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## At the Forefront

**Restoring Natural Habitats Top Priority for Shirley Heinze Land Trust**

*by Kayla Weiss*

From the start, the mission of Shirley Heinze Land Trust has been to protect as many natural habitats as possible.

Now, with more than 1,400 acres of land in its possession, the group is focusing on restoration efforts. Many of the lands it purchased are run down and overworked. With its staff, a large volunteer basis and the Mighty Acorns program, an opportunity exists to restore these properties.

"So many of these lands we purchase are just so run down or covered with concrete," said Myrna Newgent, a life board member of the land trust. "Now, we have more volunteers than we've had in the past, making it easier to cast a wider net on the goals we want to achieve. The restoration of these lands is something we have wanted to do for so long, and now we have the means and the manpower to do so."

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The hiking trail at Barker Woods Nature Preserve in Michigan City.



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## Forefront

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Shirley Heinze Land Trust, now located in Valparaiso, has been protecting natural lands and habitats in the southern part of the Lake Michigan Watershed since 1981, when it was founded by Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Seidner and named in honor of Dr. Shirley Heinze of Ogden Dunes, whose efforts to help the Seidner's children and preserve the Indiana Dunes were greatly admired and appreciated.

The initial board of trustees, which consisted of three people, met for the first time in 1982 and soon began acquiring dune lots in the Miller Beach neighborhood of Gary and wetland lots in the Great Marsh in Beverly Shores. A few years later, in 1986, the board expanded, which brought on Barbara Plimpton, who spent 18 years on the board. With a botanical background, she headed the hike program

and offered public lectures, promoting scientific investigation. Two years later, Newgent joined the board, becoming a life member.

"I really didn't know what I was doing, but we made it through," Newgent said with a laugh. "I couldn't have done any of it without the team here. There is just a tremendous group of people that work and volunteer here, and none of this would be possible without all of their help."

During this time, the board continued to focus on acquiring wetlands in the Great Marsh, dunes in Miller and dune and swale in Gary, resulting in the first transfer of land to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in 1993. In the ensuing six years, the Trust acquired Cressmoor Prairie, which became the first Shirley Heinze property to be dedicated as a state nature preserve, resulting in its number of land holdings nearly doubling after acquiring more than 300 acres.



The new Meadowbrook facility in Valparaiso.





A map of the additional land the Trust purchased to add to the Meadowbrook facility.

Today, the Trust manages more than 1,400 acres of protected land in various counties near Lake Michigan, including a wide range of high dune, tall-grass prairie, oak savanna, boreal flatwoods, dune-and-swale, woodlands, marshes, swamps, ponds and riparian habitats. This count includes nearly 1,200 acres the Trust owns outright, 100 acres held as conservation easements and nearly 30 acres that have been transferred to the National Park Service and Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Currently, five Trust-owned properties — Cressmoor Prairie, Seidner Dune & Swale, John Merle Coulter Preserve, Barker Woods and Ambler Flatwoods (the last two are in Michigan City) — are dedicated to the public as state nature preserves. Several of the Trust's preserves feature trail systems that guide and educate visitors while they hike. The Trust also has made contributions to natural areas owned by other groups, including the Indiana DNR, The Nature Conservancy, La Porte County Parks, Lake County Parks and Portage Parks Department.

The overall mission is two-fold:

- 1) Protect habitats and ecosystems of Northwest Indiana by purchasing, restoring and protecting environmentally significant properties for future generations
- 2) Inspire and educate all ages about land conservation and how important it is to protect the natural world.

Continued on Page 3

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## Forefront

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Indiana University-Northwest students participate in a sampling group.

“Simply put, the Trust aims to preserve, restore and educate,” Newgent said. “We want to be able to have the chance to preserve and, in many cases, restore these properties to their original state so that they are here for future generations to enjoy and learn from. There are so many things that nature has to offer, so many things for us to still learn. We are still finding new species of plants, learning new things about the plants we thought we knew everything about... There is always more to learn.”

After the Trust has acquired a remnant natural area, it begins the long process of returning it to its original, healthy state. Each piece of property under restoration has a management plan specifically tailored to fit the condition the land is in, and return it to their ideal conditions.

The team at the Trust aims to sustain numerous biological resources, as well as to neutralize the aspects of modern landscapes that may compromise the health of natural habitats. Through restoration efforts, they also tackle issues such as habitat fragmentation (habitat loss chipping away at larger, continuous habitats), fire suppression and invasive species.

However, restoration is an ongoing process, slowly transitioning into simple maintenance. This can happen at dif-

ferent rates depending on the constraints at each individual site. The Trust works to improve the overall function and sustainability of each natural area, making it less dependent on human intervention.

In recent years, Shirley Heinze Land Trust has renewed an emphasis on stewardship as its land holdings continue to increase, resulting in the hiring of the first full-time stewardship manager and major restoration work at its Ivanhoe South property in Gary. New funding resources and partnerships yielded a large savanna restoration project at Bur Oak Woods in Hobart, expanding volunteer programs and initiating The Mighty Acorns Environmental Education Program. Started in 2009,

it is the result of a partnership between the Trust, The Field Museum and Dunes Learning Center. It is designed to allow students to have numerous opportunities to engage and learn from local natural environments and be a part of their restoration.

“The Mighty Acorns Program is a really special program,” Newgent said. “We actually had to hire an educational coordinator to be in charge of the program because it’s doing so well. It’s so nice to see these schoolchildren get so excited about learning and ex-



Don Babcock helps dedicate the Little Calumet Bridge. The Little Calumet River flows through Westchester Township and Chesterton.



perimenting in these different habitats. These children are the future of the Trust, and it's so wonderful to see how many of them are so interested in preserving the natural habitats in their communities."

"It just exploded," Newgent continued. "You get your foot in the door with one community, and another community hears about it and wants to get in on it. We have been very fortunate to have such helpful teachers in each district that make sure everything is being done so that the students reach their full potential in the program."

Currently, Mighty Acorns has reached 139 classrooms, serving more than 3,700 students in Michigan City Area Schools, the School City of Hobart, Portage Township Schools, School City of Hammond, Gary Community School, School City of East Chicago, Charter School of the Dunes and the Discovery Charter School.

The Trust has published four books of environmental interest and continues to conduct various educational hikes, workshops, lectures and other public presentations. All of this is made possible by not just the Trust's staff, but the many volunteers.

"We're always looking for more help, because the work is never done," Newgent said with a laugh. "There are still so many lands that need to be restored, and so many plants and wildlife that still need to be catalogued. Having our volunteers is a blessing."



Children in Mighty Acorns get the experience of being "Tree Huggers."

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## Jazz Masters 101 Reunion to Close Sinai Forum Season

Since Milton and Sylvia Bankoff founded Sinai Forum in 1953, its mission has been to provide exceptional, affordable programming on important issues for Michigan City residents.

Over the years, the series has featured everyone from Nobel Prize recipients and Pulitzer Prize winners to famous actors and performing artists.

Now, that vision begun by the Bankoffs has come full circle with their son, Peter, who will help bring the 61st Forum season to a close with "Jazz Masters 101 Reunion" on Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Blue Chip Casino Stardust Event Center in Michigan City.

Bankoff will be joined by jazz musicians John Clayton and Jeff Hamilton.



Jeff Hamilton and John Clayton.

their Grammy nominated "Groove Shop." Before then, Hamilton and Clayton were students at Indiana University, where they met and became close friends with Bankoff, who was working on a degree in jazz studies from the IU School of Music. Bankoff grew up studying piano and viola, performed with the Michigan City Symphony, arranged and directed compositions for the Miss Indiana Pageant, even played piano for beloved composer/conductor Henry Mancini.

Finding inspiration from his father, Peter Bankoff chose to follow another passion of his after graduating from IU – medicine. Walking in the steps of his father and other physicians in the family, Bankoff became an anesthesiologist. Today, he is the medical director of Bilt-



Peter Bankoff

"I had contacted Jeff and John about possibly performing in the Forum as a favor to my sister, Barb, who is on the Forum's advisory board," Peter Bankoff said. "They agreed right off the bat, but with one, solitary condition – that I perform with them. I couldn't say no to them. Even though I haven't performed in years, and am nowhere

near their musical caliber, in the end, they are some of my best friends and I couldn't say no."

In 1986, Clayton and Hamilton joined forces, accompanied by Jeff Clayton on the saxophone, and formed the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra. Together, they have recorded six CDs, including

more SurgiCenter in downtown Phoenix.

Now, some 40 years after the trio parted ways to pursue their various dreams, they will unite again to perform in Michigan City on Dec. 14.

"It's just so exciting to have a chance to reunite with Jeff and John, who are still some of my best friends in the world – even after all this time," Bankoff said. "It's such an honor to be a part of a group that is just as celebrated as past guests have been."

### If You Go

Doors open at 3 p.m., with the performance at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$25 with advance registration, or free for students who show valid school ID. Call (219) 771-9022 for reservations or additional information.

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**ASL Club Coffeehouse**

The Purdue University-North Central American Sign Language Club will host an ASL Coffeehouse from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at Uptown Café, 1400 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso.

The coffeehouse is open to ASL students, as well as community members and children accompanied by a parent or adult. Participants are asked to use ASL to practice it to better communicate with friends, co-workers or family members. Coffee, food and drinks may be ordered.

Information about the club is available at [www.aslclub.info](http://www.aslclub.info). Information about other events in the community is at [www.nwideaf.org/deafevents.htm](http://www.nwideaf.org/deafevents.htm). Further information about the coffeehouse may be obtained by contacting Joanna Witulski, limited term lecturer in American Sign Language, at [pncaslwitulski@yahoo.com](mailto:pncaslwitulski@yahoo.com)

**Community Chorus**

The Michigan City Community Chorus will present its annual Christmas concert at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, in the fellowship hall at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1237 Coolspring Ave., Michigan City.

The program, which is free, will include music for Advent and Christmas, with a mix of carols and other sacred and secular holiday songs.

The chorus, led by Lee Meyer, includes Dorothy Baines, Mary Barr, Deborah Beien, Howard Brenneman, Kathy Chase, Dee Edgecomb, Ellen Eddy, Bob Garner, Barb Herzinger, Bob Johnson, Marge LaMothe, Dan McNabb, Ray Morris, Sandy Morris, Dan Nieding, Phyllis Nowatzke, Shiela Pollock, Pat Potratz, Sue Retseck, Nancy Ryding, Dale Schultz, Jeanne Tieken, Deb Topolski, Karol Valek, Linda Weeks and Carrie Zerbe. Chrystal Levi is the accompanist.

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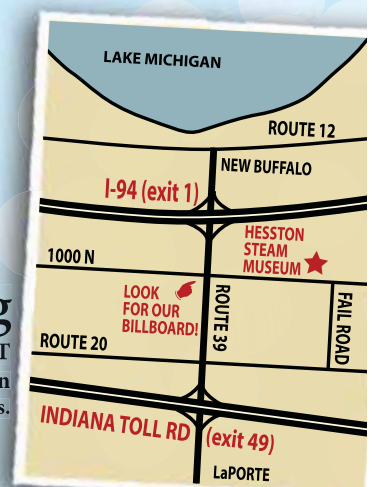
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## Michigan City Public Library

*The following programs are available through Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.:*

• **Basket weaving class at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13.**

Margie Warner will present a special holiday class. All materials are provided. Registration and a \$10 deposit are required. Stop by circulation to see the basket and verify the cost.

• **Celebrate Jane Austen's Birthday with a free screening of "Becoming Jane" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14.**

The 2007 film starring Anne Hathaway and James McAvoy is rated PG.

• **Monday Musicales: "The Sounds of the Holidays" at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15.**

The program will include traditional Christmas music. Donations to The Salvation Army food pantry will be accepted. Any local talent interested in performing should call Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754.

• **Knitting Club for All Ages at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17.**

Take size 9 straight knitting needles, worsted yarn and tape measure (optional). Contact Joanne Hale at joeyAB1971@yahoo.com or (219) 814-4398 for more information.

Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.

## Fiddlers Two

The Michigan City Chamber Music Festival will present Zofia Glashauser's and Nic Orbovich's violin duo Fiddlers Two in a free concert at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St., Michigan City.



Nic Orbovich and Zofia Glashauser.

Joined by pianist Jennifer Muniz, the program will include "Sonata in C Minor" by Ludwig van Beethoven, the "Sonata for Violin and Piano" by Cesar Franck, violin duo arrangements of "La Folia" by Archaangelo Corelli, "Meditation" from "Thais" by Jules Massenet and Orbovich's world premiere arrangement of the Gypsy Czardas, "Hejre Kati," by Jeno Hubay.

Glashauser is the concertmaster of South Bend Symphony Orchestra and Lira Orchestra in Chicago. Orbovich, First Presbyterian's Chancel Choir director, is the chamber music festival's artistic director/violinist. He also holds the "Irene M. Siberell" principal second violin chair with the South Bend Symphony Orchestra. Since forming Fiddlers Two, the two have soloed with numerous orchestras across the United States, presenting standard duo violin repertoire and Orbovich's own arrangements for two violins.

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**"Christmas Revels"**

The cast of "Christmas Revels."

Metamorphis Traveling Theatre will present its new "Christmas Revels" on Friday, Dec. 19, at Barker Hall at Trinity Church, 600 Franklin Square.

Hors d'oeuvres and punch will be served at 6:30 p.m., with the show starting at 7:30 p.m.

The cast of 15 costumed actors, singers and dancers will present a fantasy celebration of the Christmas season and Winter Solstice through music, romance and laughter.

Reservations for special pricing — adults cost \$15 and children 10 and younger \$5 — can be made at [barkerhall.com](http://barkerhall.com). PayPal is available. Tickets at the door cost \$20 for adults and children \$10.

**Indiana Dunes State Park**

The following programs are offered through Indiana Dunes State Park:

**Saturday, Dec. 13**

- **10 a.m. — Winter Hike into Beaver Bayou.**

Meet at the campground gate for a short stroll to the new beaver dam, lodge and flooded area.

- **2 p.m. — Natural Heritage of Indiana Series.**

Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium to view a series that documents Indiana's unique places through photography and time-lapse cameras. The approximate running time is 110 minutes.

**Sunday, Dec. 14****Indiana Dunes Christmas Bird Count**

The annual all-day event starts before 7 a.m. Feeder counters are needed if participants live in the Duneland area. Call the Nature Center at (219) 926-1390 for more information.

- **10 a.m. — Mount Jackson Bound.**

Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center for a moderate hike to the park's third highest dune.

- **2 p.m. — Beach Discovery Hike.**

Meet at the beach pavilion for the exploratory walk along the state park beach, specifically to view damage from the Halloween storm.

Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 for more information.

**CAC Holiday Open House**

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., will host a Holiday Open House from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13.

The center will provide beverages, cookies and the opportunity to make an ornament. Guests also can see the current watercolors exhibit by John Mullin and shop for gifts. Visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) for more information.

**Book Reading, Signing**

Jim Dworkin, Purdue University-North Central chancellor, will read his children's book, "The Dog & the Dolphin," at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

A book signing will occur afterward. Call the center at (219) 874-4900 or visit [lubeznikcenter.org](http://lubeznikcenter.org) for more information.

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## "Big Sur" Exhibit



One of John Mullin's watercolor works featured in the "Big Sur" exhibit.

A reception for John Mullin's watercolor exhibit "Big Sur" is from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Mullin has visited Big Sur, Calif., the past three years as part of vacation or business trips. It has, he said, a "uniquely spectacular seascape unlike anything we have here in the Midwest."

The show features more than 20 paintings. Visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) for more information.

## Performances of "Messiah"

Two performances are scheduled of Handel's "Messiah," which is celebrating its 50th anniversary at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

The first — the preview performance (dress rehearsal) — is from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 20. The second is at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. Free tickets are available at the church office while they last by calling (219) 879-4501. A free-will offering will be taken at both presentations.

Director Dan McNabb will conduct the chorus, orchestra and four guests soloists.

Soprano Kimberly Jones is an alumna of the Ryan Opera Center with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, with performances that include Margru in the world premiere of "Amistad," Olga in "Fedora" and Xenia in "Boris Godunov." She is on the voice faculty at Merit School of Music and Sherwood Conservatory of Music. This is her 15th year as soprano soloist for "Messiah" at First Presbyterian.

Mezzo-soprano Kristin Gornstein is from Michigan City and lives in New York. This past year, she had her operatic debut in New York City, singing Dulcinee in Massenet's "Don Quichotte" with Utopia Opera. This is her third appearance at First Presbyterian. Recent performances have been in Stockholm, Sweden, and Rotterdam, Holland.

Tenor Matthew Daniel is in his 11th season with the Lyric Opera of Chicago chorus. He has performed many opera roles, some of which include Pinkerton in "Madama Butterfly," Rodolfo in "La Boheme," Hoffman in "Tales of Hoffmann" and King Kasper in "Amahl and the Night Visitors." He is well known in the Michiana area as a soloist, voice teacher and for his work with Tenors Three. This is his eighth "Messiah" performance at First Presbyterian.

Bass Robert Orth is returning for his 23rd "Messiah" in Michigan City. He has performed more than 130 roles in operas and musicals around the world, and has become known particularly for new American operas, including Frank Lloyd Wright in "Shining Brow" and Richard Nixon in "Nixon in China."

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## Westchester Public Library

*The following programs are available through Westchester Public Library:*

- **The annual, Victorian-theme Christmas party from 1:15 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Visitors between 1:15 and 2 p.m. can make Victorian-style ornaments. An old-fashioned Christmas carol sing-along to music from the antique Hillstrom parlor organ, made in Chesterton in the early 1890s, is at 2 p.m. Rory McMahan will read a classic Christmas story at 3 p.m. in the parlor. Refreshments will include treats introduced during the 1970s and 1980s to highlight the exhibit "Gen Xmas: Toys and Gifts of the '70s and '80s."

Admission is free.

- **Free Library Film Series, "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes," at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Popcorn will be served. The movie is rated PG-13, and no registration is necessary.

- **"Getting Ready for Santa!" for children 2-6 from 10 a.m. to noon Monday, Dec. 15, at Hageman Library, 200 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

No registration is required for the free program. Visitors will play games, sing songs and make "reindeer pops."

## Downtown Cookie Walk

Visitors can fill their own La Porte cookie tins Saturday, Dec. 13, as part of the Second Downtown Cookie Walk.

Starting at 10 a.m., limited edition La Porte cookie tins will be sold at the Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce, 803 Washington St. Each tin costs \$10, and they're limited to the first 200 participants. The limit is one cookie tin per family. The tins include a list of the more than 20 participating businesses. Doors will open promptly at 10 a.m.

Also Dec. 13, Santa will stop at B&J's American Café at 10 a.m. Space is limited, so reservations are required by calling the restaurant at (219) 362-3474. The Downtown Holiday Storefront Competition continues as well through Dec. 23.

Contact Thaddeus Cutler at cutler@lpchamber.com or (219) 362-3178 for more information.

## Is Your Furnace Winter-Ready?

With colder temperatures approaching, it pays to have your heating system checked during the fall before temperatures plunge. The last thing you want is to be caught unprepared with a furnace that doesn't function properly. A pre-season tune-up can help determine the condition of your furnace after it's been idle all summer and alert you to any potential repairs.

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## Duneland Weavers Guild

The Duneland Weavers Guild will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Westchester Public Library Annex, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Members and guests may Christmas shop at the silent auction, the annual guild fundraiser, followed by a potluck lunch.

Visit [www.dunelandweaversguild.org/](http://www.dunelandweaversguild.org/) for more information.

## Polish-American Cultural Society

The Michigan City chapter of the Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana will meet at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, at the former St. Mary's School, 321 W. 11th St., Michigan City.

A beginners' Polish language session precedes informal discussion of Polish-related topics. Call Theresa Child at (219) 464-1369 for more information.

## Arbors Angel Tree

The community can "adopt" a resident of Aperion Care Arbors at Michigan City, 1101 E. Coolspring Ave., through its holiday Angel Tree program.

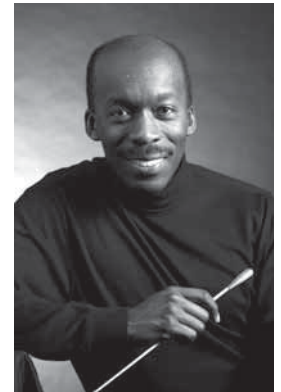
Resident names are placed on the Angel Tree in the main lobby. Select a name, then buy a \$20 gift for the person and bring it back to the center by Dec. 19. Call (219) 874-5211 for more information.

## "A Very Merry Pops"

"A Very Merry Pops," featuring Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra guest conductor Harvey Felder and Soprano Denise Ritter Bernardini, is at 7:30 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Mainstage.

The program includes a host of holiday favorites, including "We Need a Little Christmas," "White Christmas" and "Let It Snow."

Felder is conductor laureate of the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra, a position he accepted after having served as its music director for 20 years. He also has served as assistant conductor of the Milwaukee Symphony, resident conductor of the St. Louis Symphony, conductor of special projects with the Atlanta Symphony and artistic adviser/conductor of the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. He also has held the post of music director with Fox Valley Symphony, Johns Hopkins Symphony and Ann Arbor Summer Symphony. During the 1991 "Carnegie Hall at 100" celebration, he made his Carnegie Hall debut, conducting the American Symphony Orchestra.



Bernardini joined the University of Toledo Department of Music faculty as assistant professor of voice in 2011. Prior to that, she was a member of the voice faculty of Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. In addition, she has served on the faculties of Oklahoma City University and the University of Oklahoma.



She appears on concert and opera stages in music of many periods.

A pre-concert conversation to learn about the music is at 6:30 p.m. EST, while a post-concert reception allows concertgoers to meet the musicians.

Different ticket packages exist. The "Family 4Pack," which includes two adults and two children (additional child tickets are \$5 each), costs \$60 for Zone A and \$40 for Zone B. Individual tickets are:

- Zone A: adults, \$37; seniors, \$32; students, \$5.
- Zone B: adults, \$20; seniors, \$20; students, \$5.

The Mendel Mainstage is at Lake Michigan College, 2755 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, Mich. Contact the Symphony office at (269) 982-4030 or visit [www.smsso.org](http://www.smsso.org) for reservations or additional information.

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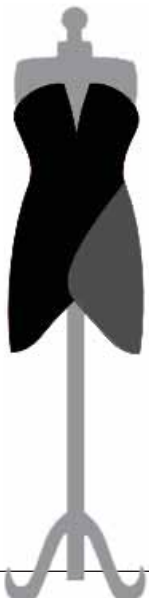
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## Youth Orchestra Winter Concert

The Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra will present its winter concert at 4 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 14, at the John and Dede Howard Auditorium at St. Joseph (Mich.) High School, 2521 Stadium Drive.

The concert, presented by Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, will feature students from Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra, Concert Strings and Encore Strings. The youth, about 120 total, range in age from fourth grade to college.

Concert Strings, conducted by Beth Oeseburg, gives young string players with one or more years experience their first chance at performing in a youth orchestra setting. Encore Strings, conducted by Rachel Cabanilla-Sinnett, is for more advanced string players performing at an upper middle-school level of technical and musical ability, and are preparing for eventual involvement in the Youth Symphony. That group, conducted by Burke Lokey, includes high-school and college-age musicians in a full orchestra setting. Selections are advanced and at a professional level.

The program will feature works by Handel, Berlin, Tchaikovsky, Schubert and Beethoven. Tickets, which are available at the door, are \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and students.

Visit [www.sonso.org](http://www.sonso.org) or call the SMSO office at (269) 982-4030 for more information.

## Christmas Cookie Sale

St. Stanislaus Convent Resale Shop, 1501 Franklin St., will have its annual Christmas cookie sale from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13.

Refreshments will be served, with special door prize drawings held every hour.

Call (219) 874-4743 for more information.



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# TURKEY TIME



Photos by Bob Wellinski



Visitors to the annual Turkey Walk and Native American Heritage Celebration at International Friendship Gardens on Thanksgiving Day could meet a live turkey, peruse the gardens and displays and, of course, walk off those hearty meals enjoyed as part of the holiday.





## Springfield Receives \$1,000 Grant



Thanks to Michigan City's Lakeshore Lanes, Springfield Elementary School now has a \$1,000 grant to use as it pleases. The bowling alley, 2820 E. Michigan Blvd., participates in the Kids Bowl Free Summer Bowling Program and, as such, nominated Michigan City Area Schools' elementary and middle schools to win a Bowling to Schools grant. Fifty \$1,000 grants were awarded, and Springfield was among the winners. Pictured are Lakeshore Lanes Owner David Backstrom (left) and Lakeshore Lanes Marketing Director John Hudson as they present a \$1,000 check to Springfield Elementary School Counselor Debra Carpenter.

## Ogden Dunes Stories Project

The last chance to experience "The Ogden Dunes Stories Project," presented through Porter County Museum, is from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Hour Glass Museum, 8 Lupine Lane in Ogden Dunes.

The project started in August 2013, collecting oral histories about life as it was lived in Ogden Dunes. Exhibits, including the award-winning "Life in the Hour Glass," which highlights O.D. and Tillie Frank's lives, shared these stories with residents and visitors in Valparaiso and Ogden Dunes.

At 2 p.m. Dec. 14, visitors can hear stories of "community" in the lakeshore town.

Visit [pocomuse.org/category/storiesproject/odsp/](http://pocomuse.org/category/storiesproject/odsp/) for more information.

## Chamber Membership Luncheon

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will host a Chamber Membership Luncheon on Friday, Dec. 19, at Etropal, 701 Lincolnway, La Porte.

Registration begins at 11:15 a.m., with lunch and the presentation at 11:30 a.m.

The event sponsor is Worthy Women Recovery Home, a Christian home that provides recently incarcerated women with re-entry programs, as well as tools to reduce recidivism rates, substance abuse and addictions. It also empowers them to live as role models for their children and in their community.

Registration for the luncheon is encouraged and can be done at [tinyurl.com/o6zy3zw](http://tinyurl.com/o6zy3zw)

## Input Sought on Pullman Park

The Michigan City Park Department will have a public input session for its 2015 Pullman Park Renovation Project at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, in the Michigan City City Hall Council Chambers, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.

Preliminary plans will be presented at the public park board meeting. The effort, funded by a Community Development Block Grant, includes a walking trail, community picnic shelter, play equipment, drinking fountain, shaded benches and the Herman Lee Wilson basketball courts monument.

## Duneland Beach Native Honored

Dr. Patricia Johnson, daughter of Beverly Johnson, Duneland Beach, and the late Ronald H. Johnson, was recognized by fellow physicians in November's Indianapolis Monthly as one of the Top 10 obstetricians/gynecologists.

She graduated Oct. 23 from the University of Arizona with a fellowship in integrative medicine.

Patricia ("Trish") was raised in Duneland Beach and graduated from Elston High School. Her practice is in Zionsville, Ind.

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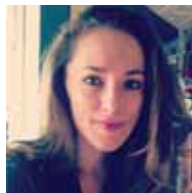
## The Fitness Rebellion

by Shannon Rockstad

*Editor's Note — "The Fitness Rebellion," written by staff at Michigan City's Anytime Fitness, appears every other week in The Beacher. This column was written by Trainer Shannon Rockstad.*

I am going to ask a question that may not have occurred to many, but should be taken seriously.

For the last few generations, we have had leaps and bounds in technology that helped us uncover much of the mystery of the human body. One huge part in that development largely has centered around measuring the body. This can be done by pounds, mass taken up in space, body fat percent, muscle pounds versus fat pounds, waist measurement and more. The ultimate goal is to measure and then come back a week or month later to see those numbers going up or down.



Rockstad

I have been in the fitness industry for five years, and what I've noticed is a trend that is not healthy for anyone.

Because of our accessibility to tools that judge us, we tend to live or die by them. However, here is my question: What if we did not have anything to measure you by? What if losing weight or gaining muscle was judged by those around you with compliments and reassurance that you are reaching your goals? Or even as simple as your clothes fitting better or worse?

When someone is setting out to achieve a certain physique or body type, deep down they know if they are getting there or not. This is not to say I am against measurement of any kind, but I have had clients take every kind word they've heard from colleagues and immediately forget about it the instant they see they only lost one pound for that week.

The ultimate goal is to change your body completely, not drive yourself crazy reaching a goal that may be achieved in a year or a week.

The real questions should be, "Do I like the way I am looking?" "Do I feel better?" "Do others notice a difference?" The numbers are to track progress, but when you reach the body you want, you will know it.

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Friday at Noon is the deadline for the following week's issue. (219) 879-0088

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## Lilly Endowment Scholarship

Unity Foundation is offering two full-tuition, four-year college scholarships to benefit La Porte County residents.

The scholarships are funded by Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. and administered by the Independent Colleges of Indiana. They provide full tuition, required fees and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and equipment for four years of undergraduate study leading to a baccalaureate degree at any accredited Indiana public or private college or university.

To be eligible, students must:

- Be a La Porte County resident.
- Have graduated from an accredited high school that serves La Porte County by June 30, 2015.
- Intend to pursue a full-time baccalaureate course of study beginning in fall 2015 at an accredited Indiana college or university.
- Submit a complete online application at [www.uffc.net](http://www.uffc.net) to the Unity Foundation by 11:59 p.m. Jan. 16, 2015.

The scholarships will be awarded based on academic achievement, demonstrated service to others, leadership ability, commitment and motivation to succeed in academics, employment history and financial need. A personal interview will assist in determining scholarship recipients. Non-traditional students — those who have been out of high school for any period of time — are encouraged to call the Unity Foundation at (219) 879-0327 to see if they meet eligibility requirements.

Over the past 16 years, 52 La Porte County students have benefited from the scholarship program, totaling more than \$3.6 million in support.

## Taltree Holiday Express

The Taltree Holiday Express runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 13 and 20, at Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso.

Taltree will present Christmas classics story time, visits with Santa and his elves, refreshments and the Taltree Railway Garden trains. Morning sessions are for children 3 to 5 and afternoon sessions for children 6 to 10. The cost is \$15 for a child and an adult.

Visit [Taltree.org](http://Taltree.org) or call (219) 462-0025 for additional information.

## Cookie Walk & Bazaar

The 10th Annual Cookie Walk & Bazaar is from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Coolspring Ave., Michigan City.

Cookies cost \$8 per pound.

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## 2015 Earth Day Exhibitors Sought

The Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County is accepting online registrations for exhibitors to participate in the 2015 Northwest Indiana Earth Day 10th Anniversary Celebration on April 18.

Northwest Indiana's largest free public environmental event draws visitors concerned about the environment. Organizations and businesses from around Chicagoland and beyond that can provide environmental awareness, services and products to attendees and inspire visitors to become more environmentally conscious.

Held in three buildings at the Porter County Expo Center in Valparaiso, the Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration attracted more than 3,200 people in 2013, the largest attendance in the event's nine-year history. Exhibitors can set up Friday, April 17, and have the options of expanding their booths, connecting to electricity and advertising themselves on the bingo card given to all attendees.

More information and online registration is available at [www.ItMeansTheWorld.org](http://www.ItMeansTheWorld.org)

## Old Lighthouse Museum

The Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park will be open the weekends of Dec. 12-14 and 19-21.

These weekends are the last chance to visit the museum in 2014. The new lantern tower will be open. Admission charges apply: \$5 for visitors 14 and older, \$2 for 14 and younger and free for preschoolers.

Visit [www.oldlighthousemuseum.org/](http://www.oldlighthousemuseum.org/) for more information.

## Sullair Disconnected Honorees

The Sullair Disconnected Compressor Honorees, which consists of former Sullair Corp. employees, will have their annual Christmas meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at Swingbelly's new location, 3101 E. U.S. 12.

The cost is \$10 per person, and a cash bar is planned. Donations and guests are welcome.

To aid the planning process, send RSVPs by email to [SDCH.Reunion@gmail.com](mailto:SDCH.Reunion@gmail.com)

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## Swanson Center Bestows Honors

Swanson Center held its 45th Annual Dinner and Employee Recognition Banquet on Thursday, Nov. 20, at The Allure in La Porte.



Kristine Harlow received the Ray and Lucy Swanson Award for her commitment to the community. Board President Shaw Friedman gave a brief introduction before Harlow accepted the award from him and Swanson Center Executive Director Matt Burden.

Harlow began with Adult Protective Services in 1998 as an investigator and has been senior investigator/supervisor since 2001. She has served on the Northwest Indiana Adult Guardianship Services board and is a former president of the La Porte County Chapter of National Alliance on Mental Illness. She also has served on the Governor's Task Force on Aging and IN-Home Services and is past vice president of La Porte County TRIAD.

Also recognized for their years of service were:

- 40 Years — Dave Johnson.
- 35 Years — Dr. Kumud Aggarwal, Georgia Howard.
- 20 Years — Clifton Titus.
- 15 Years — Gena Ashy, Bob Boklund, Scott Pelath.
- 10 Years — Bonnie Fletcher, Eric Wooding.
- Five Years — Kristin Balon, Matthew Burden, Monique Gillard, Samantha Grooms, Robin Harvey, Edward Seal and Diane Thomas.

Board members recognized were:

- 25 years — T. Linda Cathcart.
- 10 years — Maxine Schwartz.

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## LMYO Winter Concert

The Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra will present its winter concert at 7 p.m. EST Friday, Dec. 12, at South Haven High School's auditorium, 600 Elkenburg St.

The group, organized through Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra and conducted by Burke Lokey, includes high school and college-age musicians. The concert will include works by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and Schubert. Tickets, which are available at the door, are \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and students.

Visit [www.smso.org](http://www.smso.org) or call the Symphony office at (269) 982-4030 for more information.

## Scandinavian Christmas Celebration

Sons of Norway, Scandiana Lodge, will have its Scandinavian Christmas Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 13, at Westchester Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Social hour is at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. Members should take table service and a side dish to share. Ham and meatballs, coffee and punch will be provided. There will be singing around the Christmas tree and a time for sharing stories. Donated gifts will be collected for distribution to children in need in the community.

Call (219) 221-6641 or (219) 324-2327 for additional information.

## Holiday Craft and Cookie Walk

The Women of First United Methodist Church will present the annual Holiday Craft and Cookie Walk from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at the church, 121 E. Seventh St., Michigan City.

The event will feature homemade holiday cookies, crafts and dog toys and treats. Cookies sell for \$7 a pound. By request, chef Didier Durand from the Michigan City Farmers Market will be present with cheeses and breads. A lite lunch with soup and sandwiches will be available, including carryouts.

Call the church office at (219) 872-7200 for more information.

## Sarett Nature Center

Create holiday nature crafts and take a photo with Santa from 1:30 to 3 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 13, at Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.

Author Cara Arver will be present to sign copies of her children's book, "Manistee Melody."

Call (269) 927-4832 for more information.

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Michigan City  
Chamber Music Festival

### Presents Violinists

#### Nic Orbovich and Zofia Glashauser, "Fiddlers Two," in Concert!

The Michigan City Chamber Music Festival is proud to present Zofia Glashauser's and Nic Orbovich's popular violin duo, "Fiddlers Two," as they present a free concert on Saturday, December 13, 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. 9th St., Michigan City, IN. They will be joined by pianist Jennifer Muniz.

The program will include the "Sonata in C Minor" by Ludwig van Beethoven, the "Sonata for Violin and Piano" by Cesar Franck, plus violin duo arrangements of "La Folia" by Archaangelo Corelli, "Meditation" from "Thais" by Jules Massenet, and Nic's own world premiere arrangement of the exciting "Gypsy Czardas," "Hejre Kati" by Jenő Hubay, plus more!

www.mccmf.org



## Activities to Explore

### In the Local Area:

**December 11-14** — "Anne of Green Gables," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Tickets: \$12/adults, \$10/Thursday shows & children 12 and younger. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thurs.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org

**December 12** — Purdue University-North Central American Sign Language Club ASL Coffeehouse, 5-7:30 p.m., Uptown Café, 1400 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso. Info: www.aslclub.info

**December 12** — Siegel and Levy: A Harmonica Convergence of Two Giants of Jazz and Blues, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Cost: \$30. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

**December 12-14** — "Snow White and the Magnificent Seven Dwarfs," La Porte Little Theatre, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12/2 p.m. Dec. 13 & 14. Tickets: \$12. Reservations: (219) 362-5113.

**December 13** — Free Fiddlers Two concert, 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St., Michigan City. Info: www.mccmf.org, (219) 561-1939.

**December 13** — La Porte Hospital Foundation Holiday at the Pops, La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Doors open @ 6 p.m., the event @ 7 p.m. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$5/children. Info: holiday-popslaporte.org

**December 13** — Annual Christmas cookie sale, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., St. Stanislaus Convent Resale Shop, 1501 Franklin St. Info: (219) 874-4743.

**December 13** — Annual Holiday Craft and Cookie Walk, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St., Michigan City. Info: (219) 872-7200.

**December 13** — 10th Annual Cookie Walk & Bazaar, 9-11:30 a.m., St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Coolspring Ave., Michigan City.

**December 13** — Book reading/signing, Jim Dworkin's "The Dog & the Dolphin," 1:30 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: (219) 874-4900.

**December 13** — Second Downtown Cookie Walk, 10 a.m., downtown La Porte. Info: cutler@lpchamber.com, (219) 362-3178.

**December 13** — Holiday Open House, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: www.chestertonart.com

**December 13** — Artist reception, John Mullin's watercolor exhibit "Big Sur," 6-10 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: www.chesterton-art.com

**December 13** — "Natural Heritage of Indiana Series," 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park nature center, 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**December 13** — Victorian-theme Christmas party, 1:15-5 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

**December 13** — Free Library Film Series, "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes," 5 p.m., Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**December 13** — Sons of Norway, Scandiana Lodge, Scandinavian Christmas Celebration, Westchester Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Social hour: 5:30 p.m./dinner: 6 p.m. Info: (219) 221-6641 or (219) 324-2327.

**December 13 and 20** — Taltree Holiday Express, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso. Cost: \$15 for child & adult. Info: Taltree.org, (219) 462-0025.

**December 13-14** — Santa's Candy Cane Express, noon-5 p.m., Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, La Porte. Train fare: \$5/adults, \$3/children 3-12; free/children 3 and younger. Info: www.hesston.org, (219) 778-2783.

**December 14** — Free screening, "Becoming Jane" (Jane Austen birthday celebration), 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**December 14** — The "Holiday Harmonies" sing-along, 3-5 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**December 15** — Monday Musicals: "The Sounds of the Holidays," 6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**December 17** — CHANUKAH BEGINS.

**December 19** — Metamorphosis Traveling Theatre, "Christmas Revels," Barker Hall at Trinity Church, 600 Franklin Square. Hors d'oeuvres/6:30 p.m., show/7:30 p.m. Advance online tickets: adults/\$15, children 10 & younger/\$5, @ barkerhall.com. At door: \$20/adults, children/\$10.

**Mondays** — Codependents Anonymous (CoDA), 6 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (219) 879-3817

**Wednesdays** — Al-Anon meetings, 7-8 p.m., Long Beach Old School Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. Info: (219) 716-2690.

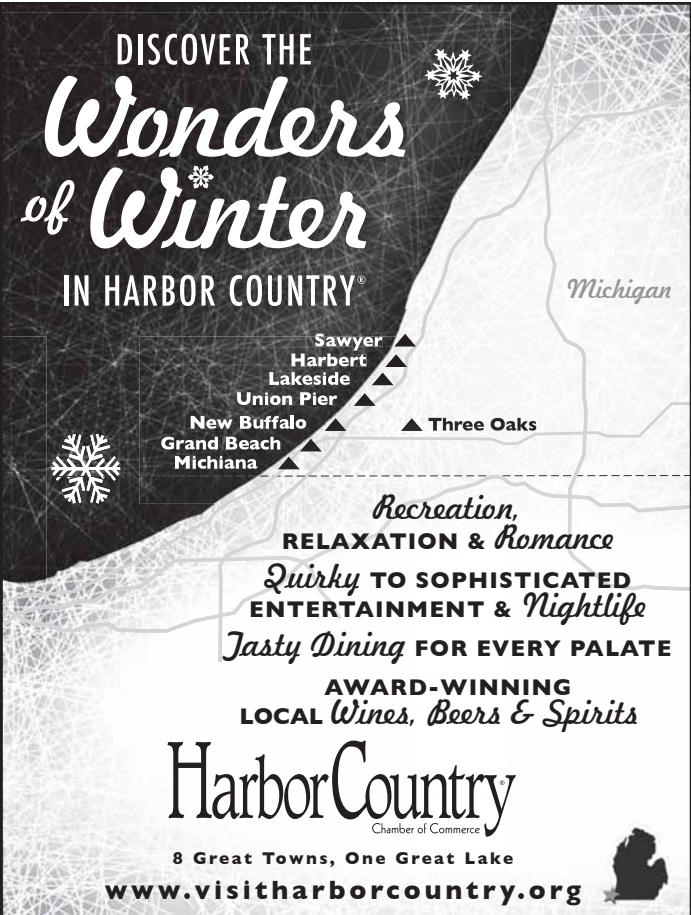
**Farther Afield:**

**December 12** — Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra winter concert, 7 p.m. EST, South Haven High School's auditorium, 600 Elkenburg St. Tickets @ door: \$5/adults, \$3/seniors & students. Info: www.smso.org, (269) 982-4030.

**December 13** — "A Very Merry Pops," 7:30 p.m. EST, Lake Michigan College Mendel Mainstage, 2755 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, Mich. Tickets/info: (269) 982-4030, www.smso.org

**December 13** — Crafts & Santa visit, 1:30-3 p.m. EST, Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Info: (269) 927-4832.

**December 14** — Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra winter concert, 4 p.m. EST, John and Dede Howard Auditorium @ St. Joseph (Mich.) High School, 2521 Stadium Drive. Tickets (available @ door): \$5/adults, \$3/seniors & students. Info: www.smso.org, (269) 982-4030.



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WEEK  
IN  
HISTORY**

**On December 11, 1719**, the first recorded New England sighting of the Aurora Borealis took place.

**On December 11, 1816**, Indiana became the 19th state to join the Union.

**On December 11, 1946**, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. announced that he had offered to donate a six-block parcel of land along New York's East River to the United Nations as a site for its world headquarters.

**On December 11, 1972**, *Apollo 17*, carrying astronauts Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans, and Harrison Schmitt, landed on the surface of the moon.

**On December 11, 2000**, baseball shortstop Alex Rodriguez agreed to a record-breaking \$252 million dollar deal with the Texas Rangers.

**On December 12, 1889**, Boston's George F. Grant was granted a patent for a golf tee.

**On December 12, 1901**, the first radio signal to cross the Atlantic was picked up in Newfoundland by inventor Guglielmo Marconi – transmitted from 2,000 miles away.

**On December 12, 1913**, Italian authorities in Florence announced that the Mona Lisa, stolen from the Louvre in 1911, had been recovered.

**On December 12, 1915**, crooner and entertainer Frank Sinatra was born in Hoboken, NJ.

**On December 12, 1925**, the nation's first motel, which went by the name of the "Motel Inn," opened in the California city of San Luis Obispo.

**On December 13, 1928**, George Gershwin's *An American in Paris* premiered at Carnegie Hall.

**On December 13, 1978**, the ill-fated "Susan B. Anthony" dollar was issued by the United States Mint.

**On December 13, 1993**, the space shuttle *Endeavour* returned from its mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope.

**On December 14, 1902**, the cable ship *Silverton* set out from San Francisco to lay the first cable from the mainland to Honolulu. On January 1, 1903, the cable was ready to transmit messages.

**On December 14, 1911**, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundson made the first recorded visit to the South Pole, beating out an expedition by Robert F. Scott.

**On December 14, 1985**, former New York Yankee Roger Maris, who broke Babe Ruth's single season home run record, died, in Houston, at the age of 51.

**On December 14, 1999**, to the dismay of millions of fanatic fans, cartoonist Charles Schulz announced that he was retiring his "Peanuts" comic strip.

**On December 14, 2001**, George O'Leary, five days

after being hired as Notre Dame football coach, resigned. He admitted that he had lied about his academic background.

**On December 15, 1791**, the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, which went under the title of "The Bill of Rights," went into effect after being ratified by Virginia.

**On December 15, 1791**, the first law school in the United States was born when the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania elected James Wilson to the post of professor of law.

**On December 15, 1890**, "Sitting Bull," chief of the Sioux Indian nation, was shot and killed in South Dakota in a skirmish with federal troops.

**On December 15, 1939**, the motion picture *Gone With the Wind* premiered at Loew's Grand Theater in Atlanta.

**On December 16, 1770**, German composer Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn.

**On December 16, 1775**, Jane Austin, England's first great woman novelist, and author of the classic *Pride and Prejudice*, was born at Steventon, a small town about 50 miles southwest of London.

**On December 16, 1783**, 3,000 were killed, and 20 villages were obliterated, as Iceland's "Mt. Hekla" staged a massive eruption.

**On December 16, 1905**, *Variety*, a weekly magazine devoted to all phases of show business, came out with its first edition. It contained 16 pages, and sold for a nickel.

**On December 16, 1916**, Grigori Rasputin, the "mad monk" who wielded a mystical influence over the Czar and Czarina of Russia, was lured to a Petrograd palace and poisoned. When this failed to kill him, he was stabbed to death and his body sunk beneath the ice of a local canal.

**On December 16, 1956**, Cardinal Francis Spellman of New York personally denounced the yet-to-be-released movie "Baby Doll," saying Roman Catholics would be committing a sin if they saw it.

**On December 16, 1959**, The Second City improvisational comedy troupe staged its first performance in Chicago.

**On December 16, 1980**, Harland Sanders, founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken, died in Shelbyville, KY; he was 90.

**On December 17, 1835**, Hiram Husumin was appointed chief engineer of Chicago's first fire company.

**On December 17, 1933**, in the first world championship of professional football, the Chicago Bears defeated the New York Giants by a score of 23 to 21. (Each player on the winning team received \$210.00).

**On December 17, 1969**, on NBC's *Tonight Show*, more than 10 million television viewers witnessed the marriage of singer Tiny Tim to Miss Vicky.




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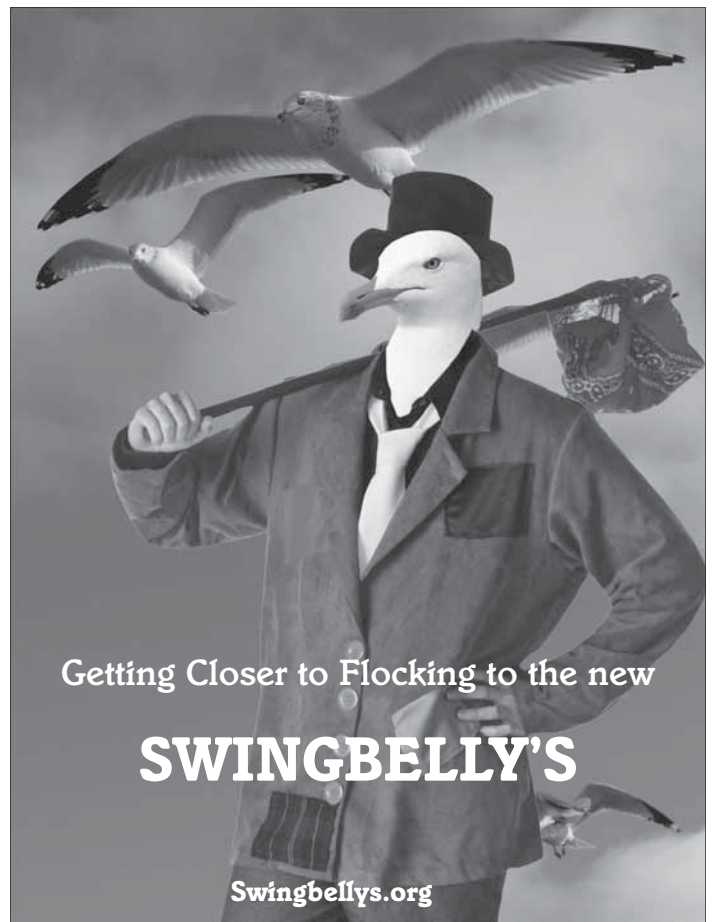
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## Winter Coats Needed

New Troy's second Winter Coat Drive, an effort by Friends of New Troy and other area residents, is under way at New Troy Community Center, 13372 California Road.

Gently used coats, jackets, hats, scarves, boots, gloves and mittens for children and adults may be dropped off at the center anytime it is open. There is a particular need for children's coats.

Many adult coats and jackets, plus a limited selection of children's, already are available. Anyone in need is invited to stop by the center and select something they like. The coats and other winter wear are located on racks in the hallway. Proof of income is not required.

Center hours are 10 to noon and 5:30 to 7 p.m. EST Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST Saturday. Call (269) 426-3090 for more info.

## Museum Curator's Report



A maple leaf found on Fail Road and donated by Joel Shannon.

La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte, has released its November curator's report.

Visitors came from 11 states and nine counties. Three tour groups visited: an after-school group from Harbert, Mich.,

and two Boy Scout troops. Volunteers decorated the museum for Christmas, replacing the fall exhibit "Whatzit-Deux?" with holiday décor.

Donations included:

- Two 1950s pen-and-ink Parisian street scenes, Richard Daubert.
- Handkerchief dated 1859 from Galena Township, museum in Bennington, Va.
- Color slides (1950s to 1970s) showing various La Porte scenes, class photos from La Porte schools, Michael Keyworth.
- Framed maple leaf, 16-by-18, found on Fail Road, Joel Shannon.
- Deluxe Products basketball uniforms and trophies belonging to the donor's father, James Travis.
- Thermometer from Vernier China, gift box from Olga's, Karen Piper.
- Display items, Patti Breseke.
- Items for the sale table, Ralph Coursel, Karen Piper and Jean Chlupacek.

In December, the holiday theme is "Santa's Special Trees." Various historic collections have been hung on trees, including Lenick's Dairy creamers, doll clothes, jewelry and hair combs. The miniature Giese Church also is on display.

Call (219) 324-6767 or visit [www.laportecounty-history.org](http://www.laportecounty-history.org) for more information.



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## Michigan City High School Band, Color Guard Students Honored



Pictured are (from left) graduating seniors Andrew Boklund, Steven Siegmund, Justin Smoker, Grant Wozniak, Olivia Glowacki, Rebecca Richmond, Heather Robinson, Morgan Goldman and Allen Murray.

The Michigan City High School Marching Band, under Quincy Ford's direction, and the Color Guard, under Trish Foltz's direction, recognized outstanding students at their recent awards banquet.

Students were honored for:

- Rookie of the Year — Isaiah Barzack, Courtney Hart, Hannah Moore and Mikiah Williams.
- Most Improved — Grace Gaertner, Jocelyn Langford, Devin Newton and Dalyn Watson.
- MVP — Jaelyn Nowatske, Alexander Rice, Hannah Tubbs and John Young.
- Soloists — Suzanne Kaiser, Tia Majied, Jaelyn Nowatske, Keith Patejdl, Rebecca Richmond and Hannah Tubbs.
- Section Leaders — Andrew Boklund, Suzanne Kaiser, Amy Kotaska, Sarah Lynch, Ellisha Martin, Alexis Nowatzke, Jaelyn Nowatzke and Steven Siegmund.
- Drum Major — Olivia Glowacki.
- Assistant Drum Major — Greg Jamieson.

Receiving marching band letters were Nick Becker, Austin Bethke, Kory Blacksten, Sylvia Fitzpatrick, Alijah George, Devin Hence, Cassie Mason, Devin Newton, Hannah Tubbs, Darby Woolslayer and Domanic Wren.

Receiving chevrons were:

- Chevron No. 1 — Chizell Crawford, Gabriell German and Sara Vinson.
- Chevron No. 2 — Scott Bailey, Jaelyn Nowatzke

and LaShaunda Riddle.

- Chevron No. 3 — Morgan Goldman, Jocelyn Langford, Sarah Lynch, Spencer Marsh, Ellisha Martin, Alexis Nowatzke and Jaelyn Nowatzke.
- Chevron No. 4 — Greg Jamieson, Amy Kotaska, Tia Majied and Allen Murray.

Receiving stars were:

- Silver Star — Justin Smoker, Grant Wozniak.
- Gold Star — Olivia Glowacki, Justin Smoker and Grant Wozniak.

Platinum Plaques went to Andrew Boklund and Steven Siegmund. The Phenomenal Five award went to five-year members Olivia Glowacki and Steven Siegmund.

Color Guard letters went to Tayler Bowman, Tamira Hall, Anisa Higginbotham, Hannah Tubbs and Alysa Will-Grater.

Chevrons went to:

- Chevron No. 1 — Emily Glowacki.
- Chevron No. 2 — Tia Majied.
- Chevron No. 3 — Rebecca Richmond.

Also recognized were:

- Section Leader — Emily Glowacki.
- Senior Captain — Rebecca Richmond.
- Junior Captain — Tia Majied.

The 2014 Parent Volunteer Awards were presented to Lydia Altherr, Sherry Altherr, Brenda Becker, Tom Smoker and Julie Wozniak.



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#372192. **Call Pat at 708-361-8240.**

#### **FALL/WINTER RENTAL at Stop 33.**

2 blocks from beach. Charming décor, beautiful surroundings, 4BR, 2BA,  
family room with remote fireplace. Patio, deck, sun porch. A/C, W/D.

September to June. No pets, no smoking. **\$890/mo. + util. Weekend  
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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**Billion Dollar Painter: The Triumph and Tragedy of Thomas Kinkade Painter of Light** by G. Eric Kuskey with Bettina Gilois (hardcover \$26; available online, in bookstores and as an ebook)

"Be careful what you wish for, you might get it" could be the theme of this week's recommendation.

On the surface, Thomas Kinkade is a true American rags-to-riches story. He was the first artist to be publicly traded on NASDAQ. But at what price is glory? You may be shocked like I was while reading this story that in turns is sad and happy, lovely and ugly.

Thom was a young boy when his father abandoned him, his mother, sister and brother. They moved to a trailer in Placerville, Calif., and his mother worked three jobs to keep the family together. Thom started drawing at a young age, and by the time he was in high school, he was charging other students for his caricatures of teachers.

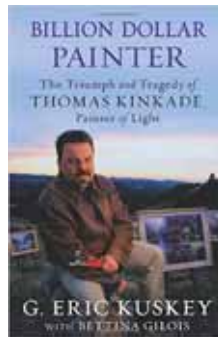
He was lucky enough to be taught painting techniques by two artists: Charles Bell, a local artist in his town, and Glenn Wessels, a friend of Ansel Adams. Wessels took on the 16-year-old as an apprentice and taught him much about painting.

College found him studying fine art for two years at Berkeley, followed by two years at the Art Center of Pasadena.

After marrying his childhood sweetheart, Nannette, he would load up his car with paintings and go to Carmel-by-the-Sea, selling his works on the street while demonstrating his painting to passers-by. He was a natural talker who showed interest and respect for all he met. One of those people was Rick Barnett, a Kirby Vacuum salesman. At a wedding, he met Ken Raasch, an executive in a small finance firm. The three of them would make history...

They called their company Lightpost Publishing. By this time, Thom was calling himself the Painter of Light. He truly thought he had a calling to spread God's word through his paintings. The partners' first break came with an offer from the Bradford Exchange to put Thom's paintings on collectable plates. The success led to moving out of a garage and into an actual warehouse space. The three partners found their demographic: traditional Christian, unsophisticated people who couldn't afford to go into an art gallery, but who could afford Thom's paintings of light and hope.

Lightpost Publishing became Media Arts Group Inc. and moved into bigger quarters. Paintings be-



came limited prints in various sizes, the licensing business took off with Thom's images on everything from calendars to mugs to bookmarks, even on the cover of the Avon cosmetic catalog.

The money flowed like honey, and the three spent their earnings -- "*There was always more to be had, more to take in, more to consume, more to want, and more to own.*"

Thom saw his vision come true--he visited presidents, popes and famous personalities. His presence at store openings brought crowds. Author Kuskey came on board with the company during the licensing period and became a friend of sorts to Kinkade. But the late night poker parties turned into a drinking contest, and it didn't take long for those in his inner circle to see how alcohol was Thom's demon.

The company's ups and downs, the lawsuits, the bankruptcy and Thom's death in 2012 are explored, as well as the breakup of his 30-year marriage that produced four daughters.

Thomas Kinkade wanted to paint. Period. His first fault was in trusting those around him completely to run his business. It's an amazing story of the downfall of a man whose company in 2001 passed the billion dollar threshold in total retail sales.

Be careful what you wish for...

**An Artist's Journal** by Frank Di Giacomo (oversize paperback \$8.95; available online at [bn.com](http://bn.com), [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and [alibris.com](http://alibris.com); also at Southern Shore Art Association Gallery and Joy of Flowers in Michigan City)

Interesting that this book should cross my desk at the same time I'm reading about Thomas Kinkade!

Frank Di Giacomo is a longtime *Beacher* advertiser who has now written this book on painting for the more advanced artist.

Frank has extensive experience in the art field as a commercial artist, with his work featured in various trade magazines. Serving in the Army, he won a poster contest. It was featured in *Stars and Stripes* newspaper.

I'm no artist, but it seems to me that Frank has given some helpful information and ideas for expanding the artist's skill. He also has included full color photos of some of his work, including black-and-white sketches done during his tour of duty in Korea.

Whether you work in paint, acrylic or watercolor, Frank's tips may give you ideas for your future works.

Till next time, happy reading!





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**14481 Woodcrest Lane • New Buffalo**  
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