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**Easter Brunch
&
Easter Egg Hunt**
Sunday, March 23rd
11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Meet the
Easter Bunny
at Heinz Field

Reservations on a first come first serve basis; space is limited
Reserve by phone or e-mail
412.697.7144
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Adults \$27.95
Kids 8 & under \$11.95
Kids 2 & under FREE
*Tax & service charge not included

Easter Egg Hunt for children 12 and under will take place between 12:30-1:30pm. Please bring your own basket.

InSide North Side

A Publication of the North Side/North Shore Chamber of Commerce, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

February 2008

Increased Minimum Wages Update

by Eric Schumann NSNSCC Board

Employers should be aware that the federal minimum wage is scheduled to increase to \$7.25 over the next two years, with the increase phased in as follows:

Effective Date	Rate per hour
July 24, 2007	\$5.85
July 24, 2008	\$6.55
July 24, 2009	\$7.25

The Pennsylvania minimum wage is also scheduled to increase to \$7.25 over the next few years, also to be phased in as follows:

Effective Date	Rate per hour
July 1, 2007	\$7.15
July 24, 2009	\$7.25

For small businesses (i.e. those that have the equivalent of 10 or less full-time employees), the Pennsylvania minimum wage was increased to \$6.65 after July 1, 2007 and will be further increased to \$7.25 on July 24, 2009.

A business that employs workers in Pennsylvania must pay the higher of the federal or the Pennsylvania minimum wage. That means the Pennsylvania numbers will apply until July 24, 2009, when the two will be identical. However, along with the lower rate for small businesses, there are other exceptions under Pennsylvania law to the minimum wage, such as a youth training wage, teachers and students, and those employed in seasonal public amusements or recreation. Also, some employees are exempt from the minimum wage, such as executive, administrative and professional employees that qualify under those regulations.

Employers must download and prominently post the new minimum wage poster which is available at www.state.pa.us, PA keyword: minimum wage. The new federal minimum wage poster is not yet available, but employers should periodically check for it at the Department of Labor's website www.dol.gov/esa/regs/compliance/posters/flsa.

If you have any questions concerning the new rates, please contact Eric Schumann, Tucker Arensberg, P.C. at 412-594-5600.

Petrell From Carbis Walker Talks Tax Law Changes to NSNSCC Members



Jeffrey Petrell, JD, CPA, Partner with Carbis Walker brought his sixteen years of public accounting experience to a recent NSNS Chamber event. He went over changes in tax laws that could affect a variety of business deductions as well as personal deductions. He also answers questions for those in attendance.

Petrell is a frequent speaker in the field of tax-exempt organizations and has authored articles published in The Pennsylvania CPA Journal. You can contact him at 412-635-6270.

Help Startups Partners with Riverside Center for Innovation

Help Startups is now partnered with the Riverside Center for Innovation (RCI), which will enhance the effectiveness of both organizations' entrepreneurial support activities. RCI brings decades of community development and entrepreneurial support experience, while *Help Startups* brings a broad network of entrepreneurs, and expertise with online media via the www.helpstartups.com entrepreneurs' web portal.

"This is a perfect fit to expand our capabilities," stated Juan Garrett, Deputy Director of the RCI. "We have been looking for a way to become more active in the online world to provide broader services to our constituencies, and the *Help Startups* web portal fills this need."

"*Help Startups* is honored to be associated with such a successful organization as the RCI," said Gary Rosensteel, Executive Director of *Help Startups*. "Being able to draw on their years of entrepreneurial support experience, along with their excellent facilities, will be a major factor in the success of *Help Startups*."

RCI is a comprehensive opportunity resource center for businesses and communities in Western Pennsylvania with unique tools to foster the creation of new enterprises, the rapid commercialization of innovations, and the expansions of existing businesses. The RCI has been providing entrepreneurial and community development

support services since the early 1960's.

Help Startups is focused on providing assistance to entrepreneurs. The primary vehicle for this is the entrepreneurs' web portal, HelpStartups.com. Through its meetings, *Help Startups* provides a venue for entrepreneurs to exchange ideas with their peers and meet with leaders of the entrepreneurial community. *Help Startups* also works to foster collaboration between entrepreneurial support organizations to maximize the effectiveness of their programs. For more information call 412-322-3523.

NorthSide/NorthShore Chamber Events for 2008

March 5	WPXI Networking/Tour
March TBA	Lunch With Pirate President Frank Coonelly
April TBA	Update from State Representatives Wheatley and Walko
June TBA	North Side Community Night with the Pirates
July 26	Celebration in the Park
September 22	NorthSide Charity Golf Outing
October TBA	North Side Business Awards
November TBA	Networking
December TBA	Annual Holiday Party

The third Tuesday of each month is a membership meeting held at Amani Coffee House on Foreland. Events are added as new opportunities arise throughout the year.

Inside Chamber Business


MATTRESS FACTORY TO OPEN BOXSPRING CAFE

On February 21, the Mattress Factory will bring the innovation and spirit for which they are known to the kitchen with the grand opening of the BoxSpring Café. Located in the lobby of the museum's main building at 500 Sampsonia Way, the BoxSpring Café will offer delicious selections created by chef Rich Rosenthal of M Catering. The fresh, healthy and eclectic menu includes soups, salads, sandwiches, specialty entrées and flatbread pizza. The art-infused museum ambiance, vegetarian-friendly menu and Al Fresco (weather permitting) patio promise a savory and memorable dining experience.

Chef Rich brings over seventeen years of epicurean experience to visitors' tables. Upon earning his culinary degree, Rich launched his career at the The Carlton, and soon became a managing chef at Café Azure, a legendary cornerstone of Pittsburgh fine dining. Pursuing his passion for pairing wine and food, Rich has studied both Old World and New World wines, as well as wine and food dynamics at The Culinary Institute of America – Greystone, in the Napa Valley.

"The opening of the BoxSpring Café is a milestone for us," says Catena Bahneman, Assistant Director of the Mattress Factory. "The museum originally began as a vegetarian co-op and we're very excited to again offer fresh, healthy fare containing only the best seasonal and local ingredients."

The BoxSpring Café Grand Opening party will be held on Thursday, February 21 at 7:00 PM. Taste some selections from the Spring menu and watch a cooking demonstration by Chef Rich. For more information and to download the BoxSpring menu in PDF format, visit www.mattress.org.



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"Don't be Afraid of the Dark" Beer Dinner

Atria's at PNC Park welcomes you to a journey with Chef Kenny Friday, February 22 at 6:00 p.m. as he prepares a four course meal cooked and served with an assortment of dark beers. Seating is limited, call for reservations at 412-322-1850.

Muriel's Delivers!!!!

Muriel's started lunch delivery in January to the following areas: *Allegheny West, Manchester, Mexican War Streets, Allegheny General Hospital, Deutschtown, Observatory Hill* There is a \$25.00 minimum order. The delivery menu is available for download at www.muriels.net/whatswhat.html Find weekly specials at <http://www.muriels.net/specials.html> Gift Certificates are available. They can be purchased by credit card and mailed to the recipient.

FMLA EXPANDED FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

by Eric Schumann NSNSCC Board

On January 28, 2008, President Bush signed legislation passed by Congress that expands the Family and Medical Leave Act for family members of military personnel. This is the first expansion of the FMLA since 1993.

The new law requires employers to offer up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to employees when a spouse, child or parent of the employee is a reservist or national guard member and is called to active duty with the military.

It further provides that a spouse, child, parent or next of kin of a service member may take up to 26 weeks of FMLA leave to care for the service members who has incurred an injury during military service when that injury results in the service member being unable to perform his or her duties. The Department of Labor will be implementing regulations to govern the specific terms of these new leave entitlements. Please contact Eric Schumann if you have any questions or need additional information.

SMC Business Councils Chairwoman Elected Chair of National Association

Marilyn Landis, chairwoman of SMC Business Councils and president of Basic Business Concepts, Inc., has been elected the 2008 chair of the National Small Business Association in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Landis' background as a SBA lender and president of a Pittsburgh-based firm providing CFO level services to small business will serve NSBA and America's 26 million small businesses well. Landis has been an active member of NSBA, holding various leadership positions, testifying before Congress on myriad issues, and working closely with lawmakers on important small business legislation.

Throughout her career, Ms. Landis has worked for three of the largest SBA lenders in the country, securing financing for income properties, construction projects, manufacturers, restaurants and hotels – handling loan amounts ranging from micro-loans to \$22,000,000 loans.

"Marilyn's keen understanding, both first-hand and from a lending perspective, of what it takes to start, run and grow a small business is a tremendous asset to our organization," said NSBA President Todd McCracken.

Last September, Ms. Landis was elected chairwoman of SMC Business Councils, a founding member and Pennsylvania affiliate of NSBA. She will continue to serve SMC, a trade association formed in 1944, which is headquartered in Pittsburgh with a branch office in Harrisburg.

SMC President Lee Taddonio said, "Marilyn's energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge about small business issues has been a tremendous asset to SMC over the years. As she assumes this dual role, we expect her work at NSBA will continue to benefit SMC and all of Pennsylvania's smaller enterprises."

For additional information about SMC and NSBA, please visit the Internet at www.smc.org and www.nsba.biz.

Light of Life Ministries a Call to Action

by David G. Bugher, Executive Director

You've probably noticed the pile of blankets in front of 4 East North Avenue. The woman who calls that home says her name is Fran. Sometimes it's Mary Ann. Her plight and the concern it causes neighbors tell the difficult and complicated story of homelessness in Pittsburgh. I've been asked many times why Light of Life can't help her. My wife and I, many other Light of Life staff members, other service providers as well as the police have spoken with her on numerous occasions. She has consistently refused help—and has the right to do so according to local and state law.

The vast majority of men and women sleeping on the street suffer from mental illness— which makes it difficult for them to make rational decisions. Current laws in most states including Pennsylvania prohibit one person from compelling another person to get mental health treatment unless that

person is an immediate threat to himself or to others.

Fran's situation, like hundreds of others, calls for courageous and difficult decisions. The County's 10-year plan to end homelessness plans for an Engagement Network of locations where homeless men and women can drop in for day services and where police can drop off folks like Fran. This sounds like a wonderful solution except for one uncomfortable fact: No Pittsburgh neighborhood wants one of these facilities in its backyard.

There is only one way to solve this problem. ALL interested parties (business leaders, neighborhood groups, service providers and elected officials) must come together to find the best solutions for the community as a whole. One neighborhood cannot wrestle with this alone and find a satisfactory solution. I am anxious to be part of that discussion. I can be reached at 412-258-6100.

Screening of PBS Series "How the Myth of Race Took Hold"

The second of three free events continue at the Community House Presbyterian Church at 7p.m. on Wednesday, February 27 with a screening of episode two from "The Story We Tell," providing the historical context for race in North America, how the idea of race got started and why it took such a hold over our minds. Episode three on March 26, "The House We Live In," spotlights how our social institutions 'make' race by providing different groups vastly different life chances even today, 40 years after the Civil Rights Act.

The general public is invited to attend and enjoy a post-viewing discussion, followed by coffee and dessert. Community House Church is located at 120 Parkhurst Street (corner of Sandusky and Parkhurst, across from AGH emergency room entrance).

For more information you can go to www.communityhousepittsburgh.org

A screening of Part One "The Power of Illusion," will be shown February 24 at noon at the Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church at 416 West North Avenue. www.alleghenyuu.org

NEW: Breakfast New Orleans Style at the Bistro!

First, the Bistro To Go team thanks everyone for the generous patronage and warm encouragement that made the first months of this neighborhood business a great success.

Starting February 25th, up from 7 to 11 a.m. Monday through Saturday, the innovative chefs at the Bistro begin serving up a unique "New Orleans Style Breakfast" including: • French Quarter fritatas • Beignets & sweet potato biscuits • Maple

pecan French toast • Whole grain breakfast sandwiches • Seasonal fruit and yogurt parfaits • Vanilla spice oatmeal • Cinnamon sticky buns • Omelets to order • plus chicory coffee and more!

For more savory details to go www.BistroToGo.com or call 412-231-0218.

Bistro To Go also offers a lunch and dinner menu—as always, simple, fresh and delicious—that changes daily, as well as catering for all sizes of gatherings.

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NSNSCC Board President John Graft, Owner of Priory Hotel, present Gretchen Fieser from the Western PA Human Society a

check for \$2,500 from the Annual North Side Charity Golf outing hosted by Riverside Center for Innovation and the NorthSide/NorthShore Chamber.