

# hp BUSINESS

## BUSINESS PEOPLE

### Walters named a top 10 recruiter

ST. JOSEPH — **Joan Walters**, owner and president of **JR Walters Resources**, was recently named one of the top 10 recruiters by the Top Echelon Independent Recruiting Network, which includes more than



WALTERS

1,000 executive recruiters throughout the U.S. and Canada.

JR Walters, a home-based business, specializes in contract and direct placement of engineers, architects and construction management professionals. The firm recently celebrated its 17th year in business.

According to the firm's web site, Walters obtained her bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University and her master's in personnel and counseling from Western Michigan University.

Her background includes 10 years in human resources in automotive manufacturing and 20 years in engineering recruitment. She obtained her certification from the National Association of Personnel Consultants.

For more information, visit [www.jrwalters.com](http://www.jrwalters.com).

► **BARODA** — Fremont Insurance, a Michigan-exclusive property and casualty insurance carrier, has designated **Ott Insurance Agency** in Baroda as one of the company's 5-Star organizations.



DOUG OTT



GRIFFIN OTT

Owner **Doug Ott** and his son, **Griffin Ott**, an agent for the company, accepted the award recently at the company's winter regional meeting at Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, Mich.

"Ott Insurance Agency embodies the characteristics necessary to be successful in our industry — hard work, a commitment to the customer and the drive to achieve quality business results — even in a challenging economic environment," Fremont Insurance Co. President and CEO Richard Dunning said in a news release announcing the 5-Star ranking.

Fremont Insurance Co., a 134-year-old company headquartered in Fremont, Mich., every year honors insurance agencies that maintain the highest business standards and performance. The award recognizes agencies that have achieved long-term success.

While business expertise is an important component of the award, customer satisfaction and community contributions are also central to the award, Dunning said.

Items for Business People should be e-mailed to [business@TheH-P.com](mailto:business@TheH-P.com), faxed to 429-4398 or mailed to Business People, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph MI 49085.

## Bill seeks to sidestep ruling allowing direct wine shipments

Opponents say liquor distributors would benefit, wineries and consumers would be the losers

By **MICHAEL DOYLE**  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — A brewing Capitol Hill fight pits California winemakers against beer wholesalers and others who are hoping to out-

flank a landmark Supreme Court decision.

One hundred and seven lawmakers, nearly one-fourth of the House of Representatives, support legislation that would make it easier for states to hinder direct shipments of alcohol. The bill effectively takes the fizz out of a 2005 Supreme Court decision that said some bans on direct shipments violated the Constitution.

The bill's supporters say they want to bolster state alcohol enforcement powers.

"With (the bill), Congress is taking an important step toward ending the erosion of the states' ability to regulate alcohol," the president of the National Beer Wholesalers Association, Craig Purser, declared when the bill was introduced earlier this year.

The bill's opponents say it would benefit booze distributors at the expense of wineries and consumers.

"It really threatens the progress that's been made on direct shipping of wine," U.S. Rep. George Radanovich, R-

Calif., said Friday. "It puts into jeopardy all of the work we've done."

Himself a former winemaker, Radanovich co-chairs the 250-member Congressional Wine Caucus. The caucus supports direct shipping and will play a big role in what happens next.

Realistically, the legislation to complicate direct shipments has little to no chance in the remaining months of this Congress.

Its chief author, Rep. Bill Delahunt, D-Mass., is a lame

duck. Its opponents include key lieutenants of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who often champions her home state's wine industry. Two months after Delahunt quietly introduced his bill, a Senate version is nowhere in sight.

Politically, though, the bill signals a resurgence in the long-running struggle that pits different elements of the alcohol business against one another.

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## BENTON HARBOR



Photos by Don Campbell / H-P staff

Staff and volunteers sort through donated items at the 6 Degrees Resale Store at 510 W. Main St., Benton Harbor. The store recently moved from its old, smaller location at 174 W. Main.

## 6 Degrees Resale Store triples in size

Emergency Shelter Services' store has events Friday and Saturday

By **MICHAEL ELIASOHN**  
H-P Correspondent

BENTON HARBOR — Emergency Shelter Services' 6 Degrees Resale Store has scheduled events Friday evening and Saturday to celebrate its new and much larger location.

ESS opened the store in 2008 at 174 W. Main St. in a building it rented from Cornerstone Alliance. The move to 510 W. Main St. triples the space, according to manager Sally Sovinski.

"We were very packed, so we moved to a much bigger space," she said.

The store opened in its new location June 1. The former occupant, City Auto & Tire Inc., moved back to its original location at 245 W. Main.

Emergency Shelter Services, at 645 Pipestone St. in Benton Harbor, provides housing and other services for families who otherwise would be homeless. Proceeds



**Sally Sovinski, manager of the 6 Degrees Resale Store, now located at 510 W. Main St., Benton Harbor, said the store has tripled in size since moving from its former location. The store is operated by Emergency Shelter Services, which uses the proceeds to help families in need.**

from 6 Degrees Resale Store support the work of ESS. Client families in need of items such as clothing or furniture can pay for them by working at the store.

In addition to helping ESS clients learn job skills, the store employs workers through the Michigan Works

Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Program.

From 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, 6 Degrees will have an evening of fashion, music and local food and wine. Admission will be \$25. Tickets will be available at the door or can be purchased in advance at 6 Degrees or by calling 927-6060

for a reservation. All proceeds will benefit Emergency Shelter Services.

There will be sample wine tastings from area wineries, including Tabor Hill, Karma Vista and Lemon Creek, and beer from The Livery. Appetizers will come from Panera Bread, Bistro on the Boule-

vard and the Phoenix cafe.

During a silent auction, guests can bid on higher-end items that have been donated to 6 Degrees, including antique tables, reconstructed and recycled furniture, and art.

Live music will be provided by Michael Koch, who will be debuting songs from his new album, "Progress."

The evening will end with a fashion show featuring clothes from the store, spanning decades of retro fashion from the 1950s to the '90s. Original clothing designs from Benton Harbor-based organic clothing line, Posh & Ritzy, will be featured on the catwalk.

From noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sovinski said, 6 Degrees will serve free hot dogs and beverages and conduct a drawing to win a bicycle, as well as provide an opportunity for the public to see the new store.

The store sells donated furniture, clothing, electronics, dishes, bedding, books, appliances and other items. Artists' works are sold on consignment.

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## Niles Tourism Council schedules grand opening Friday

NILES — The Four Flags Area Council on Tourism will have a grand opening celebration at 2 p.m. Friday at its new location at 404 E. Main St., Niles, in the Four Flags Hotel.

The event, co-sponsored by the West Michigan Tourist Association, will include live entertainment by

Greta Pope, an international artist who performs an array of music from country and opera to rhythm and blues, and a visit from Miss Southwest Michigan 2010, Whitney Rehn Munger. Other Blossomtime and community queens will attend.

State Rep. Sharon Tyler, members

of the Four Flags Area Board of Directors and local historian Donna Ochenryder will also attend.

Refreshments will be served. Attendees are invited to participate in an information exchange by bringing brochures, business cards or other literature about their businesses or

services.

The Salvation Army will collect school supplies for its school backpack program and non-perishable food items for its food pantry.

For more information, call the Four Flags Area Tourism Council, 684-7444, or visit [info@fourflagsarea.org](mailto:info@fourflagsarea.org).