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Riding High

At 84, Bicycling Keeps Dan Tompkins in a Healthy Frame of Mind

by Andrew Tallackson



Dan Tompkins couldn't have asked for a better day to enjoy a leisurely bike ride around Striebel Pond.

On this Wednesday morning in mid-August, the warmth of the sun offers a steady embrace. The faintest trace of a breeze is visible only by the way tall blades of grass bend in its grasp.

A husband and wife's muffled sounds of laughter can be heard from a shelter within the park at Earl Road and Hitchcock Street. Nearby, a woman pauses at the start of a path. Her brown, shoulder-length hair tied back in a ponytail, she stretches, adjusts the sound levels on her iPod, then takes off for a hearty run.

A few moments later, Tompkins eases onto the seat of his bicycle. There is no fanfare, no declaration of which path he might take, whether it be the park's perimeter loop, which is about one mile, or the Figure 8 loop, which is about 1.5 miles. Instead, he quietly begins his journey, pedaling steadily.



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Dan with his twin grandchildren, Carson and Kilee, when they were toddlers and later, in 2008, when they were able to join him for a bike ride.

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Riding High

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At peace.

Tompkins started bicycling regularly seven years ago. These days, he rides about 600 miles a month. By the end of 2014, his will have logged 12,000 miles since his seven-year journey began.

On Aug. 7, the Michigan City native turned 84. He is a portrait of excellent health, his love of bicycling having a ripple effect on other aspects of his life, from his energy level to what he chooses to eat.

"Some people don't believe me when I tell them," he said, relaxing in his Trail Creek home with his wife, Charmaine. "I tell some people, 'I don't get

paid for every mile I ride. I'm not going down in the history books, so if you want to believe it or not, that's OK."

Tompkins isn't being gruff when he speaks of his enthusiasm for bicycling. That he is a former U.S. Marine sheds some insight into the no-nonsense, matter-of-fact way he presents himself. And when he discusses his past, it is evident a healthy attitude has permeated his life and that of his family.

The Elston High School graduate was an electrician for 57 years. His work often took him away from home, but when he returned, Charmaine says, family was his priority. The two raised a family of five (they also have six grandchildren), and what-



Dan prepares to begin his bicycle ride at Striebel Pond.



Dan and Chairmaine Tompkins relax in their Trail Creek home.

ever the children became involved in, Dan and Charmaine supported, whether it be at the YMCA, school sports, swim teams or gymnastics.

Once the children were older, Charmaine worked as a paraprofessional with Michigan City Area Schools. Dan, in addition to being an electrician, became a devoted public servant. He served on the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission and South Shore Clean Cities, and continues to serve on the La Porte County Solid Waste District advisory board.



Dan served for 36 years on the Trail Creek Town Council.

In Trail Creek, he served on the Town Council for 36 years and was instrumental in creating its park board, as well as its T-ball leagues.

"Girls were playing on the same teams as boys," Dan said. "Those girls went on to play college ball. They were some of the best players on the team."

It was seven years ago that he became active in bicycling.

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Two Marketplaces; Real Sellers and Pretend Sellers⁽¹⁾

When I looked at the following numbers, what is happening in the marketplace along Lake Michigan became very clear to me.

8/01/13-7/31/14 timeframe	Units	Aver Price Thou.	Med Price Thou.	Total \$Vol Mill.
For Sale	152	\$558	\$433	\$85
Expired/did not sell	197	\$541	\$449	\$107
Sold	123	\$418	\$295	\$51

Unit Number data means that it will take "on average" over a year to sell your house. 152/123 equals 1.24 years or about 15 months to sell. That is high, and it is really not correct.

The average and median price data indicate that prices for "houses for sale" and "houses that expired without selling" are significantly higher than for the houses that "sold." The median is the best comparable indicator. Expired median is \$449,000. Sold median is \$295,000. Expired median is 52% higher than sold median.

This data tells me that there are houses that have been selling because they were priced right (usually in less than five months according to other data I checked) and there are houses that just keep coming back on the market at prices higher than buyers will pay. There are 60% more houses that did not sell than sold in the past 12 months. This number explains why the market feels like it is both doing well and not doing well at the same time. That is exactly what is happening. Two market places: one good; one bad.

Those that are paying attention to what buyers will pay are selling—fairly quickly—six months for second homes is a normal market time. But there are a lot more "pretend sellers" who are unwilling to abide by the marketplace. They just go in circles without selling. And they cause confusion about what is happening.

Sellers have to decide which one they want to be: A Real Seller or a Pretend Seller.

(1) My usual definition of marketplace from Steel Mill to Michigan state line on Lake Michigan side of Rte. 12.

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Riding High

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"For some reason, my family figured I needed a bike," Dan said. "I didn't want a bike, but once I started, I liked it."

The bike wasn't anything fancy, just a sturdy, one-speed red-and-black bicycle. At first, he road around the neighborhood. Watching his youngest daughter's twins, Carson and Kilee, he'd attach a cart to his bicycle and take them for short trips, all frequently halted by a giggling Kilee throwing her shoes onto the street.



Dan Tompkins appears with his bicycle outside his Trail Creek Home.

"Eventually," Dan explained, "someone said, 'How many miles do you put on? I said, 'I don't know.'"

That's when bicycling escalated to the next level. Trips now involved four-mile rides through Trail Creek, or about three miles at Striebel Pond.

The rides became a steady part of his daily routine five years ago. Depending on the weather, he'd get up at 7 a.m. and soon after head out for a ride. Striebel Pond became his favorite spot. He began keeping track of how many miles he rode daily. For a while, he was riding 170 miles a week. He's now scaled back a bit to 150 miles a week. He's been through three sets of bicycle tires and one seat.

Before riding, he does no warmup exercises. He just goes for it. He does have a small black pouch attached to the front of his bicycle to store bottled water.

"I'm not out of breath (after riding)," he said. "I have no chest pains. My doctor told me, 'If you feel good on the bike, ride the bike.'"

Bicycling also inspired Dan to modify his diet.

"He watches what he eats," Charmaine says. "He eats small portions, fish, vegetables, fresh fruits. I bake frequently, but he will limit himself."

Dan won't head out on his bicycle when it rains,



Dan embarks on his ride at Striebel Pond amid a glorious summer's day in August.

nor will he risk his safety. In particular, he never rides at night.

"I am very careful," he said. "I always stay on the blacktop. I know every street coming, what's planted here and there. I've never had a close call."

Dan's daughter, Trish, who also lives in Trail Creek, never anticipated her father would embrace bicycling as much as he has.

"My father is very set in his ways," she said with a laugh. "If he needed a new pair of gym shoes, for example, my mom would tell him. He would say, 'These are OK.' But now, if one of us kids would say something, then he'd say, 'Oh, OK.'"

"The bike was sort of the same thing. When he had minor surgery this January, we all thought, well, we'll see if he can ride his bike. That will be the tell-tale sign. Fortunately, he still got out on his bike.

"People say how at that age that it's so amazing that he still does it. As times goes on, I'm still very proud and happy that he does it."

For Charmaine, seeing how family and friends have embraced Dan's interest has been a treat.

"There isn't a day that goes by when someone asks if he's ridden his bike," she said, smiling. "Our children will say to people, 'If you see my dad around, in Trail Creek or Michigan City, don't honk or wave or expect him to honk back. He's concentrating on taking a nice, safe bike ride.'"

"I know how, for Dan, he's in a routine, and he's proud to be able to exercise at his age and keep it up. I think it's calming for him."

Indeed, bicycling is something Dan has no intention of giving up.

"As of now, I have no problems," he stated proudly. "I love that I'm able to do it."



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The Great March for Climate Action



The group at Bold Nebraska Build Our Energy Barn.

The 3,000-mile Great March for Climate Action is coming to Michigan City on Wednesday, Sept. 10.

Organized to promote public dialogue and action concerning climate-change issues, the event began March 1 in Los Angeles and ends Nov. 1 in Washington, D.C.

The marchers have been camping in parks, campgrounds and fields, as well as staying in churches, schools and private homes. They seek to learn at the grassroots level about how people are being affected by climate change.

Following a rally at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, in Chicago's downtown Daley Plaza, the 30 or more marchers will walk to Whiting, then to Miller Beach's Marquette Park United Methodist Church. From there, they will walk 21.5 miles to Michigan City, arriving Wednesday, Sept. 10.

The marchers will gather with local supporters and friends outside Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square, at 6 p.m. The group will hear music by local and marcher musicians, and stroll through the Uptown Arts District to Michigan City Public Library. The 6:30 p.m. program there will include music from the marchers' Gypsy Band, as well as conversations about their experiences on the road and about local climate-related issues.

The public can join the free events, as well as the march itself.

The marchers will overnight Sept. 10 at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St., and in local homes. Trinity Episcopal Church will provide a dinner for the marchers only, with help from volunteer chefs who respond to the Great Indiana Casserole Challenge.

Patterned after the 300 Casserole Challenge that helped fuel the march for 26 days in Iowa, the Chal-

lenge seeks donations of casseroles that follow simple guidelines.

Trying to walk the talk, the march is trying to walk and eat across Indiana without using plastic, plastic "compostables" or disposable items.

Volunteer chefs are asked to place casseroles in recyclable/reusable aluminum containers that are covered with aluminum lids or foil, bakers' parchment paper or other non-plastic material.

All casseroles must be fully cooked and fully frozen. A list of ingredients or a complete recipe must be attached to each casserole.

To increase the challenge for volunteer chefs, most of the marchers are vegetarian or vegan (no dairy or eggs), and some are gluten-free. Even so, meat-based casseroles will be welcome.

Casseroles should be delivered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday,

Sept. 9, to Trinity Episcopal Church. Contact Clifford Peterson with information regarding the kind and number of casseroles you will bring at (765) 586-2686 or c.b.peterson@icloud.com

A midday stop Sept. 11 is at Hook Pottery Paper, 11.3 miles from the starting point (First Presbyterian Church, where there will be demonstrations of homegrown ecotechnology).

Indiana stops beyond Hook Pottery are Bourissa Hills Park (New Carlisle), Good Shepherd Montessori School (South Bend), Woodlawn Nature Center (Elkhart), Goshen College, Shipshewana Flea Market and Auction and the Trading Post Canoe Kayak and Campground (Mingo).

Information about all aspects of the march, including how to join as a marcher, is available at <http://climatemarch.org>, by email at march@climatemarch.org or by calling Jared at (515) 306-0835.



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2001 Lakeshore Drive, Long Beach



1920 Spanish Colonial reincarnated on 80' of Lakeshore Drive. Living room with wood burning hearth boasts 20' vaulted barrel ceiling opposing wood floors. New kitchen with Bosch 5 burner, pantry, SS and granite offers breakfast room and leads to formal dining room. 5 BRs & 2.5 BAs join main floor sun room. Storage, laundry, & sauna finishes basement.

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“By the Artist’s Hand”



Sam Smith's pastel work, "Swan."

The new Southern Shore Art Association exhibit "By the Artist's Hand" will debut during the Uptown Arts District First Friday event from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, at the SSAA gallery, 724 Franklin St.

The exhibit will include paintings in all media, drawing and collage, along with sculpture and woodworking. Styles range from realism, impressionism, cubism and expressionism to surrealism and abstractionism, all created with hands on brushes, pencils, pastels, knives and chisels.

SSAA members range from emerging to established artists. Refreshments will be served during the opening reception. Visit www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com for more information.



Ed Levitin's acrylic work "Face Off."



Matt Kubik's sketchbook drawing "Piazza del Popolo."



Linda Mackey's acrylic work "Windy City Girls."



Larry Jensen's "Walnut Dish."



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Michigan City RV and Outdoor Show

The annual event was held Aug. 21-24 in Michigan City.



Photos by Oleg Semkoff



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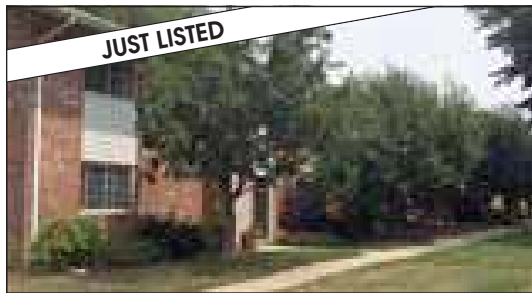
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-- submitted by the
LaPorte County
Convention and
Visitors Bureau

After a hiatus of several years, the Rolling Prairie Community & Business Association is bringing back the Olde Farmers Fest.

Some very active people from the community have organized one of the best festivals Rolling Prairie has seen, and they want to share the fun with everyone. All proceeds will go back to the community.

I ask some of the committee members why they decided to host an Olde Farmers Fest.

Local resident Herold Russell said Rolling Prairie always has been a farming community.

"My grandfather came here in 1919 to work at the R.P. Lumber and Grain Elevator," he said. "Later, he bought the elevator and sold it to the Co-op in 1953. Farming is still a large part of the community, with people growing seed corn, tomatoes and various fruits.

"There will be vendors at the fest selling farm fresh produce so people can really get a taste of Rolling Prairie."

I have always found Rolling Prairie very interesting and steeped in history. It was part of the original 1913 Lincoln Highway, which ran coast-to-coast from Times Square in New York City to Lincoln Park in San Francisco. It had businesses that supported travelers passing along this road. Those businesses included automobile garages, tourist cabins and restaurants. Bob's Bar-B-Q was one of those early restaurants and is still in business, now called Jennie Rae's.

In the early 1800s, settlers began to arrive, build cabins and named the settlement Nauvoo. The name of Rolling Prairie, descriptive of the undulating terrain, later was adopted by one of the railroad companies operating through the town.

If you want to know more about Rolling Prairie, be sure to attend the Olde Farmers Fest on Sept. 12-14. While you are in Rolling Prairie, stop by the post office and see the history come alive in the beautiful murals painted on the walls and watch the movie "Going Rolling." Chicago-area transplant Rick Erwin, a documentary filmmaker and visual journalist, made a documentary encompassing the history of Rolling Prairie, from its start in 1832 through its emergence into the present day, with firsthand accounts supplied by local residents.

Also, don't forget to sign up for the charity 5K run/walk. The Rolling Prairie Business & Community Association is planning a 5K run/walk as part of its Olde Farmers Fest this year. It will start at

Rolling Prairie Elementary School, 605 E. Michigan St. Follow this link to register: <http://www.active.com/rolling-prairie-in/running/races/old-farmers-fest-5k-run-and-fun-walk-2014>

All proceeds from the 5K run and walk support the Community Food Pantry, which serves Kankakee, Wills, Galena and Hudson townships. The course, which begins and ends at Rolling Prairie Elementary, will meander throughout Rolling Prairie, giving participants a flavor of the community.

The special features and highlights of this year's event are farm-fresh produce, specialty foods, kiddie tractor pull, corn eating contest, antique car and tractor show, square dancing, a townwide yard sale and many other attractions and features.

There will be abundant parking available at Rolling Prairie Elementary located three blocks from the festival site. Free shuttle rides will be provided.

Pick up a schedule of events at various businesses throughout the county, at the La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau or visit the Rolling Prairie Business & Community Association Facebook page for a detailed schedule.



Olde Farmers Fest committee members Iva Wasielewski (from left), Don Lode, Byron Reinhold and Herald Russell.

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Meet the Hoosier STAR 2014 Finalists

Six adult and six youth finalists will appear in what organizers call the “fiercest competition to date” during the ninth annual La Porte County Symphony Orchestra benefit, Hoosier Star 2014, on Saturday, Sept. 13, at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., La Porte.

The audience votes for the winner.

The adult finalists are:



• **Sarah Gorecki** — Having performed, recorded and traveled extensively, Gorecki will perform Whitney Houston’s “I Have Nothing.” She appeared as the lead in “Annie” and “Beauty and the Beast” and at 12 recorded her first album. After high school, she moved to California, where she lived for three years as a singer/songwriter for various artists and record companies. Last spring, she graduated from DePaul University with a double-major in journalism and psychology and is enrolled in Loyola University Law School.



• **Jenny Hartson** — Hoosier Star’s 2007 Youth Division Winner, she will perform “When I Fall in Love” by Doris Day. She has performed alongside the likes of Randy Travis, John McLaughlin and The North American Brass Co. She attended the Berklee College of Music, but chose to delay her pursuit of a music career in favor of her newfound love — retail — that developed while working at her current position with Levi Strauss and Co.



• **Taylor Carter** — Carter will sing “I Dreamed a Dream” from “Les Miserables.” Set to begin her third year at Ball State University, she is a singer and youth leader at All Nations Church and has performed as the lead for musical productions such as “The Phantom of the Opera,” in which she played Christine, and “Les

Miserables,” in which she played Fantine. She has competed in the national NAACP ACT-SO classical voice division and appeared on “The Steve Harvey Show.” She also is a dancer and one of only five in the nation selected to serve as a Disney Dreamers Academy Champion Ambassador.



• **Brandon Dickson** — A country music lover, he will perform “A Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde” by Travis Tritt, one of his favorite country artists. A Blueberry Festival karaoke contest winner, he also is a sports and ultimate fighting enthusiast.



• **Delshawn Taylor** — Taylor will perform “Make Them Hear You” from “Ragtime.” Accomplished within the classical world as a composer and vocalist, he has directed, accompanied and vocally coached 10 musical productions at South Bend Civic Theatre and local high schools. He has performed lead roles in productions featured at Opera Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s Opera and the University of Evansville Opera. As a composer, he has written music for plays, instrumentalists and adult and children’s choirs. His composition, “In Remembrance,” has received success with two commissions.



• **Mandalyn Early** — Early will perform “Reign O’er Me” by The Who and in the style of Heart. She is the lead singer of the Michiana rock band Nawty, which has performed throughout Northwest Indiana. Through the band, she has opened for Survivor, played a post-Pat Benatar party and opened for Uncle Kracker last August. She has won many awards, some of which led her to competitions in Canada and Disney World.



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Youth-division finalists are:

- **Sandy Akers** — vocalist, thespian and National Honor Society member.
- **Marcos Buslon**, singer and honor roll student.
- **Madeline Conley** — online editor-in-chief of her high school newspaper and Cystic Fibrosis Foundation advocate.
- **Madison Michael** — vice president of her high school class and member of the Indiana Circle of State Honor Choir.
- **Megan Scutchfield** — Actress and dancer.
- **Abigail Tomblin** — athlete and fourth-grade honor roll student.

First-place winners receive \$1,000 in the adult division and \$500 in the youth division.

Providing commentary and advice to finalists after each performance are three judges: newcomers Bonnie Quigley and Jim Post, and veteran Hoosier Star judge Warren Multon.

The Civic opens at 6 p.m., and the show starts at 7 p.m. Buy tickets at www.hoosierstar.com, where excerpts of the contestants' auditions are posted. Pre-sale tickets can be purchased at: La Porte — Roxy Music, L.R. Clothier & Tuxedos, La Porte Savings Bank, La Porte Civic Auditorium and Judee's Inc., and in Michigan City at La Porte County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Arturo's Baked Goods & More. Pre-sale tickets are \$10 for adults (\$15 at the door) and \$5 for children 12 and younger. Super coupons for a \$5 adult balcony entry are available only at La Porte County and Valparaiso Horizon Bank branches. Limited quantities of super coupons are available.



Sandy Akers



Marcos Buslon



Madeline Conley



Madison Michael



Megan Scutchfield



Abigail Tomblin

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LBCC Women's Golf Leagues

Long Beach Country Club

Ladies 18-Hole Golf 2014 Season Awards

Low Gross

A-Flight – Sue Luegers.
B-Flight – Donna Hennard.
C-Flight – June Salmon.
D-Flight – Tina Sonderby.

Low Net

A-Flight – Sue Luegers.
B-Flight – Pat Kelley.
C-Flight – Mary Weithers.
D-Flight – Tina Sonderby.

Low Putts

A-Flight – Carol Excell.
B-Flight – Pat Kelley.
C-Flight – Mary Weithers.
D-Flight – Adele O'Donnell.

Ringers

A-Flight – Sue Luegers.
B-Flight – Linda Wilson.
C-Flight – June Salmon.
D-Flight – Tina Sonderby.

Club Manager's Trophy

Joan Carey

Most Improved Golfer

Sue Luegers

Ladies 9-Hole Golf 2014 Season Awards

Low Net

Championship Flight — Carol Excell.
A-Flight (tie) — Gloria McMahon, Joan Carey.
B-Flight — Terry Deming.
C-Flight — Barbara Beardslee.

President's Cup

Mary O'Neil

Club Manager's Trophy

Gloria McMahon

Queen-of-the-Greens

Championship Flight — Pat Kelley
A-Flight — Mary Weithers
B-Flight — Mary O'Neil
C-Flight — Alison Kolb.

Most Improved

June Salmon

The 2014 18-Hole Golf Chair Tina Sonderby, 2015 18-Hole Golf Chair Kathie Mole, Summer Celebration co-chairs Kathy Brennan and Kathy Kennefick, 2014 9-Hole Chair Dotie Healy and 2015 9-Hole Golf Chair Eunie Nondorf.



Nine- and 18-hole lady golfers at Long Beach Country Club celebrate the end of the golf season during their annual Summer Celebration, the theme for which was "18 Shades of Green." Along with the presentation of the 2014 season golf awards, the group recognized Betty Duggan and Vangie Kuhn for their many years of service and participation. Special goodbyes were made to Dorie Mertz, who is making a permanent move to Florida.



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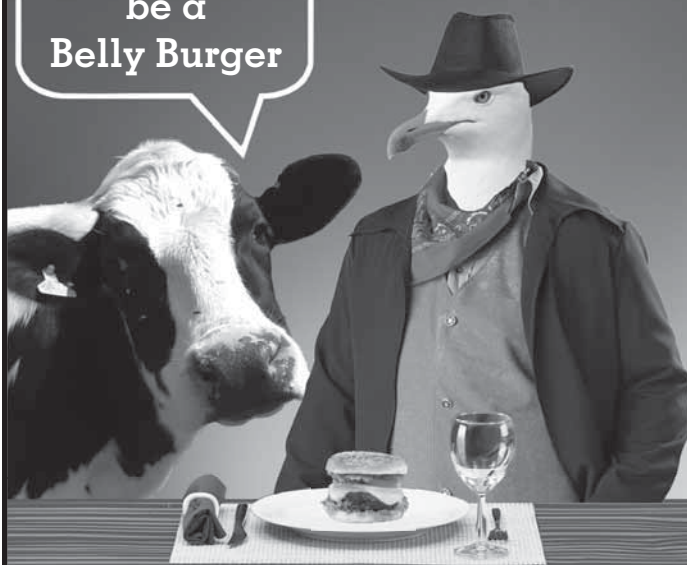
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Replicas Docked in Michigan City

The “Pinta” and “Nina,” replicas of Columbus’ ships, will be docked Sept. 3-8 at the Michigan City Port Authority, 200 Heisman Harbor.

The “Nina” was built entirely by hand and without power tools. Archaeology magazine called it “the most historically correct Columbus replica ever built.” The “Pinta” recently was built in Brazil to accompany the Nina. She is a larger version of the archetypal caravel.



The “Pinta” and “Nina.”

Both ships tour together as a new and enhanced “sailing museum” to educate the public and school children on the “caravel”: a Portuguese ship used by Columbus and many early explorers.

The public is invited to visit the ships for a walk-a-board, self-guided tour. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$6 for students 5-16. Children 4 and younger are free. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. No reservations are necessary.

Teachers or organizations wishing to schedule a 30-minute guided tour with a crew member should call (787) 672-2152 or email columfnd1492@gmail.com. The required minimum of people is 15 and the cost \$5 per person. There is no limit to group sizes.

Visit www.thenina.com for more information.

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3 p.m. What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? (1962, 134 mins)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

1 p.m. Dark Victory (1939, 104 mins)
3 p.m. All About Eve (1950, 138 mins)

For more information call: (219) 873-3049

THEN SEE BETTE LIVE!

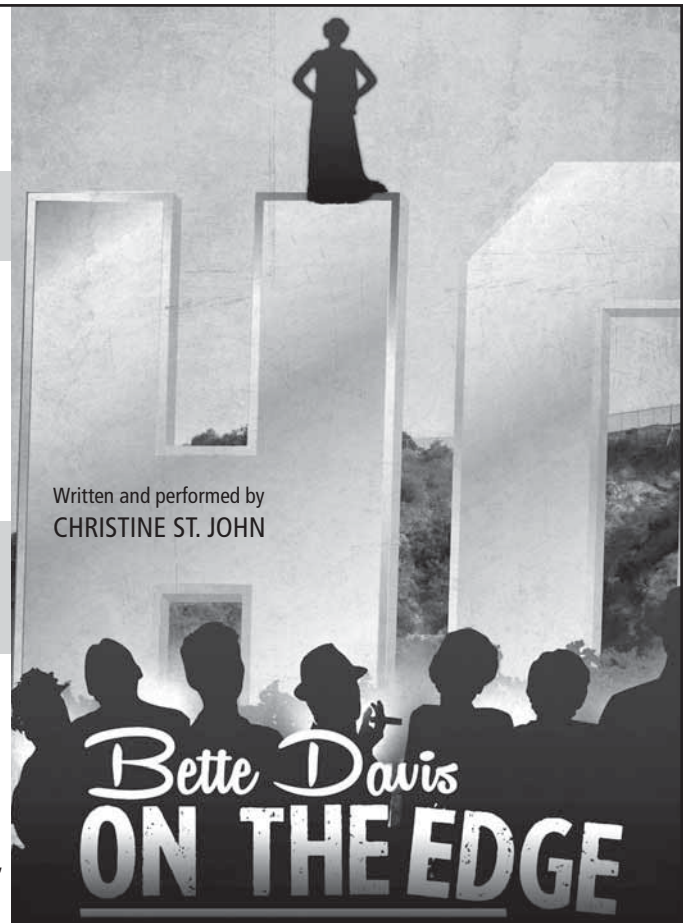
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This performance is sponsored by the Festival Players Guild, the Michigan City Public Library, and the Odyssey Arts Series of Purdue University North Central.



Written and performed by
CHRISTINE ST. JOHN

PNC Sinai Forum

The Purdue University-North Central Sinai Forum opens its 61st season with Jenn Lim, CEO at Delivering Happiness, on Sunday, Sept. 7.



Lim was instrumental in creating the culture described in the best-selling book "Delivering Happiness" by Tony Hsieh of Zappos Shoes. The book has sold more than 550,000 copies and been translated into 20 languages.

Lim will share her inspirational, research-based approach to creating meaning and happiness. Today, her work has touched people in 3,100 cities and 110 countries as a roadmap for communities, employers, educators and anyone who wants to find more meaning in life.

The program is at the Chesterton High School auditorium, 2125 S. 11th St. The remaining four sessions are at Blue Chip Casino's Stardust Event Center. All sessions begin at 4 p.m., with doors opening at 3 p.m.

Season tickets are \$100 for regular passes and \$200 for patron level passes, which include backstage access to the speakers and an exclusive reception. Students who show valid school identification are free. Tickets can be purchased at www.sinaiforum.org or at (219) 531-4200.



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In Memoriam

John C. Lyness, 89, a Long Beach resident for 48 years, died in his sleep Friday morning (Aug. 22, 2014) at Franciscan St. Anthony Health.

He was born Dec. 27, 1924, in Troy, Kan., to Mae Virgie Hildebrand and Charles Enoch Lyness.



John married Ruth Genevieve Nordberg of Indianapolis on Feb. 8, 1949, while he was stationed in the U.S. Army at Fort Dix, N.J. They met at Indiana University, where John earned a business degree after serving in the Army Air Corps in Europe during World War II. He also served in Korea and, among other posts,

at Charleston, S.C.; Dallas, Texas; Hokkaido, Japan; Fort Benning, Ga.; and Fort Bragg, N.C.

Upon leaving the Army as a captain in 1957, John began a multi-faceted career as a manufacturing quality control specialist at Arvin Industries in Columbus, Ind., RCA in Indianapolis and La Porte Slicing Co.

After the family decided to make Michigan City a permanent home, John worked in various local positions, including at Raytheon Co., Blocksom & Co., FW Dwyer, South Bend College of Commerce, Holiday Rambler recreational vehicles and the U.S. Postal Service. Ruth was an art teacher at Krueger Junior High School for more than 20 years. After their retirement, John and Ruth, with daughter Karen, became distributors of Shaklee nutrition products.

John sang bass in SPEBSQSA, the Barbershop Harmony Society. While his family was growing, John was a leader in the Boy Scouts, an ardent supporter of Michigan City sports and music programs and an active member of Michigan City's First United Methodist Church, where he sang in the church choir.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth; five children: Jack (Beth) Lyness, California, Kristine (Mike) Prohl, Karen Lyness, Kathy (Bob) Lee and David (Roxanne) Lyness, all of Michigan City; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild, a sister, Anita (Clayton) Wolfe, Kansas; and many nieces and nephews with children and grandchildren of their own.

Cremation was handled by Giesen-Carlisle Funeral Home. A memorial service was at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St., Michigan City. The Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Roberts officiated.

Memorial contributions can be made to the family, directly to First United Methodist Church or the charity of your choice.

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PNC Players Auditions

The Purdue University-North Central PNC Players will have open auditions for its fall show, Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa's "Rough Magic," from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11, and 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12, in the PNC Technology Building, Room 301.

Those interested may stop by at any point. Appointments are not required, but people should expect to stay for 30 minutes to an hour.

Auditions are open to community members, PNC students, faculty and staff, and involve reading from the script. No special preparation is required. There are five roles for women and five for men, plus two with gender-flexible casting possibilities. Most roles are flexible in terms of age, though one male must look approximately 17 to 18 years old.

"Rough Magic" drops characters from "The Tempest" into modern-day New York, with bizarre and dangerous consequences. Rehearsals, set for Sept. 17 through Nov. 6, will be scheduled in the afternoons and evenings based on the actors' availabilities. Rehearsals will be at PNC and at Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St., Michigan City, where the performances are planned. Show dates are Nov. 8-9 and 14-15.

Contact director Bethany Lee, PNC continuing lecturer of English, at btlee@pnc.edu or (219) 785-5229 for more information.

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Dragon Boat Race



As a fundraiser, Dunebrook will bring Dragon Boat racing to La Porte's Stone Lake on Saturday, Sept. 6.

Fifteen dragon boat teams will race across Stone Lake, with the first heat expected at 9 a.m. Paddlers include police, emergency responders, business professionals, human service providers, high school students and families.

The event also includes food vendors, family activities and a 50/50 raffle. Call (800) 897-0007 or visit www.dunebrook.org for more information.

First Fridays

The Uptown Arts District will present the First Fridays Art Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5.

Participating businesses and attractions are:

- Michigan City Old Lighthouse Museum, 1 Washington Park — Michigan City Fire Department exhibit and photography by Jan Hoeppner.
- Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. — Guitarist Peter Aglinskas and artist Hal Higdon.
- Hoity-Toity Consignments, 531 Franklin St. — Artist Suzanna Watson.
- Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square — Printmaking demonstrations.
- Walnut Ink Projects, 607 Franklin St. — Giant steamroller prints.
- Beach Bum Jewels, 621 Franklin St. — Rusty Strings Acoustic Band.
- Urban Soles Inc., 624 Franklin St. — Artists Kristin Hadari, Jerry Davidson and Chris Acton.
- Darling, 418 Franklin St. — Artist Julie Biehl.
- Revive Consignments & Revive HIM, 523 Franklin St. — Artist Jim Smeltzer.
- Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. — Master Gardener Donna Allen.
- The Framing Station, 912 Franklin St. — Botanical artist Ann Tompkins.
- The Closet by Franklin Vintage, 1011 Franklin St. — Works by Julia Nielsen.
- First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. — Sculptor/painter Kevin Firme and musician Dan Moser.
- Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St. — New exhibit, "By the Artist's Hand."
- Cabos Ice Cream Shop & Cafe, 731 Washington St. — Broken glass art by Sarah Wojosinski.
- Encore Consignment Boutique, 815 Franklin St. — Rita's Jewelry.

Entertainment includes:

- Maxine's Restaurant, 521 Franklin St. — Live blues and Motown with Luke Pytel. Info: www.maxines521.com.
- Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St. — First Friday Open Stage with featured artists Blake Vissing and Leah Goodall. Info: festivalplayersguild.org

Visit www.UptownArtsDistrict.org for additional information.

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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered through Indiana Dunes State Park:

Saturday, Sept. 6

History Comes Alive Weekend!

• 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. — Fur Trader Encampment.

Visit the Ojibwa Brigade on the beach east of the pavilion as it re-enacts the area's early French fur traders.

• 10 a.m. — Beaver Trading Hike.

Meet a naturalist at the campground shelter for a trek through the dunes, and meet re-enactors portraying early French fur traders. Take a beaver pelt or borrow one on site.

• 2 p.m. — Shipwreck Stories.

Hear stories about Great Lakes shipwrecks during the hour-long program at the Nature Center auditorium.

• 2 p.m. — Archery in the Park.

Learn about the history of archery and its use today in modern hunting and animal stewardship. Afterwards, archery sets will be available for children and adults. Meet at the Nature Center.

Sunday, Sept. 7

• 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Fur Trader Encampment.

Visit the Ojibwa Brigade on the beach east of the pavilion as it re-enacts the area's early French fur traders.


• 10 a.m. — Dunes History Hike.

Meet a naturalist at the campground shelter for a trek through the dunes, and meet re-enactors portraying early French fur traders.

• 2 p.m. — History Crafts.

Meet 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.

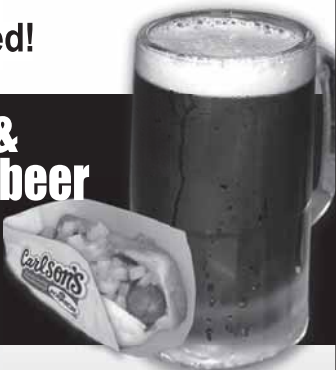


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THE STEAMROLLER PRINTMAKING PROJECT

Photos by
Oleg Semkoff



Local artists and volunteers on Saturday, Aug. 23, made large-scale prints, with the aid of a steamroller, in Michigan City's Uptown Arts District.



Lunch With the League

Paul Labovitz, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore superintendent, will speak at Lunch With the League at noon Tuesday, Sept. 9, at Lindo's Restaurant, 3940 Franklin St.

Labovitz was appointed superintendent of the 15,000-acre Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore this past spring. His program will highlight the National Lakeshore and his responsibilities as superintendent. The park is comprised of dunes, swamps, bogs, marshes, prairies, rivers and forests. It contains 15 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline spanning Gary to Michigan City.

Call Sue Webster at (219) 874-6809 or visit www.lwvlaporte.org for more information.

Lady Bowlers

The Lady Bowlers is seeking more bowlers to join the league.

The schedule begins Sept. 9 and ends in December, then resumes in January and continues through April. Three-person teams meet from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes, 1901 S. Woodland Ave. The league can help people find a team, or those interested can assemble their own team.

Call Mary Lou McFadden at (219) 879-5581 if interested.

Musician at Lubeznik Center

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will present musician Peter Aglinskis during the Uptown Arts District First Friday Artwalk from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5.

Recipient of the Chicago Cultural Department's "Artists International" Award, Aglinskis' music fuses contemporary jazz, funk and rock with technique rooted in the classical music tradition.



He has written scores for theater and was nominated twice for a Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Original Musical Score. He has been a composer and guitarist in Chicago musical ensembles such as The Loop Group, David Hernandez and

Street Sounds, Kapture and Funk Bunker.

Also during First Friday, an opening reception for "Theme and Variation" by Hal Higdon is in the Small NIPSCO Art Education Studio. The exhibit features original comic art from Higdon's collection alongside newly created paintings of runners.

Other exhibits on display include: "Invasive Species...The Art of Upcycling" (Hyndman Gallery) featuring artwork by Michael Dinges, Victoria Fuller, Alan Emerson Hicks, Valerie Mann, Chris Silva and Bryan Sperry; "Transformation" (North View Gallery) featuring an installation by Jan Dean; "Aquatic Kaleidoscope" (Brincka-Cross Gallery) by Renee Robbins and featuring paintings that juxtapose flora and fauna; and "Mycological Magic," photos by Mike Bailey (Large NIPSCO Art Education Studios).

Weather permitting, entertainment and refreshments will be in the center's north lot.

Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org or call (219) 874-4900 for more information.

Artists Mixer

South Bend Museum of Art will present an Artists Mixer from 5 to 9 p.m. EDT Friday, Sept. 5.

In addition to art already submitted for the event, those attending can take any artwork that will comfortably fit into a 9-by-12 inch envelope. Take it to the event and introduce yourself to a SBMA staff member, who will put the artwork in a numbered envelope and give you a ticket. At the end of the evening, turn in the ticket to select a different envelope and take new artwork home. Selection will be anonymous as all artworks will be in envelopes. Put your name on the back so the person who selects your artwork will know who created it.

The evening also will include music and treats.

The museum is located in The Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St., in downtown South Bend. Call (574) 235-9102 for more information.

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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are through Westchester Public Library:

• **“The Wizard of Oz” Sing-A-Long**, an interactive sing-a-long movie showing, from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, at the Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

This year marks the film’s 75th anniversary. Come dressed as your favorite character at 6 p.m. for the costume parade. The first 100 children receive a “movie fun pack.”

• **Alzheimer’s Association presentation**, “Know the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s and Dementia,” from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

The introductory program provides attendees with an understanding of the difference between age-related memory loss and Alzheimer’s, and what to do if they or someone they know has signs of the disease.

• **“Knitting Together at the Museum”** from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, at Brown Mansion, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Those who also crochet or do needlework are welcome.

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

Read and listen to poetry read aloud by individuals among the group. No registration is required.

• **Crochet Club resumes** from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, in the Children’s Department at Thomas Library.

Class size is limited, so registration is required. Children 9 and older are invited to register, even if they attended previous sessions. Attendees learn beginning crochet from instructor Sadie Steciuch. Previous participants practice what they’ve learned.

Children are asked to take a size G crochet hook and a skein of medium weight acrylic yarn.

• **Pokémon League** from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays in the Children’s Department at Thomas Library.

Beth Rutherford, mother of two sons who learned to battle and trade with their cards at a Pokeman League in Plymouth, Ind., will lead the group. Registration is not necessary.

• **Strum a Chord** for parents, caregivers and teachers from 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays at Hageman Library.

Veteran musician and teacher Frankie Cowan shows how to enjoy music with children. Attendees can take guitars, ukuleles or autoharps to learn how many songs may be played with as few as two or three chords.

Space is limited, so registration is required by calling (219) 926-9080.



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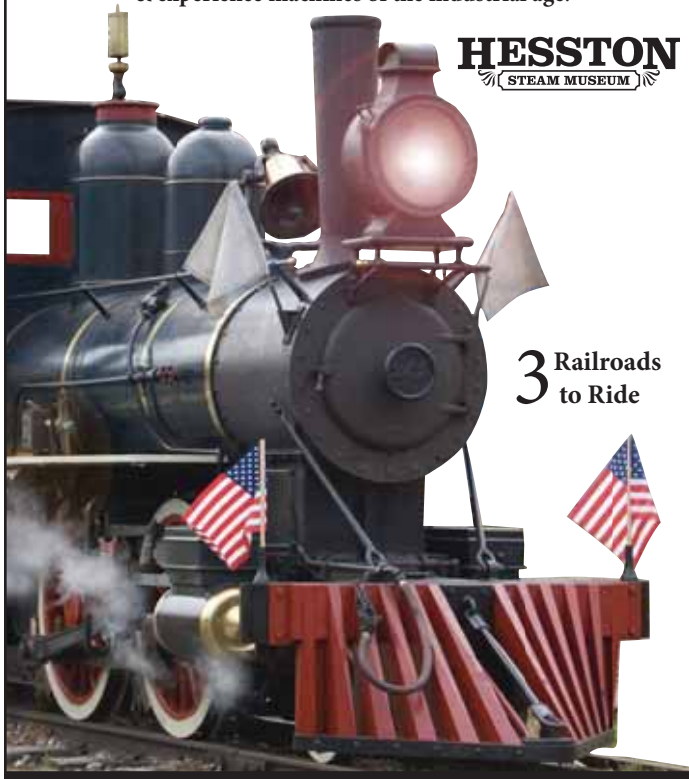
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First Friday Film Series

The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich., will present the first entry in its fall First Friday Film Series, the documentary "The Mona Lisa Mystery," at 7 p.m. EDT Friday, Sept. 5.



The Mona Lisa is the most famous painting in the world, marveled by millions every year in the Louvre in Paris. The documentary explores the question: Could there be a second Mona Lisa?

In 1913, a portrait surfaced depicting a younger Mona Lisa in a slightly different setting, and it's left unfinished: the so-called "Isleworth Mona Lisa." Only two contemporary references to the painting exist from the 15th century, and both suggested da Vinci could have painted the woman in the masterpiece more than once.

A \$5 suggested donation will be collected at the door. Visit www.boxfactoryforthearts.org/calendar/index.html#firstfriday or like The Box Factory on facebook for more information.

Fernwood Botanical Garden

The following program is available through Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich.:

• **Blue Coast Artists & Lakeshore Harvest Country Tour from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT Friday, Sept. 12.**

Blue Coast Artists members will offer a behind-the-scenes look into their galleries and studios, while family farms will welcome visitors along the Lakeshore Harvest Country tour route. Dress casually. A boxed lunch is included.

The cost is \$75, or \$60 for Fernwood and Buchanan Art Center members. Call (269) 695-6491 or visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org for more information.

Floral Design Class

Bernie Scott, owner of The Joy of Flowers, and designer Erica Scott will offer an eight-week floral design class this fall.

The hands-on training is from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 16 through Nov. 4.

Reservations for the class, limited to 12 people, along with additional information, including costs, are available by calling (219) 879-4047.

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"Dunes and Blooms"

"Dunes and Blooms," color photographs by regional photographers Joanne Markiewicz and Pete Doherty, runs through Feb. 27, 2015, at Valparaiso University's Christ College Commons, Mueller Hall, 1300 Chapel Drive.

An opening reception is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11.

Doherty is showing nine photographs of the Indiana Dunes landscape and Markiewicz nine photographs of closeups of flowers and leaves seen during her Hawaiian travels.

Mueller Hall is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Contact Gregg Hertzlieb, Brauer Museum of Art director/curator, at (219) 464-5761 or gregg.hertzlieb@valpo.edu for more information.

Parents Without Partners

Val-Porte-City 193 Parents Without Partners will host a potluck at 6:30 p.m. and a dance at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6, at American Legion Skwiat Post 451, 121 Skwiat Legion Ave., Michigan City.

Entertainment Express will provide music. Admission is \$8. Call (269) 489-4062 for information.

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Area Artists Association Exhibit

The Area Artists Association will present a new exhibit Sept. 13-Oct. 5, with an opening reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12, at Marshall J. Gardner Art Center, 540 S. Lake St., in the Miller Beach Arts & Creative District.

Founded in 1980, association members work in various media, including drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and computer-based works.



An oil and acrylic
on canvas by
Connie Kassal.

The current exhibit is the latest iteration of its promotional efforts, as well as an attempt to build a new relationship this year with the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District. Highlighted are representational, abstract and group projects. Participating artists are: Barb Balis; Tom Brand; Stephanie Carnell; Laurie Carpenter; Anneke Dekker; Kevin Firme; Susan Henshaw; Hal Higdon; Julia Holmaas; Laurel Izard; Connie Kassal; George Kassal; Ed Maldonado; Rich Manalis; Pat Mershon; Ginny Scott; and Carole Stodder.

Exhibit hours are 6 to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.



LONG BEACH COUNTRY CLUB Ladies Duplicate Bridge

AUG. 6, 2014

- 1st — Mariana Bruce and Judy Wadlington.
- 2nd — Pat Costello and Mary Jane Brodie.
- 3rd — Kathy Kenefick and Dottie Healy.
- 4th — Nancy Stokes and Jeri Devereaux.
- 5th — Kathy Byrnes and Nancy Pope.
- 6th — Jayne Krol and Susan Keeley.

AUG. 13, 2014

North-South

- 1st — Eileen Healy and Marci Meyer.
- 2nd — Pat Costello and Mary Jane Brodie.
- 3rd — Jayne Krol and Susan Keeley.
- 4th — Molly Trafas and Betty Madigan.

East/West

- 1st — Adele O'Donnell and Donna Pope.
- 2nd — Judy Wadlington and Beverly Battle.
- 3rd — Barb McDonald and Marge Quigley.
- 4th — Linda Wilson and Susan Kelley.

AUG. 20, 2014

North-South

- 1st — Sue Faul and Kathy Gazzolo.
- 2nd — Pat Costello and Mary Jane Brodie.
- 3rd — Jayne Krol and Linda Wilson.

East/West

- 1st — Elizabeth Greene and Greta Weber.
- 2nd — Cindy Garver and Molly Trafas.
- 3rd — Marge Quigley and Lauretta Froelich.

AUG. 27, 2014

North-South

- 1st — Pat Costello and Mary Jane Brodie.
- 2nd — Sue Faul and Kaye Moriarty.
- 3rd — Sally Allen and Gloria McMahon.
- 4th — Laurel Byrne and Cindy Garver.

East/West

- 1st — Adele O'Donnell and Beverly Battle.
- 2nd — Mariana Bruce and Mary Lou Linnen.
- 3rd — Jayne Krol and Susan Keeley.
- 4th — Nancy Stokes and Dottie Healy.



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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. Monday, Sept. 15, at Red Mill County Park. Call at least one week in advance to register.

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 Red Mill County Park. The schedule is:

- Sept. 10 — Understanding Medicare" with Denise Holmes.
- Oct. 1 — Tips on gardening, including preparing a garden for winter, by Sacha Burns of Sunkissed Organics.
- Nov. 5 — La Porte County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz discusses Indiana historical markers in La Porte County.

Michigan City Walk for PKD

The annual event is Saturday, Sept. 20, at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North.

Check-in is at 9 a.m., followed by the walk at 10 a.m. Individuals can walk, form a team, help with the committee or volunteer.

Contact Walk Coordinator Laura Moyer at (219) 878-3062 or michigancityindianawalk@pkdcure.org if interested. Visit www.walkforpkd.org/michigancity for more information.

23rd Annual Pioneer Days

The event is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 27-28, at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City.

Featured are wagon rides, outdoor cooking, crafts, food and historically clad vendors. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children or seniors.

Shelter and Hall Reservations

Call (219) 325-8315 to make reservations for one of many picnic shelters at any of the four county parks, or Pat Smith Hall at Red Mill County Park for a family function.

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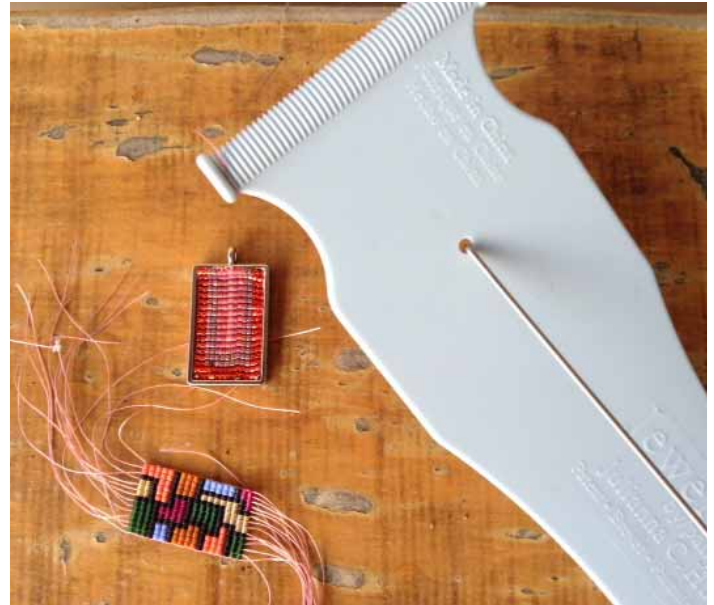
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Tuesday Night Jewelry Classes

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

A Jewel Loom Pendant Class is Sept. 16 for people interested in learning how to use a jewel loom. Only five spots are available.



The Jewel Loom Pendant Class is Sept. 16.

The Sassy Stick Earrings Class is Sept. 23 for participants who want to create fashion-forward earrings using a cubic, right-angle weave.

A Persian Leaves Earrings Class is Sept. 31. Using a peyote stitch, students make leaves that can be used as earrings or a necklace pendant.

All classes are at 5:15 and 7 p.m. The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. No previous experience is required, and all supplies are included. Call (219) 926-4711 to register. Visit www.chestertonart.com for more information.



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Door Village Harvest Festival

The 22nd Door Village Harvest Festival is Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 6-7, in Door Village on Joliet Road in Scipio Township.

The festival is on the grounds of the former Scipio Township School, which has been developed into a community park. An opening ceremony is at 8:30 a.m. Saturday with a special salute to veterans.

The event then features an antique auto, truck and tractor show, Native American camp, historical horse and wagon tours of Door Village, living tour of Door Village Cemetery, Civil War encampment and 1832 pioneer settler camp.

Some exhibits include demonstrations of quilting, wood carving, a country bakeshop and arts and crafts, including works from the Land of Lakes Art Alliance. Food wagons and booths will be available, as well as the pancake breakfast Saturday morning and pork chop dinner Sunday.

Old-fashioned children's games are planned, while entertainment will be provided by groups such as Michiana Clowns, David Farris and the Shades of Gray, Phil and Anderson, the Good Timing Barber Shop Quartet, the McLemore family and Cripple Creek.

Admission to the festival is free; however, there is a parking fee of \$3 per vehicle. Contact John Winters at (219) 362-4315 or Bruce R. Johnson at (219) 362-3749 for more information.



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New La Lumiere Faculty

La Lumiere School, La Porte, has announced three new additions to its faculty.

They are:



• Sarah Jones is assistant director of college counseling. Originally from Sheridan, Ind., she attended Middlebury College, earning a bachelor of arts in Russian. She earned her master's degree in theological studies from Vanderbilt University, during

which she spent a year in Moscow as a U.S. Fulbright Fellow.

Her past positions include: global talent network manager at Global Orientations, executive director of the Russian Orphan Opportunity Fund and communications manager for The National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.



• Timothy Earles joins the math department. A Northwestern University graduate with a bachelor of science in civil engineering and minors in music and physics, he comes to La Lumiere from his position as a teacher with the Fabretto Children's Foundation in San José de Cusmapa, Nicaragua.



• Andi Jones is director of institutional advancement. She comes to La Lumiere after 17 years at Valparaiso University, where she served in many capacities, including director of donor relations, associate director of admissions, interim director of admissions and most recently as the associate director of financial aid. She earned her bachelor of arts in political science and history from Valparaiso University and master of education in educational counseling from Northern Arizona University.



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Scrabble Tournament

READ La Porte County Inc.'s annual Scrabble Tournament fundraiser is from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, at Best Western Plus Hotel & Conference Center, 444 Pine Lake Ave., La Porte.

Two-person teams can compete in the two-round tournament, while those without partners can be matched with one.

The cost is \$25 per person for those registering by Sept. 10 or \$30 per person for those registering afterward. The fee includes appetizers, and a cash bar will be available. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams and top word scorer.

Players can arrive by 6:50 p.m. to participate in the first optional "Lightning Round" and view the silent auction prizes.

This year's event pays tribute to La Porte County's heritage by featuring themed décor honoring places and people. Teams also are encouraged to dress in apparel showing off their favorite local sports team or business.

READ La Porte County is a United Way agency that aims to increase reading, math, English and digital literacy skills in the community. It offers free tutoring to children, adult learners and English as a Second Language individuals. Tutoring is held at the library, in area schools and at the Community Corrections Center. Last year, READ had 237 students from ages 6 to 66 use its programs.

Print a Scrabble registration form off www.readla-portecounty.org, call (219) 325-0875 or email readla-portecounty@gmail.com for more information.

Small Business Program

Economic Development Corp. of Michigan City will host "Expand Your Small Business Opportunities" from 8 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 11, in Room Suncoast B at Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa, 777 Blue Chip Drive, Michigan City.

The program will include:

- Lorri Feldt, Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Center regional director, on local resources to help small business grow.
- The first steps to becoming a federal contractor.
- The Historically Underutilized Business Program (HUBZone).
- The 8(a) Business Development Program.
- Women Owned Small Business Program.
- Marty Anderson, lead economic development specialist with the Indiana District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration, on the advantages of Federal certifications.

There is no charge, but online registration is requested at <http://goo.gl/P4g15Y>. Light refreshments will be served.

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New Art Gallery at Taltree

White Ripple Art Gallery has opened at Valparaiso's Taltree Arboretum & Gardens and will showcase artists from the Midwest.

In collaboration with White Ripple Gallery & Co. of Hammond, the first exhibit is "The Essence of Nature" by Kathy Los-Rathburn and Madeline Henry. The nature-inspired fall exhibit features paintings of Taltree, fine jewelry and sculptures.

Los-Rathburn is from Griffith and Henry from south-suburban Illinois.



Kathy Los-Rathburn's "Fall Kaleidoscope at Taltree"
courtesy of White Ripple Gallery & Co.

The gallery will rotate themed exhibits every two months to feature new artists and artwork. The gallery is located inside the Visitors Center Depot at Taltree, 450 W. County Road 100 North in Valparaiso. All art showcased is available for purchase.

Visit Taltree.org or call (219) 462-0025 for additional information.

Third Annual Classic Car Show

Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave., will present its Third Annual Classic Car Show from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10.

A complimentary cookout is planned for participants and guests. Reserve a spot for your vehicle by calling Rittenhouse at (219) 872-6800. WIMS will broadcast live from the event, during which participants can share stories about their vehicles.

Michigan City Public Library

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

• Stress Reduction, Relaxation and Mindfulness Class at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 6.

Patrecia Lenore will share meditation practices, scientific studies of the benefits of mindfulness, group dialogue and support for integrating stress-reducing exercises into daily life.

Lenore has studied and practiced meditation for 38 years, and taught Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction courses since 1998.

• Bette Davis Film Fest: On the Edge at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6.

As a preview to the one-woman show at Mainstreet Theatre presented by the library and Purdue University-North Central Odyssey Art Series, the library will show "Dark Victory" and "All About Eve."

• Richard Saul, ADHD expert doctor and author, at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7.

Saul has worked with thousands of patients with ADHD symptoms. Based on his experience, he offers this perspective: ADHD is not a condition on its own, but a complex malady caused by more than 20 separate conditions, from poor eyesight to bipolar disorder and depression, each requiring specific treatment.

• Knitting Club for All Ages at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10.

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

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

LLTC Season Announced

La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St., has announced its 2014-2015 season.

The schedule is:

- "90 Years in 90 Minutes: A Musical Review" — Oct. 10-12 and 17-19.
- "Snow White & the Magnificent Seven Dwarves" — Dec. 5-7 and 12-14.
- "Angel Street" — March 6-8 and 13-15, 2015.
- "Fiddler on the Roof" — May 8-10 and 15-17, 2015.

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Low Net: Kathy Kenefick
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"B" Flight

Event: Gloria McMahon
Low Gross: Gloria McMahon
Low Net: Marge Walsh, Joan Carey
Low Putts: Nancy Trainor

"C" Flight

Event: Barb Beardslee
Low Gross: Barb Beardslee
Low Net: Terry Deming, Lynn Delehanty
Low Putts: Adele O'Donnell

"D" Flight

Event: Vangie Kuhn
Low Gross: Judy Curtin
Low Net: Kathie Mole
Low Putts: Alison Kolb

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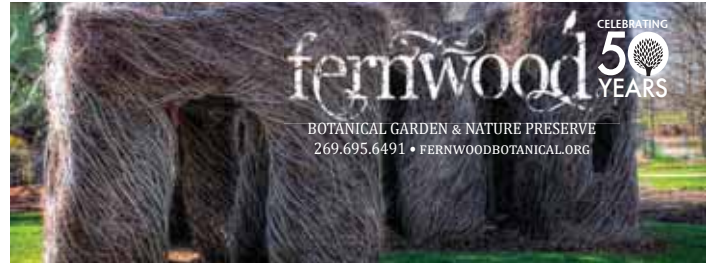
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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(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.

Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

September 3-8 — "Pinta" and "Nina," replicas of
 Columbus' ships, docked at Michigan City Port Au-
 thority, 200 Heisman Harbor. Cost: \$8/adults, \$7/se-
 niors, \$6/students 5-16, free/children 4 & younger.
 Hours: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Info: (787) 672-2152, colum-
 fnd1492@gmail.com.

September 4 — Greater La Porte Chamber of
 Commerce Crazy 8's Golf Outing, Briar Leaf Golf
 Club, 3233 Indiana 39, La Porte. Time: 4 p.m./
 shotgun start, dinner/5:30 p.m. Cost: \$40/Cham-
 ber members, \$50/non-members. Info: lpchamber.
 chambermaster.com/events/

September 4-8 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St.,
 Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "A Most Wanted
 Man." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Thurs.-Mon. *Also:*
 "Begin Again." Rated R. Times: 9 p.m. Thurs.-Mon.,
 also 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vick-
 erstheatre.com

September 5 — First Fridays Art Walk, 5-8 p.m.,
 Michigan City's Uptown Arts District.

September 5 — Musician Peter Aglinskis, 5-8
 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second
 St. *Also:* Opening reception for Hal Higdon's "Theme
 and Variation." Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org, (219)
 874-4900.

September 5 — Opening reception, "By the
 Artist's Hand," 5-8 p.m., Southern Shore Art Asso-
 ciation, 724 Franklin St. Info: www.SouthernShore-
 ArtAssociation.com

September 5 — "The Wizard of Oz" Sing-A-
 Long, 6-8 p.m., Westchester Public Library Service
 Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

September 6 — Michigan City Mainstreet As-
 sociation Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Eighth
 and Washington streets, through October. Second
 Saturdays, (chef's demonstrations, special market
 activities, food truck, artists, music), 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

September 6 — La Porte Urban Enterprise As-
 sociation Farmers Market, Lincolnway and Monroe
 Street, through October. Info: (219) 362-8260.

September 6 — "Bette Davis Film Festival," 1
 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth
 St. Free. Screenings: "Dark Victory" and "All About
 Eve." Info: (219) 873-3049.

September 6 — Stress Reduction, Relaxation
 and Mindfulness Class, 10 a.m., Michigan City Pub-
 lic Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

September 6 — Val-Porte-City 193 Parents With-
 out Partners, American Legion Skwiat Post 451, 121
 Skwiat Legion Ave., Michigan City. Potluck/6:30 p.m.
 Dance/7:30 p.m. Cost: \$8. Info: (269) 489-4062.

September 6-7 — The 22nd Door Village Har-
 vest Festival, Joliet Road in Scipio Township, Door
 Village. Free admission, \$3 per vehicle parking cost.
 Info: (219) 362-4315, (219) 362-3749.

September 6-7 — Fur trader encampment,
 beach east of pavilion, Indiana Dunes State Park,

1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Times: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Sat./9 a.m.-1 p.m. Info: (219) 926-1390.

September 7 — GRANDPARENT'S DAY.

September 7 — Purdue University-North Central Sinai Forum, 4 p.m., Chesterton High School auditorium, 2125 S. 11th St. Info/tickets: www.sinaiforum.org, (219) 531-4200.

September 9 — Lunch With the League, noon, Lindo's Restaurant, 3940 Franklin St. Info: (219) 874-6809, www.lwvlaporte.org

September 10 — Third Annual Classic Car Show, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Info/registration: (219) 872-6800.

September 10 — Great March for Climate Action rally, 6 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square, then 6:30 p.m. program at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: <http://climatemarch.org>, (515) 306-0835.

September 10 — La Porte County Master Gardeners brown bag lunch session, "Putting the Vegetable Garden to Bed" and "Seed Gathering," 6:30-7:30 p.m., La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte. Cost: \$5. Info: (219) 324-9407, <https://extension.purdue.edu/LaPorte>

September 11-12 — PNC Players auditions, Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa's "Rough Magic," 5-8 p.m. Thurs./1-5 p.m. Fri., PNC Technology Building, Room 301. Info: btlee@pnc.edu, (219) 785-5229.

September 12 — Trivia Fest 2014, Michiana Resources Inc., 4315 E. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City. Doors open 6 p.m., contest at 7 p.m. Cost: \$10 per player. Info: (219) 874-4288.

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

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

Farther Afield:

September 5 — Artists Mixer, 5-9 p.m. EDT, South Bend Museum of Art, located in The Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St. Info: (574) 235-9102.

September 5 — First Friday Film Series, "The Mona Lisa Mystery," 7 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Cost: \$5 suggested donation. Info: (269) 983-3688.

September 6 — Ed Bagatini's New Swing Orchestra, 7:30 p.m. EDT, 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: (269) 983-3688, info@boxfactoryforthearts.org, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Through September 14 — Agatha Christie's "A Murder is Announced," Elkhart Civic Theatre at Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times: 7:30 p.m. EDT Sept. 5-6 and 12-13, 3 p.m. EDT Sept. 7, 14. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$15/students and seniors 62+. Reservations: (574) 848-4116, www.elkhartcivictheatre.org

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are through Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:

- **Century of Progress Home Tour Ticket Sale Date on Monday, Sept. 8, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Tickets go on sale at 8 a.m. The program starts at 8 a.m. Oct. 18. Visit www.dunesnationalpark.org to reserve tickets.

- **The free Junior Ranger Program from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and Paul H. Douglas Center.**

A variety of Junior Ranger programs exist, from a short Beachcombers Activity Page to an extensive Junior Rangers Booklet. Complete a program and earn a prize. Stop by the Visitor Center or Douglas Center to pick up a free program booklet.

- **"Park in Focus" from 1 to 3 p.m. every Saturday at the Paul H. Douglas Center.**

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

- **"Kid's Rule" from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday 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 Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is on Lake Street north of U.S. 12 in the Miller Beach neighborhood of Gary. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

Annual Farm Dinner

Spire Farm to Fork Cuisine, Sunkissed Organics, Barefoot Acres Farm and Earth Angel Eco Art Studio will host a farm dinner from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, in downtown La Porte.

The inaugural, family style dinner will feature dishes made with products exclusively from Northwest Indiana and Southwest Michigan.

Held on State Street between Monroe and Jackson streets, guests can hear live music by Chris Meadows and 350 West, browse through the farm market and sample beer and wine made by area breweries or wineries.

Only 250 tickets are available. The cost is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. They can be purchased online (<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/760842>) or by visiting Spire Farm to Fork Cuisine, Earth Angel Eco Art Studio by Laura Marie Panozzo, Barefoot Acres Farm or Sunkissed Organics Farm.

Contact Brad Hindsley at Spire by calling (219) 575-7272 for more information or to volunteer for the event.

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Independent Cat Society

Independent Cat Society, 4061 S. County Line Road, Westville, will highlight cats in one of its shelter rooms as part of its September adoption specials.

Any adoption from the room called "Singsing" in September costs \$45, while a companion cat or kitten from any room costs \$25. The fee includes spay or neuter, current vaccinations, flea treatment and nail trim and a free initial vet visit with one of the shelter's participating vets within two weeks of the adoption.

Also in September, additional adoption hours are from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12 and 26. The shelter during these times will highlight orange or orange and white cats and kittens for \$30.

Call (219) 785-4936 or email shelter@catsociety.org for more information.

Long Beach Country Club

2014 Tournament Results

Husband/Wife Club Championship

1st — Sue and Bill Luegers.

2nd — Carol and Tony Excel.

3rd— Cathy and Mark Schmid.

Senior Club Champion

Bob Osmanski.

Super Senior Club Champion

Tom O'Malley.

Club Championship Flights

Club Champion — Dave Wozniak.

Flight A Champion — Ryan Bradley.

Flight B Champion — Tom O'Malley.

Flight C Champion — Fred Krol.

Flight D Champion — Jeff Diemand.

Flight E Champion — Jerry Schreiber.

Ladies Club Champion

Sue Luegers.

Trivia Fest 2014

Michiana Resources Inc., 4315 E. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, will hold Trivia Fest 2014 on Friday, Sept. 12.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with the contest starting at 7 p.m. The cost is \$10 per player. Teams are encouraged to register. A cash bar and limited food menu will be available.

Call (219) 874-4288 to register or for additional information.

Book Signing

Sean Brennan will have a book signing of his memoir, "Bridie's Boy," from 7 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, in the coffee shop at Al's at Karwick Plaza.

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Michigan City Art League

Michigan City Art League will present its fall 2014 art classes starting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, at the Faith City Assembly of God preschool building, 1314 S. Woodland Ave., Michigan City.

The schedule is:

- Sept. 9 and 16 — Julie Kasniunas, watercolor.
- Sept. 23 and 30 — Sue Hughes, graphite pencil.
- Oct. 7 and 13 — Wendy Wilcox Kermen, watercolor and pastel mixed media.
- Oct. 21 and 28 — Bill Cavalier, watercolor.
- Nov. 4 and 11 — Linda Weigel, drawing from direct observation.
- Nov. 18 — John Lucas, professional cartoonist.
- Nov. 25 — Julia Holmaas, "What's Involved in Entering Art Shows?"

Yearly membership dues are \$25. The fall semester fee is \$30 for 12 weeks. Those interested may pay upon arriving at class or by mail to: Michigan City Art League, P.O. Box 9720, Michigan City, IN 46360.

Call Betty Thomas at (219) 879-0903 for additional information, or visit [www://Facebook.com/MCAL1932](http://www/Facebook.com/MCAL1932) or www://MCAL1932.wordpress.com

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Lubeznik Center Fall Classes

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., has announced its lineup of fall classes.

A new visual arts class called "Beading: Netting Technique" features instructor Elaine Aquino, who will teach the simple technique that creates a look reminiscent of medieval embellishments.

In "Abstract Painting," Jay Zerbe will introduce students to various methodologies of abstract art in conjunction with techniques in mixed media and acrylic paint. "Art Appreciation" returns with Gregg Hertzlieb, curator of Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art. For photo enthusiasts, "Adult Photography" with Natalie Mills returns, with students learning how to use digital camera settings for maximum effect.

"Creativity Workshop," taught by Michelle Boardman, is a new workshop that helps those seeking new inspiration. Students explore creativity from a psychological, social and scientific approach using videos, interviews, discussions and hands-on experiments.

Returning workshops include "Cocktail Hats & High Tea" taught by Amanda Joyner. Students learn how to create a cocktail hat for the holidays while sampling treats and tea. "Masters & Merlot" returns with two class offerings, featuring Dori Huber for a night of paint, wine and snacks.

New classes for young artists include "Cookies & Canvas," also taught by Huber. Students 7-11 learn the basics of color mixing, paint application and composition. Another new offering, "Teen Jewelry Workshop," will engage students in learning how to create a wrap bracelet. The popular "Drawing for Teens" returns, with Bill Cavalier teaching students the drawing fundamentals of shape, form and proportion while practicing the techniques of pencil, charcoal and ink.

Visit lubeznikcenter.org for a detailed description of each class, along with prices and instructor bios. LCA members receive 10 percent off of classes. Call the center at (219) 874-4900 or email artinfo@lubeznikcenter.org for more information.

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The Boys & Girls Club of MC is seeking dedicated, nurturing individuals
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Please contact Kristi at bqcm3@adsnet.com

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Hwy 12, Beverly Shores - Just West of Traffic Light - 219/874-4003.

FOR SALE: 1979 Mercedes SL 450 Convertible, blue, runs well, body in
good condition. Also has removable hardtop, 88K miles, V-8, electric win-
dows, AM-FM CD player asking \$9,000 O.B.O. Phone (815) 693-1400.
Pictures available by email. Located in Ogden Dunes.

OF INTEREST TO HIGH-END COIN COLLECTORS: Death in family
causes this sale. Many different types of coin books collected, including
individual coins and all the key dates. A must-see to appreciate, possibly
negotiable. Call Larry @ (219) 872-2989.

Want to sell Kitchenaid stainless steel appliances, and a stackable
W/D. Call (219) 872-4801 or (708) 430-9933.

Want to sell: Antique grandmother's clock (144 years old). 21ft double
axle car-hauling trailer. Tanning bed (like new) -- lie-down model. 10 ft.
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celain monkey statue. Indian Head penny collection. 3 guns. 10by20 tent
(like used at flea market). Like new/Volkswagon motorcycle trike. Must
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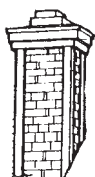
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INVESTOR WANTED TO DEVELOP PRIME BEACH PROPERTY IN MICHIGAN CITY. sunterra@comcast.net, 219-872-4446.

1 acre of (prime-choice) land for sale. Across from Queen of All Saints Church/Woodland & Barker Ave., MC. Must sell item. Death in family causes this sale. Make an offer (I can't refuse) and this prime corner lot could be yours. **Call Larry at (219) 872-2989.**

RENTALS INDIANA

LONG BEACH COZY 3/BR HOUSE AT STOP 15 (Across from Beach) Summer Rental. Fireplace and Large Deck. No pets. **Call 708/370-1745.**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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LAKEFRONT CONDOS – 2 and 3 bedrooms.

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GREAT 5BR HOUSE. CLOSE TO BEACH AT STOP 20.

CALL PATTY AT 773-401-2966.

Stop 37. House for rent. Weekly or weekends. 4BR, 3BA, AC, WiFi. One house to sandy beach. (847) 630-5235, nmarkey11@hotmail.com

Stop 31. Nicely furn. 3BR, 2BA with 3-season porch. Family room. WiFi. \$1,850/wk. Fall/Winter rental avail. for \$895/mo +util. Short or long term. W/D. No smoking, no pets. 4-min. walk to beautiful beach.

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

Long Beach 9-month rental, 5BR/3BA, furnished, two fireplaces, 200 ft. to lake, \$900 per month+utilities. C/A, heat. Start in Sept.

Call Tom at (708) 606-4614.

FALL/WINTER RENTAL at Stop 33.

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

September to June. No pets, no smoking. **\$890/mo. + util. Weekend rentals also available. See at VRBO.com #262805. Call 708-784-9866.**

SHERIDAN BEACH: Year-round, 1 BR, quiet building, laundry, off-street parking, no smoking, no pets, \$625/month, utilities included. Also, small 3 BR house, no smoking, no pets. Year-round rental. \$725 + utilities.

Call (219) 879-2195.

Luxury 2035 SF Townhome avail. for rent. Hardwood flrs., Master Suite & laundry on 1st flr. Granite, Stainless Steel Appliances, guest bedroom, open loft, fireplace, basement, and 2-car attached garage. \$1,800/mo.

Prefer 3 yr. lease. Inquire about Option to Purchase Credit. **Located at Beautiful Briar Leaf Golf Course between La Porte and New Buffalo. (219) 851-0008.**

Long Beach Long Term House Rental: Recently remodeled 3 BR/2 full BA home available for year-round rental. **Contact G. Schander @ 708-447-2417.**

WATERFRONT APTS for rent in MC. Furnished-utilities, WiFi/TV incl. 1BR \$775/mo., 2BR \$875/mo. Sec. dep. Call Pete at (219) 871-9187.

THREE BLOCKS TO BEACH YEARLY RENTAL: Cute, clean 2 BR/2BA remodeled 2-unit, private deck, stove, fridge, W/D, off-street parking, \$850/mo.+utilities, no pets, credit checks, broker-owner, **(219) 363-6818.**

Sheridan Beach 2 bedroom 1 bath unfurnished apt. with washer/dryer. Lake views from living room & shared rooftop deck. \$750/mo + 1 mo. sec deposit . 1-yr. lease required. Two units: 1 avail. Sept. 1, the other Oct. 1. Must have references, and employment will be verified. No smoking, no pets. **Call (269) 469-1412.**

RENTALS MICHIGAN

5BR/2BA Sept.-June rental available in Grand Beach, MI. Lovely 2-story beach house, 50 yards from beach entrance. \$900/mo + utilities. **Please call (312) 501-1747 with interest.**

Heart of New Buffalo: 2BR/1BA condo with a large private deck and one private parking spot located in a residential area in the heart of New Buffalo, MI. The unit is a 3-minute walk to shops and a 10-minute walk to the lake. The building is well lit, and the surrounding area is quiet and safe. Rent is \$550 per month and does not include utilities. Please contact Milt for more information. (708) 334-9955. Apply for this property at www.terrafirmainvestments.org.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

MICHIANA SHORES: 2-3 BR/2BA, fireplace, garage, gazebo, corner property on four lots. SS appliances, W/D. Available immediately. 308 Pokagon. \$299,000. **Call (219) 878-1608.**

Brown Bag Lunch Gardening Series

La Porte County Master Gardeners will present three brown bag lunch sessions — two in La Porte and one in Michigan City — that focus on various aspects of gardening.

The programs are sponsored by the La Porte County Master Gardener Association. The schedule is:

- Wednesday, Sept. 10, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. — “Putting the Vegetable Garden to Bed” and “Seed Gathering,” La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte.
- Wednesday, Oct. 8, noon to 1 p.m. — “Putting the Landscaping to Bed” and “Composting,” Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.
- Wednesday, Nov. 12, noon to 1 p.m. — “Planning Next Year’s Garden” and “A Gardener’s Christmas Wish List,” Purdue Extension-La Porte County Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, Suite A, La Porte.

Participants can take lunch or an evening snack. The fee is \$5 for each session, which includes informational handouts, or \$12 for all three. No pre-registration is required.

Call Purdue Extension – La Porte County at (219) 324-9407 for more information, or visit <https://extension.purdue.edu/LaPorte>, click on “Garden” and download the Fall Brown Bag Series event flyer.



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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Beast in the Red Forest by Sam Eastland (hardcover, \$22.95 in bookstores and online)

Fans of World War II historical fiction are sure to pick up on this story set in Russia in 1944. The book actually is the third in a series that follows the exploits of Inspector Pekkala:

"Pekkala had been born in Lappeenranta, Finland, at a time when it was still a Russian colony. His mother was a Laplander, from Rovaniemi in the north. At the age of eighteen, on the wishes of his father, Pekkala travelled to Petrograd in order to enlist in the Tsar's elite Chevalier Guard. There, early in his training, he had been singled out by the Tsar for special duty as his own Special Investigator."

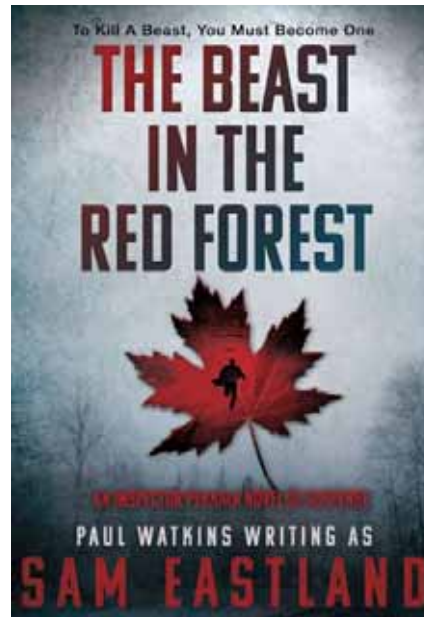
The Tsar gave Pekkala a heavy gold disc with an emerald embedded in the middle, forever earning him the name "Emerald Eye." All good things come to an end, right? Especially after the revolution of 1917 when Pekkala was caught by the Red Army and sent to Siberia to the labour camp of Borodok, the most notorious camp in the Gulag system. He was assigned the job of tree marker for the logging crew, a job that offered no chance of escape and an average life span of six months. Nine years later, Pekkala was still alive.

His fame did not go unnoticed by new Russian leader Stalin, who recalled Pekkala from the camp and made him an investigator for the Bureau of Special Operations.

While the ensuing years have made an uneasy truce between him and Stalin, Pekkala never wavered in his duties. Now, a mission behind German lines may have proven his demise as a body was found with certain evidence pointing to Pekkala. His good friend, Major Kirov, thinks differently. His strong belief that Pekkala is still alive prompts Stalin to agree with him and send him out to the Western Ukraine to either find Pekkala or confirm his death.

Things in the area are not good. The many partisan groups were barely eking out an existence while fighting the Germans, the Red Army and each other. And, some were even fighting for the Germans.

In the town of Rovno, Kirov enters a bunker where Col. Andrich was in conference with several partisan leaders trying to reach an agreement with them to all work with the Red Army. A German attack soon put an end to the talks, and Kirov finds



himself in the field hospital, the others in the bunker killed. In the middle of the night, he is visited by a very alive Pekkala, who secrets him away just before an assassin sneaks in the hospital looking for Kirov.

The happy reunion between the two friends is short-lived as constant bombing and attempts to get back to combining the partisan groups sees the pair running and hiding for their lives.

In juxtaposition to this story is another, played out in letters and diplomatic missives in 1936. An American, William Vasko, sends a letter to his fellow steel workers in New Jersey, telling them of taking his wife and two children to Russia

because he is promised a good job in a Ford factory and living quarters for his family through the Soviet Trade Agency. America is in the middle of the Great Depression, and the offer from Russia sounds too good to be true. Perhaps it is.

At the end of each chapter is another letter following the sad plight of Vasko and his family. Suffice it to say for now that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is and can only end in disaster. But what does Vasko have to do with Pekkala? Ah, dear reader, that's part of the literary glue that holds this exciting story together!

Pekkala is not a Hollywood pretty boy. He is rough, unbending, quick thinking and probably not the man you would want your daughter to bring home. However, he gets the job done. And even when he finds out someone is stalking him, he doesn't shrink from his duty to the Red Army. It's a thrilling read, war at its most brutal, with no punches pulled in describing battles.

It's also an interesting psychological study in what physical and mental abuse, hunger and war can do to a man. How far will you go to stay alive? In this story, as far as it takes. Who do you trust? No one.

Booklist said: "Fans of this gripping series of literary thrillers will be glued to their chairs until the final page. A real corker."

Eastland is the nom de plume of novelist Paul Watkins. He is the son of Welsh parents and the grandson of a London Metropolitan Police investigator who served in Scotland Yard's famous "Ghost Squad" during the 1940s. He lives near Princeton, N.J.

Till next time, happy reading!



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627 Oakland Drive

Michiana Shores bi-level in immaculate condition. This home is ready for someone to move in and make it their own. City utilities, off-street parking, easy access to major thoroughfares for commuting, shopping or fun. Lovely wooded surroundings.

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