

Tawas Bay Players Newsletter

July /August 2012



Help!

I would like to first of all thank all the people who contribute items for the newsletters. It is quite an undertaking to try and gather all the information. I need help with future issues. Please let me know what is happening with our TBP Family. Just like any family we want to be involved in each others' lives. So tell me about weddings, anniversaries, babies, graduations, college plans and just about anything else that you think might be of interest to others. Did you see a show? Are you involved with a great project? What have you been doing? You don't have to write an article, just provide the who, what, when and where and I'll put it into an article form. To start it off I am including the following information from Sue Dowell that was helpful to her family.

Congratulations to Tim Haskin who served as Grand Marshal for the 2012 July 4th Parade!!!

Lotsa Helping Hands by Sue Dowell

Hello fellow TBPers. As some of you may know, my sister is suffering from ALS and is at a stage where she is pretty much incapacitated. My other sister & I are far from Lansing so the caregiver duties fall to my brother-in-law most of the time. My sister is uncomfortable with strangers, she prefers a friendly face without judgment. A friend found a website called "Lotsa Helping Hands" and established a link for Irene. In her particular case, she set up a calendar so that friends could volunteer to visit and help with meals during the week. Her husband prepares wonderful dinners and is able to take a couple of hours for himself. My point is that if you need any sort of help from friends or family, you can establish a private link geared toward your particular needs. My sister's calendar fills up pretty quickly and it was surprising how many people responded and how far they would travel to help. Everyone has to be invited to your site via e-mail once it's set up. That makes it very private. I also thought it would be a good way for TBPers to get involved with helping other members if they're interested. Using this website has been a huge relief for our family so please investigate whether or not this could ease some of your burden too.

The Honeycomb

The summer of 2012 features a second world premier with the children's production of *The Honeycomb*, an original musical written by our own Diane Meyer. The show is directed by Suzan Witt and Diane with Pam Katona as the musical director and vocal coach. Cast members include Jade Archambault, Arden Torgusen, Logan Madrigal-Silver, Ammy, Chele Shuart, Katie Boensch, Ryan Kaiserman, Jamie Yates, Kaitlyn Gorman, Aiden Strauer, Carter Chrivia, Wylie Duda, Zachary Dalton, Lawson Dorle, Scott Madrigal-Silver, Mason Brewer, Liam Strauer, Shaina Brown, Kindra Winters, Gabbi Allan, Noelia Madrigal-Silver, Makayla Jordan, Katelyn Shattuck, Aly Revall, Sydney Schaaf, Shea Bryant, Charleson Shuart, Alec Schley, Elise Heal, Charlotte Foether, Lauren Langley, Anesia Shaffer, Arina Wade, Frankie Crowder, Joey Earnst, Dan Jordan and Kallie Jordan. Production dates are August 10, 11 and 12; it will be performed only one weekend with a ticket price of \$5.00.

The World Premier Is a Success!!! by Deb DeBois

We had a very nice opening weekend for Michal Jacot's newest play, *"Let's Play 'Crossroads'"*. The audiences laughed, watching the cast deal with the reality game show format and seemed to enjoy the audience participation process of watching a TV game. I am very proud of the cast and crew of this production for all of their hard work and efforts as they pulled this show together despite having to work through some very **HOT!!!** rehearsals when the air conditioning was on the fritz for the last two weeks.

This was the first time we had no "crew" or "stage manager" backstage (with the exception of lights and sound up in the booth and the set builders, painters & creators). Some of the cast had those jobs onstage, acting their tech parts. All

the cast helped with their own costuming, hair, make-up, and props. Thanks go out to Producer June Groff and AD Tina Dalton, but a big special thank-you goes out to Michal for all his extra work as set designer & re-writing editor.

As this article is being turned over to Pam, we are looking forward to our final 4 performances of the play. Then we turn the play back over to Michal to add/delete some of our craziness we all brought to the show. Hopefully when he sends this one off to the publisher, it will become his eighth published play and we will all be famous on its inside pages as the original cast and performance theater. **Editors Note: This summer's production of Let's Play "Crossroads" featured several actors brand new to TBP as well as some of our most experienced ones. Welcome to Norm Halstead, Diana Halstead, Raine August, Ruth Vernon, Karen DiFilippo and Jeanette Branham. We hope they had fun with this show and will stay involved. Other cast members included Michal Jacot (the playwright), Alan Dalton, Sharon Langley, Barb Hunter, Sue Dowell, George Robson, Jonathon Shaffer, Lynn Phillips, Reesie Smith, Brianna Dalton and Zach Dalton.**

***Let's Play "Crossroads"* - From the Writer's Viewpoint by Michal Jacot**

It's a pretty strange feeling being in *Let's Play "Crossroads"*. It's the first time I've been in a play that I've written that someone else (the amazing Deb DeBois) is directing. It's kind of like handing your child over to someone and having them raise him. But Deb has done a terrific job, and I've done my best to keep my meddling in her directorial duties to a minimum.

For those who might be interested, there's a process that goes into getting a play published. First (well, duh) you write a play. The trick from there is to find a publisher who will add it to their company's catalog of scripts. It's entirely possible to publish your scripts yourself, without a professional publisher. Of course, that means you have to distribute advertising, catalogs and publicity materials around the country on a regular basis; you have to print your own scripts; you have to handle and pay for copyright paperwork; you have to deal with contracts and paperwork; you have to edit your own work; and you have to promote your script – all things the publisher does. That's a lot of expense and time; the publisher earns their cut of the royalties you get from your scripts (which, for the curious, is usually a 50/50 split between author and publishing house).

Every time a community theatre or high school performs a published script, they must pay royalties, a fee for every night it's performed. The fee is usually a little higher for the first night's performance, so you might hear a term like "65/50" in reference to royalties; that means the theatre pays \$65 for the first night and \$50 per performance for every performance afterwards. Royalty fees on a script vary from company to company and are based on the size of a script. (You don't pay full royalties for a ten-minute play – go figure.)

So obviously, I like it when groups run my plays for two or three weekends. The theatre pays the royalties on a script based on how many performances they're planning to do, and they send that money to the publishing house. The publishing house keeps half and sends the other half to the playwright. The upside of this arrangement is that I still get paid for scripts I wrote 20 years ago, because they're still being performed. The downside is that I still don't make enough to quit my day job and buy that mansion in the Bahamas that I've had my eye on. But it's a nice side income, and above all I still consider writing to be a hobby. The minute it stops being fun and starts being a job is where I stop writing.

By the way, people have asked me if I'm getting royalties for this production. "Crossroads" won second place in the Community Theatre Association of Michigan's playwriting contest last year and one of the terms of winning is that any CTAM group can do the show for free for the first year. Believe me; what I've gotten out of being in this show is well worth any money I'd have gotten. I like to think that it's one of those "win-win" situations for everyone involved. "Crossroads" is a unique experience for me. At our read-through, I told everyone that if they found any flaws in the script to please tell me. And the cast responded with some wonderful suggestions, suggestions that will all show up in the script's rewrite.

And once this show is done I'll rewrite the script. I'll use the suggestions given me, I'll fix what didn't work as far as staging or pacing or just plain mush-mouthed lines that were hard to say. And then it'll be off to the publishing houses. One production of a script can give the author invaluable information on what works and what doesn't. Just the fact that "Crossroads" has been done helps me; some publishers won't even look at a script unless it has been produced and "field-tested" somewhere – something that will help Diane Meyer when she markets her upcoming script "The Honeycomb."

When "Crossroads" is published, it will be produced around the country and beyond (the farthest away one of my scripts has been done is Newfoundland). And in each copy, in the front, will be a page saying that it was first performed by the Tawas Bay Players, with the original cast listed. It's not exactly having your name in lights on Broadway, but it's still fun!

Exciting CTAM Happenings by Vincent Weiler

I would like to see a good turnout from our group to this year's **CTAM Fall Conferenceto** to be held **September 28th – 30th** at McGuire's in Cadillac. I have been so fortunate and honored to have been elected president of this fine organization for the past two years and seeing that Bev and I will be spending more time at our new home in North Carolina, I have decided that I will not be seeking a third term and will be passing the position on to someone else, so I would like to see some friends from my group there to help me celebrate this event. Not only this, but there will be great workshops as well as a lot of fun mixing with members of other groups from around the state.

Also, I want to mention **CTAM's New Leadership Conference** where we would like at least one person who is in a leadership position from each group to attend this conference which will be moderated by Ron Zeigler from AACT. This will be on **November 9-11** at Old Town Playhouse in Traverse City. If we want our theatre to be on the cutting edge it is important for us to have someone there. See the CTAM website www.communitytheatre.org or the Callboard for more information. Remember there are scholarship funds to help with expenses if needed. **Editor's note: Vincent also sent information about the Master Classes offered in July but unfortunately they will be finished by the time you get this.**

TBP Annual Meeting

What: TBP Annual Membership Dinner/Meeting

When: Saturday, August 18, 2012 beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Where: Tom Dillon Park, at the corner of Smith St. and Woodlawn in East Tawas



At the 2011 annual meeting, the members voted to have a picnic this year. We have outgrown dinners in our refreshment room and the cost of renting a room is prohibitive. The Board will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, chips and ice. Each member/member family is asked to bring your own table service, whatever you would like to drink (alcohol is permitted) and a dish to pass. We are asking those with last names beginning with the letters A-G to bring a salad (i.e. tossed, fruit, vegetable, Jello), those beginning with the letters H-N to bring some kind of side dish or casserole (baked beans, rice, potatoes, etc) and if your last name begins with the letters O-Z please bring a dessert. Please bring a large enough quantity to serve 10 – 12.

The meeting, election of Board Members and selection of the Founders' Award winner will be held first with dinner to follow. You may want to bring a lawn chair for the meeting so you don't have to sit at the picnic tables. Board members up for reelection are June Hudgins, Debbie DeBois and Judy Quarters. If anyone is interested in running for one of these board seats please call or email Keith Frank so he can prepare the ballots. Remember that memberships are renewed at this time and you must be a paid member to vote.

Please call or email Keith or Pam Frank (see info below) to let us know how many will attend and whether you prefer hamburgers or hot dogs to eat. We need help the day of the picnic with setup, decorating, cooking, etc. If you can help please let us know.

TBP Contact Information

Keith Frank – President	362-8492	k.frank@charter.net
June Hudgins – Vice President/House Manager	362-8423	jhudgins8423@charter.net
Vickie Szatkowski – Secretary	362-6419	densden2@yahoo.com
Pat Casey – Treasurer/Singers	362-6012	pcasey@chartermi.net
Debra DeBois – Corresponding Secretary	362-6800	debois@charter.net
Chris Mundy	362-9199	daddoo10@hotmail.com
Penny Zacharias	739-1903	pzac7@yahoo.com
Judy Quarters	362-8463	judykq@hotmail.com
Tim Haskin	362-4978	tawastim@yahoo.com
Pam Frank – Newsletter Editor	362-8492	p.frank@charter.net

TBP Board Notes by Keith Frank

Construction Update

In mid June, we put the Orchestra Room/External Hallway project out for bids. Three bids were received on the project: Buchanan Builders at \$128,659 for the entire project, \$83,987 for just the Orchestra Room, Hemphill & Schirmer Construction at \$85,665 for the entire project with no bid for just the Orchestra Room and Lakeshore Contracting at \$68,385 for the entire project and \$51,550.00 for just the Orchestra Room.

Following the bid opening, the bids were turned over to Russo Engineering for review. Since we were not familiar with Lakeshore Contracting (Barry Schley) we asked Jim Russo to verify the bid with Barry. Barry verified that his bid was indeed a good bid. We then asked Jim to do some investigation into the references that Barry provided. Jim checked on six of the seven references provided, with projects ranging from \$7,700 on the low end to several new homes and remodeling projects in excess of \$100,000. All of the references checked gave Lakeshore Contracting glowing recommendations and said that they would not hesitate to hire them again.

On Monday, July 23 the Tawas Bay Players board held a special meeting to review and/or award a bid. TBP finances were reviewed at this time. Following discussion and input from Jim Russo, the bid was awarded to Lakeshore Contracting for the entire project at a cost of \$68,385. Barry will be informed that he received the bid and he will then secure the insurances and performance bond. Once this is secured construction will begin. According to the contract the start date is scheduled for Monday, August 13 (after the children's show) with a completion date of Friday, October 5 (before our fall show). If he secures the bonding and insurances early, he may begin working on the outside of the building prior to the start date. This will not interfere with the children's show.

So, don't be surprised in the next few weeks if you see contractors on site making major changes to the theater.

Air Conditioning

Prior to the start of our summer show, the air conditioning unit in the theater proper shut down. Almost all of the refrigerant had escaped and the blower motor needed to be replaced. Colvin Plumbing & Heating came in and made the repairs. When doing so, they warned us that because of the age of the unit, the repair may possibly not last long and the entire unit would need to be replaced. With the summer show only a week away, a decision was made to have Colvin's make the necessary repairs and hope that the problem would be solved so that we would have air in the theater for the show.

On Saturday of the second weekend of performances, the unit shut down again. Colvin Plumbing and Heating is currently working to provide an affordable solution. Their original estimate of \$4,000 has been trimmed to \$2,700 thanks to Duane Colvin's efforts to save us money. At this time the Board is trying to reach a decision on how to proceed.

No matter how we have to go, the bottom line is that this is an air conditioning unit. Not a refrigerator. We have been advised by several air conditioning contractors that air conditioning units are designed to lower the indoor temperature by a maximum of 15 to 20 degrees lower than the outside temperature. So if someone sets the thermostat at 65 degrees when the outdoor temperatures are 90° or 95° the unit will run continuously, trying to reach the thermostat temperature. This causes excess wear and tear on the unit, causing the blower motor to overheat and seize up. The suggested setting for air conditioning is between 72° and 75°. Then the unit is working within the specified range it is designed to maintain, no matter how hot the outdoor temperature gets.

Artistic Advisory Committee

At the June meeting the Board of directors voted to form an Artistic Advisory Committee. This committee will work with the directors of each of our shows to help put on the best productions possible. The Board asked Vincent Weiler to chair this committee and he has accepted.

Artistic Advisory Committee by Vincent Weiler

With my position on the CTAM Board over the years the thing I have enjoyed the most is getting to visit other Community Theatres all over the State. I have seen some fantastic productions and sometimes a few have been not so

good. I have noticed that with some of the larger theatres that are able to hire some staff and especially an Artistic Director their productions are better than most. Seeing that our group does not have the funding for a position like this I proposed to the board that we have a volunteer artistic committee that would do the same thing that an artistic director would do.

I feel that with a committee like this we could help the directors of each production so that our productions achieve the quality as good as larger theatres. The board has decided to go along with this plan and has asked if I would take the position as chair of the committee. At this point I am putting the committee together along with the guidelines with the help of Tara Western who will be the Assistant Chair.

This committee will be under the direction and approval of the board and as soon as we have the committee and guidelines together they will be submitted to the board for approval and the group will be notified of the full scope of the committee. So stand by for news.

TBP Singers on the Road and Back by Laurie Jacot

The Singers have had a fun summer so far. They have been on the road and around town claiming to have been "Everywhere". Our latest update is to our country program. It still has old favorites like *Wabash Cannonball* and *Your Cheatin' Heart*. New full length songs were added in such as *I've Been Everywhere* and *Sixteen Tons*. If you haven't heard it yet, it has been one of our most challenging, but fun to learn, programs. We started the summer in June with a trip to Port Huron's Thomas Edison Inn. The Women's Bowling Association of Michigan has asked us every year to travel wherever they go, so far that's been to Saginaw, Houghton Lake and Traverse City. They requested our Country program and they loved it. The ladies enjoyed Chris Mundy's audience interaction and Mendy Shmina's encore of *Redneck Woman*. They have already asked us back for next year. Who knows where that road trip will lead?



The Eastern Star organization asked us to sing for an afternoon gathering of women from around Michigan. We sang the fifties and sixties music for them. It was quite warm that day and most of the singers felt like they were melting. However, they carried on and the crowd loved the show.

The TBP Singers are trying to do more concerts in the East Tawas Park this summer. The first one was June 26th. It was another warm night for us but there was a nice breeze and some shade. We sang Country and made some money for our future orchestra pit. Before we sang that night we had an unexpected visitor drop by to see Pam Frank. Literally, a sea gull dropped a load all over Pam's hat and shirt just before we sang. You have got to love performing outdoors.

Editor's note: I'll never complain about wearing a hat again – at least it wasn't in my hair. Our future park dates are on Wednesdays: August 1st Vaudeville & Disney and August 15th Broadway & Twentieth Century. The shows begin at 7:00 p.m so bring a lawn chair and come enjoy a night in the park and support the singers.

Quilters by Carol Kushion

Tawas Bay Players have completed casting this fall's production of *Quilters*, by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek. This Tony-award winning musical is a celebration of women through a collection of biographical recollections of pioneer quilters. These true events are shared by Sarah, a southwest matriarch, and her six grown daughters- all quilters. Playing the role of Sarah is Tara Western. Sarah's daughters will be played by: Tracee Behnke-Lentz as Jenny, Sharon Langley as Margaret, Penny Zacharias as Jane, Pam Frank as Lisa, Pam Katona as Jody, and Patricia Hurley as the youngest daughter, Dana.

Musicians so far are Susan Rook-keyboard/dulcimer, JoAnn Noffsinger-flute/pennywhistle, Cheryl Miller-fiddle. We are still looking for musicians to play guitar, mandolin or banjo, and folk percussion. *Quilters* is directed by Carol Kushion and Chris Mundy and produced by Janie Mundy and Tina Dalton. Show dates are October 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20 & 21.

First Annual Park and Sell by Diane Ray

Honestly, the day was perfect! The first annual "Park and Sell" event was held Saturday, May 26th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the TBP parking lot. There was just enough sun, blue skies and breeze for the 19 vendors selling every possible type of ware. We had "Beanie Babies", stone jewelry, painted feathers, computers, painted rocks, plants, gourmet popcorn, books, face painting, snowmen, teddy bears, pots & pans, beaded jewelry and a cat named Steve (not for sale).



TBP donations of gently used household items filled 2 tables and we had another table of delicious baked goods and refreshments. A total of \$250 was made from the sale. Special thanks are due to TBP members Janie & Chris Mundy (& daughter Sara), Tara Western, June Groff, Mary Kiernan, Phyllis Spencer. TBP vendors included Sharon Langley, Janie Mundy, Diane Ray, Vincent Weiler, the Dalton Family, Tim Knapp, Jon Shaffer and Raine August. Thank you as well to Deb DeBois, Pat Casey, Penny Zacharias for distributing fliers to advertise the sale. All items that had been donated to TBP and not sold were given to St Vincent DePaul. Thanks again Chris & Janie! From all of the positive feedback we plan to hold the 2nd Annual Park and Sell next year. Watch for more information and plan to attend! **Editor's note: Think of TBP next year when you are spring cleaning & donate unneeded items to sell at the TBP table.**

What Needs To Happens When the Last Bow Is Taken by Pat Casey

We all know that when the last performance is finished there are things that need to be done. After we take that final bow, then the cleanup begins. Props need to be taken down to the basement **and put away where they belong**. Costumes need to be taken up to the costume room and **hung where they belong**. The set needs to be taken down and everything put back in the building shed **where they belong**. **IF IT WAS BUILT FOR THE PLAY AND THE NEXT DIRECTOR DOESN'T WANT IT - IT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN APART AND WOOD, LEGS, PLATFORMS, DOORS, BACKDROPS, ETC. PUT WHERE THEY BELONG**. We're still working on organizing the shed but there are spots for things. Please don't leave set pieces, backdrops, etc. in the theater unless the next director has requested them. So many times things are just taken and dropped in the basement, costume room, and shed. As a director or producer, you need to make sure that someone is available to guide people on where to put props, costumes, and set.

After everything is put away (**where it belongs**), the building and stage need to be swept and cleaned up. The backstage area (make up, costume area, bathroom and dressing room) can get messy as well so it needs to be cleaned as well. Please remember the office and kitchen are not drop spots. Everything should have a place. AFTER everything is done, then it's time for food, awards, and a job well done.

Ads/Donations/Memorials by Pat Casey

It's that time of year when we start our ad/donation campaign. If you would like to make a donation/memorial or take out an ad, please contact me. You can check out our website (www.tawasbayplayers.com) and the new brochure can be downloaded with information on ads/donations and season tickets. As we are planning the new addition we can use all the help we can get selling ads. The more ads we sell the more money to help pay for it. **Let's make it a team effort to sell the most ads ever!**

We'll Miss You!

I want to take the opportunity to recognize the contributions of two of our young actors. Taylor Knapp has been part of our TBP family since he first appeared in *Beauty and the Beast* during our 2007-2008 season. We have enjoyed watching him on stage in *Over the Tavern*, *All Shook Up*, *Aida*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Grease*, *Snow Angel* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Fifth Period*. He is spending the summer working at Neiman's Market before he leaves for Adrian College to study Religion and English.

Brianna Dalton made her stage debut in *The Wizard of Oz* during the spring of 2006. She later appeared in *Over the Tavern*, *All Shook Up*, *Aida*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Grease*, *Caught in the Net*, *Into the Woods*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (as a speller from the audience) and most recently *Let's Play "Crossroads"*. She has done numerous jobs back stage as well, including acting as stage manager for *Snow Angel* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Fifth Period*. Brianna will be heading to Aquinas College in the fall to work on a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Thank you Taylor and Brianna for all you have done with TBP and best wishes for the future; we'll miss you both.



Happy Birthday



July

- 2 Al Bixby
- 2 Alan Dalton
- 5 Dennis Szatkowski II
- 5 Buck Weaver
- 6 Sandy Schorfhaar
- 9 Christine Huebner
- 9 Feliwelyn Shuart
- 12 Shelby Evans
- 12 John Morris
- 13 Larry Van Wagoner
- 15 Deb DeBois
- 18 Katie Zacharias
- 18 Mary Henry
- 18 Betty DeWilde
- 21 Gatlyn Dunham
- 22 Janie Mundy

August

- 4 Brenda Chadwick
- 4 Reesie Smith
- 5 Taylor Huitema
- 6 Donna Dahlstrom
- 10 Anne Powers
- 12 June Hudgins
- 15 Jeff Chadwick
- 15 Brian Shmina
- 20 Shirley Robson
- 21 Sally Krueger
- 23 Bob Zacharias
- 23 Sharon Huitema
- 23 Charleson Shuart
- 24 Susan Rook
- 29 Pam Koepke
- 30 Barbara Spencer
- 31 Phyllis Spencer

September

- 4 Jenny Zacharias
- 17 Nancy Orrell
- 21 Tara Western
- 24 Katelyn Good
- 24 Tina Brewer
- 27 Tom King

October

- 3 Judy Wenzel
- 4 Nadeen O'Meara
- 4 Trisha Evans
- 6 Chelewynne Shuart
- 7 Emily (Groff) Marciniak
- 13 Tom O'Malley
- 15 Michelle Agnello
- 16 June Wygant
- 18 Brady Jacot
- 18 Gail Morris
- 21 Nate Rowell
- 22 Jenae Evans
- 23 Annge Klinger
- 24 Jolene Grusecki
- 27 Eugene Hickman
- 30 Autumn Norman

Look Around and See What YOU Can Do By Pat Casey



Next time you're at the theater, check out the two back porches. Mary Ann couldn't stand looking at them anymore so she took the paint brush by the handle and went to work. She power washed, sanded, swept, scraped, applied Kilz, then painted (and added sand to make it less slippery). It looks wonderful! Diane Ray and June Groff made the mistake of happening by and ending up helping!

Again this year, Mary Ann took on the job of planting geraniums around the tree and weeding out the flower beds. Pam Frank added some plants from home and thanks to Geri Koepke and Janie Mundy, we still have flowers coming up every year and the front of the theater looks great.



Thanks to everyone who helps to make our theater look so much better. It's the little things that can make a big difference. Sometimes it's as simple as picking up some garbage or straightening up chairs but it all helps and makes our theater a better place. If you see something that needs fixin', don't hesitate to volunteer! **Now Mary Ann, about that front porch...**

2012 -2013 Season

- Quilters** directed by Carol Kushion and Chris Mundy – Oct 12-14, 18-21
- It's a Wonderful Life, the Radio Show** directed by Tara Western & Vince Weiler – Nov 30, Dec 1 & 2
- Tons of Money** directed by Sharon Langley & June Hudgins – Jan 18-20, 24-27
- Seussical the Musical** (Teen Show) directed by Alicia Sgambelluri & Lisa Denney – Mar 15-17, 21-24.
- The Music Man** directed by Dennis Szatkowski Sr – May 10-12, 16-19
- Drinking Habits** directed by Debra Debois – July 12-14, 18-21
- Sleeping Beauty** directed by June Hudgins and Pat Casey – Oct 11-13, 17-20

Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee Photos by Keith Frank

June Hudgins says "I would like to say thank you to my wonderful cast from *Putnam County Spelling Bee*...the show went over really well and I know you all had lots of fun.



Let's Play "Crossroads"!



It's Time for **CROSSROADS**

America's Favorite Game!

(Except for parts of Montana)

Now anyone can enjoy the excitement of CROSSROADS right in their very own living room! Imagine the thrills! Imagine the fun! Imagine the shock when you lose your house and furnishings to your closest friends! And it's so easy to play, you or any of your friends can learn it! That's right, even the stupid ones! The one who thinks it's funny to do a chimp imitation around your grandma ... the one who goes to karaoke night with you and belches the lyrics to "New York, new York" ... the cheap hood who keeps groping your teenage daughter ... all of them!

SET UP

Before you begin playing CROSSROADS, check to make sure you have all the things you need. You will need:

- The game board
- Three tokens
- Two dice
- \$1,000,000 in Mileage Bucks
- CROSSROADS Sound Effects Machine
- Two gullible friends
- A bucket of buffalo chicken wings
- A case of Bud
- Lots of house insurance
- A spouse who is gone for the weekend
- Phone numbers of your attorney and bail bondsman

Determine which player will be "Terry Tremain." This is usually given to the biggest loser of the group because, really, what kind of a pathetic jackass would want to play the part of Terry Tremain?

To begin, unfold the board on a flat surface; your ex-wife's chest will do. Roll the dice to see who goes first. Argue about how the dice was rolled. Suggest the others are cheating. If possible, slug someone in the face. When you have determined who will go first, begin playing.

HOW TO PLAY

Roll the dice, either by giving them a gentle toss with your hand or putting them in your mouth and spitting them across the room. Move that number of spaces

on the board, unless it's a Tuesday, in which case you only move half the number plus 17. If you have brown eyes, you forfeit your turn. If you have ever broke up with anyone by e-mail, roll the dice, then run twice around the outside of the house naked.

On the third round, everyone must sit up and bark like a dog. This does not advance the game in any way, it's just fun to think of you all doing that.

BOARD SPACES

ADVANCE TWO SPACES: If you land here, go back one space.

ROLL AGAIN: If you land here, make a crank call to another player's mother. Move one space, then order a pizza for everyone.

BONUS: If you land here, move three spaces back, one space forward, six spaces sideways, put your left foot in, put your left foot out, put your left foot in and shake it all about.

QUESTIONS

When you roll doubles you may take a CROSSROADS Question card. If you answer correctly, you win the point value of that question, which is determined by whatever anyone points at. If you answer incorrectly, you forfeit your first born male child, where he must go live on a turnip farm in Thailand.

You may choose to skip the question, at which point everyone will look at you like you're a big weenie, because that's the whole point of this stupid game, isn't it?

WINNING THE GAME

The winner is determined by any of the criteria below:

- The player with the most money wins.
- The player who bought the most beer wins.
- The player who can beat everyone else up wins.
- The player who has accumulated Boardwalk and Park Place wins.
- The player who comes up with the best made-up story about their dream date with Vanna White wins.

When the winner is determined, that person is pelted with watermelon rinds and thrown into a Dumpster, where the other players get to finish his beer.

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