

Community Spotlight

Calhoun County

Free tax clinics are offered in Battle Creek every Tuesday, from now until April 15th. Appointments are available between 9:00 am and 8:00 pm. Just call 269-441-0985.

Senior Health Partners offers \$10.00 dollar cholesterol screenings and FREE blood pressures, blood sugar, and pulse-ox screenings with informative tips to stay healthy. Call 269-441-0948 for more information on this public service.

Did you know the Burnham Brook Community Center has a state of the art wood shop available to members? Call 260-966-2566, extension 320.

Branch County

Women's Health Fest will be March 8th at the Branch Area Career Center. Come enjoy exhibitors, refreshments, free childcare, workshops and giveaways. Mark your calendars!

Call the Burnside Senior Center, 517-279-6565, for details on the next Fraud and Abuse Prevention Presentation. The last meeting was a smash hit don't miss the next installment!

If you want to enjoy a great meal, a hand of cards, an interesting class or a game of pool, the Burnside Center of Coldwater may be for you! Check it out at www.orgsites.com/mi/hcburnside.

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Greetings!

It's only a few weeks from Spring! The transition to warmth is a welcomed event, even when it is a toss up whether we wake up to knee-deep glistening snow or ankle-deep Spring mud. Either way, we take it gleefully, knowing what comes next!

Beyond the weather, there's another exciting transition going on in Classic Club. We are proud to hand the baton to our new Classic Club director, Sarah Asher! Sarah joined us in 2007 and is now a full time member of our staff, bringing new ideas and excitement to our Classic Club!

Sarah has come up with some incredible traveling opportunities for you, as you will find out in the upcoming months. First on the docket is Sedona, AZ. But, this is no ordinary trip. This is a train adventure through the canyons of the West where you will see everything from a hopping art community to ancient earth formations. Come to the travel show (see page 3) on March 12th to find out all the details!

As you may recall, our last travel show was about Beijing. What a response! We have twenty three passengers set to explore Asia in April with Sarah! Congratulations to all who are going we can't wait to see pictures of your adventure!

Take a moment this Spring to celebrate Financial Literacy Month in April. Establishing good financial habits helps us to reach our financial goals. And it's a great time to teach others about handling money wisely!

Have a great season and we will see you for the Sedona travel show March 12th!

Important Information

Filing Taxes - IRS Quick Facts

The IRS website can be an extremely helpful resource this time of the year! The following fast facts are snippets of articles found at <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/index.html>. Type this web address into your browser to get more details!

- The IRS has unveiled a fast, secure, and free way to prepare and file taxes. Anyone with adjusted gross income of \$54,000 or less in 2007 qualifies for Free File. This program is available 24 hours a day through the IRS's network of partners. Access this service through the IRS website to ensure authenticity.
- Every year millions of people file Federal Income Tax returns even though they are not required to. The IRS website can help you find out if your income is below the filing requirement.
- The Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) targets a small number of high-income taxpayers who can otherwise claim so many deductions they owe little or no income tax. Look at the IRS website to see if you may be among a growing number of middle-income taxpayers subject to the AMT.
- If you'd like to save a stamp and a tank of gas this season, E-Filing may be for you! Consider using this handy option by accessing www.irs.gov.
- Check out tax preparation and counseling services available this season. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax return preparation by IRS-certified volunteers for people with low-to-moderate income. Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) provide free tax counseling and basic income tax return preparation for individuals 60 or older.

Ways To Save \$100

Driving Smart

Save gas mileage by keeping your car engine tuned and its tires inflated to their proper pressure. Be sure to fill the tank with the lowest-octane fuel recommended by your car owner's manual and then avoid fast start-ups and stops while driving to save hundreds of dollars on lower gas and maintenance costs.

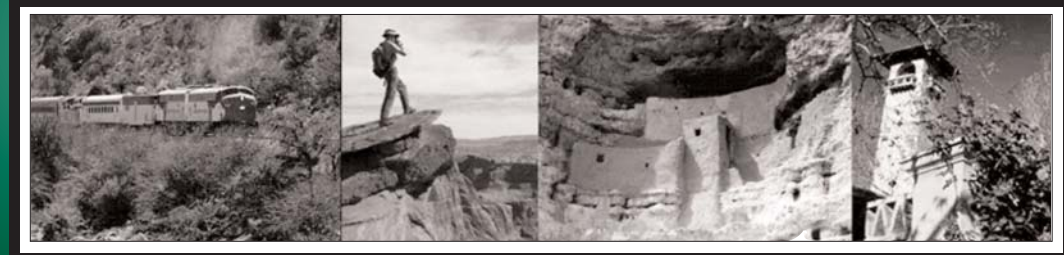
Flying Smart

Check multiple websites before purchasing airline tickets. Often, discount carriers like Southwest, Allegiant Air and Jet Blue offer tickets for much less. For example, Allegiant Air limits its destinations to popular snowbird and vacation spots like Florida and Las Vegas to lower their overhead costs. This often translates into efficient and economical service!

Activities Update

Great Trains & Grand Canyons

Travel Show



One Hotel - Daily Train Adventures

Transition seamlessly from nature's beauty to civilization's treasures in Sedona, AZ. Join us on a 6 day railroad adventure to breathtaking canyons, remnants of past civilizations, and a city known for the bevy of artistic talent it houses.

Catch the travel show on March 12th from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm! Meet at the Southern Michigan Bank and Trust Conference Center (2 West Chicago Street, Coldwater) for a presentation you won't want to miss. Please RSVP to Sarah (517-279-5670) so we can have plenty of refreshments!

Sedona...where natural and human wonders meet.

Just For Fun

Gifts With Style

Scratch and sniff gift cards are about to hit the market! Soon, you can personalize your gift cards by picking out 3-D action cards, paper purses gift card holders or even peppermint-scented scratch 'n sniff gift cards! Find out more at <http://money.cnn.com>.

Closer to Home

The gift card idea is being expanded as well! Now, you can purchase gift certificates from your local Chamber of Commerce that can be used like cash for a variety of goods and services. For instance, Coldwater offers customizable Chamber Checks that can be redeemed at over 60 area businesses. But Coldwater is not alone! Marshall offers Chamber Bucks that can be purchased in \$5 or \$10 increments. Battle Creek has Certifcheks in increments of \$10.