cahill and The Special Consensus somehow continue to maintain a sound that bridges the gap between traditional bluegrass and the contemporary newgrass movement.

Tickets are \$20.

For more information, call 756-3879 or visit www.acorntheater.com.

From rags to boogie-woogie

Pianist **Bob Milne** performs at 7 p.m. Saturday at **Berrien Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**, 4340 Lincoln Ave., St. Joseph.

Milne, who lives in Oregon Township in Lapeer County, Mich., is a master of the ragtime and boogie-woogie piano styles that developed in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He's been asked to perform for **President George H.W. Bush** more than a dozen times and has even been designated a National Treasure by the Library of Congress. But what he enjoys the most is performing in front of a crowd.

Since 1991, Milne's penchant for barrelhouse and ragtime styles has made him a fixture on the festival and concert hall circuit. He has composed more than 40 piano rags and produced 13 solo piano recordings.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door and \$5 for children 12 and younger.

For more information, call 720-289-8125 or visit berrienuu.org/shop.

Collage concert

ArtsBridge presents a Collage Concert featuring **I'm Saving Myself Academy Choir** and **The Citadel Dance & Music Center** at 4 p.m. Sunday at **First Presbyterian Church**, 475 Green Ave., Benton Harbor.

The choir is directed by **Bonita Mitchell**. Its mission is to give youth a platform through music and performing arts to express themselves in a positive way. The I'm Saving Myself Academy Choir, which has existed in some form for the past 11 years, also includes assistant directors **Jimmyella Toney** and **Iris Bowman**.

Students and faculty from The Citadel Dance & Music Center also will perform. Under music director **Susan Dietrich-Reed**, the center has 30 professional instructors who teach instrumental and vocal private lessons year round for 250 students ages 5 through adult. Kindermusik, Music Therapy, Ensemble Coaching and Summer Strings also are offered through the program.

Sunday's event also will feature the photography of **Mark Kelly**, who has been a commercial and advertising photographer since graduating in 1979 from the University of Notre Dame.

Admission is free, but donations are accepted. For more information, call 925-7075 or visit firsttresbh.org.

Oscar winner

Thanks for those who participated in our annual **Oscars** contest. We received a number of ballots, but no one picked all six major award categories correctly. One of you, however, did manage to get all six wrong, but we won't name names.

The clear winner this year was Bridgman resident **Ilene Nemitz**, who was the only person to correctly pick five of the six awards – including "Spotlight" for Best Picture. The only category she missed was Supporting Actor, choosing the favorite **Sylvester Stallone** of "Creed," instead of eventual winner **Mark Rylance** of "Bridge of Spies." More than a few of us made that mistake.

Nemitz receives a \$50 gift certificate to Papa Vino's in St. Joseph for her winning ballot. Congratulations, Ilene.

Thanks for playing everyone, and better luck next year.