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The Music Man

He's Known for His Movie Career, but Ronny Cox's
Upcoming Concert Will Offer a Glimpse Into His Other Passion

by Andrew Tallackson

Ronny Cox is nothing like the characters he plays.

The actor, whose big-screen debut in "Deliverance" (1972) involved arguably the most famous "duet" in film history, is equally recognized for the intimidating heavies he plays, characters in "Robocop" (1987) and "Total Recall" (1990) whose disarming smiles conceal knife-in-the-back ruthlessness.

Thing is, he's the nicest guy. An interview with him, in fact, doesn't feel like one, but more like two friends shooting the breeze. Humble to a fault, he throws out a curveball at one point, saying his first love is not movies, but music.

"I love acting," he said during a phone interview from Los Angeles, "but nothing gives me as much pleasure as playing music does. With acting in movies or TV, there has to be that imaginary fourth



Actor-author-singer Ronny Cox.

wall between you and the audience. You can't step away from the camera or off the stage. You have to stay in character.

"But with music, there is a profound possibility of sharing the experience together. That's one reason, in fact, that I like to leave the houselights up during a show. I like for audiences to feel the music, like how it used to be when people sat around with friends and family and shared music together."

Cox performs upwards of 125 times a year, his music influenced by country and folk. One of his latest stops will be in Michigan City when he presents a concert at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

He's never been to Michigan City, but was introduced to the area

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last fall through Purdue University-North Central professor Jerry Holt when he taught a “Narrative Fiction” class. The course included the novel “Deliverance” by James Dickey, who wrote the screenplay for John Boorman’s 1972 film. The movie remains close to Cox’s heart, which is why he helped celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2012 by publishing the book “Dueling Banjos: The Deliverance of Drew.” Holt tracked Cox down through facebook, with Cox agreeing to speak to his class over the phone. The conversation with Holt’s class lasted 90 minutes. (His interview with The Beacher, by the way, clocked in at just shy of an hour.) After Holt learned about Cox’s musical background, and that he travels throughout the country presenting shows, he contacted the Lubeznik Center, which is how the April 9 show became cosponsored by the PNC Department of English and Modern Languages.

“Deliverance’ has meant almost the world to me,” he said. “It was not only my first film, it was the first time in front of the camera for Ned Beatty and me.

“Everything that has happened in my career has been the result of that remarkable film. I went from being a complete unknown to getting offered the kinds of roles I never knew existed.”

Born in Clondroft, N.M., but growing up in Portales, N.M., he listened to Texas Swing tunes as a child, then played rock ‘n’ roll in high school. His father was a carpenter who also worked at a dairy and played guitar. Performing with a rock band, Cox says, helped put him through college. He married his childhood sweetheart, Mary, and they had two boys. They were living in Washington, D.C., when he got his first equity job in the theater. He also fell in love with the folk-music scene. His first professional music gig was at The Cellar Door, a club in Washington, D.C., where at one point he was performing downstairs while Roberta Flack (“The First



Ronny Cox (second from right) attends the 40th anniversary of “Deliverance” in 2012 along with Ned Beatty (from left), Burt Reynolds and Jon Voight.

Time Ever I Saw Your Face,” “Killing Me Softly with His Song”) sang upstairs.

It was Cox's guitar skills that helped him get cast in “Deliverance,” Boorman's 1972 adaptation of Dickey's 1970 novel about four Atlanta businessmen whose canoe trip, due to the most unsavory locals in movie history, catapults from bad to worse.

Before embarking on the trip, the group, played by Cox, Beatty, Jon Voight and Burt Reynolds, encounters an inbred local boy who engages with Cox's character, Drew, in a spur-of-the-moment rendition of “Dueling Banjos.”



Ronny Cox's movie debut was “Deliverance” (1972) in which his character, Drew, played the famous “Dueling Banjos.”

That wasn't the song in the book, Cox says, but something Boorman discovered and everyone agreed worked better in the film.

“None of us thought of it as being a hit song,” Cox says.

And yet, he continues, the piece, along with music from “Bonnie & Clyde” (1967) and “O Brother, Where Art Thou” (2000), are the three films credited with introducing bluegrass music into mainstream America.

The irony is, neither Cox nor the child actor are the ones you hear playing “Dueling Banjos” in the movie. Billy Redden, the actor cast as the inbred youth, didn't know how to play an instrument. Cox was in rehearsals and canoe practice when the song needed to be pre-recorded in the studio. So, Eric Weissberg and Steve Mandell recorded in the studio what is heard in the film. When the scene was shot, however, Cox matched the pre-recorded track note for note.

The film's version was issued as a single and landed at No. 2 for four weeks on the Hot 100 in 1973, right behind — in another ironic twist for Cox — Roberta Flack's “Killing Me Softly With His Song.”

Continued on Page 4

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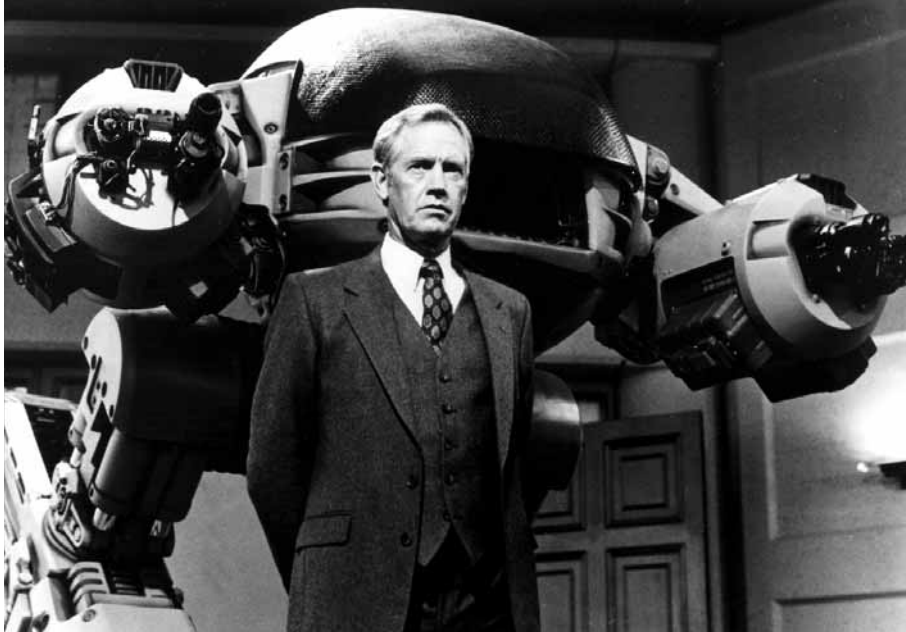
"Long story short," Cox says with a big laugh, "did I play it? Yes. Is that actually me on the soundtrack? No. Did it cost me about a million dollars (in profits)? Yes."

From there, however, the roles kept coming for Cox, including "Bound for Glory" (1976), which was based on Woody Guthrie's autobiography, the action film "Gray Lady Down" (1978), "Taps" (1981), "Beverly Hills Cop" (1984) and "Beverly Hills Cop 2" (1987) and TV's "St. Elsewhere."

For years, though, Cox felt like he was being typecast.

"My character (in 'Deliverance'), Drew, was the sensitive type, so for years, I played these nice, super-sweet Boy Scout roles," he said. "It got to be frustrating for me. If a role had any balls, I didn't get it. In Hollywood, sensitivity got equated with weak."

All that changed when director Paul Verhoeven first cast him as corporate nemesis Richard "Dick" Jones in "Robocop" (1987), then as Mars official Vilos Coahaagen in "Total Recall" (1990).



Ronny Cox played corporate nemesis Richard "Dick" Jones in "Robocop" (1987).

"That broke the mold," Cox said. "All of sudden, I was getting offered everything. In many ways, those two films were just as much a boost to my career as 'Deliverance' was."

(For the record, Cox has not seen the 2012 update of "Total Recall" nor the 2014 reboot of "Robocop," saying, simply, "I hate remakes.")

Cox also has legions of fans from his many TV appearances. He drew attention as the father of Bree

Van de Kamp (Marcia Cross) on "Desperate Housewives," as well as during Season Six of Showtime's "Dexter" when he played a character called "The Tooth Fairy," viewed by some as their favorite "bad guy" on the show.

His most rabid TV fans hail from playing Capt.



Ronny Cox played Mars official Vilos Coahaagen in "Total Recall" (1990).

Edward Jellico during the two-part "Chain of Command" episodes on "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and as Senator/Vice-President Robert Kinsey in "Stargate SG-1."

Cox chuckles affectionately as he describes the differences between "Star Trek" and "Stargate" fans.

"'Star Trek' fans are the cliché of what we've all come to know: the guys with horn-rimmed glasses who don't have a life. The 'Stargate' fan typically is an upwardly mobile woman, an altogether different mindset."

"It makes sense. 'Star Trek' essentially is a western in space. A shoot-'em-up. 'Stargate' is more of a romance. It's plot-driven and character-driven."

Running parallel to his successful movie and TV careers was his love of music. His self-titled debut, "Ronny Cox," was released in 1993 for Mercury Records in Nashville and was country in tone. His next effort, "Acoustic Eclectricity" (2000), embraced his love of folk. It was followed by "Cowboy Savant" (2002), "Ronny Cox Live" (2004) and "At the Sabastiani" (2006), the last two recorded live with almost no overdubs or corrections. His friend, producer-musician Jack Williams, encouraged him to record a tribute album to Texas songwriter Mickey Newbury, which resulted in "How I love Them



Ronny Cox played Capt. Edward Jellico during the two-part "Chain of Command" episodes on "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

Old Songs" (2007), which was dedicated to his wife and re-released in February 2010.

When Mary passed away a few years ago, music proved cathartic in helping deal with that loss. "Ronny Cox — Songs With Repercussions," a personal studio collection that combined original music with songs from other sources, landed at the No. 1 spot of the Folk DJ list in summer 2009.

Music, in some cases, takes priority over acting. He recently signed a contract to appear in a movie directed by Ivan Reitman ("Ghostbusters"), but

when the shooting dates changed, conflicting with his chance to perform in a folk festival, he chose the festival over the movie.

His live performances embrace the storyteller nature of music, which means he does less music than other singer-songwriters might do. And, the music could range from pop to jazz, but with a folk twist.

"The stories are equally as important as the songs," he says. "There are two schools of thought on that in folk music. One is, shut up and let the music speak for itself, and it's a perfectly valid point of view.

"But I found that people love to know about the thought process, so hopefully with my show, you get the setup, then with the song you get the payoff."

Ronny Cox will perform at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited. Tickets, which are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members, can be purchased at the center, by phone at (219) 874-4900 or at www.lubeznikcenter.org. Cox also will speak to students in a class taught by Purdue University-North Central professor Jerry Holt on Tuesday, April 8.



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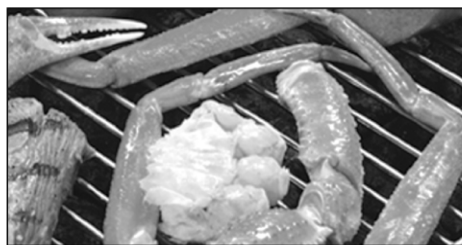
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Public Can Watch, Chat With Artist as Sculpture Rises

There's something that humans just love about sticks.

Patrick Dougherty loves them so much, the 69-year-old sculptor has made it his life's work to travel the world building monumental, flowing sculptures made of saplings and branches.

"Picking up a stick and bending it seems to give me big ideas," he says.

Huge, leaning bottles of stick-made Bordeaux or huge circles spinning through a row of trees are examples of his big-stick ideas.

In early April, Dougherty will set up shop for three weeks at Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Unlike more reclusive artists, the Chapel Hill, N.C., resident welcomes spectators and conversations with them. In fact, these chats give him energy, along with ideas sometimes for his works. He likens each visit to "a kind of cultural exchange in which the energy of the people and the sense of the place are somehow folded back into the sculpture itself."

As he has done in more than 230 places, ranging from downtown Melbourne, Australia, to a small college in Minnesota, Dougherty will work with dozens of volunteers during his stay, but usually only several at a time. He and his assistants, led by Rick Tuttle of nearby Three Oaks, Mich., will spend roughly the first week gathering willow saplings. By the weekend of April 5-6, he expects they will start fashioning a creation that will probably be 20 to 24 feet tall and perhaps cover a 30-by-30-foot space on the ground. The project ends April 19.

"Generally, I try to make something that's grand," Dougherty says. Grand will be good for Fernwood, which is celebrating its 50th year as a public garden.

Dougherty creates about eight to 10 large-scale sculptures a year. His Fernwood visit will be sandwiched between sculpture installations in Tennessee and Oregon. After Oregon, he heads to France.

What will he design at Fernwood? He won't know until he's there. He says he usually begins with words and the mental images they produce. Then,



Patrick Dougherty's "Ain't Misbehavin'" in 2010 at Winthrop University, Rock Hill, S.C. Photo by Zan Maddox

he makes a series of thumbnail sketches.

"Usually, I'm soliciting people to tell me what it is" as a sculpture takes shape, he says. The people who watch a sculpture's creation tend to get "protective" of their own image of what it ultimately should be. Dougherty says with amusement that people often tell him, "Don't go too far with it!"

The man who studied hospital administration in graduate school, then took a sharp detour into sculpture says he always loved to make things. It wasn't long into his study of art that he began working with sticks, which he regards as "mankind's first building material." He says a stick is "an imaginative object all the way from childhood.

"I always said there's a lot of closet stick workers out there, people willing to help me."

Dougherty says his creations don't last long. They enjoy their "teenage years," "dating" and winning new friends, but by about the two-year mark their lines begin to droop.

Left to itself, a sculpture ultimately becomes "just an unnoticed heap of sticks," he says. His contract with Fernwood calls for it "to ensure that the sculpture is removed at the appropriate time."

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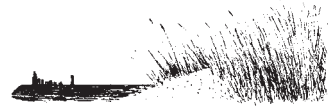
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"Lost in Yonkers"

Neil Simon's Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy "Lost in Yonkers" begins a two-weekend run Friday, April 4, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Directed by Christopher Whybrew and assistant director Eric Helmken, the play is set in Yonkers, N.Y., in 1942.

Bella (Emily Chidalek) is 35, mentally challenged and living at home with her mother, stern Grandma Kurnitz (Marianne LaRiccia). As the play opens, ne'r do-well son Eddie (John Avila) leaves his two young sons, Jay (Alex Britzke) and Artie (Michael Stantz), on the old lady's doorstep. He is financially strapped and taking to the road as a salesman.



Emily Chidalek (from left), Marianne LaRiccia, Alex Britzke and Michael Stantz appear in "Lost in Yonkers."

The boys are left to contend with Grandma, with Bella and her secret romance and with Louie (Alexander Bonner), her brother, a small-time hoodlum.

Performances are April 4-6 and 10-13. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 on Thursdays for youth 12 and younger. Times are 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Doors open 45 minutes prior to curtain. Reservations are held until 15 minutes prior to curtain unless secured by a season gift card or payment in full. A 2-for-1 coupon is available for opening night, April 4, at www.footlightplayers.org

Reservations are recommended by calling (219) 874-4035 or on the website.

Spring Quilt Show

String-A-Long Quilt Guild will host its 16th biennial show, "30 Years & Still in the Making," from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 29, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at the Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road, Valparaiso.

The event features more than 250 quilts and quilted items made by guild members, as well as displays of Porter County Museum's antique string quilt collection, Comfort Quilts for Porter County CASA, Quilts of Valor and Alzheimer Art Quilts.

The show will be judged by NQA-certified Carol Brooks. Quilt appraisals will be available for a fee by Sandy Rice, AQS-certified quilt and textile appraiser. The show's featured quilter is Joan Zugel, Chesterton.

The event will include a merchant mall, guild boutique, flea market, silent auction, demonstrations, food for purchase and raffle quilt.

Admission is \$8, or free for children 12 and younger. Tickets for the raffle quilt made by guild members are available for \$1 or six for \$5.

The guild has more than 100 members, encouraging and promoting quilt making and preservation of its history. The guild has made and donated more than 200 comfort quilts to children of the Family Youth Service Bureau and Home Visiting Services of Porter County. Members also have created many 9-by-12 or smaller quilts to donate to the Alzheimer Quilt Initiative, raising more than \$22,000 in six years. In addition, many Quilts of Valor made by guild members have been distributed to members of the Armed Forces.

The guild meets at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Chesterton Library Service Center, 100 Indiana Ave. Contact csun52@hotmail.com or call (219) 921-6956 for more information.

Critique Night at CAC

Local painter Mark VanderVinne will host Critique Night at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Guests are welcome, with no prior registration required. All ability levels and artistic styles are invited. While VanderVinne is a painter, he can advise artists in other mediums.

Guests may sit and listen; however, participation will be encouraged. Artists can take a piece at any stage, from conception to the final version. It will be a safe and friendly environment; however, it will be a critique offering advice and insight into the effectiveness of the work or artistic concept.

Critique Night is held the first Wednesday of each month. Call (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chesterton-art.com for more information.

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Barker Hall Celebrates 85 Years in Style

What does one do when celebrating a significant anniversary?

Throw a party, of course.

In the case of Michigan City's 85-year-old Barker Hall located adjacent to Trinity Episcopal Church, the party involves a year-long series of events.

The kickoff event is "Downtown Abbey Banquet" at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 5. The evening replicates the lifestyle of the fictional English aristocratic family depicted in the PBS series "Downton Abbey."

Barker Hall's Gothic style is similar to grand English manor houses. Upstairs is the 3,600 square-foot "Great Hall" that looks as if it was transported from the English countryside. It is an oak-paneled entertainment space lit by 4-foot wide tiered chandeliers and 20-foot tall leaded glass windows. The beamed ceiling is painted with polychrome medieval vines.

Those attending are encouraged to dress in period costume. Guests are greeted by white-gloved footmen played by volunteer junior class students. Proceeding up the grand staircase, guests will enjoy a traditional English Pimms Cup cocktail and hors d'oeuvres in the upper lobby. At 7 p.m., the doors of the Great Hall will open. Guests

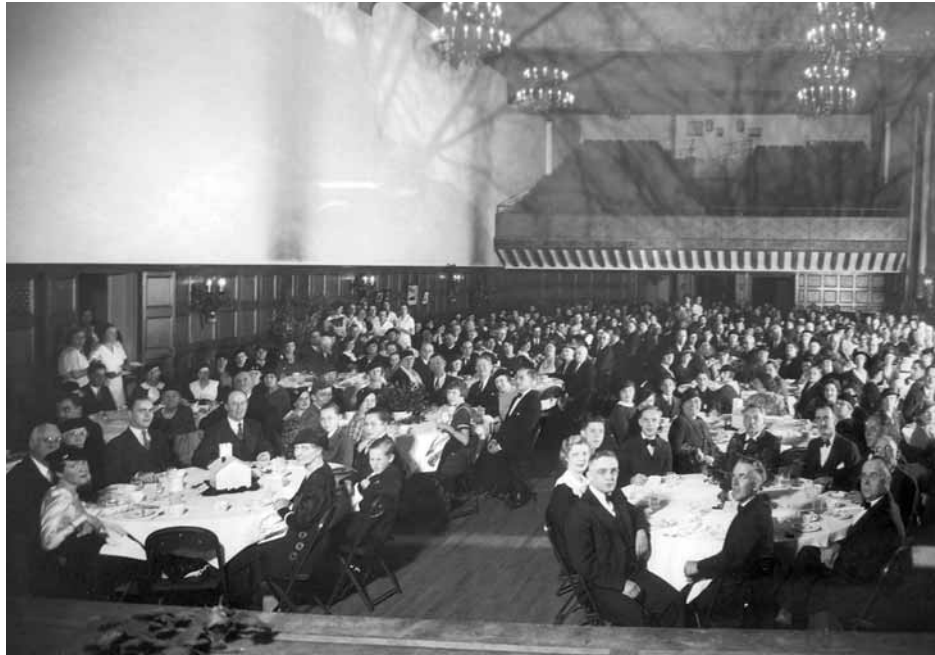
will be announced by the butler before finding their seats. The candelabra-lit main banquet table is designed to replicate the one seen in pictures of Buckingham Palace. Additional group seating will be at 6-foot round tables. The table will be set with Barker Hall's monogrammed china. Between courses,

guests will be entertained by musicians performing period music on the Barker Hall Baldwin grand piano. Period English and American antiques will be on display during the silent auction. Proceeds benefit Barker Hall's preservation.

The banquet meal is inspired by turn-of-the-century menus of the great es-

tate houses of Britain. The event is limited to 100 guests. Visit www.BarkerHall.com for the full menu and pictures of Barker Hall. For reservations payable via PayPal or check, visit the website or call (219) 874-4355. Tickets are \$100 per person at the main banquet table. Group reservations for four to eight guests at side tables are \$90 per person. Payment must be received by April 1. Barker Hall is located on Sixth Street between Franklin and Pine streets.

Other 2014 events being planned include a May 16 cabaret evening called "Cole Porter and Cocktails," teen dances, community youth band concerts,



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a silent movie festival, fall harvest fest, Christmas tea and a holiday theater and dinner event.

Under the stewardship of Trinity Episcopal Church, Barker Hall has hosted events as varied as theater, opera, rock concerts, corporate dinners and wedding receptions. Generations of Michigan City high-school students knew Barker Hall as the location of spring proms and formal dances, as well as sock hops. A highlight from the 1930s to the 1970s was the annual Trinity Ball held between Christmas and New Year's. High-school and college-age students put on their best formal clothes and danced to music provided by a full dance band orchestra.

Coinciding with the area's revitalization through the Uptown Arts District, The Community Arts Society of Trinity was organized in 2011 to plan social, educational and cultural events to raise funds for the building's preservation. The kickoff event was the 2011 Titanic dinner attended by 170 people. The menu replicated the last meal on the fateful evening the ocean liner sank. Other CAST events have been in partnership with Great Lakes Catering and Metamorphosis Traveling Theater, which included dinner theater and "Christmas Revels."

Barker Hall was a gift to Trinity Church and Michigan City from railroad car heiress and philanthropist Catherine Barker Hickox. In 1929, she replaced the first Barker Hall built by her father, industrialist John Barker, with a new one as a memorial to both her father and his children, who died in infancy. Portraits of the young children hang in the building's main hallway. Information in the church archives includes a material list for the new hall, which included 25 loads of cut stone, five of lumber, 80 of sand and gravel, 20 of brick and 13 of tile, in addition to 12,985 bags of cement, 50 tons of structural steel and 25 tons of reinforcing steel.

Angels by Alphonso Iannelli (1888-1965), a graphic artist, sculptor, architect and industrial designer, decorate the façade and entranceway of Barker Hall. Over the main entrance is a large bas relief sculpture of Christ teaching children. Above the large oriel window facing Sixth Street are stylized bas relief sculptures depicting the symbols of the four evangelists: a winged angel for St. Matthew; an eagle for St. John; a winged bull for St. Luke; and a winged lion for St. Mark. The bronze dedication plaques in the lobby also are Iannelli designs.

Catherine Barker's new Barker Hall was designed as a full-functioning center to serve the community, whose workers created her vast inherited wealth. Besides the Great Hall with its fully equipped stage



and commercial kitchen with monogrammed dishware, there also were sports facilities, locker rooms, offices, classrooms, meeting rooms and library for the church's rector. The Intercession Chapel was designed as a replica of an English country church with an oak beamed ceiling, cast-iron chandeliers and stone altar.

Sunday services are still held in the chapel at 8 a.m. every Sunday, but uses of other Barker Hall areas have changed over the years. The lower level, which was once the sports facility, is

now occupied by the Trinity Community Food Pantry, whose goal is eliminating hunger in the community. Open every other Wednesday, the food pantry is a distributor of government surplus food provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The pantry also is a registered agency of the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana and a member of the Feeding America national emergency food network. Port is provided for an average of 430 households per month, which equates to an average of 1,558 people per month. In 2013, the Trinity Community Food Pantry distributed 102,048 pounds of food.

Also on the lower level, what was once the Men's Smoking Room contains the Trinity Thrift Shop, which has been run by the women of Trinity for more than 50 years.

On the main level, the music rehearsal room has been created for use by the Duneland Area Community Band. Sponsored by Trinity Church and other churches, it is open to students interested in learning about music through participating in a concert band. Students in grades four through 12 can explore different musical styles while receiving musical instruction on a concert band instrument of their choice.

Catherine Barker's descendants continued to maintain an interest in Barker Hall through the Barker Welfare Foundation. Recently, funds were provided for a chair lift so the Great Hall could be accessible for people with disabilities. In 2012, the foundation offered a \$25,000 grant to air condition the Great Hall if Trinity Church and the community could raise \$75,000.

Fundraising efforts are being planned.

"It is our intent to maintain this extraordinary building as one of Michigan City's vital cultural and social resources," says Matt Kubik, architect and "Downtown Abbey Banquet" organizer.

"Every time I come into the building, I see the dedication plaque designed by Alphonso Iannelli and I'm reminded that Catherine Barker's wish was that the building be 'dedicated to the use of the people.'"

Park Department Seeks Input



The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department is seeking public input on the proposed design of an Americans With Disabilities Act-accessible route and kayak/canoe launch system at Hansen Park, 100 E St., Michigan City.

Comments can be directed to Administrative Director Shannon Eason, Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Suite 2, Michigan City, IN 46360.

Comments also can be made by calling (219) 873-1506 or by email to season@emichigancity.com

PNC "Hilarity for Charity" Event

The Purdue University-North Central Ranting Llamas Improv Troupe and Office of Student Activities will co-host a "Hilarity for Charity" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 28, in the Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 144.

The \$5 cost will be donated to the Alzheimer's Association as part of the "Hilarity for Charity" national fundraising effort. Additional donations to the association will be accepted.

"Hilarity for Charity" is a nationwide program that encourages and supports college groups to hold events that raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's Disease. The university raising the most money between Jan. 1 and April 11 wins a special advance screening of Universal Pictures' "Neighbors," with Seth Rogen in attendance.

The Ranting Llamas traditionally donates ticket proceeds to charity. It presents a unique comedy experience appropriate for all ages and outlooks.

Donations can be made on behalf of the Ranting Llamas at www.crowdrise.com/pncactivities-hfcu/fundraiser/PNCactivities

Visit <http://www.hilarityforcharity.org/> for more information on the program.

Spring Economic Briefing

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce and Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce will present a "Spring Economic Briefing" on Tuesday, April 1, at Purdue University-North Central LSF Building 144.

Registration is at 7 a.m., with breakfast and the program at 7:30 a.m. The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Register at www.lpchamber.com

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"The Wiz"

South Central Jr./Sr. High School will present "The Wiz" as its spring musical at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 27-28, and 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, March 29. The play features a large cast of high school students, as well as elementary school students as Munchkins. Pictured are (from left) Emily Ames, Anastasiya Romanyuk, Sally Hawkins, Eddie Castle, Zoe Auskalnis and CJ Hawkins. Tickets are \$5 at the door, which opens 45 minutes before curtain. Refreshments will served for a free-will donation, and a silent auction is planned to raise funds for the drama club. Email director Cortny Barnes at barnesc@scentral.k12.in.us for more information.

Barker Hall Open Stage

Barker Hall Open Stage is Friday, March 28, at the Barker Hall Bishop's Mansion, 618 N. Franklin Square.

The event is open to musicians, singers, dancers, poets, storytellers and comics. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the show starting at 7:30 p.m. The theme is "Foolish April."

Participants and visitors can share in a collective treats table.

"Experiences as a Deaf Social Worker"

The Purdue University-North Central American Sign Language Club and Social Work Club will host the program "Experiences as a Deaf Social Worker" at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, in the Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 144.

The free presentation will be in ASL with a spoken English interpretation. It begins with about 30 minutes of refreshments and conversation.

Jason Maloney's presentation will center on his experiences as a deaf social worker for deaf people with mental-health or addiction problems. His presentation will be followed by a 20-minute question-and-answer segment.

Information about the ASL Club is available at www.aslclub.info. More information is available by contacting Karen Donah, PNC continuing lecturer and coordinator of American Sign Language, at (219) 785-5200, Ext. 5432 or kdonah@pnc.edu. The club is on facebook as well.

Information about other community events is available at www.nwideaf.org

Five Week Ceramics Class

Dean Hultman will offer another five-week ceramics class starting from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, April 7, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

The class 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, they 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 (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com to register or for more information.

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Museum's Sneak Peaks

Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton, will offer previews of its new exhibit area, design panels and new temporary display, "Needlework Through the Ages," at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 29.

"Westchester Township: Our Story" is the updated permanent exhibit detailing the township's chronological history. It includes different artifacts, information, maps and images. The space, itself, features updated lighting, paint, ceiling, flooring and layout.

The preview will include a look at "before" pictures so visitors can compare how the space looked before renovation. There also will be images of the graphic designs planned for the walls. Each exhibit case will have artifacts on display, many of which have not been previously displayed.

Refreshments will be served.

The library's Knit-Wits and Pearls of Wisdom group organized the "Needlework Through the Ages" display. It centers on the history of needlework, as well as what can be created through knitting, crocheting and other work. The display will remain in the temporary gallery through May 25.

Museum hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday or by appointment. Call (219) 983-9715 for more information.

Community Visioning Sessions

United Way of La Porte County will host the first in a series of Community Visioning sessions that center on improving overall quality of life.

The first session is Wednesday, April 2, at Blue Chip Casino Hotel and Spa Stardust Event Center. A free breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m., followed by a guided discussion that ends at 10:30 a.m. The locally televised meeting will include a review of the United Way Community Assessments Summary and roundtable discussions on "Aspirations, Challenges and Change."

The Unity Foundation, Leadership La Porte County, Purdue University-North Central and other organizations are assisting with the process. The sessions will be held in Michigan City and La Porte over the next year and a half.

Results of the public meetings will be used to guide the United Way Board of Directors' future funding process, as well as inform other community funders, boards and service providers.

Those planning to attend April 2 should make a reservation by Friday, March 28. Reservations can be made by email at info@unitedwaylpc.org or by calling the United Way office at (219) 210-3534. The meeting will be recorded and available for later viewing on ALCO-TV public-access station.

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"Groove to the Sixties"

Ivy Tech Community College will host its fundraiser, "Groove to the Sixties," on Friday, April 11, at Aberdeen Manor, 216 Ballantrae St., Valparaiso.

Proceeds aid program enhancements at Ivy Tech campuses in East Chicago, Gary, Michigan City and Valparaiso.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. A cash bar and silent auction are planned. The auction ends at 7 p.m., when the dinner will be served.

Performances will be given by local celebrities, including: Ed Charbonneau, District 5 senator; David Lain, Porter County sheriff; Michael Brickner, Valparaiso chief of police; Jared Riddle, Ivy Tech NW department chair; Karen Freeman-Wilson, City of Gary mayor; Chris White, The Times Media Co. publisher; and Jack Elia, Blue Chip Casino assistant general manager.

Tickets are \$75, with \$40 being tax deductible. The reservation deadline, as well as the deadline to donate items or gift certificates for the silent auction, is Friday, March 28. Tickets can be purchased at www.ivytech.edu/northwest and click on the flower button.

Contact Louise Thompson at (219) 476-4713 or lthompson89@ivytech.edu for more information or to buy tickets.

Watercolor Workshop



The finished product for the "Thinking About Spring" workshop.

Kathy Los-Rathburn will present a watercolor workshop, "Thinking About Spring," from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Los-Rathburn will walk students through the process of creating a still-life bouquet of flowers.

The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Students should take regular watercolor supplies, including a 1/2 sheet of 300 watercolor paper or 140 watercolor paper stretched.

Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com to register or for more information.

Event Sponsors Sought

Sponsors are being sought for the sixth annual Worthy Recovery Bowl for Worthy Women, which is from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at Casey's Lanes, 610 Colfax Ave., La Porte.

More information is available by calling Sonshine Troche at (219) 405-7006.

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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following events are planned through Indiana Dunes State Park:

Saturday, March 29

• 10 a.m. — Come 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. — Fire on the Prairie.

Learn how prescribed fire is used to help habitats, then help the naturalist start a fire if conditions are right. Meet at the Nature Center for the hour-long program. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or responsible adult present.

Sunday, March 30

• 9 a.m. — Morning Birding.

Meet at the Nature Center for the one-hour hike that involves wetlands and forests.

• 2 p.m. — Lion or Lamb Walk II.

Wear hiking shoes for the hour-long trek. Take binoculars or borrow a pair when meeting at the Nature Center.

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.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are through Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:

• “Park in Focus” from 1 to 3 p.m. every Saturday through Dec. 27 at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

Park staff will host special programs focusing on park resources, hot topics in research, new environmental films or guest speakers.

The center is on Lake Street north of U.S. 12 in the Miller Beach neighborhood of Gary. Call (219) 395-1821 for more information.

• “Kid’s Rule” from 1 to 3 p.m. every Sunday through Dec. 28 at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.

Join a ranger in the Visitor Center’s activity room for stories and activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

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La Porte County Library

The following programs are offered through La Porte County Library:

- **Baby Storytimes at 10 a.m. Thursdays, March 27 and April 3, at the main library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte.**

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

- **Daytime Storytimes at 10 a.m. Fridays, March 28 and April 4, at the main library.**

Stories, music, activities and crafts help develop and reinforce early literacy skills and concepts. The program is intended for children 3 to 5 with an adult caregiver.

- **Nighttime Storytime at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 31, at the main library.**

Dunebrook's Playgroup Babytalk features songs, stories and fingerplays to help children build literacy skills. It is aimed at children 0-5.

- **Protect Your PC For Free from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, April 2, at the main library.**

Get tips on how to install free software that will guard a PC from harm. Other tips include how to handle online transactions, emails and social media sites such as facebook to ensure online reputation and personal information stay secure.

Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Basket weaving at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, March 29.**

Margie Warner teaches a single-session class where each person takes home a basket. A \$10 non-refundable deposit is required for materials, and prices vary. Sign up, and see the basket, at the circulation desk.

- **Women's History Month: Folk Singer Linda Boyle at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 29.**

The program is aimed at adults and children 12 and older. Boyle has performed in schools, universities and museums, as well as on TV and radio. Her programs are musical narratives featuring stories and songs about the lives, struggles and contributions of women and girls.

- **Classical accordion with Steve Kowalczyk at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 30.**

Kowalczyk has performed across the globe.

- **National Humor Month: Reading is Funny at 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 1.**

Stop by Youth Services for the program aimed at children 12 and younger accompanied by an adult.

Call Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information.



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Spots Available for Earth Day Event

Online exhibitor registration continues for the 2014 Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration on April 19 at the Porter County Expo Center, 215 Division Road, Valparaiso.

This year's event will feature live animal shows, school rain-barrel design contest, the Great Cloth Diaper Change, giveaways, games and prizes. Last year's event attracted more than 3,200 people, the largest figure in its eight-year history.

Organizations and businesses that can provide environmental awareness, services and products to attendees, and inspire them to become more environmentally aware, are invited to become exhibitors. Schools and classes also can participate by sharing environmental studies and educating visitors.

Prospective exhibitors can register on the Recycling & Waste Reduction District of Porter County's website, www.ItMeansTheWorld.org

Call (219) 465-3819 for more information.

Local Lore: The Wabash Railroad

The next program in La Porte County Public Library's free Local Lore series, "The Wabash Railroad," is at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, at the main library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

Author Victor Baird will discuss the Wabash Railroad that went through Kingsbury and Westville. He also will be available to sign his book, "Railroading on the Wabash Fourth District."

Contact Mary Hedge at (219) 362-6156 or mhedge@laportelibrary.org for more information.



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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are through Westchester Public Library:

• **Free Preschool Preview Night from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, at the Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Faculty from Duneland-area preschools distribute information and answer questions about their school's philosophy, curriculum, tuition and enrollment procedures.

• **The Bits and Bytes series, "Managing Your Digital Photos," from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, in the Bertha Wood room at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Attendees learn the basics of importing and exporting digital photos, and editing and resizing them. Participants must be computer literate and proficient with a mouse.

Registration is available by visiting the Automation/Serials Department or calling (219) 926-7696, Ext. 25, or visit the Bits and Bytes page at www.wpl.lib.in.us/

• **Lego Club meeting at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 11, in the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

The group is free, but registration is necessary. Children 6 and older can register in the Children's Department. During the meeting, youth receive a bucket of Legos to create whatever they like.

Free DNR Photo Contest

The Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology is seeking entries to a free photo contest celebrating its 10th birthday.

The record for photo submissions is 187, and the division wants to break it.

The contest celebrates Historic Preservation Month in May. Photographers are encouraged to take pictures of their favorite historic resource, from buildings, to bridges, to cemeteries and landscapes. Subject matter must be 50 years old and in Indiana.

The contest does not place limitations on the historic resource's condition. Past entries have involved subject matter with conditions ranging from pristine to undergoing demolition. Photos can be color or black and white, must be 8-by-10 inches and presented with white mat board so final dimensions are 11-by-14 inches.

The contest deadline is April 4. Photographers can submit up to three entries per person. A list of guidelines and the registration form are at dnr.IN.gov/historic/3994.htm. Contact Amy Borland at (317) 232-1647 or aborland@dnr.IN.gov for more information.



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Showing Their "City Pride"



Thanks to community donors, Michigan City Area Schools has started a 12-week series of radio shows on radio station WEFM (95.9) called "City Pride." These half-hour shows, hosted by Ron Miller, will air at 8:30 a.m. Saturdays and be re-broadcast at 5:30 p.m. every other Thursday. They also will air on Michigan City Public Access Channel 99 (visit EducateMC.net for a complete schedule). The first two "City Pride" shows spotlighted

Michigan City High School student athletes and the MCHS Cityzen/Yearbook. Pictured are Winter Sports student athletes interviewed for the March 22 show, which was taped in Heritage Hall: Standing (from left) Chris Hebb, Donovan Wilson, Keenan Simmons, Luke Daurer and Tim Schoof. Seated (from left): Justin Lewis, Ashley Koza, Michal Miller and Allison Ormsby. (Tune in to find out which of the students pictured here is the MCHS Mascot, Wolfie).

Improv Festival and Competition

Elkhart Civic Theatre will present its first edition of "Comedy Criminals," an improv festival and competition starting with two preliminary rounds Saturday, March 29, and concluding with final rounds Saturday, April 5.

The event is a fundraiser for Elkhart Civic Theatre held at the Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St.

Eight troupes from Chicago, Lima, Granger, Syracuse, Chesterton and Indianapolis, including the latter's ComedySportz team, will compete for Comedy Criminals of the Year, plus free stage time provided by South Bend's The Drop Comedy Club.

Audience members will judge the March 29 preliminaries. On April 5, celebrity judges will pick the final winners after audience members judge a semi-final "shootout" between two troupes. Celebrity judges include Chicago Comedy Film Festival founder Jessica Hardy, WNIT-TV personality Gordy Young and Elkhart Truth Managing Editor Marshall King. Dave Kempfer is the emcee, with assistance from Kenny Prawat, Kevin Egelsky, Kaitrin Higbee and Randy Zonker.

The shows start at 7:30 p.m. EDT. Beer, wine and food will be available. Tickets are \$12 for each of the two Saturday sessions. They can be purchased online at www.elkhartcivictheatre.org or by calling (574) 848-4116 between 1 and 5:30 p.m. EDT Monday through Friday.

"Comedy Criminals" comes with a PG-13 rating. Parents should decide if attending the event with children is appropriate.

Youth Art Month Exhibit

The Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart, will present a Youth Art Month exhibit through Sunday, March 30.

The display, an annual event for the past 34 years, features work by high-school students from Elkhart Central, Elkhart Memorial, Concord, Northridge and the Elkhart Area Career Center.

The Mary Jane Parmater Keefe Awards of Excellence will be presented to six art students chosen through votes cast by 16 teachers. Other awards include Kappa Kappa Kappa, Alpha Rho Chapter, which for the 30th year will give monetary awards, known as the Curator's Choice Awards, to 10 students. For the 10th year, there will be a \$500 scholarship award, named in honor of Phillip Monteith, given by the Elkhart Evening Optimists. For the ninth year, Mary Boyer and daughter Kathy Zienty will present the Robert Boyer Memorial Awards.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday and Sunday. Sunday is Free Family Day. Visit www.MidwestMuseum.US for more information.

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Fernwood Botanical Garden

The following events are offered through Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich.:

• **Sally Hughes Exhibit: "My Garden Through the Seasons" through Sunday, April 27.**

The Union Pier, Mich., artist is displaying nearly 30 paintings of plants using mixed media on layers of acetate.

An artist reception is from 1 to 3 p.m. EDT Sunday, March 30.

• **Chicago Glass Houses Tour from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, April 9.**

Visit three glass houses in the Chicago area. Oak Park Conservatory houses a botanical collection of more than 3,000 plants. Garfield Park Conservatory, designed by Jens Jensen, is one of the nation's largest conservatories (the Fern Room is closed for repairs due to roof storm damage). The Lincoln Park Conservatory has four display houses, nearly every inch covered by greenery.

Register by April 6. The cost is \$75, or \$60 for members.

Call (269) 695-6491 or visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org to register or for more information.

MQT Senior Named Indiana All-Star

Marquette Catholic High School senior Anna Grabovac has been named a 2014 Indiana Academic All-Star through The Indiana Association of School Principals Department of Student Programs.



Anna, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Grabovac, Ogden Dunes, graduated from St. Patrick Elementary School, Chesterton.

Each Indiana high school may nominate one senior for the award. As many as, or a maximum of, 90 students are recognized as regional winners by a selection committee, and 40 of those students are chosen as Indiana Academic All Stars. Awards are presented to students and an influential educator of his/her choice at a luncheon ceremony in the Indiana Roof Ballroom.

Anna was selected for her academic achievement.



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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 are: April 7 and 28, May 5 and 19, June 2, 16 and 30 and July 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 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.

Lakeshore Needs Youth Workers

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore has jobs for 10 teens this summer.

The Youth Conservation Corps is a work-learn-earn program for 15- to 18-year-olds. The deadline to apply is April 30. No experience is necessary. Participants will be selected by random from the application pool.

Participants are paid \$7.25 an hour for the 40-hour work week. The program runs June 9 through Aug. 15. Applicants should be prepared to work the entire length of the program. Jobs include working as part of a crew to do manual labor tasks, normally outdoors. The crews perform work such as staining, painting and caulking the exterior of park buildings and work as grounds maintenance (mowing grass, picking up trash) and trails rehabilitation.

To be eligible, participants must be U.S. citizens and 15 years old before June 9, but not turn 19 before Aug. 15, the last day of the program.

The YCC application form is available through high school guidance offices or from the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Employee Services Office at (219) 395-1721. They also are available at <http://www.nps.gov/indu/parkmgmt/jobs.htm>

March for Babies Chairwoman Named

The Northwest Indiana Division of the March of Dimes announced that La Porte business leader Alicia Ketchem is La Porte County's March for Babies chairwoman.

Ketchem is the project manager for Fas-Pak Inc. As March for Babies chairwoman, she will help raise awareness and funds to advance scientific research and educational programs through March of Dimes, which works to find causes and preventions for preterm births and birth defects.

March for Babies is the March of Dimes' largest annual fundraiser. This year's event is April 26 at La Porte's Kesling Middle School. La Porte County residents can sign up at marchforbabies.org

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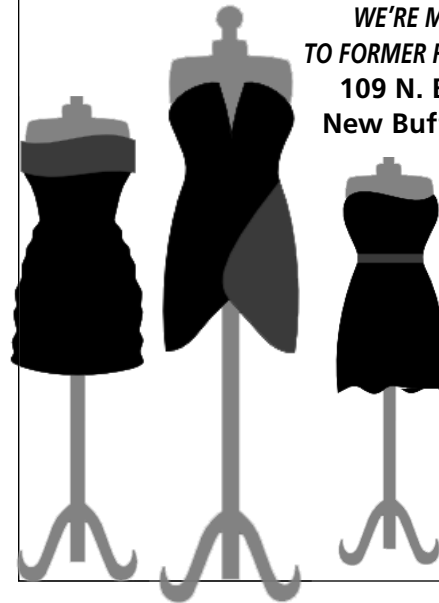
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Well Armed Woman Chapter

The new Well Armed Woman Northwest Indiana Shooting Chapter will introduce women of all experience levels to important issues, safe gun handling and group training.

Spearheaded by Linda Gurgel, a local gun enthusiast, events will be held monthly and open to women 21 or older. The chapter has partnered with Michigan City Rifle Club, 4801 W. U.S. 20, to be the host range. Events will be devoted to discussion and topical study, as well as time on the range learning and practicing safe gun-handling skills.

Participants are required to pay any applicable range fees and ammunition costs. Annual chapter membership dues of \$50 offer local and national discounts, a chapter hat and member kit, and are used to cover chapter expenses, insurance and events. First-time attendees are not required to join.

The first shoot is from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 3, at the Michigan City Rifle Club. Reservations are required. More information is available by contacting Gurgel at ladypistol007@gmail.com, or visit The Well Armed Woman website at www.thewellarmed-woman.com

Artists Sought for Festival

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., is seeking artists for its 2014 Lakefront Arts Festival.

Artists can submit applications until April 4 by accessing the online entry page at lubeznikcenter.org

Now in its 33rd year, the juried event draws repeat visitors from Chicago, South Bend, Northwest Indiana and Harbor Country. In 2013, it attracted more than 6,000 visitors. Proceeds benefit center exhibits, outreach and education.

The festival runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 17, in Washington Park. The entry cost is \$60. Categories include: 2-D art, fine craft, photography, sculptural objects, wearable art and jewelry. An estimated \$3,000 in cash prizes will be awarded.

Contact Marketing Director Amy Davis at (219) 874-4900 for more information.

Pre-Easter Luncheon

The Polish Women's Alliance District 3 Pre-Easter Luncheon is Saturday, April 12, at Knights of Columbus Hall, 1104 Knights of Columbus Drive, East Chicago, Ind.

Doors open at noon, with lunch served at 1 p.m. Proceeds benefit the organization's scholarship fund. The cost is \$35 for adults and \$17.50 for children 12 and younger.

Reservations are due by Monday, April 7, by calling Delphine Huneycutt at (219) 398-9069.

United Way Honors Local Man

Michigan City's James Stemmler has received the national Joseph A. Beirne Community Services Award for his longtime work with United Way and La Porte County's labor community.

The award was presented March 13 at the Indiana Association of United Ways State Leaders Conference in Indianapolis.

United Way of America created the award in 1974 to recognize labor leaders for community service.

Stemmler is Indiana's only second recipient. He has spent more than 20 years leading labor volunteers in community improvement. He initiated the Union Workers Street Collection for United Way in 2007, when he invited four trade unions to volunteer. During the most recent event, 20 union volunteers raised more than \$3,100 in four hours.



Present at the awards ceremony were Nancy McCormick (from left), AFL-CIO/CSL Midwest regional director, United Way Worldwide; Dan Murchek, Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor president; Deb Townsend, AFL-CIO/CSL Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, Lake Area United Way; Sharon Wright, Women's Leadership Council, La Porte County United Way; James Stemmler, Local 395 Ironworkers retired, Beirne Award winner; Kathy Ertle, Indiana Association of United Ways president; Chris Brickey, president, Central Indiana Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Karen Husky and Gary Husky, No. 395 Ironworkers, retired.

Stemmler helped create the United Way Dodgeball Challenge, a fundraiser that engages community businesses and organizations in spirited competition. He serves on the United Way of La Porte County Board of Directors and has been a regular member of the Allocations Committee.

A Vietnam veteran, Stemmler is commander of La Porte Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1130 and is a member of The Wall Gang, a veteran's service organization. He has volunteered as a tutor and mentor for young children at Hailmann Elementary School and as a mentor for troubled teens at Barker Middle School.

Stemmler began a successful career with Ironworkers Local 395 based in Hammond in 1972. He held positions as trustee, recording secretary and president before serving as business agent for 17 years. He is past-president of the La Porte County Building Trades Council, an affiliate of the Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. As chairman of the board of directors for the Ironworkers Pension Fund and chair of the Health and Welfare Fund, he reached a large community of union members.

Habitat ReStore Seeks Donations

As spring arrives and store traffic grows, the La Porte County Habitat for Humanity ReStore at 10th and Huron streets in Michigan City is seeking new, clean and gently used donations.

Items typically featured include:

- Home goods.
- Major appliances in working condition.
- Furniture.
- Counter tops and cabinets.
- Plumbing fixtures and components.
- Electrical fixtures and lighting.
- Kitchen and bathroom fixtures.
- Hand and power tools.
- Fencing and decking material.
- Doors and windows.
- Lumber, drywall, masonry and sheathing.

Donations can be brought to the ReStore during normal business hours between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. The store offers new and gently used building materials, home goods, furnishings and hardware to the public. Store proceeds support Habitat's mission to provide low-cost, affordable housing in the community. Call (219) 814-4985 or like Habitat on facebook at www.facebook.com/laportehabitat



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Student Takes Award at JAG Event

Kayla Patrick from Michigan City's AK Smith Career Center was recognized at the 2014 Jobs for America's Graduates Career Development Conference.

The event, held March 14 at Ivy Tech's main campus near downtown Indianapolis, is the final state competition that challenges participants to demonstrate employability skills.



Indiana Department of Workforce Development Commissioner Scott Sanders and Kayla Patrick.

Students in the state finals earned their spots by placing in one of 12 regional competitions. The state finals included nine competitions, with nine to 16 students in each contest. The categories included job interviews, writing skills, creative thinking, career presentations, public speaking and creative solutions.

Patrick took first place in Critical Thinking.

JAG is a state-based national non-profit organization that reconnects at-risk students academically by helping them overcome barriers to graduation. More than 4,500 students participate in JAG through 105 programs within 100 schools throughout Indiana. Visit <http://www.in.gov/dwd/2446.htm> for more information.

Canterbury Summer Season Raffle

Canterbury Summer Theatre, under the Festival Players Guild's sponsorship, has begun ticket sales for its 2014 summer season raffle.

One winner receives two tickets to "Brigadoon," presented at Chicago's Goodman Theatre, on Saturday, July 12, an overnight stay at The Wit Hotel and a \$100 gift certificate for dinner at Petterino's Restaurant.

Only 200 tickets will be sold. The cost is \$15, or two for \$25. The drawing is June 15. Tickets can be purchased in person during Winter Arts Series events at Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St., by phone at (219) 874-4269, by email at info@festivalplayersguild.org or by PayPal at www.festivalplayersguild.org

All raffle proceeds help fund the 2014 Canterbury summer season, which includes "Crimes of the Heart," "Why Do Fools Fall in Love?," "Closer Than Ever," "The 39 Steps" and "Greater Tuna."

Kindergarten, Preschool Registration

Michigan City Area Schools will conduct kindergarten and preschool (Pre-K) registration for the 2014-2015 school year Wednesday, April 2.

Kindergarten students must be 5 by Aug. 1, while Pre-K students must be 3 by Aug. 1.

Kindergarten roundup is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at all MCAS elementary buildings April 2, which also is the date of after-school elementary parent-teacher conferences. Students should be enrolled at the school that serves the area in which they live:

- Coolspring Elementary, 9121 W. County Road 300 North.
- Edgewood Elementary, 502 Boyd Circle.
- Joy Elementary, 1600 E. Coolspring Ave.
- Knapp Elementary, 321 Bolka Ave.
- Lake Hills Elementary, 201 Ferguson Road.
- Marsh Elementary, 401 E. Homer St.
- Niemann Elementary, 811 Royal Road.
- Pine Elementary, 1660 County Line Road.
- Springfield Elementary, 3054 W. County Road 800 North.

Pre-K Roundup also is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 2. Programs are offered in partnership with the La Porte County Family YMCA and Imagination Station at Coolspring, Knapp, Lake Hills (also serving Niemann students), Marsh, Pine (also serving Edgewood and Joy students) and Springfield. There are tuition fees associated with the programs; however, need-based scholarships are available, and CCDF vouchers are accepted.

Parents who need assistance to determine which school their child will attend may contact the MCAS Transportation Department at (219) 873-2127. For all other questions regarding Pre-K and K Roundup, contact the school where your child will attend.

Parents should bring the following information to Kindergarten/Pre-K Roundup: the child's official birth certificate from the state Board of Health; an updated record of the child's immunizations; the parent/guardian's driver's license or state photo ID; emergency contact information; proof of residency (a utility bill, property tax bill, lease agreement on business letterhead, public assistance documentation).

Information and application forms for MCAS Magnet School programs will be available at Kindergarten Roundup. They also are available at <http://EducateMC.net/magnets>

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Tuesday Night Jewelry Classes

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

On April 1, Wible will offer a Stacked Sparkle Bracelet Class where students use a right-angle weave and row of lacy picots to make a bracelet. During the April 8 Beaded Flower Class, students make a pendant that is easy to bead and can be used for a brooch or necklace, or they can make two for a pair of earrings. The Fringe Bracelet Class is April 15, while April 22 is a Zig & Zag Bracelet Class. Participants use netting and a right-angle weave to create an easy accessory.

All classes are at 5:15 and 7 p.m. The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members, with the exception of the Beaded Flower Class, which is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. All supplies are included. Call (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com to register or for more information.

Michiana Clowns

Michiana Clowns at its March meeting finalized plans for the 12-week spring clown class that starts April 1.

Applicants can call (219) 879-3898 or (219) 363-4402 for details and registration information.

Clowns in attendance at the meeting were from Merrillville, Portage, Valparaiso, Hobart, Baroda, La Porte and Michigan City.

The group also discussed the hospitality night it will host at the World Clown Convention.

The photographer and prop committee were filled. There was considerable discussion about whether meetings need a sergeant-at arms. Still vacant are librarian and program committee positions.

A list of four area ACS "Relays for Life" will be sent to all members to determine the "clown power" available on those prospective dates.

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HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Margie Midkiff	176
2. MaryLou McFadden	175
3. Nancy Kubath	167
4. Dottie Brinkman	165
5. Ellie Parkerson	161
6. Tammy Nelmar	158
7. Tammy Vouri	156
8. Paulette Harnach	155
9. Barb Macudzinski	152
10. Sue Luegers	149

SPLITS

1. Carrie Alexander	5-8-10
2. MaryLou McFadden	5-8-7
3. Sue Luegers	5-10
4. Kathie Mole	1-3-10

Margie Midkiff — Four strikes in a row.



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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



On March 27, 1794, acting on the recommendation of President George Washington, Congress approved the establishment of the United States Navy.

On March 27, 1836, the first Mormon temple was dedicated in Kirtland, OH.

On March 27, 1884, the first long-distance telephone call (between the managers of the Bell Telephone Company in Boston and New York) was made.

On March 27, 1902, a Chicago newspaper writer first referred to the Chicago National League baseball team as the Cubs, a name officially adopted five years later.

On March 27, 1920, movie fans waxed ecstatic over the wedding of Hollywood's two most popular stars, Mary Pickford "America's Sweetheart," and Douglas Fairbanks.

On March 28, 1834, the Senate voted to censure President Andrew Jackson for the removal of federal funds from the Bank of the United States.

On March 28, 1858, Chicago's first YMCA was organized.

On March 28, 1925, the *Chicago Tribune* moved into the newly completed Tribune Tower.

On March 28, 1979, the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred when a cooling system malfunctioned at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island power plant.

On March 28, 1987, Maria von Trapp, whose life was the inspiration for the musical, "The Sound of Music," died in Morrisville, VT, at the age of 87.

On March 29, 1812, the first White House wedding took place when Lucy Payne Washington, sister-in-law of President James Madison, married supreme Court Justice Thomas Todd.

On March 29, 1848, mighty Niagara Falls stopped falling when an ice jam on Lake Erie blocked the flow of water to the Niagara River. It was 30 hours before the ice broke, and the falls were once more the delight of honeymooners.

On March 29, 1932, vaudeville comedian Jack Benny made his radio debut with these words, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is Jack Benny. There will be a slight pause while you say, 'Jack who?'"

On March 29, 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted on charges of espionage. They were executed in June of 1953.

On March 29, 1962, Jack Paar hosted NBC's "Tonight" show for the final time.

On March 29, 1982, Henry Fonda and Katharine

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Hepburn won Oscars for their performance in the award winning movie "On Golden Pond."

On March 30, 1858, Philadelphia's Hyman Lipman was granted a patent for a pencil equipped with an eraser.

On March 30, 1923, the British liner *SS Laconia*, flagship of the Cunard Line, became the first passenger ship to circumnavigate the world, arriving in New York City after 130 days.

On March 30, 1970, Secretariat, the racehorse who would win the Triple Crown in 1973, was born.

On March 30, 1981, while leaving a Washington hotel, President Reagan was shot by John Hinckley, Jr. Also shot was White House Press Secretary, James Brady; a secret service agent, and a Washington police officer.

On March 31, 1880, Wabash, IN, became the first town to be completely illuminated by electricity.

On March 31, 1889, the Eiffel Tower was officially opened in Paris.

On March 31, 1918, Daylight Savings Time went into effect in the United States.

On March 31, 1931, Knute Rockne, Notre Dame's legendary football coach, was killed when his plane crashed in Kansas.

On March 31, 1943, *Oklahoma*, the long-running Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, opened on Broadway.

On March 31, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson, in a surprise announcement, said "I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your president."

On March 31, 1980, United States track and field star Jesse Owens, hero of the 1936 Berlin Olympics, died at the age of 66.

On March 31, 2005, Terri Schiavo died in a hospice in Pinellas Park, FL, 13 days after her feeding tube was removed in a wrenching right-to-die dispute; she was 41.

On April 1, 1853, Cincinnati became the first city in the U.S. to pay its firefighters a regular salary.

On April 1, 1872, the Chicago Public Library was created.

On April 1, 1963, the daytime soap opera "General Hospital" premiered on ABC-TV.

On April 1, 1999, a New Jersey man was arrested and charged with originating the "Melissa" e-mail virus. David L. Smith later pleaded guilty to various state and federal charges.

On April 2, 1932, as a ransom for his infant kidnapped son, Charles Lindberg turned over \$50,000 to an unidentified man.

On April 2, 1975, up to 12-inches of snow fell in the Chicago area.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

March 27-29 — "The Wiz," South Central Jr./Sr. High School, 9808 S. County Road 600 West, Union Mills. Times: 7 p.m. Thurs./Fri., 2 and 7 p.m. Sat. Tickets: \$5. Info: barnesc@scentral.k12.in.us

March 28 — Barker Hall Open Stage, Barker Hall Bishop's Mansion, 618 N. Franklin Square. Doors open 7 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m.

March 28 — "Hilarity for Charity," 7-8:30 p.m., PNC Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 144. \$5 cost donated to Alzheimer's Association. Info: www.hilarityforcharity.org

March 28-31 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "The Rocket," about a boy who leads his family (and a couple of ragged misfits) through Laos to find a new home. English subtitles. Not rated. Times: 6:15 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "The Invisible Woman," starring Ralph Fiennes as Charles Dickens and Felicity Jones as his secret mistress. Rated R. Time: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sun., 3:15 p.m. Sat./Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

March 29 — Trash N Treasure Sale, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Michigan City Senior Center, 2 on the Lake. Info: (219) 873-1504.

March 29 — Women's History Month: Folk Singer Linda Boyle, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Free. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 29 — Previews of new exhibit area, design panels and new temporary display, 2 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. Info: (219) 983-9715.

March 29 — Watercolor workshop, "Thinking About Spring," 1-4 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Cost: \$25/members, \$30/non-members. Info/reservations: (219) 926-4711.

March 29 — "Fire on the Prairie," 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center, 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

March 29-30 — Hoosier Star auditions, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun., La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St., La Porte. Vocalists not pre-registered accepted on first-come, first-served basis. Info: (219) 362-9020, HoosierSTAR@LCSO.net

March 29-30 — String-A-Long Quilt Guild 16th biennial show, "30 Years & Still in the Making," 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun., Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road, Valparaiso. Cost: \$8/free children 12 and younger. Info: csun52@hotmail.com/(219) 921-6956.

March 30 — Classical accordion with Steve Kowalczyk, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Free. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 30 — La Porte County Symphony Orchestra Children's Chorus concert, 3 p.m., The Presbyterian Church, 307 Kingsbury Ave., La Porte. Info: (219) 363-7050.

April 1 — Washington Park Zoo in Michigan City opens. Hours through Memorial Day: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Entrance gate closes 3 p.m. Info: (219) 873-1510.

April 1 — Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park opens. Hours: 1-4 p.m. Tues.-Sun. Info: (219) 872-6133.

April 1 — Local Lore series, "The Wabash Railroad," 6:30 p.m., La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte. Info: (219) 362-6156/mhedge@laportelibrary.org

April 1 — "Spring Economic Briefing," Purdue University-North Central LSF Building 144. Registration: 7 a.m./breakfast, program/7:30 a.m. Cost: \$15/LP and MC chamber members, \$20 for non-members. Registration: www.lpchamber.com

April 1 — "Experiences as a Deaf Social Worker," 5:30 p.m., PNC Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 144. Free. Info: (219) 785-5200, Ext. 5432/kdonah@pnc.edu

April 1 — Free Preschool Preview Night, 6-8 p.m., Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

April 2 — United Way of La Porte County Community Visioning, Blue Chip Casino Stardust Event Center. Free breakfast/7:30 a.m., then guided discussion. Reservation deadline: Friday, March 28, at info@unitedwaylpc.org/(219) 210-3534.

April 2 — Art Critique Night, 7:30 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: (219) 926-4711/www.chestertonart.com

April 3 — Season Nine "American Idol" winner Lee DeWyze, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theatre, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30, \$40 VIP seating. Info/tickets: (269) 756-3879, www.acorntheater.com

April 4 — First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Michigan City's Uptown Arts District (11th/Franklin streets north to lake). Info: uptownartsdistrict.org

April 4-6, 10-13 — "Lost in Yonkers," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Tickets: \$12/adults, \$10/Thursdays for youth 12 and younger. Times: 8 p.m. Thur.-Sat. and 2 p.m. Sun. Doors open 45 minutes prior to curtain. Reservations/info: www.footlight-players.org, (219) 874-4035.

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

Farther Afield:

March 29 — Elkhart Civic Theatre's "Comedy Criminals," two preliminary rounds, 7:30 p.m. EDT, Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Tickets: \$12 for each session, purchased through www.elkhartcivictheatre.org/(574) 848-4116.

March 29 — Eryca Nelson with opening act Al Kniola, 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Cost: \$10/adults, \$8/seniors and students, free/12 and younger. Info: (269) 983-3688/www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

March 29 — Free indoor flea market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EDT, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Info: www.friendsofnewtroy.org

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Contact: Send cover letter, resume and two letters of recommendation to: jwhite@marquette-hs.org

Description: The Assistant Residential Dean works collaboratively with the Residential Dean in securing the safety, comfort and personal needs of Marquette's Global Studies students. The dean is responsible for attending to students' personal needs, light cleaning, mini-van driving, gardening, cooking, general repairs and maintenance, IE: shoveling walks, changing light bulbs, planting, watering. The dean must hold a valid Indiana driver's license. Special considerations include the following experiences: teaching, boarding program, working with teens, bilingual and other. The dean should be positive in nature, love working with teenagers and uphold Catholic morals and values as a role model to others. The position compensation includes room, board, vacation/sick time and individual health insurance options.

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City Kids Day Camp

Pre-registration is under way for City Kids Day Camp, which targets youth 6 to 11.

Becky McCray directs the program, which is limited to 65 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department. Age verification with a birth or baptismal certificate is required to pre-register.

The cost is \$35 a week, or \$20 for children enrolled in Michigan City Area Schools Summer School.

Held at Lake Hills Elementary School, the camp runs June 16 through Aug. 8. Times are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, with no camp on July 4. Schedule camp arrangements in advance. Leaders will leave with the campers for all scheduled field trips and special events. A camp agenda will be provided.

Call the park department's lakefront office at (219) 873-1506 for more information.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

November's Fury by Michael Schumacher (hardcover, \$24.95 retail in bookstores and online)

"If ever there were a 'perfect storm' on the Great Lakes, it would be the one that pounded the lakes from November 7 through November 10, 1913, leaving a wake of destruction unlike anything ever seen on freshwater at any point in recorded history."

That is the opening sentence of this week's book recommendation, setting the stage for a read more horrifying than any fictional story of suspense and bloodshed.

During this short time period, 12 boats sank, 31 grounded on rocks or beaches and dozens more were badly damaged. The toll in human lives? More than 250 men.

Remember "The Perfect Storm," the movie based on Sebastian Junger's book about the 1991 storm on the U.S. eastern seaboard? The 1913 event was a definite freak of nature as well, with several fronts coming together to form a storm of such magnitude that no one at the time could predict.

The Weather Bureau had been in existence since 1870 within the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Problem was, even by 1913, sailors had no respect for the bureau. Weather predicting was haphazard, weather maps were crude and information generally got to the ships too late to be of any help. While the bureau had posted weather warnings for snow and choppy water that week in November, it did not have the knowledge to predict how fast and furious the conditions would change.

And change they did.

At the height of the storm, snow was flying horizontally, whipped by 50- to 79-mile an hour winds, causing ice to form on the boats and making visibility the equivalent of trying to see through a solid white curtain. Then, there were the troughs boats were caught in caused by high, relentlessly forming waves that flipped over even the biggest of the boats.

In the words of the author, *"This was nothing less than a freshwater hurricane."*

Remember, these were not small fishing vessels. These were huge load-carrying boats measuring from 200 to 550 feet in length, filled with iron ore, lumber, steel rails and much more. The author has a comprehensive list at the back of the book naming boats both lost and stranded, complete with a list of cargo aboard and number of crew, although one sailor said those lists of sailors was never accurate,



making it hard to identify and list the dead and missing after the storm passed.

The book contains many personal accounts, newspaper reports of the day and many great photos that helped bring home the complete horror that hit the Great Lakes at this time.

One of the more absurd stories was a lightship torn from its moorings and pushed more than three miles from its location. The light continued to function and caused the 500-foot *Matthew Andrews* to run aground because it was following what should have been the signal light's location. This could have been prevented, but the lightship captain wouldn't OK the \$25 towing fee to get it back to where it was supposed to be.

There's also a chapter on Cleveland, which bore a big brunt of the storm, the blizzard virtually holding the city in an icy grip and cutting it off from the rest of the state for days. There were so many downed power lines, the electric company had to shut down all electricity to the city.

Every chapter brings you more of the horrors of the life-and-death struggles the sailors faced. There also is the storm's aftermath: bodies and rubble washed up miles from where the boats went down, people robbing the bodies of money, watches and whatever they could, making identification for the families that much more difficult. And, there was the blame game. Who was to blame for the tragedy? The Weather Bureau? Or how about the boat owners who pushed their captains to get out and make their deliveries on time before winter set in.

There is an unspoken understanding among those who work in the Great Lakes: boats, no matter how big and well built, can sink, and, sailors can die. This storm of 1913, unfortunately, proved that axiom all too well.

This is a phenomenal book. I can't praise it enough for its well-researched details and especially its humanity, bringing you not just a story about a storm, but also about the people who lived and died through it.

Chicago Book Review said: "Schumacher does a great service to the memories of those who lived through the storm, sharing in their own words their stories of survival."

Schumacher lives in Wisconsin and is the author of 12 books and 25 documentaries on Great Lakes shipwrecks and lighthouses.

Till next time, happy reading!



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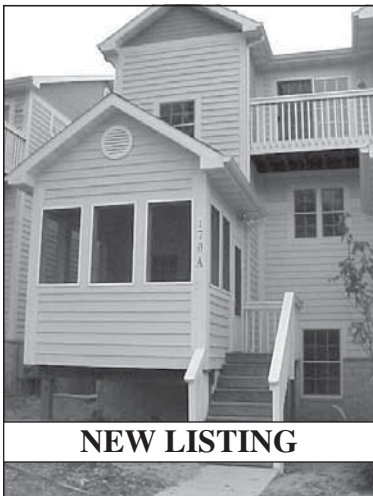
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5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths. Two fireplaces, grand foyer, spacious rooms, formal dining room & sun room. Spacious kitchen with Cherry cabinets, island & breakfast area. Huge master suite has sitting area, large closets & private bath. Lower level has large rec room & full bath. Many windows throughout home that showcase golf course & water views. Nice cul-de-sac location in Sand Creek with private gated entry.



49109 Knob Hill Drive • Grand Beach • \$499,000

5 bedrooms, 3 baths. Two fireplaces, one gas & one wood burning. Three bedrooms on main level plus two on the lower level that has a rec room & second kitchen. Deck off living room to relax with sunsets. Many windows offer partial views of Lake Michigan. Professionally maintained sprinkler system. Just a short stroll to the beach or take the electric golf cart that is included & ride off to golf, tennis or playground. Home has been meticulously cared for.



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