

Independent Shorts

- The annual Sno – Pitch tournament is scheduled for Feb. 28. St. Marys' St. James Club has sent out entry forms to last year's participants. Additional forms for the 30 team tourney are available for pickup at Stacey's Pizza. Entry forms will be accepted until mid-February.
- Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Monte McNaughton will be in Thorndale today from 4 pm to 6 pm at the Thorndale Library. McNaughton is running in the leadership race for the Ontario Progressive Conservatives in this Spring's upcoming leadership election. Everyone is welcome to attend. To learn more about McNaughton visit www.monte.ca
- J.P. Parise died of lung cancer at his home near Minneapolis Wednesday night at the age of 73. Parise played for Canada in the 1972 Summit Series against the Soviet Union. He had been diagnosed with lung cancer a year ago and was in Hospice care. Parise spent most of his NHL career with the Minnesota North Stars. He had 594 points in 890 games from 1965 to 1979 with the North Stars, Bruins, Maple Leafs, Islanders, and Cleveland Barons. Parise's son, Zach, currently plays in Minnesota for the Wild.
- Now in its third week in cinemas, The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies still led the way at the box office this weekend, grossing \$21,732,090 at over 3800 theatres bringing its total gross to over \$220 million. Trailing behind it in second place was the musical Into the Woods. In third was the Angelina Jolie-directed biopic Unbroken, which tells the story of US olympian and WWII hero Louis Zamperini.

BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

Rianna's Family Restaurant



Our Business of the Week is Rianna's Restaurant, located at 528 Queen Street East and owned and operated by Kim Rogers. She's operated Rianna's since October last year, alongside her husband Ray Ferguson, and Alexis Fitzsimmons, who serve as chefs for the establishment. Kim said that, while this is her and Ray's first restaurant, they have years of experience preparing and serving food. "Ray is a trained chef," she said. "He's had basic and advanced training with Liaison College of Culinary Arts in Kitchener and he went to George Brown College for their pâtisserie courses." As for Kim, she's had a lot of service experience running a chuck wagon that worked the "pow wow circuit," serving buffalo on fry bread at events on reserves including Six Nations and Kettle Point. This blend of influences has helped create Rianna's "very eclectic" menu. "We've got classic types of

sandwiches, but we offer daily features and Native American cuisine," she said. "You'll find things like a chili cheese dog made with the chili from our Navajo tacos. Hopefully in the near future we'll be offering more fry bread and Native American options." Along with those items unique to local eateries, you can also stop by Rianna's for soups, wraps, sandwiches and an all-day breakfast including their delicious breakfast hash comprised of sautéed vegetables, hash browns, cheese, sausage and bacon.

Rogers said Rianna's aims to be more than a place for breakfast. "We want to offer dinner as well," she said. "We're looking at opening for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, so we're going to test the market out and see how it goes. If the business is there, then we'll stay open later." For now, Rianna's standard business hours are 6 am to 2 pm Monday to Friday and 7 am to 2 pm Saturdays and Sundays. However, some special evening events, including one coming up on Wednesday, Jan. 14 are in the works. "On Jan. 14 we're offering

a sale on new 'scratch and dent' cook books," Rogers said. "Each book is \$5. We want to have people come out from 2 pm to 7 pm to check out the many types of cook books we have for sale, and we'll have desserts, coffees and teas available." The books are currently on display at the restaurant and include books by various authors, including FoodNetwork personalities. Others specialize in soups, cake making, heart healthy foods, diabetic diets, and more. "There are all kinds of books," she said. "We're hoping it brings more people out to Rianna's to see our new menu." The restaurant's namesake "Rianna" is Kim's younger cousin, she said, who used to live with her and Ray but is currently living and attending school in Sarnia. "She's really taken to the business and likes coming back here sometimes to work the cash register," Rogers said.



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