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Epic Experience

Renaissance Academy Eighth-Grader Has Key Role in Big-Budget "Noah"

by Andrew Tallackson



Leo McHugh Carroll appears with Douglas Booth, who plays Shem, while filming in southern Iceland.

Leo McHugh Carroll was walking down a long hallway, confident his audition earlier that day went well, when the director brushed past him, headed in the other direction.

"Congratulations," the director said, pausing briefly.

"For what?," Leo asked.

"You got the part," he learned.

"Oh," Leo replied. "Cool. That's great."

A nonchalant reaction from a boy who's just been told by Darren Aronofsky, the Oscar-nominated director of "Black Swan" (2010), that he's been cast as Japheth in "Noah," the estimated \$130 million Biblical epic that opens March 28. A dream project for Aronofsky,

the movie stars Academy Award winners Russell Crowe ("Gladiator") as Noah, Jennifer Connelly ("A Beautiful Mind") as Naameh, Noah's wife, and Anthony Hopkins ("The Silence of the Lambs") as Methuselah, Noah's grandfather, along with Emma Watson (Hermione from the "Harry Potter" series) as Ila, Noah's adopted daughter, and Logan Lerman of the "Percy Jackson" series as Ham, one of Noah's sons.

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Then again, Leo is a typical 13-year-old boy more at ease discussing his love of basketball, tennis and swimming than the idea a potential Hollywood blockbuster could make him famous.

A resident of Grand Beach, Mich., he is an eighth-grader at Renaissance Academy, 4093 W. U.S. 20, which is run by his aunt, Kieran, and mother, Victoria. He has four siblings: a twin brother, Lucas, who appeared as Matt Damon's son in Steven Soderbergh's "The Informant" (2009), two older brothers, Vincent, 20, and Xavier, 18, and an older sister, Tori, 16. They've been acting since they were little, in everything from commercials to YogaKids videos.

Leo scored a small role when he was about 5 or 6 as the "giggling boy" in 2007's "Fred Claus" with Vince Vaughn. The scene, shot during an exceptionally cold day on Chicago's Michigan Avenue, involved Vaughn's character, pretending to be a Salvation Army volunteer and wearing a Santa hat, being chased by Salvation Army Santas. Shortly before taking off, Vaughn's character hands Leo a dollar bill and whispers something to him. The scene involved multiple takes. Each time, Leo erupted with laughter after Vaughn whispered something funny.

Vaughn was a blast to work with, Leo stresses, adding he also got to stay in a hotel with actual keys. Asked what he meant by that, Victoria laughs, explaining that up until then, Leo and his siblings were used to hotels with card keys, not the old, historic hotel near Chicago's Water Tower Place where they stayed during the "Fred Claus" shoot that used actual keys.

The entire experience, Leo and Victoria say, was wonderful...save for one thing. Upon seeing "Fred Claus" in theaters, Leo's part in the scene was cut.

Nonetheless, he's still listed in the credits and receives small residual checks.

That he was cast in "Noah" in July 2012 almost was a fluke.

Victoria says Lucas was set to audition for a film about which they knew little of the details. She was asked to bring Leo as well. It just so happened the project was "Noah." Aronofsky, upon seeing a video of Leo, and not knowing he was related to Lucas, began envisioning him as a potential Japheth, one of Noah's sons, for his big-budget epic.

Leo and Victoria subsequently flew out to New York, where he met with Aronofsky, a few of the movie's producers and Aronofsky's co-writer and frequent collaborator, Ari Handel. Part of the audition involved Leo having previously worked with a dialect coach to master a mid-Atlantic accent. All



Leo McHugh Carroll.

the work paid off. Leo was cast as Japheth.

What Leo and Victoria didn't realize was, most of "Noah" already had been cast. Leo was one of the remaining few to be placed in roles. Time was of the essence. A table read, where the entire cast read through the script, was held.

"It was very cool to be in a room with all these people," Leo says. "They all seemed like super nice people. Russell was reading the script, and Emma (Watson) and Jennifer (Connelly), they were really acting it out."



Leo McHugh Carroll's twin brother, Lucas, in costume to play a refugee in the film.



Leo McHugh Carroll's sister Tori in costume to play a refugee in the film.

Soon afterward, the cast headed to southern Iceland, where all scenes not set inside the ark were shot. It was incredibly cold, Leo and Victoria say, but after a while, they became used to the country's frigid temperatures. Leo had a tutor so he could stay current in his studies, and he was on the set only when needed for scenes. Sometimes, it was just a few hours. Other times, it was throughout the day.

Of Crowe, he recalls one day throwing stones with him into a bucket in between takes. He calls Watson "super nice," buying everyone small Christmas presents. The two he bonded with the most were the actors cast as Noah's other sons: Lerman and British actor Douglas Booth (the recent "Romeo & Juliet" update) as Shem. Lerman, in fact, was



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the actor Leo was the most excited to meet because he's a huge fan of the "Percy Jackson" movies. During down time on the set, Leo talked with Lerman about how those movies were made.

Leo's favorite part of the production, however, arrived when filming later shifted to New York State, where the massive set for Noah's Ark was constructed at Planting Fields Arboretum in Upper Brookville. The ark contained three floors: one each for mammals, reptiles and birds. The animals weren't real, however, but conceived through Industrial Light and Magic, the company originated by George Lucas for his "Star Wars" movies and today that works on everything from Steven Spielberg pictures to the "Iron Man" trilogy.

Because much of the special effects, from the animals to the actual flood, relied on Computer Generated Imagery added later in post-production, Leo says he had to rely on his imagination, and guidance from Aronofsky, on how to react in scenes where animals or visuals were not present.

And it was during this time that he came to deeply admire Aronofsky. The director shared with him how he'd been fascinated by Noah since middle school, writing an essay about the Biblical figure. He gave his teacher big credit for inspiring him on the subject. He even brought that teacher to the movie set. Family was important as well, the director bringing his parents and son to the set.

Aronofsky, Leo and Victoria say, was a perfectionist who emphasized not only the big picture, but the smallest details. The director also got to meet many members of Leo's family, even casting Lucas and Tori in small roles.

Since completing "Noah," Leo has continued acting. He made his stage debut last summer as Romeo in New Buffalo, Mich. He's also awaiting news on the official premiere for "Noah." What he takes away from that experience is a respect for what it takes to make a movie.

"I loved learning how it all came together and how it's really done," Leo says. "They were very dedicated to the movie, to make it just how they saw it in their minds."

"They were very dedicated to the movie, to make it just how they saw it in their minds."

Leo McHugh Carroll



Director Darren Aronofsky congratulates Leo McHugh Carroll on the last day of shooting for "Noah." Actress Jennifer Connelly appears in the background.



Actress Emma Watson (left) appears with Leo McHugh Carroll (far right), Rosemary, Leo's cousin, and Vincent, Leo's oldest brother.



Leo McHugh Carroll says he enjoyed his experience working with Russell Crowe (back).



Leo McHugh Carroll (right) appears with his twin brother, Lucas, and mother, Victoria.

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"Perspectives" Exhibit at SSAA

"Perspectives from Extraordinary Students" runs through Jan. 12 at the Southern Shore Art Association gallery, 724 Franklin St., Michigan City.

A Horizon Bank grant and other local contributions helped budding artists with special needs explore an eclectic mix of techniques and media. An eight-week art program, taught by SSAA members, resulted in a collection of landscapes, drawings, abstract art, papermaking, clay modeling and collage.

Gallery hours are noon to 4 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Visit www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com for more information.



Armand Johnson's
"Chaos."



Kris Strawbridge's
"Monkey."



Arica Sheets'
"Colorful Dog."

Dunes Workshop for Educators

A workshop for educators interested in incorporating the Indiana Dunes into their lesson plans is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

The workshop will be taught by Stephanie Crook of Hebron High School and William McCullom of Whiting's George Rogers Clark High School, who interned last summer through the National Park Service's Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Crook and McCullom will share highlights from the programs they created, including a bio-caching activity and self-guided program using the park. They also will share information on the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program, when educators participate in an internship at a national park during summer break. They earn a stipend, learn about the park's resources and help the park with educational endeavors.

The Jan. 11 workshop requires pre-registration through the Dunes Learning Center's website at www.duneslearningcenter.org and a \$20 fee to cover lunch and take-home materials.

A list of other educator workshops also can be found on the website. The next one on Saturday, Jan. 25, focuses on the Department of Natural Resources project, Flying WILD.

Five-Week Ceramics Class

Dean Hultman will offer a five-week ceramics class starting from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

The course is designed for students to either work on the wheel or use a handbuilding technique. During the first four classes, participants focus on building original works. During the fifth class, students glaze their pieces.



The cost is \$100 for members and \$125 for non-members. Students can buy 25 pounds of clay for \$25. All other supplies are included.

Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chesterton-art.com for more information.

Instructor
Dean Hultman (right)
works on the wheels
with Phil Einhorn.



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"Fenders & Figures"

South Shore Arts will present "Fenders & Figures: Works by Sandi Kozlowski" on Jan. 10 through March 2 in The Center for Visual and Performing Arts Atrium Gallery, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Ind.

A reception for the free exhibit is from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 2.



Sandi Kozlowski stands with some of her works.

As a motorcycle owner and enthusiast, Kozlowski has intertwined her passions for art making and motorcycle riding. Her primary medium has been acrylic on canvas; however, recent work incorporates mixed-media and airbrush elements.

Kozlowski, who lives in Munster, has been exhibiting in Northwest Indiana, as well as Chicago and its suburbs, for more than 25 years. She received her bachelor of fine arts degree from Calumet College and has worked with George Schneider and Bob Anderson at The Art Institute of Chicago. Recent study of airbrush techniques with Phil Coduti and Terry Jasinski has further developed her work.

Exhibit hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Visit www.southshoreartsonline.org for more information.

La Porte County Parks



All registrations and questions go through the Red Mill County Park Administrative Office, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, La Porte. Call (219) 325-8315 or visit www.laportecountyparks.org for more information.

Stroller, Baby and You

Aimed at toddlers and preschoolers, programs include music, dance, storytelling and a hike (weather permitting).

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Dates in 2014 are: Jan. 13 and 27, Feb. 3 and 10, March 10 and 24 and April 7 and 28. Call at least one week in advance to sign up.

Senior Lifestyles

Join the free 55+ Club, a social club designed for adults 55 and older to learn and explore various types of nature. Free coffee is served to participants.

The group meets from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Luhr County Park Nature Center. Dates in 2014 are: March 5, April 2 and May 7.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the program topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate.

Programs are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first.

The early 2014 lineup is:

- Jan. 29 — "Woody the Woodpecker."
- Feb. 12 — "Where Did They Go?"
- Feb. 26 — "Wild Wind."
- March 12 — "Bat Basics."
- March 26 — "Star Theater."
- April 9 — "Flower Power."

Make a Mandala

Participants can apply what they love about the season, nature or favorite animals and apply it to a 3-inch mandala from 6 to 7:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13, 2014, at Luhr County Park.

Artist Heather Banas will lead the program. Everything will be supplied for the project, but participants can bring a favorite feather, bead or other item.

The program targets youth 8 and older, and children must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$8 per person.



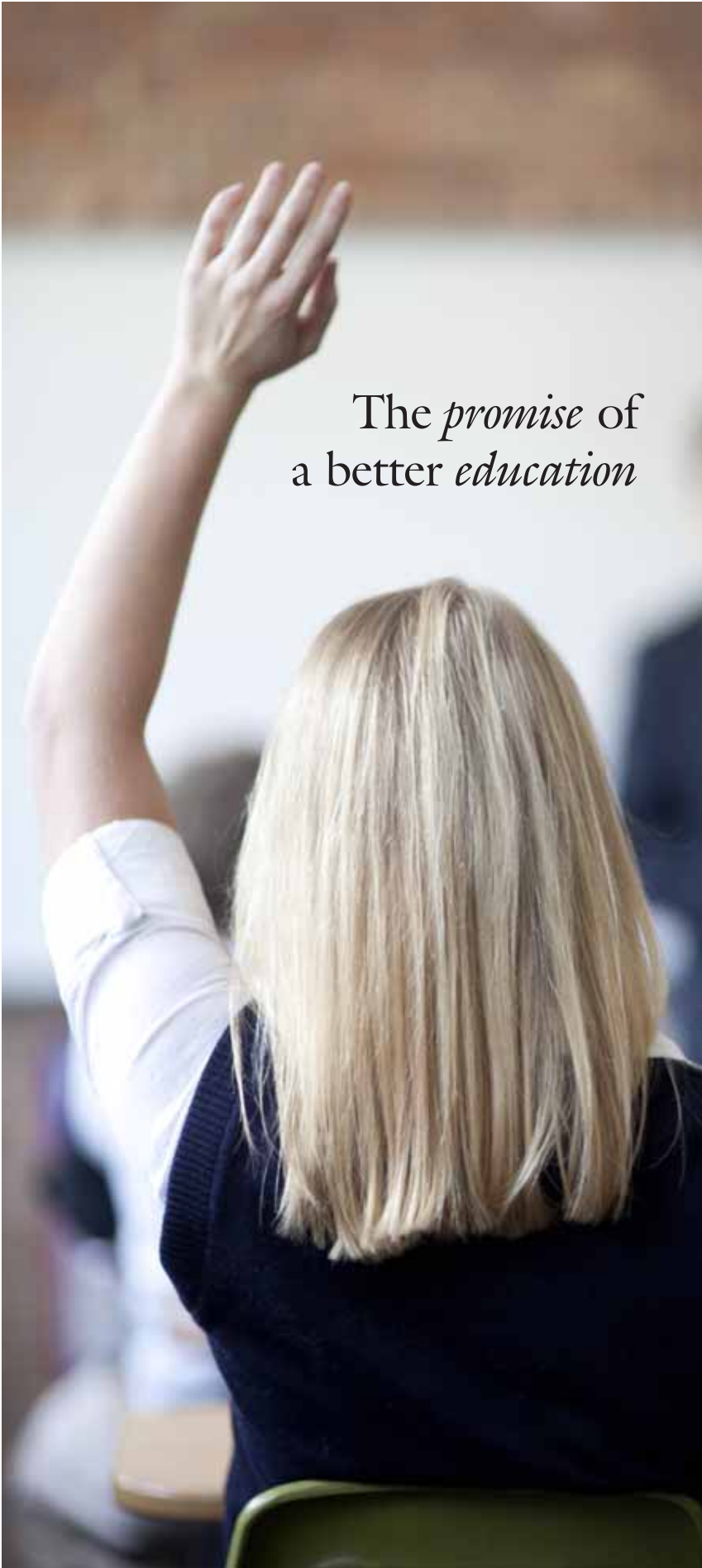
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Regional K-12 Chess Tournament

The snow and cold did not deter youngsters from participating in the Dec. 14 event hosted by Renaissance Academy and Marquette Catholic High School and held in the school's Scholl Center.



Photos by Oleg Semkoff



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Center to Unveil New Exhibits

Buchanan (Mich.) Art Center, 117 W. Front St., will have a public reception from 2 to 4 p.m. EST Sunday, Jan. 12, for three new exhibits.

Juried selections from The St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society in the Roti Roti Gallery, "Going Postal" by Gary Bennett in the Show Place Gallery and BAC Showcases and "Eclectic Encounters: The Artist's Collection of Favorites" by Sandra Pethick in the Hess Gallery run through Feb. 22.



The cachet Gary Bennett created for the Buchanan Art Center exhibit.

Founded in 1959 by artist and teacher Joseph Wrobel, The St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society serves South Bend and northern Indiana by showcasing works by its members and promoting interest in watercolor painting in general. Save for June through August, it meets at 1:30 p.m. EST the fourth Sunday of the month in the upstairs classroom area at The South Bend Regional Museum of Art.

Since 1986, Bennett has designed more than 600 special-event envelope covers and postal cancels for U.S.P.S. and Canada Poste, and his work has been shown in conjunction with The Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibition at the Midwest Museum of Art. His cachets went into space on the Russian Soyuz, to Antarctica on a Japanese trawler, to Berlin when the wall came down and to the Iceland summit of President Reagan and Communist leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Pethick, to further personal and professional development and keep her curriculum current, decided to pursue a master's degree in art education. It was during this process for the photographer and longtime art educator that her interest in digital photography developed. While working on assignments, she realized her photography focused on images of her "everyday" life. Since her retirement, she has begun to focus on geographical areas.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. It is closed Sundays. All times are Eastern Standard Time. Call the center (269) 697-4005 or visit www.buchananartcenter.org for more information.

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are through Westchester Public Library:

• **The History Discussion Group meets from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Registration is not necessary. Serena Sutliff will focus on family life and statistics.

• **Sunday Matinee will screen "Prisoners" at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12, in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library.**

The movie, which stars Hugh Jackman as a father who takes matters into his own hands after his daughter and her friend are kidnapped, is rated R for violent content and language.

• **"Bits and Bytes" continues with "Computer Basics 2" from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library.**

The class is free, but registration is required because computer stations are limited. Registrants must be comfortable using a mouse. Visit or call the Serials/Automation Department or register online at www.wpl.lib.in.us. Click on the Bits and Bytes link.

• **"Bits and Bytes" continues with "Introduction to the Internet" from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library.**

The class is free, but registration is required because computer stations are limited. Visit or call the Serials/Automation Department or register online at www.wpl.lib.in.us. Click on the Bits and Bytes link.

Indigan Storytelling

An evening of Indigan storytelling is at 6 p.m. EST Friday, Jan. 17, at Journeyman Distillery, 109 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich.

Several people will present stories that emerged from a workshop led by Daniel Waterhouse, a Hollywood actor and screenplay writer who also will share stories in this art form.

Indigan Storyteller is a regional educational enterprise in Three Oaks that aims to advance the art of storytelling. The name "Indigan" is an amalgam of Indiana and Michigan.

The cover charge at the door is \$5.

Also, Indigan Storyteller will offer a second workshop, led by Waterhouse, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Sunday, Jan. 19, in Three Oaks. A location will be announced soon.

The \$125 fee includes a workbook, food and refreshments, and tools to develop and share stories, — fictional or true. Participants will be offered an opportunity to present their stories to the public at Journeyman later in January.

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Contest Photo Winners Announced

A photo of sandhill cranes ruling a roadway and another of paddle boarding at sunset took the top honors in Indiana Dunes Tourism's Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail photo contest.



Tracy Grace's "Sandhill Cranes Rule the Road."

Tracy Grace, DeMotte, was the first-place winner, shooting "Sandhill Cranes Rule the Road" while en route to see the migrating cranes. She won tickets to Memorial Opera House, Valparaiso, and an overnight stay at her choice of accommodations in Indiana Dunes Country.



Olivia Steele's "Reflections of Another World."

Olivia Steele, West Lafayette, won second place for the paddle-boarding work "Reflections of Another World." She won an Indiana Dunes State Park pass and a Lucrezia restaurant gift card.

For the contest, people were encouraged to share their outdoor adventures along the Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail, which can be found at www.BeyondTheBeachDiscoveryTrail.com. It features 60 natural, historical and cultural sites throughout Northwest Indiana.

The photographs are being used for Indiana Dunes Tourism promotions and shared through social media.

1952 Train Wreck Focus of Program

The Weesaw Township Historical Society will host a free program on the 1952 Sawyer (Mich.) train wreck at 7 p.m. EST Tuesday, Jan. 14, at The New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road.

Produced by the late John Vitek of Weesaw Township, Vitek's family is loaning the short film to the Historical Society for the event planned in association with Friends of New Troy.

Nifidora Krumrie will share and discuss her collection of photos and newspaper articles, which she calls "An Unconcise History of Sawyer."

Attendees are encouraged to bring any photos or information they have of the day a train derailed in downtown Sawyer.

Contact Terry at (269) 369-1897 or email thano-ver@centeroftheworld.net for more information.

Winter Classes, Studio Open House

Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich., will have registration through Monday, Jan. 20, for its winter class schedule.

Youth studio classes are available for grades kindergarten through 12. Classes include: "Caldecott Connection Creations" (grades K-3); "Beads and Beyond" (grades 4-6); "Mural Painting at the Beginning" (grades 5-8); "Drawing Without a Pencil" (grades 8-12); "Hipsters in the Dark Room, Moving On" (grades 8-12).

Adult studio classes are available in ceramics, jewelry making, drawing, painting (oil, acrylic and watercolor), photography and woodworking.

Most classes are weeknights and range from three to eight weeks.

Also, a free studio open house is from 2 to 4 p.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 11. The event features games, art activities, snacks, musical performances and special class discounts for the winter term.

Call (269) 983-0271 or visit krasl.org for more information on the open house or the winter class schedule.

"After Dark with Ansel Adams"

"After Dark with Ansel Adams" will help bring the "Masterworks" exhibit to a close from 6:30 to 9 p.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 11, at The South Bend Museum of Art.

Learn why Ansel is regarded as a master in the darkroom while listening to music and enjoying refreshments. A \$10 donation is suggested for the 21 and older event.

Jan. 12 marks the exhibit's last day.

The SBMA is located in The Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St., South Bend. Call (574) 235-9102, email info@southbendart.org or visit <http://www.southbendart.org> for more information.

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B&J's Owners New R.O.S.E. Winners



Billie and John Pappas hold their R.O.S.E. certificate.

John and Billie Pappas, owners of La Porte's B&J's American Café, received Visit Michigan City La Porte's November Recognition of Service Excellence Award.

The pair was nominated by a regular customer impressed by the welcome feeling the two convey.

"If anyone knows about great customer service, it's the owners of this restaurant," the person wrote. "I take my mother here at least once every couple of weeks. We love the delicious food, but we really love how welcoming and gracious they are. He (John Pappas) even remembers my mother's name and constantly checks to make sure we have what we need.

"There are many places in town that have good food. I recommend this restaurant because of the way they make us feel while we are here."

This is the second R.O.S.E. Award B&J's has won. John Pappas received the honor once before. Billie Pappas, though, said the honor means she and her husband are doing their job well.

"It feels great," she said. "It really means what we try to do here is being done. It's nice to know that all the hard work we put in to make our customers feel welcome is paying off. We want to make sure everyone who comes in is happy, and this lets us know that most of the time we're doing just that."

Each month, customer service employees from throughout the county are nominated for going above and beyond. Those nominations are passed on to an impartial panel of judges that chooses a winner, who receives a framed certificate and a rose corsage with a \$100 bill folded inside. They also are invited to the tourism bureau's annual R.O.S.E. Luncheon in the spring and are nominated for Indiana's annual Hoosier Hospitality Award.

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Lake Hills Student Named to Choir

Lake Hills STEM Elementary School fifth-grader Summer Pinnell has been chosen for the Indiana All-State Elementary Honor Choir.



"This amazing choir is made up of 146 of the very best fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade voices from across the state," Lake Hills Music Teacher Steve Chambers said in a press release. "It's a very competitive audition process, so it is truly an honor to be chosen."

Pinnell was selected based on her audition CD, which was judged by a regional committee of music educators. The audition required students to perform music that showed their range and ability to follow a fast-moving tempo. It also required them to sing pitch patterns of varying difficulties and sing a harmony line against a melody.

The choir will perform at the Indiana Music Education Association Conference on Jan. 23-24 at the Embassy Theater in Fort Wayne.

Kids Theatre Workshop

Festival Players Guild revives its free Kids Theatre Workshop with auditions/enrollment for youth 8-16 at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12, and 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13, at Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Michigan City.

Not only do participants learn how to prepare a role for a full-length show, but they also receive instruction on set construction, stage lighting and many other aspects of the theater.

Everything culminates in a four-performance run of D.M. Larson's "Beauty IS a Beast" on Feb. 21-23. Duane Thompson and Sue Vail are the directors. All participants must audition, even those interested only in the tech crew. Auditions are by cold reading. No prepared pieces are requested. Dress comfortably. Call (219) 874-4269 for more information.

"Growing Stronger" Registration

Registration for the free, eight-week fitness program "Growing Stronger" is Tuesday, Jan. 14, at the La Porte County Purdue Extension Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, La Porte.

The 45- to 60-minute class, based on years of research, focuses on how strength training and proper nutrition improve health. The benefits may include increased strength and flexibility, improved balance and reduced falls, improved weight and glucose control and improved sleep and mood.

Each week will involve a series of strength-training exercises using just 1- to 5-pound weights, followed by fellowship and a healthy snack.

There is no class March 4 and 6 and April 1 and 3. Participants must be at least 18. Call Purdue Extension at (219) 324-9407 or email mwolff@purdue.edu to register or for more information.

Images Sought for Fair Poster

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., is taking submissions for an image to be used on the 2014 Chesterton Art Fair poster.

Artists may send original artwork directly to the center or send a CD that includes a 300 dpi image designed for an 11-by-14 poster. The image should reflect the center's mission statement and include information about the 56th annual fair, which is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 2-3 at Hawthorne Park in Porter. All entries are due by Jan. 31, 2014.

The winning artist receives a free booth at the 2014 fair, if they have already been juried into the show. If not, they will receive a monetary prize equal to the cost of a booth.

Visit www.chestertonart.com for the entire prospectus, which also is available at the center.

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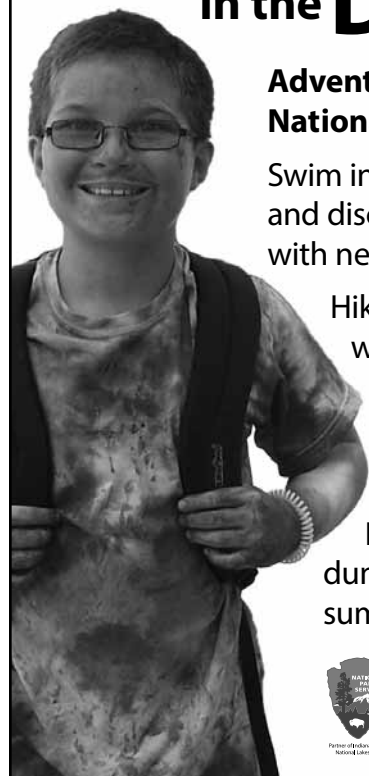
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2. **Veal Marsala** - Two pieces of veal top round, pounded flat, pan fried and topped with our traditional marsala sauce. Served with angel hair pasta and pesto cream sauce

3. **Chicken Rollatini** - Boneless, skinless chicken breast, pounded flat and rolled with prosciutto, spinach and provolone cheese. Served with garlic mashed potatoes
4. **Traditional Lasagna** - Layers of meat, spinach and cheese divided by our homemade egg noodles
5. **Grilled Salmon** - 7 oz. salmon fillet, marinated and grilled, served over sautéed spinach. Served with garlic mashed potatoes

All dinners will include tossed salad, foccacia bread and a bottle of Shady Creek wine of your choice.



Scartozzi's Trattoria

Helping at the Holidays



Joy Elementary School students Savja Santana (left) and Logan Dwornik, joined by Principal Alex Brandon, presented a \$148.82 check to DeNita Ton of The Salvation Army in December during the school's monthly honors assembly. The funds helped provide turkeys and hams for holiday food baskets for families in need. Each month, Joy students raise money for charity through two "jeans day" fundraisers, allowing students who donate 50 cents or more to wear jeans on Friday. Previous donations have been made to Michiana Humane Society, Sandcastle Shelter and Stepping Stone Shelter.

Members Advantage Scholarships

Members Advantage Credit Union is offering two \$1,000 scholarships in 2014 for graduating high school seniors and college freshman and sophomores enrolled in a college, university or trade school.

Members Advantage again will offer The Gail Walker Memorial Scholarship created in memory of the former board member who died in 2008. Members Advantage also will award The Leona Bruno Scholarship in memory of Members Advantage Credit Union's first manager.

Scholarships go to candidates who demonstrate scholastic achievement, personal integrity and community involvement. Visit www.macuonline.org for more information and to download the applications, which also will be available at the credit union's Michigan City and Portage locations.

The applications will not be accepted by email. Each application must be mailed or dropped off in its entirety. All walk-in applications must be received by Feb. 28, and all mail-in applications must be postmarked by Feb. 28.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that Sue Berent and the family of Ed Berent of Hire Sue's Husband announce his passing Nov. 27, 2013.

We wish to thank all of his many loyal clients along the lake who found him in The Beacher. Unfortunately, without Ed, Hire Sue's Husband will not continue.

If you know any of his clients that may be "snow birds" and not see this announcement, please pass it on.

Sue Berent

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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Duneland Stamp Club at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9.**

The group meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.

• **“Understanding Your Dreams” at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11.**

Experienced dream therapist Terese Fabbri reveals how to remember and understand dreams.

• **“Mightiest of Mighty Mic” at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12.**

Several years ago, Richard Fammeree hosted musicians, poets, dancers and other talented community members in an open-mic forum known as Mighty Mic.

Fammeree passed away in 2011. The library wants to remember him by bringing back the open mic program. New and former participants are invited to entertain. Blues guitarist Keith Scott will serve as emcee.

Call Robin Kohn at 873-3049 for more information.

La Porte County Library

The following programs are through La Porte County Library:

• **“Storytime Stew” is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Coolspring branch, 7089 W. County Road 400 North.**

Children and their caregivers are invited to participate in a mix of stories, songs and activities.

• **Page Turners discussion on Bill O'Reilly's “Killing Kennedy” from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at the main library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte.**

The title is available to check out beforehand in regular and large print, on CD and Playaway and as an e-book. Friends of the Library will serve refreshments. People also may take a lunch.

• **The Panel meets at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the main library.**

The library's graphic novel club meets each month to discuss comics, their authors and illustrators. Visit www.laportelibrary.org for chosen titles.

Duneland Weavers Guild

The Duneland Weavers Guild meets at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Westchester Public Library Annex, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

A panel will show the results of the group's Poker challenge. Silent Auction II will offer second chances to anyone kept away by December's snowfall.

Visit <http://www.dunelandweaversguild.org/> for more information.



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It's our way of keeping you informed about, and entertained by, the people, places and businesses in our Beacher communities.

It sounds like the setup of an Agatha Christie novel.

Seven writers — all but two strangers to each other — converge at a coffeehouse, locked inside for the night at the invitation of a man they've never met. Who is this man? What are the writers doing? Will any of them live to see the sun again?

The answers are far less dangerous, yet just as intriguing.

Friday, Dec. 6, specifically at 7 p.m., kicked off the "On Your Marks..." festival of one-act plays, a format never before attempted at Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St.

The man leading the charge was Brant Beckett of Imaginary Doors Entertainment, which produced the event along with Festival Players Guild. As the last writer stomped the snow off his boots and settled in at Michigan City's Lakeshore Coffee, Beckett reminded everyone of the contest's rules:

"Each of you is to write a new, family friendly, one-act play lasting between 10 and 15 minutes," he said. "The plays must be Christmas-themed, though you're welcome to interpret that requirement very broadly. All of the writing is to take place here within Lakeshore Coffee. Your scripts must be submitted no later than 7 a.m. tomorrow morning. You cannot collaborate, though you can ask the other writers for critiques.

"There will be no recorded sound effects available and no special lighting arrangements allowed; the lights will come up, the lights will go down. Each play will have two actors assigned to it, but you will

On Your Mark, Get Set... Write

24 Hour Competition Offers Whirlwind Theater Experience

by Stefan Barkow



The festival's cast and directors.



Tom Osborn and Kelly Carlin rehearse a scene from "Geezer Teaser."

not get to dictate gender or age, so try to make your characters as gender-neutral as you can. You can rely on a table and two chairs for your set. Hand props are allowed, but will not be provided. Costumes are also limited: the actors have been asked to bring two or three styles of dress, though of course you don't know what those are, and the directors will have minimal access to the theater's costume shop. Good luck."

The idea behind such a festival isn't new, but it is new to the area. Writers receive these instructions and 12 hours to work. The next morning, those scripts are assigned to directors who conceptualize their productions and are assigned actors. That night, just 24 hours after the writers began their journeys, the plays are

Center for the Arts.

And there's me: a freelance writer in the process of writing his first book.

For half of us, myself included, this was the first time writing a script for a stage play.

The first few hours were quiet as ideas flooded onto the page. By 10 p.m., the toll of such intense focus made itself known. A few rose to stretch their legs within the confines of the coffee shop, making light conversation with the others.

"I'm starting to think that maybe we all died yesterday," Holt joked, "and this is Dante's circle of Hell for writers."

At 11:20 p.m., Miller was the first to finish, submit his script and head home. Others trickled out as the hours went by. I finished my first draft sometime after midnight, then spent the next two hours fine-tuning and editing. At 2:30 a.m., I submitted my script, with little reference with which to predict how it would be received. When I left, two others were still working.

After just a few hours of sleep, I donned my press pass and drove to Mainstreet Theatre to meet the directors and actors. I found them strewn about the premise, hard at work rehearsing. With so many productions and so little time, actors and actresses rehearsed in the front lobby, in cramped rooms upstairs, in dressing rooms, even in hallways. Each was allowed 30 minutes of stage time.

Everyone was stressed and busy, but graciously

Continue on Page 22

performed for an audience in a one-night-only event.

Everyone — this writer included — settled into their corners and began plucking away at their keyboards. Hailing everywhere from Michigan City to Lakeside, Mich., the seven individuals had very different levels of experience.

Jon Winey has been writing "Moth" stories — short performance pieces — for years. Merle Miller operates La Porte's Washington Stage Theatre. Brian S. Alexander is the author of three books and a TV pilot. Jan Tomecek is a retired high school drama teacher. Margaret Lisle has several published short stories. Jerry Holt is a Purdue University-North Central professor, a successful playwright and author who regularly contributes scripts to the Lubeznik



Jeff Vargas and Lizzy Wilson rehearse a scene from "The Christmas Bags."



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On Your Mark

Continue from Page 21

allowed me a few minutes of their time. What's especially amazing, considering the high-pressure situation, is that the writers, directors and actors were all unpaid volunteers who took part in the event simply out of a love of storytelling and theater.

Barb Riley, who appeared in Alexander's "A Celtic Christmas," said that's part of what is wonderful about this format.

"A lot of us aren't full-time actors. We have time constraints like jobs and families. We can't dedicate the weeks or months it takes to put on a full production," she said. "But, something like this allows us to get on stage and do what we love while requiring nothing more than a single day of commitment."

The directors and actors proved just as varied as the writers.

Directors Joel Thompson and Kelly Carlin are founding members of Imaginary Doors Entertainment. Sheri Hogan worked with Mainstreet most of her life until she moved to St. Louis in 2007. Ethan Vail, who's been involved with the theater since seventh grade, returned to the area to work now that he's received his degree in theater lighting. Courtney Papa works with New World Arts, and Sue Vail, Ethan's mother, is Mainstreet Theatre's business manager. Many of the actors had experience, including some professional work. Others had not been on stage in years. For one or two, this was an entirely new experience.

At 7 p.m. Saturday, Mainstreet Theatre opened its doors to the audience to buy tickets

and find seats. At 7:30 p.m., the show began with Lisle's "Christmas – Bah! Humbug!"

During the next two hours, the audience enjoyed a blend of comedies and dramas, from Holt's "The Christmas Bags," a story of two thieves who accidentally steal a bag of children's letters to Santa, to Winey's take on Santa's childhood. Miller's "Geezer Teaser" followed a socially awkward widower at a Christmas party as a determined woman tries to chat him up. Tomecek's "The Secret of Christmas"

saw Santa detained by a Michigan City police officer for illegally parking his sled while enjoying the lights of Washington Park. My script, "Hi, My Name is Grace," examined the writing process from the character's point of view as the author struggles to write a Christmas story.

Author oversights were dealt with and a few lines were forgotten,

but in a format like this, that's to be expected. It's a testament to everyone involved that the night proceeded smoothly and each of the plays was enjoyable to watch, eliciting plenty of laughter from the audience along with moments of thoughtful reflection. Overall, it was a tremendous evening of original, never-before-seen performances. Roughly 100 people attended, making it quite a success for

a one-shot event in a theater with only 130 seats.

The festival, in fact, represents an effort by Festival Players Guild, which runs Mainstreet Theatre, to attract younger audiences while serving long-time patrons.

"Theater needs to be more accessible, more welcoming" Beckett said. "Part of how we're addressing that is by changing up the format and trying



The winners for (from left) best script, best director, best production, best actor and best actress.



The writers at Lakeshore Coffee included (back row, from left) Merle Miller, Jerry Holt, Jon Winey, Brian S. Alexander and Stefan Barkow. The front row is Jan Tomecek (left) and Margaret Lisle.

some new stuff.”

There is an undeniable draw to something fresh like this. There's nothing wrong with the traditional shows, but with this kind of an event, theatergoers get the chance to discover new voices, feel the pressure when art is put in an hourglass and vote for their favorite since the festival becomes something of a competition at the end.

(The bottom portion of the program was a ballot for the audience's choice of “Best Production.”)

Once the last performance ended and the cast took their bows, the panel of judges deliberated and tallied up the audience's votes. And the winners were:

- Best Actor: Tom Osborn for his role in Miller's “Geezer Teaser.”
- Best Actress: Kelly Carlin for her role in Miller's “Geezer Teaser.”
- Best Director: Sheri Hogan for her production of Holt's “The Christmas Bags.”
- Best Script: Barkow's “Hi, My Name is Grace.”
- Best Production: “Hi, My Name is Grace” directed by Courtney Papa and performed by Kathryn Hein and Avalee Brewer

I have to say, this was an absolutely amazing experience. Although a one-shot event with no repeat performances, Imaginary Doors and Festival Players Guild have a number of other productions and events planned.

Visit www.festivalplayersguild.org or call (219)-874-4269 for more information.



The writers hard at work upstairs at Lakeshore Coffee.



In Mainstreet Theatre's lobby, Barb Riley and Anthony Santana rehearse “A Celtic Christmas” as director Sue Vail watches.



Sheri Hogan (left) runs through lines with Dan Riley and Jean Martin for “Christmas — Bah! Humbug!”

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Aiding the Kettle Campaign



B&E Marine employees raised more than \$2,000 for The Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. On Dec. 20, Rod Bensz, B&E director of sales/owner, along with Mike Hackett, Michigan City Rotary Club president, presented Salvation Army Lt. Bill Brutto with the check. B&E employees held a "Wear Jeans to Work" campaign to raise funds and enlisted the help of vendors and clients to support the cause. B&E Marine's donation will be counted as part of the Michigan City Rotary Club's 2013 Salvation Army's Red Kettle efforts.

Spring Career Expo

Purdue University-North Central's Office of Career Development will present its annual Spring Career Expo from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, in the Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 144.

The event is open to area businesses, government agencies and community groups wanting to hire people full time or for internships. Job seekers are encouraged to research the businesses they are interested in and bring multiple copies of their resume. Attendees should dress in interview-appropriate attire.

Employers that register before Jan. 10 receive a discount. Registration for PNC students and the public is open as well. Call (219) 785-5451 for more event information or to register, or email careers@pnc.edu

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Call for Photo Exhibit Entries

The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich., has issued a call for entries for "Shoot," an all photography show and competition.

All photographers in Southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana are invited to enter the competition. He/she may enter one or two photos for \$20. Berrien Artist Guild members receive a discount and only pay a \$15 entry fee. All photos must fit into one of the following categories: Still Life, Scenic, People, Animals and Abstract. Prizes of \$200 will be awarded for best in each category.

Marc Ullom, professional photographer and professor at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., and the Academy of Art in San Francisco, is the judge.

Registration and photo delivery are: 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Jan. 9-10, with additional evening hours of 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11. The exhibit opens with a reception and award presentation from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17. All times are Eastern Standard Time.

All work submitted will be hung in the show, which will be display in all three galleries through March 1. Call (269) 983-3688 or visit www.boxfactoryforthearts.org for more information.

Fifth Annual Birdhouse Auction

Tickets are available for the Fifth Annual Birdhouse Auction to benefit Harbor Country Public Arts Initiative.

The event, which features wine, beer and appetizers, is from 5 to 8 p.m. EST Friday, Jan. 10, at Marina Grand Resort, 600 W. Water St., New Buffalo, Mich.

The 50 birdhouses designed by local artists will be auctioned to raise funds for HCPAI.

Limited \$30 advance tickets are available from Marina Grand Resort at (269) 469-9900 and Fusion Design Group at (269) 469-8226.

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Children's Choir Rehearsals Start

The Michigan City Community Children's Choir meets from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays starting Jan. 16 in the lower level at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.



The program, aimed at youth 6-16, features diverse sacred and secular pieces and highlights the art of singing solo, in groups, unison and harmony.

Plans for the coming season include simple and complex pieces so beginners and more experienced learners can enjoy singing together and studying pieces at their own levels.

Performance opportunities include care homes, day care centers and other venues.

The choir is a guest of First Presbyterian Church, so it uses the facilities at no cost. As a sign of gratitude, it does some collaborative services; however, it is a non-religious entity.

Register for the choir through Sunny Gardner-Orbovich at sunnyjogardner@yahoo.com or (219) 561-3264.

Lunch with the League

La Porte Circuit Court Clerk Lynne Spevak is the featured speaker at Lunch with the League, which is at noon Tuesday, Jan. 14, at Lindo's Restaurant, 3940 Franklin St., Michigan City.

Spevak will discuss the 2014 La Porte County elections. No reservations are required for the League of Women Voters of La Porte County program. Attendees can purchase a lunch of his/her choice from the menu.

Lunch with the League meets at noon the second Tuesday of each month. Call Sue Webster at (219) 874-6809 or visit www.lwvlaporte.org for more information.

Comic Book Convention

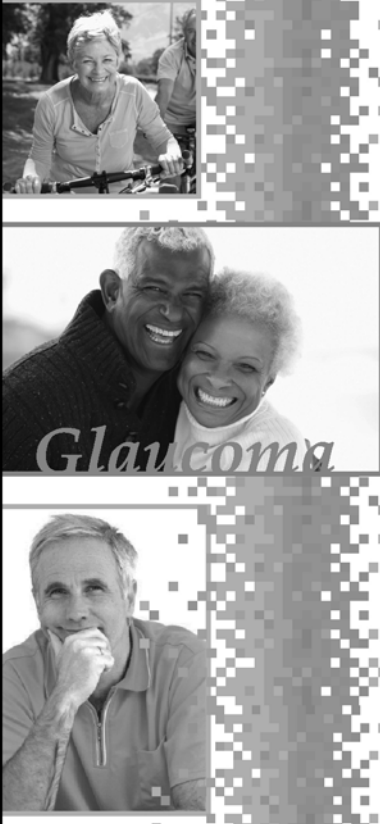
The South Bend Comic Book Convention is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 11, at Comfort Suites, 52933 U.S. 933 (Cleveland and U.S. 31), South Bend.

Dealers at the free event will have comics from the Golden Age to the present, along with a variety of collectibles. Dealers also will buy comics.

Call Alan at (309) 657-1599 or visit www.ep-guides.com/comics for more information.

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A New Tradition

The Long Beach Community Center Committee presented
its first Christmas program on Dec. 17.



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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following events are planned through Indiana Dunes State Park:

Saturday, Jan. 11

• 10 a.m. — "Snowshoe Shuffle."

Meet a park interpreter in the Nature Center. Learn about snowshoes, then try on a pair for a short walk through the winter woods. A hike is still planned even if there isn't enough snow.

• 2 p.m. — "Winter Turtle Time."

Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium for a look at the area's wintering turtles.

Sunday, Jan. 12

• 10 a.m. — "Feed the Birds."

Join a naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding. Get close views of chickadees, cardinals and woodpeckers.

• 2 p.m. — "Owl Puke."

Explore the world of owls at the Nature Center, including the chance to dissect an owl pellet.

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.

Tuesday Night Jewelry Classes

Mara Wible will offer a variety of Tuesday night jewelry classes in January at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Classes are at 5:15 and 7 p.m. All supplies are included.



The Venetian band bracelet.

The Venetian Band Bracelet Class is Jan. 14. Participants combine several techniques and colors to make a banded bracelet. The Chain Maille Heart Pendant Class is Jan. 21. Students learn to combine aluminum and rubber rings to make a heart pendant. The Shaggy Loop Bracelet Class is Jan. 28. Participants combine several loop sizes and metal types for a bracelet meant for everyday wear.

Call (219) 926-4711 to register. Visit www.chestertonart.com for more information.

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Youth Arts Awards

South Shore Arts and The Regional Arts Council are seeking nominees for the 2014 Indiana Regional Youth Arts Awards.

The awards honor high school-age students who represent artistic excellence in their school and community. Nominees must:

- Be a high school-age Indiana resident in fall 2013.
- Be enrolled as a student in good standing at an accredited public or private Indiana high school, or be home-schooled in fall 2013.
- Exhibit outstanding artistic talent.
- Have expressed interests in, or commitment to, future educational or career goals in the arts.
- Have displayed efforts toward academic excellence in other areas as well as the arts.

Only one nomination will be accepted from each person. Nominations must be made on the requested form. In addition, nominations should include a narrative description of no more than one double-spaced, single-sided page. The statement must include an explanation of why the nominee should be considered for an award and how he/she meets each of the guideline criteria.

Specific details of the student's achievements, including the student's grade-point average, class rank or similar benchmark, will be helpful to the selection committee. One finalist in each category and one over-all regional winner from those finalists will be selected and recognized. If, in the judges' opinions, a finalist in each category cannot be named, honorable mention awards may be given.

Award recipients will be asked to provide a portrait-style photograph. School pictures are acceptable. South Shore Arts reserves the right to keep and use the pictures for publicity purposes.

Supporting materials may be requested at a later date. Such materials should be limited to one audio or video recording, or no more than three photographs, slides or digital images of the nominee's original work.

Call chairwoman Patricia Hales at (219) 980-0838 or email PHales5870@aol.com for a form or more information.

The Latest SLYCE Graduates



Five Michigan City High School students graduated from the South Shore Leadership Youth for Community Engagement Program in December. SLYCE is a year-long initiative that helps young adults from across the region learn about team building, community issues and servant leadership. Pictured at the graduation ceremony are (from left) Nouha Hakim, Monica Zaknoun, Erin Callaghan, Jaymie Pliskey and Erik Stevenson. SLYCE is recruiting for its second class, which begins this month. Visit <http://southshoreleadershipcenter.org> for more information.

Thank You

As another successful build season draws to a close, the La Porte County Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors would like to thank the following companies, individuals and organizations who contributed time, funds and materials to assist us:

J&B West; Keith Hite, instructor, and New Prairie building trades students; Ivy Tech HVAC Department; Lucas Electric; Lowe's, Michigan City and Portage; Brett Schroeder; Rick Sparks; Big C Lumber; Alcoa Howmet; Lion's Leo Clubs, Westville and South Central high schools; First United Methodist Church of La Porte; Master Gardeners of La Porte County; Ryan Hurd, Woodforest National Bank; dh2w Architecture; Richard's Building Supply; St. John's United Christian Church, Archbold, Ohio; United Methodist Church, Oak Harbor, Ohio.

La Porte County Habitat for Humanity is a non-denominational Christian-based group that has built houses in our community for more than 25 years. Habitat homes are built entirely with volunteer labor and would not exist without the efforts of dedicated area residents, businesses and organizations. We thank all who have given their time and talents over the years to help fulfill Habitat's mission of providing decent, affordable housing to residents of La Porte County. We need volunteers throughout the year and encourage you to call the Habitat office at (219) 814-4985 for more information.

Sincerely,

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Scholarship Applications Available

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, 2014.
- Intend to pursue a full-time baccalaureate course of study beginning in fall 2014 at an accredited Indiana college or university.
- Submit a complete online application at www.uflc.net to the Unity Foundation by 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19.

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.

The scholarship application is available on Unity Foundation of La Porte County's website at www.uflc.net

"Breaking Possibilities" Exhibit

Works by eight Water Street Glassworks artists are included in the exhibit "Breaking Possibilities: Constructing the Impossible," which runs through Jan. 26 at The South Haven (Mich.) Center for the Arts, 600 Phoenix St.

The exhibit includes conceptual, representational and functional pieces created by Michigan glass artists. Work by two senior members of Fired Up!, Glassworks' after-school teen glass program, are included alongside pieces created by their mentor instructors. Call (269) 637-1041 for more information.



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Krueger Jeans Day Successful



Krueger Middle School's National Junior Honor Society students conducted a "jeans day" food drive Dec. 16-20. Students who brought a canned good or other non-perishable food item to donate wore jeans to school on Dec. 20. The drive netted more than 2,000 food items for The Salvation Army.

Van Gogh Focus of Children's Classes

Children's art classes this month will focus on Vincent Van Gogh at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Classes start the week of Jan. 13. Children 3 to 16 will paint on canvas, along with other related activities. They can start at any point during the school year.

Call (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com for more information.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



On January 9, 1793, Jean Pierre Blanchard soared above the courtyard of the Germantown Prison in the first successful balloon flight in the United States. Blanchard sailed over Philadelphia and landed — about 46 minutes later — at Woodbury, NJ, completing a 15 mile flight.

On January 9, 1968, *Surveyor 7* landed on the moon, ending the series of United States unmanned explorations of the lunar surface.

On January 9, 1972, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes, speaking by telephone from the Bahamas, said a purported biography of him by Clifford Irving was a fake.

On January 9, 1972, following a major fire that raged out of control for 24 hours, the luxury liner *Queen Elizabeth* capsized at her berth in Hong Kong.

On January 9, 2006, "The Phantom of the Opera" passed "Cats" to become the longest-running show in Broadway history.

On January 10, 1901, oil was discovered near Beaumont, and the great Texas oil boom was under way.

On January 10, 1946, radar signals were bounced off the moon's surface, marking the first man-made contact with our only visible satellite.

On January 10, 1971, "Masterpiece Theatre" premiered on PBS.

On January 10, 1982, Chicago residents tried in vain to stay warm as a record low temperature of minus 26 degrees settled on the city.

On January 11, 1770, Benjamin Franklin, in London, shipped the first rhubarb to America.

On January 11, 1805, the Michigan Territory was created.

On January 11, 1935, aviator Amelia Earhart took off from Honolulu bound for Oakland on the last leg of a flight that made her the first woman to fly solo across the Pacific.

On January 11, 1964, U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry issued the first government report saying that smoking may be hazardous to one's health.

On January 11, 1973, owners of American League baseball teams voted to adopt the designated hitter rule.

On January 11, 1986, the space shuttle *Columbia* blasted off with a crew that included U.S. Rep. Bill Nelson (D-FL.) and the first Hispanic American in space, Dr. Franklin R. Chang-Diaz.

On January 11, 2000, Carlton Fisk, star catcher for the White Sox for 13 years and for the Boston Red Sox

for 11, was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

On January 11, 2003, Gov. George Ryan commuted the sentences of 167 condemned inmates, clearing Illinois' Death Row in a move unprecedented in scale in U.S. history.

On January 12, 1773, America's first public museum was established in Charleston, SC.

On January 12, 1896, Dr. H.L. Smith, a professor of astronomy at Davidson College, made the first X-ray photograph in the United States.

On January 12, 1927, the City of Chicago dedicated Midway Airport.

On January 12, 1945, German forces were forced to pull back from their positions in Belgium in World War II's "Battle of the Bulge."

On January 12, 1948, the Supreme Court ruled that states could not discriminate against law school applicants because of race.

On January 12, 1971, the long running "All in the Family," a soap opera comedy, made its debut on CBS television.

On January 12, 1999, Mark McGwire's 70th home run ball was sold at auction in New York for \$3 million.

On January 13, 1794, President George Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the U.S. flag, after the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the Union. The number of stripes was later reduced to the original 13.

On January 13, 1906, the first advertisement for a radio, a Telimco selling for \$7.50, appeared in *Scientific American* magazine.

On January 13, 1999, Chicago Bulls superstar Michael Jordan announced his retirement from basketball. (He returned in the NBA in 2001.)

On January 14, 1870, in a cartoon by Thomas Nast in *Harper's Weekly*, the Democratic Party was represented for the first time by a donkey.

On January 14, 1900, Puccini's opera "Tosca" received a mixed reception at its world premiere in Rome.

On January 14, 1952, the *Today* show, featuring Dave Garroway as host, premiered on NBC.

On January 14, 1967, in the nation's first Super Bowl, the NFL's Green Bay Packers defeated the AFL's Kansas City Chiefs. The score was 35-10.

On January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King, who would become a preeminent black civil rights leader, was born in Atlanta.

On January 15, 1974, "Happy Days" (that was to become one of the longest running sitcoms on TV) premiered on ABC.

On January 15, 1987, Ray Bolger, best remembered for his role as the scarecrow in the 1939 MGM musical "The Wizard of Oz," died at the age of 83.

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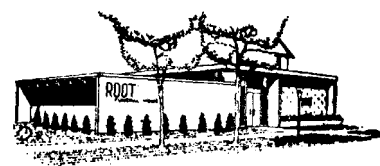
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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

January 10 — Opening reception for new Brauer Museum of Art exhibits at Valparaiso University, 7 p.m. Info: valpo.edu/artmuseum

January 10 — Fifth Annual Birdhouse Auction to benefit Harbor Country Public Arts Initiative, 5-8 p.m. EST, Marina Grand Resort, 600 W. Water St., New Buffalo, Mich. Limited \$30 advance tickets: Marina Grand Resort/(269) 469-9900, Fusion Design Group/(269) 469-8226.

January 10-March 2 — "Fenders & Figures: Works by Sandi Kozlowski," The Center for Visual and Performing Arts Atrium Gallery, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Ind. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday. Info: www.southshoreartsonline.org

January 11 — Duneland Weavers Guild, 10 a.m., Westchester Public Library Annex, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Info: <http://www.dunelandweaversguild.org/>

January 11 — "After Dark with Ansel Adams," 6:30-9 p.m. EST, The South Bend Museum of Art in The Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St., South Bend. Suggested \$10 donation for 21 and older event. Info: (574) 235-9102, info@southbendart.org, <http://www.southbendart.org>

January 11 — The South Bend Comic Book Convention, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EST, Comfort Suites, 52933 U.S. 933 (Cleveland and U.S. 31), South Bend. Info: (309) 657-1599/www.epguides.com/comics

January 11 — "Understanding Your Dreams" with dream therapist Terese Fabbri, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: 873-3049.

January 12 — "Mightiest of Mighty Mic," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: 873-3049.

January 12 — Sunday Matinee screening, "Prisoners," 1:30 p.m., Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Through January 12 — "Perspectives from Extraordinary Students," Southern Shore Art Association gallery, 724 Franklin St., Michigan City. Gallery hours: noon-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday. Info: www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com

January 13 — "Make a Mandala," 6-7:15 p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. For youth 8 and older accompanied by adult. Cost: \$8. Info/registration: (219) 325-8315.

January 14 — Lunch with the League, noon, Lindo's Restaurant, 3940 Franklin St., Michigan City. Speaker: La Porte Circuit Court Clerk Lynne Spevak. Info: (219) 874-6809, www.lwvlaporte.org

January 14 — Page Turners discussion on Bill O'Reilly's "Killing Kennedy," noon-1 p.m., La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

January 15 — Meeting of The Panel, La Porte County Public Library's graphic novel club, 6 p.m.

main library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte. Visit www.laportelibrary.org for chosen titles.

January 17 — Evening of Indigan storytelling, 6 p.m. EST, Journeyman Distillery, 109 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Cost: \$5 cover charge. Info: (269) 357-1602, improvers@bcglobal.net

Through January 26 — “Breaking Possibilities: Constructing the Impossible,” The South Haven (Mich.) Center for the Arts, 600 Phoenix St. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EST Tuesday through Friday, 1-4 p.m. EST Saturday. Info: (269) 637-1041.

Through February 2 — Student Faculty Exhibit, The South Bend Museum of Art in The Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St. Gallery hours: noon-5 p.m. EST Wednesday through Sunday. Admission: free, but suggested \$5 donation for non-members. Info: [southbendart.org/\(574\)235-9102](http://southbendart.org/(574)235-9102).

Through February 23 — More than 30 works by Anthony Droege, Indiana University-South Bend professor of art emeritus, The Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. All times Eastern. Cost: \$5/adults and seniors, \$4/students. Sunday is Free Family Day. Info: www.MidwestMuseum.US

Farther Afield:

January 11 — Rick Willey and Friends (Sean Ellsworth-Hoffman and Adam Carter), 7:30 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10/general admission, \$8/students and seniors, free/children 12 and younger. Info: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org/

January 11 — Free studio open house, 2-4 p.m. EST, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: (269) 983-0271/krasl.org

January 12 — Public reception for three new exhibits, 2-4 p.m. EST, Buchanan (Mich.) Art Center, 117 W. Front St. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sundays. All times Eastern. Info: (269) 697-4005, www.buchananart-center.org

January 14 — Movie and talk on 1952 Sawyer (Mich.) train wreck, 7 p.m. EST, The New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free. Info: (269) 369-1897/thanover@centeroftheheworld.net

January 18-19 — Lexicon of Sustainability's Pop-Up Art Exhibit, noon to 6 p.m. EST, Journeyman Distillery, 109 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Sponsored by Journeyman and Garden to Table.

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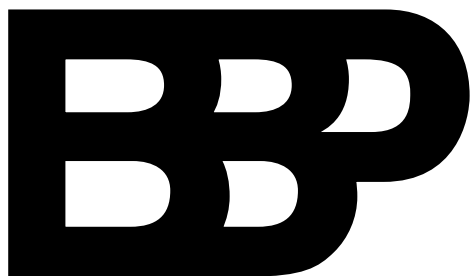
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Craftsman snowblower: 26" electric start. 4 forward & reverse gears.
Looks brand new. Paid \$899, asking \$600. Call (219) 872-0888.

FOR SALE: Paper homemade ornament \$10 gift box (50 available);
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Booking for June/July 2014! 2 BR Lakefront Condo, Dunescape Beach
Club, \$1,500/week (1 mo. min.) **Call Cari @ (219) 898-5412.**

FALL/WINTER RENTAL at Stop 33.

2 blocks from beach. Charming décor, beautiful surroundings, 4BR, 2BA,
family room with fireplace. Patio, deck, sun porch. A/C, W/D.
November to June. No pets, no smoking. **\$880/mo. + util. Weekend**
rentals also available. See at VRBO.com #262805. Call 708-784-9866.
2 BR, 1.75 BA Condo in Karwick Glen available now! \$900/mo + utilities.
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FURNISHED 3BR, 2BA HOUSE. Util. included.

Monthly rental from Jan.-June. \$900/mo. with credit check.
½ block from lake. Call 708-383-2635.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

15.8 acres one mile from lake, Eastwood Road just
south of Long Beach. \$170K. (219) 210-0544.

For Sale: 109 Felton St., Michigan City, IN. Move in furnished week-
ender home with updated features near Lake Michigan (fewer than 2/10
of a mile from historic Washington Park and Zoo). 3 BR/1BA, kitchen, din-
ing room, loft overlooking living room with wood-planked cathedral ceiling,
fenced-in landscaped yard with raised patio and a garage built recently.
About an hour's drive from DT Chicago, Chicago train service nearby.
Price: \$159,499. **Enquire at (708) 798-4096 after 6 p.m.**

LONG BEACH COVE LOT with 163 ft. of Lake Clair shoreline, \$139,000.
Also have MI and IN lots for sale. Also, **SMALL OFFICE SPACE FOR**
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Michigan City Area Schools' annual concert, held Dec. 12 at Michigan City High School, featured close to 1,500 students in grades five through 12 and from all 13 MCAS schools.





Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Storm Front by **John Sandford** (hardcover \$27.95 retail)

"Virgil Flowers was a tall, thin man, two inches over six feet unless he was wearing cowboy boots, which he usually was ... He wore his blond hair long, curled over his ears and the back of his neck; in general, he looked like a decent third baseman ..."

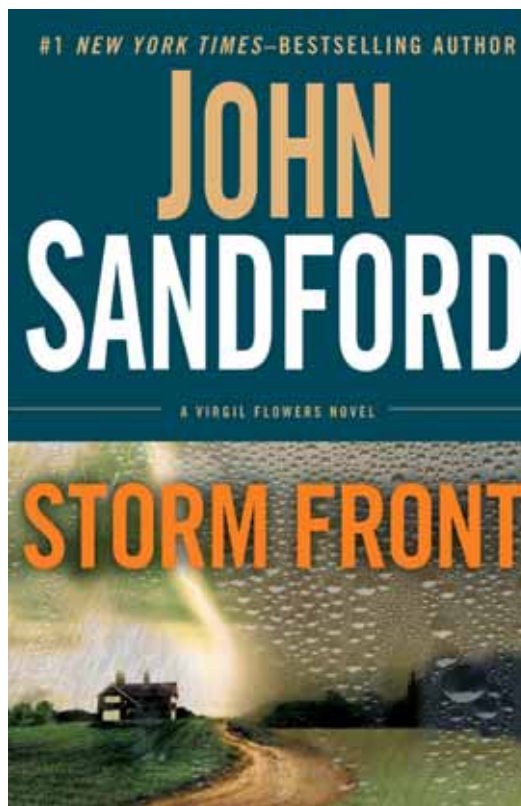
... except he was an investigator for the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. And that's my intro for this week's book recommendation — art with political overtones, theft, kidnapping, religion, mystery ... oh, let's just get to the storyline.

The Rev. Elijah Jones was a Lutheran minister and archeologist, and he was dying. He made one more trip to Israel to say his final good-byes to his friends and fellow archeologists. While there, a find was made of an ancient stele (pronounced *stella*), a stone or slab with an inscribed or sculptured surface, often written in two languages. The thing about this one was, the stele's religious aspect also could bring political upset in the Middle East. It involved King Solomon. Yes, he of great wisdom and great conquests. But, enough said about the relic. Here's where the modern story begins.

Jones steals the relic, gets it out of the country and into the United States and heads for his home state of Minnesota. And here's where Flowers comes into the picture. He is told a Yael Aronov of the Israel Antiquities Authority will arrive in Minnesota to help with the case. Flowers thinks the whole thing is a hoax until he finds out the stele could fetch millions of dollars.

That puts a different slant on it!

Aronov is an attractive woman, but something about her just doesn't seem right. She and Flowers follow leads and basically chase the good reverend



from one end of Minnesota to the other. He has a daughter who gives Flowers the runaround, then there's the TV host interested in getting the stele to further his own reputation. Throw in, too, a Lebanese Arab hired by a Turk who is willing to pay \$5 million for the artifact.

And one more thing, Virgil gets a message from someone who says she is Yael Aronov and will be flying in the next day. Hmmm. Will the real Yael please stand up?

Actually, there's a few other crazies in the mix, but suffice it to say, after much running around, the stele is finally in the hands of Flowers, who can't wait to get rid of it and safely into the hands of someone else.

So we've found the stone, stashed it away for the night until Flowers can get it to state authorities and officially hand

it over to the real Yael. Case solved, right? Wrong, because there are still 170 pages left! That's why mysteries and thrillers are so exciting — just when you think you have it all figured out, things go all haywire and the chase is on again.

The storyline is brilliant. Sandford has taken an insane group of people and turned them into a compulsively readable book that will have you laughing, gasping — sometimes on the edge of your seat. A Middle East mystery in the middle of middle America? Why not! A great winter's read.

John Sandford is a Pulitzer Prize winner, as well as a *New York Times* bestselling author. He is the author of 23 "Prey" novels, four Kidd novels and three other Virgil Flowers novels. Learn more about him at www.johnsandford.org or [facebook.com/JohnSandfordOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/JohnSandfordOfficial).

Till next time, happy reading and Happy New Year!



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NEW PRICE

2968 Lake Shore Drive Long Beach • \$1,650,000

5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. Four fireplaces, formal dining room, screened porch, solarium & walk-out lower level. Large master suite with jetted tub. Rec room has wet bar. Fenced yard, deck & two car attached garage. Great architectural detail throughout & gorgeous views. Gracious home with 126 feet of frontage on Lake Michigan. Seller is licensed real estate agent.



2407 Duneland Beach Dr. Michigan City • \$695,000

4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Quaint living room, formal dining room, spacious island kitchen with breakfast area. Family room with wood burning fireplace, built-ins & rich hardwood flooring. Lavish main floor master suite plus second master suite upstairs. Expansive covered porch, slate floored screen porch with ceiling fan, open air gazebo, electronic privacy gate & 3.5 acres of land.



2208 Fairway Drive Long Beach • \$549,000

3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Hardwood floors, two wood burning fireplaces, grand dining room, chef's kitchen featuring a dumb waiter for added ease bringing in groceries from lower level. Walk-out lower level boasts of an expansive recreation room with lots of built in storage. Three car built in garage. Highly desirable Hidden Shores, spectacular golf course setting & views of Lake Claire.



510 Washington Park Blvd. Lake Hills • \$99,000

3 bedrooms, 1 bath. Living room open to kitchen with all appliances remaining & eating area. Laminate flooring in living room & kitchen. New hot water heater July '13. Central air, nice lot, fenced yard, newer back deck & storage shed. One car garage with driveway & additional parking pad in front. Charming beach ranch within a short walk to the beach.



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Eastwood Road

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3900 Brookside Drive Michiana Shores

One of Michiana Shores' traditional log cabins has been renovated and expanded. It is now a 3 – 4 bedroom home with a stone fireplace in the living room and a second fireplace in the bedroom. 2 ½ baths, granite kitchen counter tops, large deck, enclosed porch and two car garage are more amenities this gem has to offer. Large corner lot is beautifully, naturally landscaped. **\$374,900**



601 Lake Shore Drive

Private home with spectacular lake views, easy access to the beach and plenty of private parking with 150 feet of frontage on Lake Shore Drive. Home has a total of 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths. Fireplace with wraparound decks and several patios. Guest suite on lower level has a living room, kitchen, bedroom and a full bath. Large lot measures .86 acres with the possibility of additional building sites. **\$499,000**



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