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## Rock the Coast announces Christian music lineup for 2009

(Submitted by Roger Eikenberry)

The sixth annual Rock the Coast weekend will be held at Michigan's Adventure Amusement Park on May 16 and 17.

Rock the Coast 2009 will feature five bands on Saturday, May 16. The main stage lineup includes a local band, **The Fabulous**, as the opening act. **Everlife** makes their Rock the Coast debut with sisters Sarah, Julia and Amber, who have been on the road with the Miley Cyrus/Hannah Montana tour. **Fireflight**, another first time performer, is one of the hottest young bands in Christian music. **The Afters**, with the number one downloaded song of 2006, saw their career soar to another level in 2008.

Headlining the event will be **Sanctus Real**, a band that debuted in 2002 with an all-time record for first week sales and were chosen "New Artist of the Year" in 2003.

Top name Christian music groups combined with two days of rides at the amusement park provides a family-friendly atmosphere that is fun and exciting.

The sponsors, Alive on the Lakeshore, First Priority, and Youth for Christ, are hoping for a record year. Rock the Coast tickets are on sale now via Startickets by calling 800-585-3737 or online at startickets.com.

For more information, visit the website: www.unitychristianevents.com. •

## MCC Overbrook Gallery exhibits the work of a new instructor

(Submitted by Muskegon Community College)

Muskegon Community College's Overbrook Gallery presents "Old Politics in a New Millennium: Prints and Paintings by Erin Hoffman," a collection of works from new full-time art faculty member, Erin Hoffman. The exhibit consists of oil paintings and newer work which combine relief printed imagery with hand-drawn and painted elements.

Ms. Hoffman's work explores issues of contemporary American identity by relating it to the historical and political past.

Admission to the gallery is always free. There will be a free public reception on Monday, April 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. At that time, Ms. Hoffman will present a gallery talk explaining her approach to making art and answering questions regarding the work in the gallery. Overbrook Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

During this exhibit, there will also be evening hours prior to theater performances of *Scapino*, which runs March 25 through 29. The gallery will be open from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Sunday on the performance days.

For more information, please call (231) 777-0399. •

## Applegate Insulation expanding

(Submitted by Applegate Insulation)

Applegate Insulation, the world's largest privately owned cellulose insulation manufacturer, has expanded with the purchase of a factory in Penrose, Colorado. Applegate Insulation has been manufacturing cellulose insulation since 1978; is headquartered in Webberville, Michigan; and operates a total of seven facilities in Michigan, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Louisiana, Wisconsin, and now in Penrose, Colorado.

Applegate Insulation has been recycling American resources to save American energy for over 30 years. Applegate Cellulose Insulation is manufactured from recycled paper and fire retardants to significantly reduce heat transfer, and thus heating and cooling expenses, in homes and commercial buildings.

Applegate has paid out millions of dollars to communities and other grass roots organizations such as churches, schools, and Boy Scouts for newspapers they have generated in fund raising paper drives and recycling projects. Applegate makes recycling profitable in more ways than any other "green" business. First, by removing paper out of the waste stream, reducing dependence on landfills and thus easing environmental stress. Second, by saving heating and cooling costs, minimizing home energy consumption, and thus lessening dependence on foreign oil. And, third, by paying non-profit groups for their recycling of papers, enabling them to fund their worthwhile projects within a context of environmental stewardship.

Aaron Applegate, founder of Applegate Insulation, had this to say about the February, 2009 acquisition, "It's because the Applegate team does have hope in things unseen that we are expanding our scope of operations even while our competitors are shrinking theirs. We are not blind, we understand how tough things are; but we would rather prepare for the future resurgence in housing than sit around and lick our wounds. I believe that some of the best times in new construction are still to come. And with the Colorado plant we are in a better position to serve our western customers when those good times come around again."

For additional information regarding cellulose insulation or Applegate Insulation in particular, please visit www.applegateinsulation.com.

Besides insulation, Applegate also manufactures hydro-seeding mulches which are shipped world wide. For information on Applegate Mulch, please visit www.applegatemulch.com.

For additional information on how your group can raise funds while protecting the environment, please visit www.paper-drive.com. ••

## Happiness is just a thing...

by Clif Martin

It was Jack Benny's valet, Rochester, who started what became one of radio's longest running gags when he referred to some California cities with funny names. I feel sad for those too young to know why their grandparents still laugh at the mention of "Anaheim, Azusa, and Cucamonga." They are culturally deprived. When Mel Blanc delivered that line on the Benny show, it was always good for a laugh, no matter how many times we had heard it before.

That reminds me of a movie that I love, *Cabin in the Sky*, featured the great Ethel Waters as Petunia, long-suffering wife of Little Joe, lovable but unable to stay away from gambling. Joe was played by Eddie Anderson, so well known for his role as Jack Benny's valet that the film credits called him Eddie "Rochester" Anderson. When Petunia sings, "Happiness is just a thing called Joe," to Little Joe as he lies mortally wounded, I fall apart. That's one of the greatest torch songs ever written. The film's title song is a rare gem, too. The opening notes climb upward like the mystical stairway to the cabin in the sky that Petunia and Joe ascend in the last scene.

My happiness is just a thing called being kissed on the cheek by Ethel Waters. She did that after I did a radio interview with her on WKJR in the '60s. Precious memories. •



## Pirates, ahoy!

by Diane Irwin

High seas adventures awaited the students of Creative Child Preschool recently when their classroom was a frenzy of pirate activity. Miss Di and staff created Pirates' Cove where the children made Black Beard the Pirate. Sea Shell Lagoon was the site of sand sculptures; and, of course, no pirate island would be whole without a treasure hunt complete with treasure boxes and treasures.

Creative Child Preschool would like to thank Noah Willard's family for the awesome, almost real pirate ship that helped make this a special time.

"Bringing to life units of study makes learning more fun and memorable for the students," Miss Di commented.

Diane Irwin is program director and lead teacher for the four year olds. "We do our best to excite the children during our units of study. They learn basic concepts and fine tune their motor skills at the same time."

On this particular day, the children walked the plank, partook of pirate ale (ginger ale), and had a swash-buckling good time. "We (the staff) put in extra time and effort to make their (the children's) first learning experiences memorable," contined Miss Diane. "The children get excited and so does the staff. After more than 30 years of teaching, I'm still not sure who enjoys these special days more — the children or the staff."

Creative Child Preschool is located at 4600 E. Apple Avenue in the Fellowship Reformed Church. We serve families in the Fruitport, Cloverville, Muskegon, North Muskegon and Spring Lake areas. The program is a kindergarten readiness program, with emphasis on self esteem, language building, academics, and peer socializing. Every child is special to us and we are dedicated to making their first learning experience one that will benefit them and their families.

There will be a Public Open House for all 3 and 4 year olds interested in the 2009-2010 school year on Thursday, March 19 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and on Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to noon. Enrollment forms will be available at this time. Please stop in and see what we have to offer your child.

For more information, call Miss Di at 865-3936. •

## Smackdown and ECW live in Grand Rapids

(Submitted by VanAndel Arena)

In a world heavyweight championship match, The Undertaker versus Edge when the WWE visits Grand Rapids on Saturday, May 9.

Other smackdown and ECW superstars on the card include Jeff Hardy, Umaga, Matt Hardy, Carlito, Christian, MVP, Mark Henry and many more.

The excitement begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Van Andel Arena. Tickets are now on sale at the arena and DeVos Place box offices and through Ticketmaster centers. Ticket prices are \$17.50, \$22.50, \$32.50, \$42.50 and \$62.50. You may also charge by phone at 1-800-745-3000 or online at www.ticketmaster.com. •

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