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Volume 30, Number 9 Thursday, March 6, 2014

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# Fashion Forward

## Creativity, Chaos of New York Event Awe Local Clothing Store Owner

*by Andrew Tallackson*

Marie Price spent 30 years in various positions within the insurance industry.

So it felt surreal last month to be present during Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York, the personal guest of Wes Gordon, a Chicago native and family friend who at 27 has made a name for himself with designs worn by the likes of Michelle Obama, Katy Perry, Ashley Greene and Gwyneth Paltrow.

"I felt like I'd hit the big time," said Price, a Long Beach resident and the owner of Posh, an upscale consignment store in New Buffalo, Mich. "Never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would be part of Fashion Week. Watching the runway, I saw fashion at its finest. The energy, well, it was just extraordinary."

It was a first for Price, an education of sorts to the thrills, inspiration and chaos of the fashion industry at its zenith.

She and her husband, Jim, moved from Chicago to Long Beach three years ago. She'd always had a love of arts and culture. Before the move to Indiana, for instance, she'd been actively involved with Elmhurst (Ill.) Symphony Orchestra, serving as a senior board member, vice president, president-elect and concert master of ceremonies. She moved to Long Beach before she could serve as the symphony's president.

Jim, she said, encouraged her to branch out into something she loved, so she found part-time work at Posh. What she discovered is that fashion tapped into her desire to be creative.

"I love being around fabrics and colors and styles of all types and qualities," she said. "There is so much diversity in this field. Pairing a lower-priced item with a higher-priced one can result in something fantastic."

Consignment stores, specifically being able to buy quality clothing at reasonable prices, have appealed to her as well. She officially took over as Posh's owner in August 2013 and is overseeing its move to 109 N. Barton St., the opening set for April 1.



Marie Price appears with designer Wes Gordon.

Continued on Page 2



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# It's Time To Spring Ahead

Sunday, March 9th

## Fashion Forward Continued from Page 1

Fashion Week, for the unfamiliar, gives designers and brands the chance to unveil new collections celebrating the latest trends. The most revered fashion weeks are held in London, Milan, New York and Paris. The clear focus, Price said, is not small consignment shops like hers, but major buyers and investors. Attendance is by special invitation.

Enter Wes Gordon.

The Chicago native was raised in Atlanta and interned with designers Oscar de la Renta and Tom Ford. He graduated from Central St. Martins in London in 2009, launching his own line in fall 2010. His works were picked up by department stores such as Harrods and Bergdorf Goodman. In 2012, he received Fashion Group International's Rising Star Award and was named a finalist in the CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund. In January, he was included in Forbes' "30 under 30" — one of 30 people younger than 30 — to watch in Art and Design. (De la Renta, by the way, attended Gordon's first runway show.)



Wes Gordon stands with a display promoting his line of clothing.

After learning that Price now owned her own shop, he invited her and Jim to view his 2014 Ready to Wear collection, which would be unveiled Feb. 11 as part of New York's Fashion Week.

"He knew at a young age he would design women's clothing," Price said of Gordon. "His parents



Marie Price (left) got to spend time with designer Wes Gordon and his staff at their studio.





are tall and beautiful. I feel they were his inspiration.

"His fabrics are very fluid and feminine and highlight the female body."

Marie and Jim Price left for New York on Monday, Feb. 10. Her impressions of the Big Apple?

"It is so expensive," she said. "We spent more on cabs than dining. It was very cold, with snow threatening us as well."

"But having visited several times before, it is always

impressive and stimulating."

Gordon's show was held the next day. The frantic moments leading up to the models taking to the runway might have resembled a typical episode of "Project Runway." Fabrics arrived at the last minute. Gordon, who'd barely slept for three days, was consumed with last-minute fittings and adjustments. A few shoes didn't fit the models.

Finally, the show began. Attendees dressed in everything from blue jeans to

suits to gowns. For Price, everything zipped by. The show was over within eight to 12 minutes. The models moved so quickly, she was unable to snap decent photos for herself. Nonetheless, it proved an invaluable learning experience.

"It's all about the clothes," she said. "The models wear no makeup. There were no special hairstyles, no expressions on their faces. Again, it's all about the clothing and their movement about the body."

What were her impressions of Gordon's fall collection?

"The fabrics were exquisite," she said. "They fit loosely on the models. There were all lengths. Long heavy knit sweaters are a big look. It definitely was a big city look."

When the runway show came to a close, everyone stood and clapped.



Models present Wes Gordon's fall 2014 collection during Fashion Week.



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## Fashion Forward Continued from Page 3

Anyone who has seen the 1995 documentary “Unzipped,” which followed Isaac Mizrahi’s quest to unveil a new collection — one he hoped would be revered by the media — may recall how the designer had to wait until the day after his show to catch the reviews. With today’s emphasis on blogs and social media, the glowing critical response to Gordon’s designs were posted within the hour.

A cocktail party was planned after the show for Gordon. Before arriving there, Jim and Marie stopped by a shop where a reality show was taping, and at least one celebrity was present.

Paris Hilton.

With tongue firmly planted in cheek, Marie chuckles, then lowers her head as if embarrassed to admit this. She then said reuniting with Gordon later that day was exhilarating.

“He was on a real high,” she said. “He was so relieved it was done. He thought he’d go home and crash, but he was at the party. The reviews were out. They were all very positive.”

The next day, Marie visited Gordon’s studio. What impressed her most was observing how the creative process unfolds. Sometimes, inspiration hits him and he sketches his vision on an envelope. Then, he shows it to his staff, who start putting patterns

together. The end result in his studio is what she described as “rows and rows of gorgeous clothing.” She even bought one of his designs.

For her, witnessing firsthand Gordon’s success was inspiring.

“It’s been such a pleasure seeing his growth,” she said. “He is such an intelligent and inventive individual, and he just went for it at such a young age. And to see it unfold at Fashion Week. I loved the creativity of it, the energy, the fast pace and the immediacy. We left New York exhilarated.”



Marie Price appears amid the rows of designs by Wes Gordon at his studio.



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### Congratulations to Tricia Welty-Meyer as the new owner of Merrion & Associates Realtors!

Tricia and Debbie Burke finalized paperwork for the transfer of Merrion & Associates Realtors on Feb. 25, 2014. Debbie previously purchased Merrion & Associates Realtors from Ed Merrion in 2004. Through her ownership, Merrion Realty continued to be a trusted name in real estate. Due to her husband’s job relocation, Debbie and Tricia worked toward an agreement for Tricia to purchase Merrion & Associates Realtors in 2014.

Tricia began selling real estate with Merrion in 2002 and has added value through her design work to clients’ homes for over 15 years. She has a bachelor’s degree in design from Morehead State University and utilizes her keen eye to assist in staging and redesigning her real estate listings.

Tricia seamlessly stepped into the role of managing broker in July 2013. Through her leadership, we continue to strive forward in real estate, technology and social media.

In December 2013, the Merrion office grew with the arrival of “The Hat Lady” Jane Cooley, Diana Hirsch, Gail Mathews and Cindy Hernandez. We continue to be a force in the local real estate market as new and experienced agents join our family friendly environment!

*Please stop by our office @ 1010 N. Karwick Road, Michigan City, IN 46360 to congratulate Tricia, or give her a call @ 219-871-2680!*



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**Tricia Meyer, Owner/Principal Broker**



## "Over the River and Through the Woods"

La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St., will present Joe Di Petro's "Over the River and Through the Woods" on Friday through Sunday, March 7-9 and 14-16.

Directed by Bonnie Quigley, the play introduces Italian grandparents and their grandson in Hoboken, N.J. The cast includes Patrick Watterson, Christine Wiegand, Robert Richter, Noel Carlson, Nancy Snyder and Eliza Briskey. The set is constructed and positioned to make audiences feel as if they are visiting their grandparent's living room.

Times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$12. Reservations, and additional information, are available by calling (219) 362-5113 or at [www.laportelittletheatreclub.com](http://www.laportelittletheatreclub.com)

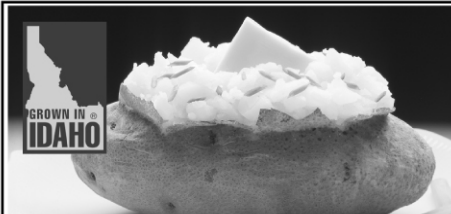


Rehearsing a scene from "Over the River and Through the Woods" are Patrick Watterson (left), Nancy Snyder and Robert Richter."



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## Michigan City Public Library

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

• **"Kalita!! Magic!!!" at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 8.**

Matt Kalita's program is for all ages. The time is approximate because it starts after the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

• **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays, March 5, 12, 19 and 26.**

Stories, songs and crafts are designed for parent/guardian and child interaction. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag. Children attending should be no older than 5 and with an adult.

• **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Mondays, March 10 and 24.**

The foreign-policy discussion program will focus on Turkey and Islamism. Reading material is available at the circulation desk.

• **Drop-in Craft at 3 p.m. Thursday, March 13.**

Make a St. Patrick's Day craft. All materials are provided. The program is designed for children 12 and younger accompanied by an adult.

• **Duneland Stamp Club at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 13.**

The stamp-collecting club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.

*Call (219) 873-3049 for more information.*

## Chamber Music Festival Concert

The Michigan City Chamber Music Festival will present oboist Jennet Ingle, assisted by Paul Hamilton on piano, at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

The program, "Music that SHOULD Have Been Written for the Oboe," includes works Ingle has transposed from other instrument sources, including the violin. Pieces by Mendelssohn, Bach, Gershwin and others will be featured.



Ingle

Ingle has been principal oboist for the South Bend Symphony since 2006 and serves as instructor of oboe at Valparaiso University and Goshen College. With the South Bend Symphony Wind Quintet, she does frequent concerts and educational presentations in the Michiana area. She also is principal oboist with the Northwest Indiana Symphony and has a private studio in South Bend, where she lives with husband, Steve, and daughter, Zoe. She also has a blog, "Prone Oboe" at [www.jennetingle.com](http://www.jennetingle.com), that offers a behind-the-scenes look at the process of learning, teaching and performing music at a high level.

Hamilton, a native of Savannah, Ga., made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2009 with Chicago baritone Robert Sims by invitation from Jessye Norman as part of her HONOR! Festival. Other venues include the Cappella and Smolny Cathedral in St. Petersburg, Russia, Tokyo International Oboe Competition with Ingle, Galway Music Festival in Galway, Ireland; and the Ravinia Festival in Chicago.



Hamilton

A free-will offering will be taken. Call (219) 561-1939 or email [nicsunnysophia@yahoo.com](mailto:nicsunnysophia@yahoo.com) for more information.

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## Visit



-- submitted by  
Jason Miller of  
LaPorte County  
Convention and  
Visitors Bureau

## Tourism Review

Welcome to La Porte County.

I know most of you reading this have been here before, or maybe you live here now and have lived here for an awfully long time.

But even so, welcoming you to La Porte County – whether you're a first-timer or a lifer – is appropriate. And in short order, you'll appreciate this new forum. Because no matter how familiar you are with La Porte County, there's always something new right around the corner.

And that is why we here at Visit Michigan City La Porte are putting a new spin on the information we've been giving you in this space each week for the past two years. We want to make sure you know about every corner of the county and every cool event, attraction, restaurant, store and museum that occupy those corners.

From here on out, we'll be reaching out to you on a more personal level. There's so much great stuff to do in La Porte County, we feel the best way to let everyone know about all that stuff is to let you know how it affects the folks here in the tourism business.

After all, it's what we do. It's our job to get you excited about things like the Maple City Grand Prix, or Old Lighthouse Museum. Or about Hesston Steam Museum and the Grand Kankakee River and all its great fishing and paddling.

There are a million and one exciting things to in La Porte County, and we want to give everyone a chance to partake in as many of them as possible. And we hope, by writing this column, that we can excite you as much as all these great attractions excited us.

So every other week, in this space, you'll get to

read about the amazing things in La Porte County, in the words of the folks whose job it is to get you excited. Get you interested and give you knowledge about things you might not know about.

But at the same time, you'll get to read about other places.

While we love our great county and all it has to offer, we are, after all, travel professionals. And as much as we like to spread the word about our stomping grounds, we also like to check out other places. So on occasion, we'll tell you about other places.

Everyone likes to take vacations. So why not let you know about neat experiences we've had in other places?

It's all about the wonder of travel. And we want to give you every bit of information possible to help you get to know your home better, tout its wonders to your friends and families who don't live here and tell you about other neat places in the world.

So make sure to catch up with the Tourism Review. And we can't wait to see you out on Lake Michigan or picking blueberries one day.



Jason Miller is seen in Ireland at the Cliffs of Moher.



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### Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

The annual St. Patrick's Day Parade runs along Franklin Street from 10th to Fourth streets from 1 to about 2 p.m. Saturday, March 8. Lineup begins around 11:45 a.m.

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### Miss Duneland Scholarship Pageant

The Miss Duneland Scholarship Pageant is Saturday and Sunday, March 8-9, at the Queen of All Saints gymnasium, 606 S. Woodland Ave.

The competition starts at 1:30 p.m. Saturday with the Outstanding Pre-Teen and Little Miss contestants. Winners will be announced starting at 2 p.m. Sunday during the Miss Duneland and Miss Duneland Outstanding Teen Pageant.

Whomever wins Miss Duneland receives scholarship funds for her education, participates in community service projects and supports her chosen platform. It also places her in the running for Miss Indiana.

Saturday's admission is \$5 and Sunday's admission \$15. Children 6 and younger are free. Those who take their Saturday ticket stubs to Sunday's competition receive a \$5 discount. Call Executive Director Jan Mertl at (219) 878-3412 or email [director@missduneland.com](mailto:director@missduneland.com) for more information.

### Long Beach Park & Rec Activities

Long Beach Park & Recreation has announced the following activities:

- Pickleball Tuesdays — 5 p.m.
- Table Tennis — 4 p.m. Wednesdays.
- Tai Chi — 6:30 p.m. Thursdays.





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## "Beyond the Obvious" Exhibit

South Shore Arts will present "Beyond the Obvious: Photography by Kathleen Hocker" on March 7 through April 27 in the Atrium Gallery at The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Ind.

A chemistry and physics teacher for more than 21 years at Bloom Trail High School, as well as at Purdue University-Calumet, Hocker recently began exploring her artistic inclinations. Drawn to the natural world, her exhibit of more than 20 works explores botanicals using a telephoto lens.



Kathleen Hocker's photo "Web" is included in her "Beyond the Obvious" Exhibit.

The free exhibit's viewing 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](http://www.southshoreartsonline.org) for more information.

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## First Friday Artwalk

The Michigan City Mainstreet Association will present the Uptown Arts District First Friday Artwalk from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 7.

The district, which runs from 11th Street to the lake and Spring Street to Wabash Street, features art galleries, retail and restaurants. Participants include:

- Old Lighthouse Museum, 1 Washington Park — photography by Jan Hoeppner.
  - Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. — New exhibits by Doug Fogelson, Barbara Hashimoto and Laurel Izard, as well as music by the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra Children's Choir.
  - Darling, 418 Franklin St. — In-house artist Julie Biehl will present custom jewelry.
  - Walnut Ink Projects, 607 Franklin St. — Works from Built, a group-connected art build.
  - Beach Bum Jewels, 621 Franklin St. — Artist Donna Sekula and keyboardist Keenan Baxter.
  - Urban Soles Inc., 624 Franklin St. — Local weaver Chris Acton.
  - First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. — Local artist John Fanson.
  - Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St. — opening reception for "She: The Female in Image and Form."
  - dh2w Architecture, 813 Franklin St. — A series of photos of interiors designed for clients over the last several years is on display in March.
  - The Framing Station, 912 Franklin St. — Oil paintings by Dana Dabagia and pottery by Julie Olthoff.
  - Monica Z. Photography, 1009 Franklin St. — photography by Monica Zibutis and images from the Uptown Arts District Fashion Affair.
- Entertainment includes:
- Maxine's, 521 Franklin St. — Slim Gypsy Baggage performs from 8 to 11 p.m.
  - Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St. — Open stage featuring Max and Sylvia. Performer signup is at 7:30 p.m. and the performance at 8 p.m. The cost is \$2 for performers and \$3 for audience members.

## "Cookies & Canvas"

Marquette Catholic High School, 306 W. 10th St., will present "Cookies & Canvas," a painting class for fifth- through eighth-graders, from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 16.

The cost is \$30 per artist. Registration is required, with the deadline being Monday, March 10. Forms, which are available at the school, can be mailed to: Marquette Catholic High School, Office of Admissions, 220 W. 10th St., Michigan City, IN 46360.

Call (219) 210-4505 or email [jquinlan@marquette-hs.org](mailto:jquinlan@marquette-hs.org) for more information.



## Cripple Creek Benefit Concert

As a benefit for The Salvation Army, Cripple Creek will perform at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 9, at Door Village United Methodist Church, 3502 W. Joliet Road, La Porte.

Cripple Creek sings country, gospel and old-time rock. Members live in the Door Village area, with practices held on member Mitch Marhanka's front porch. Each member is active in church music at Door Village United Methodist Church, where Marhanka is the music director.

David Applegarth's musical background is piano and vocal music, while Lou Voelker's is guitar and vocals. Applegarth and Voelker are Purdue Glee Club alumni. Marhanka's musical background includes piano, tuba, bass guitar and vocal music. John Langford plays the trumpet, with time spent in the Purdue and Notre Dame jazz bands. Steve Eyrick participated in community choruses, including the Valparaiso University choir and church choirs.

Concert proceeds will aid The Salvation Army, with general expenses and supplementing food pantry purchases. A \$5 donation will be taken at the door. Refreshments will be served after the concert.



Cripple Creek features (back row) Steve Eyrick and Mitch Marhanka and (front row) David Applegarth, Lou Voelker and John Langford.

## Dinner Theater Performance

Washington Stage Theatre, 111 Roosevelt St., La Porte, will present "Open Auditions" at 5 p.m. Sunday, March 9, at Etropal Restaurant and Lounge, Monroe and Lincolnway, La Porte.

The dinner-theater performance, which centers on backstage happenings at theater and screen auditions, will be interactive with audience members, who can audition, in a friendly environment, during the show. Any type of act is allowed: comedians, musicians, magicians, jugglers, ventriloquists, poets or singers. Audience members, however, are not required to audition.

The cost is \$40. Make reservations for the three-course dinner-theater event by calling (219) 575-7261.

## Dan Coffey Real Estate Insights (1)

(1) Since we all go to the Internet to find what is for sale, I have decided not to repeat my internet ads in the Beacher, but offer some insights into what is happening in the real estate area between Lake Michigan and Rte 12 from the Steel Mill to the State line.

High End Real Estate Sales; Really good in Michigan, definitely improving in Indiana.

First Some Data for Indiana Lakefront (1)

Year Feb- Jan	Total Res Units	Over 700k Res Units	%	Total \$Vol Millions	Over 700k \$Vol Millions	%
03-04	140	9	12	46.8 M	10.0M	21
05-06	125	19	15	54.7 M	18.8 M	34
09-10	70	3	4	24.5 M	2.7 M	11
10-11	80	9	11	31.0 M	7.7 M	25
11-12	91	10	11	33.4 M	10.7 M	32
12-13	104	13	13	39.6 M	13.0 M	33
13-14	121	16	13	51.1M	19.4 M	37

I include the data from 2005-2006 because that was the year when, in most places, we had the most number of sales and the highest \$Volume. By the way, in Michigan the over \$700,000 sales were actually higher in 2013-14 than any other year—even greater than 2005-06. In Indiana, 2005-06 still remains the best for total number of sales. But \$Volume was the highest ever in 2013-14 in Indiana.

What fascinates me is that the percentage of unit sales over \$700,000 has remained pretty much a constant percentage of the total unit sales. But the \$Volume has been increasing the past five years and reached 37% for the 12 months ending January 31, 2014. 16 of 121 sales created 37% of the \$Volume along what I call Lakefront Indiana – highest ever.

2009-10 (12 months ending 1/31/10) was certainly the bumper year for the local Indiana Lakefront.

I think I can safely say that it is a very good time to sell your home if it is valued over \$700,000 and a pretty good time to sell any property in the area between the Steel Mill and the Michigan line.

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## Ready for Homecoming



Marquette Catholic High School has announced its 2014 homecoming court. Students are nominated and selected by their classmates and voted upon based on the school's core values of faith, honesty, leadership, respect and service. In the top photo, the homecoming court is (from left) juniors Maggie Cannon and Braxton Miller, seniors Nathan Flores and Madeline Wood, sophomores Bobby Gotsch and Abbey Paholski and freshmen Adrienne Reynolds and Kevin Robson. The left photo reveals the 2014 Homecoming candidates.

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## Planting Field Community Garden

The Planting Field Community Garden is inviting new participants to plant vegetables for his/her own use.

Gardeners usually get started with plots in April or May, but applications are available now. Located in the Chikaming Township Park & Preserve for five years, the garden is a 1.5-acre site divided into 64 20' by 20' plots with access to water, organic compost, mulch pile, gardening tools and deer-proof fence. It is sponsored by the River Valley Garden Club with support from the Chikaming Township Park Board.

There is a suggested donation of \$40 per season to cover garden expenses. In some cases, a development grant may be awarded. Start-up costs were provided by a Pokagon Fund grant.

Another aspect of the garden is the donation section planted and tended by volunteers, many of whom have gardens there. The vegetables are donated to The Salvation Army Soup Kitchen in Benton Harbor, Mich., and the Women's Safe Shelter.

Email [angel0305@att.net](mailto:angel0305@att.net) or visit [rivervalleygardenclub.org](http://rivervalleygardenclub.org) or [chikamingtownship.org/parkboard](http://chikamingtownship.org/parkboard) for more information or applications, which also are available at the Chikaming Township Offices in Harbert, Mich.



## La Porte County Library

The following programs are through La Porte County Library:

• **Baby Storytimes at 10 a.m. March 6, 13, 20 and 27 at the main library, 904 Indiana Ave.**

Participate in stories, songs and play designed to promote language development and future reading skills. The program is intended for babies 0-24 months and their caregivers.

• **Daytime Storytimes at 10 a.m. March 7, 14, 21 and 28 at the main library.**

Participate in stories, music, activities and crafts that develop and reinforce literacy skills and concepts. The program is intended for children 3-5 with an adult caregiver.

• **"Sherlock Mania" at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at the Coolspring branch, 7089 W. County Road 400 North.**

Middle-school and high-school Sherlock fans are invited to celebrate everything Sherlock.

• **"Storytime Stew" at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 8, at the Coolspring branch.**

The program for young children and caregivers features a mix of stories, songs and activities.

March 9-15 is "Teen Tech Week DIY at Your Library: Get Connected!" The following programs are being offered:

• **"Teen Tech DIY: GIF" at 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, at the main library.**

Come to the large meeting room and learn how to make a Compressed Image File (GIF) to post on a website or social media page.

• **Teen Tech DIY: Sonic Screwdriver at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 13, at the main library.**

The program, especially geared to "Doctor Who" fans, reveals how to build a sonic screwdriver. Visit <http://makezine.com/projects/making-a-sonic-screwdriver/> for more information.

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## Quiz Bowl Team Makes Semi-Finals



Marquette Catholic High School's Quiz Bowl team advanced to the semi-finals at the DAC meet Feb. 25 after defeating Hobart 53-10 and then, for the first time in 10 years, defeating powerhouse rivals Andrean 51-48. Their season ended, however, when they fell to first-place Chesterton.

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## Lubeznik Center Winter/Spring Classes

The Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., has announced its schedule of winter and spring classes.

The schedule is:

### Visual Arts

- Drawing for adults and teens with Neil Kienitz: March 17-June 2.
- Watercolor for adults and teens with Neil Kienitz: April 15-June 3.
- Fabric collage for adults and teens with Linda Sorkin Eisenberg: March 15-16.

### One Day Workshops

- Bookbinding workshop for adults and teens with Bill Barrick: 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 5.
- Bookbinding: Japanese Stab Binding for adults and teens with Bill Barrick: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17.
- Daring Derby Hat Making for adults and teens with Amanda Joyner: 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 10.
- Fused Glass 1 for participants 16 and older with Twyla Butler: noon to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 29.

### Workshops

- "Writing Memoirs: Telling the Stories of our Lives" for adults with Susan Block: April 3-24.
- Sandcastle Writers Workshop for adults with Jo Pilecki: March 12-April 30.
- Storytelling for adults and teens with Linda Sorkin Eisenberg: Saturday, April 12.
- "Young Artists: Art for Home-schoolers" with Nani-Lei: March 3-April 7.
- "Cartooning & Manga" for ages 11-17 with Bill Cavalier: March 3-April 7.
- Drawing for Young People, for youth ages 8-11, with Hannah Hammond: Started March 1.

More information, including times, costs and program requirements, is available at [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org) or call (219) 874-4900.

## Shirley Heinze Volunteer Workday

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host a volunteer workday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at Cressmoor Prairie Nature Preserve.

The area is located on the west side of Lake Park Avenue, approximately 1/2 mile south of Ridge Road in Hobart, Ind. It does not have an address, but is located north of 400 N. Lake Park Ave.

Volunteers will assist in cutting and stacking woody brush, an essential task to maintain the prairie's health and maximize species diversity. Small power and hand tools will be used. Power tool safety training is planned before work starts. Participants should wear tall boots, dress appropriately for the temperatures and bring work gloves. All necessary personal protective equipment will be provided. Lunch will be served. Volunteers are requested to RSVP and indicate any dietary restrictions.

The 42-acre Cressmoor Prairie is a high-quality site and a prime example of black soil prairie, one of the rarest habitat types in Indiana. It is home to more than 300 species of plants, several of which are considered rare or endangered in Indiana. It also is home to five threatened species of insect that are remnant-dependent, meaning they can only survive in areas that have seen very little disturbance and are representative of habitat conditions found prior to European settlement in the Midwest.

Make reservations at [jerdelac@heinzetrust.org](mailto:jerdelac@heinzetrust.org) or (219) 242-8558.

## Student Off to Regional Spelling Bee



Joy Elementary School fifth-grader Lucas Kist-Abbott placed second in his division at the La Porte County Spelling Bee on Feb. 20 and will compete at the Regional Spelling Bee on March 8 in Valparaiso.

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## Westchester Public Library

*The following programs are through Westchester Public Library:*

• **“Magic School Bus Madness” from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 7, in the Children’s Department at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Children 6 and older can join Chesterton High School teacher Kim Stahura to learn about the force of gravity through several experiments. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **The History Discussion Group from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8, in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library.**

Jon Fraley will discuss unions and why there is a decline in membership. The accomplishments of unions will be contrasted with the differences of German, Japanese and American unions.

• **The free Family Films Series, “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2,” at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

The movie is rated PG. Copies are available for checkout at Hageman and Thomas libraries.

• **Free Sunday Matinee, “Gravity,” 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 9, in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library.**

The movie is rated PG-13.

• **Poetry Appreciation Group from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 10, in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library.**

The group serves as a forum for learning and discussing the various forms and techniques for writing poems. Attendees read and listen to poetry read by individuals in the group, including published authors’ works and/or original works by local aspiring amateur poets.

• **Children in grades 1-6 are invited to the Poetry Workshop from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays, March 15 and 22, at Hageman Library.**

Heather Augustyn, local writer and writing teacher, will guide attendees through the many different forms of poetry, read poets from classic to modern and write their own poetry. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-9080.

• **The AARP Driver Safety Program from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood meeting room.**

The Driver Safety Program is designed for drivers 50 and older, but all ages are welcome. Attendees learn the current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques, how to operate vehicles safely and common age-related changes. Attendees receive a certificate of completion that may be presented to insurance agents for a possible reduction in insurance premiums.

The cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Register at [www.aarp.org/drive](http://www.aarp.org/drive) or call instructor Jeanette Pike at (219) 949-6307.



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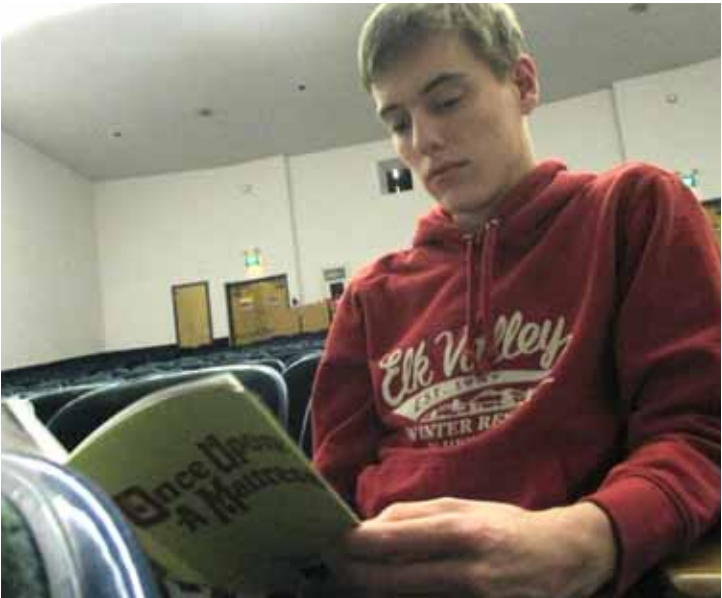


Marquette Catholic High School's theater department will present the classic musical-comedy "Once Upon a Mattress" at its Rudy Hart Theatre, 306 W. 10th St.

Performances of the show, directed by Amy Crane, are March 7-9 and 15-16. Times are 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors and \$5 for children 12 and younger.

Friday, March 14, marks a collaboration between Marquette and Franciscan St. Anthony Health. A special performance and silent auction are planned to benefit the Maria Petti Scholarship Fund, which offers an annual scholarship to La Porte County residents interested in pursuing a nursing career. The goal is to endow the scholarship at \$100,000.

The cost is higher to attend the March 14 performance. More information about it is available by calling (219) 661-3401 or [nirfoundation@franciscanalliance.org](mailto:nirfoundation@franciscanalliance.org)



Photos by Andrew Tallackson





## Genealogist of the Year



Joan McCoy (left) presents Gloria Arndt, Rolling Prairie, with the Genealogist of the Year award in January. McCoy nominated her for the honor.

The La Porte County Genealogical Society now will accept nominations for Genealogist of the Year that name members and non-members.

Those who know a person who has contributed to La Porte County genealogy and family history can nominate him/her by July 31. Criteria for the award and a nomination form are available at <http://lpcgs.blogspot.com/>

## First Friday Film

The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich., will show "Young Leonardo (as in da Vinci)" as part of the First Friday Film series at 7 p.m. EST Friday, March 7.

Aimed at young children and their parents, the movie, which features Dan the Art Man, focuses on real art: teaching composition, color theory, creativity, art materials, art history and special demonstrations of how to draw pirates and horses.

The film is part of The Box Factory's focus on student artists in March. "Celebrating Creative Kids," art exhibits for students in grades two through five, runs March 8-23. "Inspiring Future Artists" for middle- and high-school students runs March 27-April 16.

The school art shows are a partnership between The Box Factory, Krasl Art Center and Berrien RESA.

The movie showing is free for children, with a suggested donation of \$1 for parents. Visit facebook or [www.boxfactoryforthearts.org/calendar/#firstfriday](http://www.boxfactoryforthearts.org/calendar/#firstfriday) for more information.

## Special Needs Workshop

Parents That Share and South La Porte Special Education Cooperative will present "Planning for Your Dependent with Special Needs: Making Their Future More Secure" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, at U.N.I.T.Y. (St. Joseph School cafeteria), 101 C St., La Porte.

The workshop covers legal issues, including wills, trusts, special needs trusts and guardianship. Financial issues include Special Needs Trust Funding, Medicaid and SSI. Family issues include Letter of Intent.

Pizza will be served during the program. Contact Jean Busse at (219) 324-3287 or email [jbusse@lpcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:jbusse@lpcsc.k12.in.us) for additional information or if needing child care.

## Lunch With the League

Dr. Vidya Kora will speak during Lunch with the League at noon Tuesday, March 11, at Lindo's Restaurant, 3940 Franklin St., Michigan City.

Kora will discuss "How to Sign Up For Health Insurance," specifically the Affordable Care Act, the deadline for which is March 31.

No reservations are required. Attendees purchase lunch from the menu.

The league meets at noon the second Tuesday of each month. Call Sue Webster at (219) 874-6809 or visit [www.lwvlaporte.org](http://www.lwvlaporte.org) for more information.

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## Marquette Takes Honors at Science Olympiad Event

The Marquette Science Olympiad team competed Feb. 15 against 10 other high schools at Indiana University-Northwest in 23 different events.

Jose Ojeda and Brianna Ward took first place in HydroGeology. Jacob Dabkowski and David Dobben took second place in Write It/Do It.

Third-place finishes included:

- Cheyanne Moore and Mahika Patel in Rocks and Minerals.
- Brianna Ward and Samantha Manns in Environmental Science.
- Jacob Dabkowski and Allie Back in Bungee Drop.

Fourth-place medals went to:

- Mahika Patel and Daniel Malave in Astronomy.
- Jenna Szaday and Anna Grabovac in Forensics.
- Elliott Sass and Dominic Vernon in Material Science.
- Jenna Szaday and Jose Ojeda in Game On.
- Elliott Sass and David Dobben in Technical Problem Solving.

As a team, Marquette scored enough points to receive the Third Place trophy for Class A.

The team is coached by Megan Eichenberger and John Fettig.



Members of the Marquette Science Olympiad team.

### Trivia Night

Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich., will present Trivia Night at 7 p.m. EST Saturday, March 8.

Teams of 10 — adults only — are encouraged, the cost being \$10 per person. Participants can take snacks to share with tablemates. A cash bar is planned. A \$200 prize goes to the first-place team.

Call (269) 927-4832 to register.

### Police Talk Targets Scams

Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave., will present a free educational program on the latest scams and crimes targeting seniors at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 13.

Sgt. Chris Yagelski of the Michigan City Police Department will discuss how to avoid the latest scams in the community. Call Rittenhouse at (219) 872-6800 to reserve a seat.

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## LaLu Decathlon Team Results

For the fifth consecutive year, La Lumiere School's Academic Decathlon team competed in the State Finals at Purdue University.

Students compete in three divisions determined by grade-point average: Honors, Scholastic and Varsity.

This year's topic was World War I, with students competing in 10 events with objective tests in seven areas — art, economics, language and literature, mathematics, music, science and social science — as well as speech, interview and essay.

Cormac Gahan, South Haven, Mich., competed in the Scholastic Division, earning first place in Interview, second place in Mathematics and third place in Music, achieving the highest score in Interview in the school's history.

Patrick Lake, La Porte, competed in the Scholastic Division and won second place in Mathematics and third place in Music.

Lydia Costello, Chesterton, competed in the Honors Division and won third place in Mathematics.

Lenik Zaranski competed in Varsity Division and won first place in Interview.

Hannah Fogel, Manteno, Ill., competed in the Honors Division and won first place in Interview.

Angela Mofield and Grace Dybing, both of La Porte, also competed with the team.

## 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](http://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 are: 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 are:

- April 2 — "Ear, Nose and Throat (Acid Reflux)" topics with Christine Maddox of IU Health La Porte Hospital.
- May 7 — "Gardening" with Sacha Burns from Sunkissed Organics.
- June 4 — "Wellness Outreach" with Katie Sarver of The Crossing, La Porte.

### 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 2014 lineup is:

- March 12 — "Bat Basics."
- March 26 — "Star Theater."
- April 9 — "Flower Power."

### Tea Party

Bring a favorite cup and drink tea or lemonade with the animals from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Saturday, April 5, at Luhr County Park's Nature Center.

The event includes a storyteller, continental breakfast and arts and crafts. Children 4 and older, and accompanied by an adult, are invited. The cost is \$15 per couple and \$5 for each additional child. The limit for the party is 24. Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance or until the party is full, whichever comes first.

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## Chocolate Dessert Contest Winners

Tim Carrigan found himself in a predicament after suggesting a contest be started to find the most decadent chocolate dessert in the area.

The plan was for bakers to bring their chocolate desserts and recipes to Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Carrigan, as its chef, would judge the winners.



Lexi Carrigan

But when all the entries were received, Carrigan bowed out of judging, so Fernwood needed two other judges to take over. Turns out, contest entries included students from Carrigan's culinary classes at Buchanan (Mich.) High School, a Fernwood staff member and his daughter, Lexi. So, judges sampled eight desserts, with Carrigan standing by to answer baking-related questions. Judges unani-

mously agreed on the winners.

First place went to Carrigan's 13-year-old daughter, Lexi, for her Magic Pie. Second and third places went to two of Carrigan's students. The second-place winner was Kali Wiczorkowski for her Dark Chocolate Strawberry Cake, and the third-place winner was Ally Nutt for her Rice Krispies Topped Brownies.

Lexi Carrigan's winning Magic Pie recipe is:

- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips.
- 1/2 cup white chocolate chips.
- 2 cup pecan halves.
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk.
- 1 cup coconut.
- 1 graham cracker pie shell.

Layer all ingredients in the graham cracker pie shell. Sprinkle more chips on top if desired. Bake about 40 minutes in 350 degree oven. Let it cool and serve with whipped cream or ice cream if desired.

## Genealogy Research Bus Trip

Reservations are being taken for the bus trip to Allen County Public Library's genealogy research department.

The trip, co-sponsored by La Porte County Genealogical Society in conjunction with Michigan City Public Library, leaves the Dunes Plaza parking lot in Michigan City at 7 a.m. Wednesday, April 23, with a pickup at Kabelin's Ace Hardware in La Porte at 7:30 a.m. The bus leaves ACPL at 4 p.m. CDT for the return trip.

Prepaid reservations of \$21 are due by April 21 and payable to La Porte County Genealogical Society c/o Patricia Harris, 504 Greenwood Ave., Michigan City, IN 46360-5426. Call (219) 872-3273 for more information.

## Free Community Yoga Classes

Dancing Feet Yoga Studio, 19135 U.S. 12, New Buffalo, Mich., will present free Yoga classes from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. CDT Tuesdays through April.

Leading the classes are teacher trainees The Ten Chakras, who must complete at least 14 evaluations to graduate.

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## Marquette Excels at ISSMA



Vocalists from Marquette Catholic High School competed in the Indiana State School Music Association vocal competition. Receiving silver medals were: Colleen Falk; D'Aria Kincaid; Emily Murray; Kelsey Sullivan; Maggie Cannon; Nikki Szymkowski; and Sarah Jin. Receiving gold medals were Bobby Gotsch and Declan Lawrence, who then qualified for the ISSMA state competition Feb. 21, where Gotsch received a silver medal for "O Mistress Mine" and Lawrence received a gold medal for "Where is Love?" It was the boys' first time competing at the state level.

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## AAUW Meeting

The American Association of University Women, Michigan City branch, meets at 7 p.m. Monday, March 10, at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.

The topic is the Uptown Theater and Uptown Arts District.

AAUW was founded in 1881 to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Anyone with an associate's degree or higher from an accredited college or university can join.

The group's Legal Advocacy Fund combats sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace through campus-outreach programs, online research and library and research reports. It also provides support for workplace sexual-discrimination cases.

The Michigan City branch meets monthly. Members can participate in interest groups such as readers and antiques. The group also supports Stepping Stone Shelter, Samaritan Counseling Center and local scholarships.

Call membership chairwoman Julie Kreighbaum at 872-3730 for more information.



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## Maple Sugar Madness

Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich., will celebrate Maple Sugar Madness at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, March 8, and 1 and 3 p.m. EDT Sunday, March 9.

An informational talk precedes a tree tapping and demonstration of historical processing methods.

The cost is \$5 for adults and free for children. Call (269) 927-4832 to register.

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### HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
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2. Margie Midkiff	164
3. Liz Lutterbach	160
4. Paulette Harnach	157
5. Tammy Nelmar, Barb Macudziski, MaryLou McFadden	154
6. Kathy Osborne	150

### SPLIT

1. Fran Lysaught	2-4-5-10
2. Elle Parkerson	3-8
3. Sue Luegers	3-10
4. Pat Krueger	2-7

## Instructional Pistol Shooting Clinic

Michigan City Rifle Club, 4801 E. U.S. 20, will host an NRA Women on Target Instructional Pistol Shooting Clinic from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15.

Students learn about gun safety, pistol parts and operation and basic handgun-shooting fundamentals. The class also will include instruction in firing handguns.

Each student will be provided with eye and ear protection, a loaner firearm and ammunition. Light refreshments will be served.

Advanced registration is required. The cost is \$60. Email jotto32@gmail.com or call (219) 369-3577 for more information.

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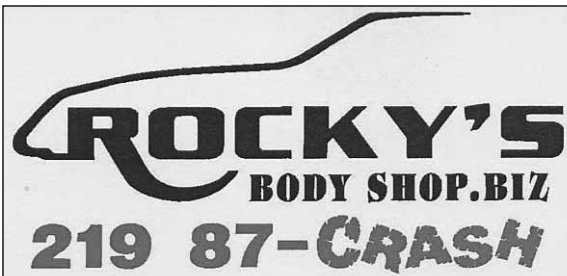
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## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



**On March 6, 1836**, after a 13 day siege, San Antonio's "Alamo" fell to a Mexican army under the command of General Santa Anna. All of the 187 defenders, including Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, died in defense of the Texas fort.

**On March 6, 1853**, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "La Traviata" premiered in Venice.

**On March 6, 1965**, a United States government spokesman announced that the first contingent of combat troops was being sent to Vietnam.

**On March 6, 1981**, Walter Cronkite signed off for the last time as anchor of the "CBS Evening News."

**On March 6, 1997**, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II launched the first official royal Web site.

**On March 7, 1876**, Alexander Graham Bell was granted a patent for a "voice-transmission device," later known as the telephone.

**On March 7, 1926**, the first successful trans-Atlantic radio-telephone conversation took place between New York and London.

**On March 8, 1854**, Commodore Matthew Perry made his second landing in Japan. Within a month he had concluded a treaty with the Japanese.

**On March 8, 1894**, New York became the first state to require dogs to be licensed.

**On March 8, 1948**, the Supreme Court ruled that religious instruction in public schools violates the Constitution.

**On March 8, 1971**, following a 15-round decision over Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier became undisputed heavyweight champion of the world.

**On March 9, 1954**, CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow critically reviewed Wisconsin Sen. Joseph McCarthy's anti-Communism campaign on an episode of "See It Now."

**On March 9, 1959**, the original Barbie doll debuted in U.S. stores.

**On March 9, 1975**, work began on the Alaskan oil pipeline.

**On March 9, 1981**, Dan Rather debuted as principal anchorman of "The CBS Evening News."

**March 9, 1998**, in Chicago, 600,000 homes and businesses were without power as a massive storm brought strong winds, as well as several inches of snow to the area.

**On March 9, 2005**, Dan Rather signed off for the last time as principal anchorman of "The CBS Evening News" after 24 years.

**On March 10, 1496**, Christopher Columbus con-



cluded his second visit to the Western Hemisphere as he left Hispaniola for Spain.

**On March 10, 1849,** Abraham Lincoln applied for a patent, the first person to do so and become U.S. President. He would receive it in May 1849 for inventing a way of "buoying vessels over shoals."

**On March 10, 1862,** during the Civil War, paper money was first issued by the government of the United States.

**On March 10, 1876,** in Boston, Alexander Graham Bell made the world's first telephone call, telling his assistant in an adjoining room, "Mr. Watson, come here. I want you."

**On March 10, 1880,** The Salvation Army (which originated in England) began operations in the United States.

**On March 10, 1946,** Italian women, for the first time in history, were allowed to vote in local elections.

**On March 10, 1965,** Neil Simon's play "The Odd Couple," starring Walter Matthau and Art Carney, opened on Broadway.

**On March 10, 1973,** President Richard Nixon, asserting executive privilege, barred White House staff members from testifying before congressional committees.

**On March 10, 1988,** Joseph T. Sternaman, the first quarterback for the Chicago Bears, died at the age of 88.

**On March 11, 1888,** an estimated 400 died as one of the worst blizzards in the nation's history struck the northeastern United States.

**On March 11, 1959,** in New York, "A Raisin in the Sun," starring Sidney Poitier and Ruby Dee, opened on Broadway.

**On March 11, 1988,** Gary Hart, for the second time, withdrew as a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

**On March 11, 2002,** two columns of light soared skyward from Ground Zero in New York as a temporary memorial to the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

**On March 12, 1849,** an ice flood in the Chicago River ripped ships from their docks and pushed them (along with huge blocks of ice) down stream. The gigantic mass swept the bridges on Madison, Randolph, and Wells before it.

**On March 12, 1947,** President Harry Truman authorized what was later to be known as the "Truman Doctrine." Its primary purpose was to help Greece and Turkey hold back the spread of communism.

**On March 12, 1951,** "Dennis the Menace," created by cartoonist Hank Ketcham, made its syndicated debut in 16 newspapers.

**On March 12, 1987,** "Les Miserables" opened on Broadway.



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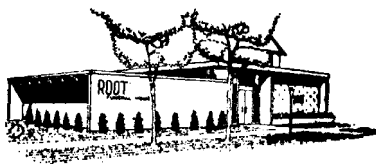
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## Activities to Explore

### In the Local Area:

**March 7** — First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Uptown Arts District (11th and Franklin streets to Lake Michigan). Info: [uptownartsdistrict.org](http://uptownartsdistrict.org)

**March 7** — Opening reception, "What is Left Unspoken," 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org)

**March 7-9 and 15-16** — "Once Upon a Mat-tress," Marquette Catholic High School Rudy Hart Theatre, 306 W. 10th St. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$8/students and seniors, \$5/children 12 and younger.

**March 7-10** — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "The Great Beauty," an Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Language Film. In Italian with English subtitles. Not rated. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* The Coen brothers' "Inside Llewyn Davis," set during the Greenwich Village folk-music scene of 1961. Rated R. Times: 9:15 p.m. Fri. and 3 and 9:15 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. All times Eastern. Info: [vickerstheatre.com](http://vickerstheatre.com)

**March 8** — Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, 1-2 p.m., Franklin Street from 10th to Fourth streets.

**March 8** — Michigan City Chamber Music Festival Concert, oboist Jenet Ingle with pianist Paul Hamilton, 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Free-will offering taken.

**March 8** — "Sherlock Mania," 3 p.m., La Porte County Library Coolspring branch, 7089 W. County Road 400 North.

**March 8** — "Kalita!! Magic!!!," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**March 8** — Free Family Films Series, "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2," 2 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

**March 8** — Annual Beef and Turkey Dinner, 5-7 p.m. EST, St. John United Church of Christ, 200 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich. Cost: \$7/adults, \$3.50/children 6-12, free/children 5 and younger, available at door or from church members. Info: (269) 469-3660.

**March 8** — Shirley Heinze Land Trust volunteer workday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Cressmoor Prairie Nature Preserve. Reservations/info: [jerdelac@heinzetrust.org](mailto:jerdelac@heinzetrust.org), (219) 242-8558.

**March 8-9** — The Miss Duneland Scholarship Pageant, Queen of All Saints gymnasium, 606 S. Woodland Ave. Times: 1:30 p.m. Sat./2 p.m. Sun. Cost: Sat./\$5, Sun./\$15. Free/children 6 and younger. Sunday \$5 discount by bringing Sat. ticket stub. Info: (219) 878-3412/[director@missduneland.com](mailto:director@missduneland.com)

**March 8-9** — Maple Sugar Time, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20. Info: [www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit](http://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit), (219) 395-1882.



**March 8-9 and 14-16** — “Over the River and Through the Woods,” La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$12. Info/reservations: (219) 362-5113/ [www.laportelittletheatreclub.com](http://www.laportelittletheatreclub.com)

**March 9** — Cripple Creek benefit concert for The Salvation Army, 4 p.m., Door Village United Methodist Church, 3502 W. Joliet Road, La Porte. Cost: \$5 donation.

**March 9** — Washington Stage Theatre’s “Open Auditions,” 5 p.m., Etropal Restaurant and Lounge, Monroe and Lincolnway, La Porte. \$40 cost includes dinner. Reservations: (219) 575-7261.

**March 9** — Free Sunday Matinee, “Gravity,” 1:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library Bertha Wood meeting room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**March 10** — Great Decisions, 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Reading material at circulation desk. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Through March 10** — Work by artist Joyce Dille on display at Visit Michigan City La Porte Convention & Visitors Bureau in Marquette Mall.

**March 11** — Lunch with the League, noon, Lindo’s Restaurant, 3940 Franklin St., Michigan City. info: (219) 874-6809, [www.lwvlaporte.org](http://www.lwvlaporte.org)

#### **Farther Afield:**

**March 7** — First Friday Film series, “Young Leonardo (as in da Vinci),” 7 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Cost: free/children, suggested \$1 donation for parents. Info: facebook or [www.boxfactoryforthearts.org/calendar/#firstfriday](http://www.boxfactoryforthearts.org/calendar/#firstfriday).

**March 8** — Soltré, traditional Irish music, 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/reservations: [www.boxfactoryforthearts.org](http://www.boxfactoryforthearts.org)

**March 8** — Trivia Night, 7 p.m. EST, Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Cost: \$10 per person, with teams of 10 required. Info/registration: (269) 927-4832.

**March 8-9** — Maple Sugar Madness, Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Times: 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. EDT Sat., 1 and 3 p.m. EDT Sun. Cost: \$5/adults, free/children. Info/registration: (269) 927-4832.

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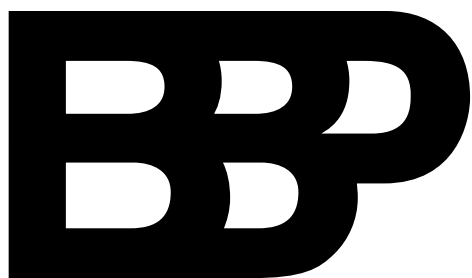
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## JROTC Takes Awards at Military Drill

The Michigan City High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps drill team earned awards at the Pike High School military drill meet Feb. 22 in Indianapolis.

MCHS cadets earned first place in the personnel inspection category and fourth place in armed platoon out of 16 schools. Michigan City was the only Marine school besides Portage to compete. Most of the schools were Navy JROTC programs because the meet is used by the Navy JROTC to prepare them for the Navy National Drill Competition in Daytona Beach, Fla.

"Due to a variety of circumstances, we were missing some of our experienced cadets in key positions," Senior Marine Instructor Maj. Tom McGrath said in a press release. "I am proud of the way some of our younger cadets stepped up and took their place."

Marine Instructor Master Sgt. Jeff Benak said earning first place in the personnel inspection event was gratifying.

"To have taken first place ahead of many good Navy schools, being inspected by active Navy petty officers, is something for our cadets to be a great source of pride," Benak added.

Cadet Capt. Paul Tobalt, the cadet commanding officer, led both award-winning units.

"Despite us losing some of our 'starters,'" he said,

"our cadets, to include the younger ones, really came through. This shows how the JROTC can mold leaders by the older cadets helping develop the younger cadets."

Tobalt has been accepted to Purdue University, where he hopes to attend through an ROTC scholarship worth \$150,000 over four years. He should receive the result of his application in April.

The final drill meet for MCHS is March 22 at Romeoville, Ill. The cadets also will march in the Michigan City St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 8, stand their annual inspection March 12 and provide support for the Indiana High School Athletic Association Boys Basketball Regional Tournament held at the MCHS Gym on March 15.



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**La Porte County Genealogical Society**

The La Porte County Genealogical Society meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, at the La Porte City Parks Department building, 250 Pine Lake Ave.

After a social time and business meeting, Marlene Polster will discuss "What Happens to Your Genealogy Research After You Die?"

Polster is the president of the Northwest Indiana Genealogical Society in Lake and Porter counties and the Lake County genealogist.

The society meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, weather permitting. The public is welcome. Visit [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~inlcigs/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~inlcigs/) for more information.

**"Creating Health Workshop"**

Dancing Feet Yoga Studio, 19135 U.S. 12, New Buffalo, Mich., will host a five-lesson workshop on physical, mental and spiritual well being from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, March 15.

Barbara Manley, a holistic educator for more than 20 years, will present the "Creating Health Workshop" co-created by Deepak Chopra. Participants experience meditation and breathing exercises, along with learning the benefits of music and aroma therapy. A workbook is included.

The cost is \$45 in advance or \$50 at the door. Visit [www.dancingfeetyoga.com](http://www.dancingfeetyoga.com) to register or for more information.

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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**Cold Storage Alaska by John Straley** (hardcover, \$26.95 retail in bookstores and online)

This week, I will emphasize the “happy” in my “happy reading.”

“Like the Coen brothers on literary speed.” That’s how award-winning author Ken Bruen describes “Cold Storage Alaska, and he is oh so right! This is my first read of the year that is pure relaxing entertainment that had me smiling (a lot), laughing out loud, even getting a little misty-eyed at times. There is comedy coupled with greed, love and loss, dreams and nightmares... and a cast of characters you won’t soon forget, including King Salmon and grizzly bears.

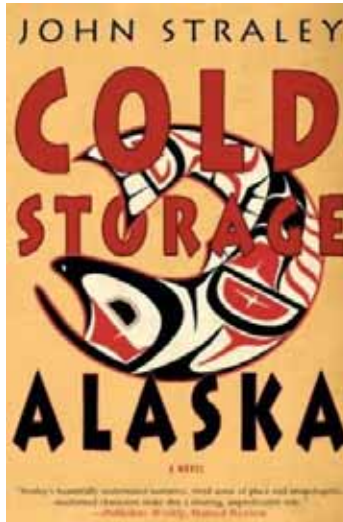
Let me explain.

The scene is a small town on the southeast coast of Alaska called Cold Storage that is home to fewer than 200 people, most of them descendants of the Norwegians who settled there in 1935 and prospered during the frozen fish boom. Now, Cold Storage is just a sad little town whose natural beauty, the fishing and hunting, and not much else, make it ripe for everyone to be in everyone else’s business.

Lester, the only Native American living in the town, is an artist and writing his first novel about white people, of course. When asked about the residents, he says, “...*actually most of the people in this town are drunks or depressives, but we have our funny moments.*”

And do they ever! Central casting in Hollywood couldn’t have come up with a more interesting crew that likes taking bets on the day and month that someone will sleep with someone else, or boldly stand in line at the diner window and listen to a lover’s quarrel out in the street, betting on who wins the argument. (They do a lot of betting in this town.)

Enter the McMahon brothers and their mother, longtime residents. Miles, the elder, served in the Army, became a medic and is now the closest thing to a doctor for hundreds of miles. He operates a clinic in the town. As the story opens, his brother Clive is being released from a seven-year stint in



the pen for dealing coke. Miles is holding his breath on whether Clive will show up in Cold Storage or not. Of course he does, but not before he visits his old boss, Jake, in Seattle and, well, let’s just say the meeting didn’t go well and Jake is now chasing Clive, while an irate state trooper is on Clive’s trail and, well, it’s going to get real interesting real soon...and Cold Storage is due for a shakeup the likes of which they have never seen.

Against all his feelings — or lack thereof — for his brother, Miles is surprised when Clive buys the local bar, which has been empty and fallen into ruin for some time. In typical small-

town fashion, the residents pitch in to help restore the building, setting up a barbecue for the workers and installing a sound system.

Then, there is Billy, who kayaked down to Seattle to meet the Dali Lama while he was in town and instead returns with a band called the Blind Donkeys. Billy wasn’t really in the right mind to be a monk. The band lines up a gig in the new bar, and things seem to be going smoothly for once in Cold Storage. But wait. The coming days may spell trouble for the McMahon brothers and the people of Cold Storage.

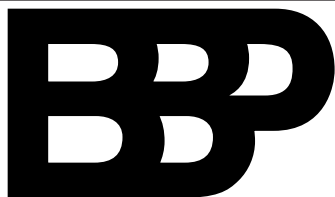
The town’s residents are richly carved in details as deep and vivid as the beautiful forest and mountains surrounding the town. And the fact that Clive thinks animals are talking to him, well, that’s just a side note to a comedy/drama that will stay with you long after the last page is turned.

Author Straley certainly knows Alaska well since he is a criminal investigator for the state, where he lives with his family in Sitka. His wife is a marine biologist who studies whales.

Straley was named the Writer Laureate of Alaska in 2006. His other books include The Woman Who Married a Bear, The Curious Eat Themselves and The Big Both Ways.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Gary Snyder called Cold Storage Alaska “Over the top good.” I like succinct. It sums up the book quite nicely.

Till next time, happy reading!



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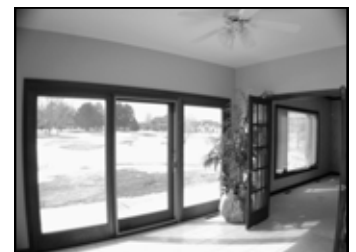
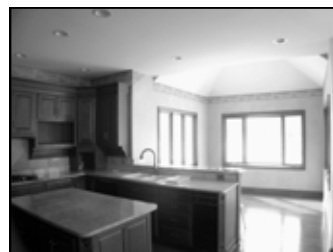
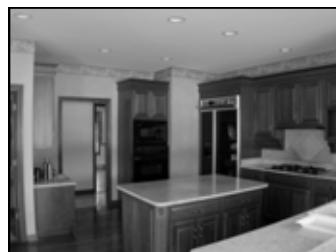


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