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A Novel Art Form

by Kayla Weiss

Sometimes, all it takes is one person blessed with enthusiasm and insight to trigger the creative spark within us.

For Bill Hallier Jr., a commercial storyboarder and aspiring graphic novelist, that person was Mike Modjeski. His students, appropriately enough, called him "Mojo." Hallier was his pupil in middle school for only one year, but that was enough. "Mojo" introduced him to some of his favorite authors and artists.

"He was big into comics...he was the one that taught me that comics were art, and that they were a job that you could do to make money, not just a pastime," Hallier said.

"He always brought in really interesting independent comics for us to look through. He was my buddy then for the next

four years while I was in high school. I didn't have him for any more art classes after that, but his

Bill Halliar Jr. displays some

of his different creations. Photos by Paul Kemiel

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classroom was right across the hall from the high school's art room, so I would drop in there every day. I still see some of the things he taught me coming out in my artwork today"

Halliar, who lives in Valparaiso, regularly offers classes not just in Valparaiso, but also in Chesterton and La Porte. He recently participated in a Westchester Public Library Comic Con that featured

several writers and artists. The experience gave him the opportunity to reveal his many creations.

Often times, people are confused about the difference between comic books and graphic novels. Put simply, comic book refers to daily or weekperiodicals, ly whereas graphic novel refers to books made up of comics content. Many times, once a certain amount comic books

Bill discusses his many works with visitors to Westchester Public Library's recent Comic Con.

have been published, they are republished together in graphic novel format.

Though graphic novels have been around since the mid-1800s, they never gained much momentum until after the 1970s, when fan-historian Kyle Richard coined the term "graphic novel" in an essay in a November 1964 issue of a comics fan magazine. However, the concept of the graphic novel didn't gain momentum until after Will Eisner published "A Contract with God" in 1978. Soon after, Marvel started its own graphic novel line in 1982. The idea still didn't catch on with the public until after the successes of graphic novels such as "Maus" by Art Spieglman (1986), "The Dark Knight Returns" by Frank Miller (1986) and the monumentally successful "Watchmen" by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons

(1987). Finally, in 2001, the term "graphic novel" was officially accepted and added as a category in book stores.

The art form has always been part of Halliar's life.

"I've always been interested in creating art," he said. "I grew up in Whiting, right at the bottom of Lake Michigan, about a half hour drive from The Loop to Chicago. It was a small-town life, but we were so close to Chicago, it was so easy to get to the Art

Institute, which is something I did all the time. Just to go and take in all of the different artwork, colors and styles."

After high Hallischool. er received scholarship the American Academy of Art downtown Chicago, which he attended for a year before trying to make it on his own in the art world. He'd actually started working

on comics before he began college.

At the time, the closest comic book shop was in Calumet City, which was about 45 minutes away, and that's where Bill would head to get his comics. As it turned out, the guys who owned the store, and many others, were starting their own publishing company: Moon Stone Comics.

"At the time, they were just starting, getting stuff together, and I was into comics and a budding artist and heard them talking and just kind of threw my name into the mix," Hallier said. "I showed them some of my artwork, and they hired me to work as an inker on the comics they produced."

In the comic-book and graphic-novel industry, there are many layers a piece experiences. To make a monthly book, it is difficult for one person to do all the work, so there typically is an assembly line of jobs to make it faster. It starts with the writer, who works on the dialogue and storyline, then passes it along to the penciler, who sketches everything out. The middle stage is the inker, who takes a brush and ink and finishes the artwork. Finally, the piece moves on to a letterer who fills in the written parts of the work, then the colorist, who colors in the artwork.

When it's more personal – one person writing and creating everything – it becomes difficult to create a monthly book. The artist would have to work on nothing else – including eating or sleeping – to make sure it comes out on time.

"When I was younger, the idea of the monthly, or weekly, comic book didn't bother me as much as it does now. I liked the anticipation of waiting to see what would happen next to my favorite characters," Hallier said. "Now, though, if I really like the books



Bill's display table at the library event highlighted his many unique creations

and they're monthly, I will normally just wait until they have been collected into a graphic novel, so I have a longer story arc to read."

Halliar wants to create something that stands out. "There are so many books and stories out there now," he said, "but there are also a lot of readers, a lot more people randomly looking for stuff."

The common thread for Halliar's works is humor. The first book he served as an inker for was "Mr. Wonderful's Nightmare World," a dark comedy Hallier likens to "The Nightmare Before Christmas," but for adults. It centered on the lord of the dream realm getting mixed up in crazy adventures.

These days, Hallier works as a full-time artist, but doesn't have the luxury to work full time on comics. Unless you're in the top 1 percent, you won't make enough money to survive.

"About half of my friends are comics creators, and most of them have to do something else as well, which is sad, because every 20-page work is hundreds of drawings that the artists have poured their heart and soul into. And it's a lot of time if you're doing it all by yourself," Hallier said. "As an artist, I find myself asking how I can draw things with Continued on Page 4

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A Novel Art Form Continued from Page 3

the least amount of detail, but still deliver the most amount of impact.

"Mostly, I still basically make comics. It's just behind the scenes for commercials."

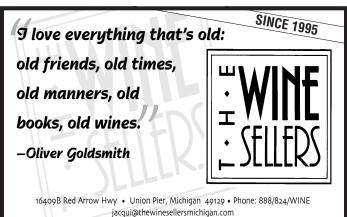
Hallier works as a commercial storyboarder, which is almost exactly the same thing. An artist (Hallier) is brought in to draw up a storyboard for the commercial, which is basically a bunch of small boxes that depict the action taking place so actors, writers and directors can see what is supposed to happen when.

Hallier at the moment is working on a few new stories, and enjoyed attended Westchester Public Library's convention for writ-

ers and artists of comic books and graphic novels. Having attended many larger comic conventions as an artist, the largest being San Diego's Comic Con for the past 10 years, which is the mothership of comic cons, Hallier rather enjoyed the small scale of the local event.

"Each convention has its own vibe, and the smaller conventions are nice because you have time to talk to people," Hallier said. "The Westchester convention had a nice variety of writers and artists. There were about 100 guests over the course of the day...it was really nice to get to talk to a bunch of people.

"You get to meet so many people, and some of them have a hard time finding something that interests them, so they automatically think that there just isn't anything out there for them," he said. "There's always something for everyone, especially nowadays. I feel like if I can get someone interested in reading, not even reading my comics, but reading stories that truly interest them, then that's enough for me.





Several young men take an interest in Bill's work at the library.



Bill displays the technique involved in his creations.

"Hopefully, that will help them realize that no matter what they're into, there is always something out there for them. If I can help even one person find something inspiring, something that speaks to them, then I feel like I've done my job, and that's all I can ask for."

(Westchester Public Library offers a monthly graphic novel discussion group open to anyone. Visit wpl.lib.in.us/ for more details.)



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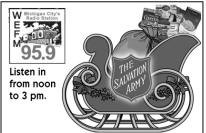
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Brad Pitt and Marion Cotillard star in "Allied."

Cotillard Rescues "Allied" From Wooden Co-Star

by Andrew Tallackson

Two years ago, Marion Cotillard silenced her naysayers. Curmudgeons, you see, viewed her Oscar upset for "La Vie En Rose" (2007) as a fluke. But in "Two Days, One Night," where she played a woman with crippling depression who makes an 11th hour plea to save her job, the actress was electrifying, a reservoir of untapped courage. The performance earned a Best Actress nod, but lost out to Julianne Moore's devastating work in "Still Alice."

In "Allied," Robert Zemeckis' luxuriant ode to old-school Hollywood, Cotillard is mesmerizing, the film's most special effect. Unfortunate, though, that her leading man — the epitome of star power — would give so uncharismatic a performance, hobbling the picture's three-hankie classic ambitions.

Zemeckis ("Forrest Gump," "Cast Away") is one of our most technically accomplished storytellers. This is a man who knows how to use visuals to enhance a story, *not* consume it. With "Allied," his creative ingenuity is on full display as he drops Canadian intelligence officer Max Vatan (Brad Pitt) into the sprawling desert outside of Casablanca, uniting him with French resistance fighter Marianne Beauselour (Cotillard), their mission to assassinate a Nazi ambassador. Marianne — you can't take your eyes off of her. Cotillard is purringly seductive one moment, emotionally clipped the next. Max remains guarded for, oh, a day or two, before he can't keep his hands off of her.

Working from a smart script by Stephen Knight ("Eastern Promises"), Zemeckis again is an exceptionally quiet filmmaker, preferring long stretches with little to no dialogue, scenes unbroken by editing that allow the actors to fill in the details. His vi-

sion of World War II Casablanca, like the Humphrey Bogart-Ingrid Bergman classic that inspired it, is lushly exotic...if tame for the R rating it nabbed. All the naughty bits, for instance, are concealed as Max and Marianne make love safe inside their vehicle, the howling sandstorm outside an obvious metaphor for their intensifying passion. When that coupling leads to marriage and a baby, one delivered amid the jaw-dropping frenzy of a London air raid, the movie is as much in love with its sexy stars as it is the gee-whiz thrill of state-of-the-art movie magic.

The big twist, one revealed in the movie's trailers, is that Max learns Marianne may be a Nazi spy. When that emotional bomb drops, so, too, is the fire extinguished from Pitt's performance. He reverts inward, resembling a glum, haggard Ken doll. Honestly, he looks constipated, like he could use a shot of prune juice. Pitt can be strong in action-oriented fare like "World War Z" and "Fury," but in prestige pictures such as "Allied," he always seems conscious he's making Oscar bait and comes across as a stiff. And believe me, you do *not* want to see Pitt cry in slow motion. It's not pretty.

The is-she-or-isn't-she premise of "Allied," however, keeps it alive thanks to Cotillard, who virtually takes over the picture. Quietly moving, she never cheapens the mystery surrounding Marianne. By the end, there are no easy answers, no tidy resolution. Instead, Zemeckis and Knight concoct a thoughtful, subdued finale. You walk away from the picture admiring the craft involved...but not really moved by it. How can you, when only half of such a volatile couple captures your heart?

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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- 2. 89% of home buyers say the photos are very useful and 10% somewhat useful data on an Internet site. 99% take photos very seriously.
- 3. 85% say the text on the Internet site is very useful and 14% report text as somewhat useful. 99% believe what the agent says about the property is gospel.
- 4. Then they call a friend (44%) or agent (12%) to recommend someone to represent them as an agent in the purchase of the property.
- 5. A large majority of people who call will already have an opinion (frequently erroneous) of how much the property is worth because many sites publish an estimated value and list sold properties in the immediate neighborhood.

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"Seven Nuns at Las Vegas"

Footlight Players will present the comedy "Seven Nuns at Las Vegas" on Dec. 2-4 and 8-11 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

In the play, elderly Sister Columba asks St. Joseph to take her where the weather is warm after it snows in Northwest Indiana in May. St. Joseph



Sister Columba (Leslie Evans, center) prays to St. Joseph to take her where the weather is warm in "Seven Nuns at Las Vegas." Sister Felicitas (Laura Meyer) and Mr. Edelman (David Mikolajczyk) are not amused.

takes her, the convent and six other nuns to Nevada, just outside Las Vegas.

Directed by Anthony Holt, with book by Natalie E. White, the cast includes Debbie Bartholomew, Gary Bartholomew, Emma Blanchard, Leslie Evans, Alayna Lauritsen, Bobbi Lauritsen, Laura Meyer, David Mikolajczyk, Kristina Moore, Deb Reason, Janice Rice, Charmaine Tompkins and Shannon Wilhelm, Robert Komendera is the assistant director.

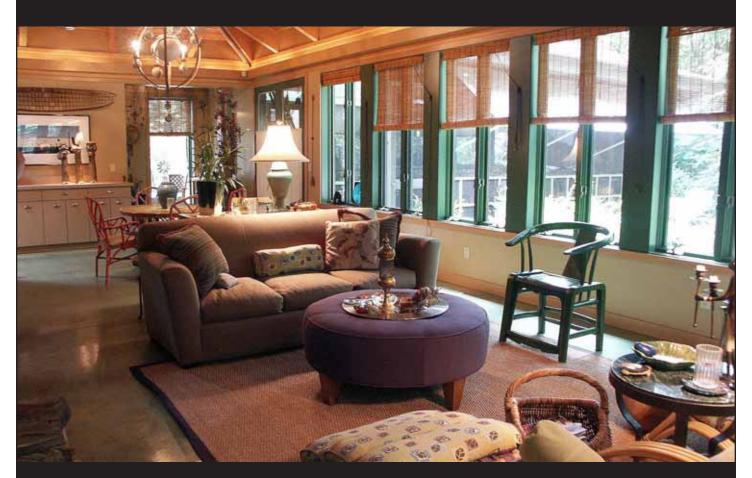
Times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$12, while Thursday shows and youth 12 and younger cost \$10. A two for \$20 coupon is available at www.footlightplayers. org. Reservations are held until 15 minutes prior to curtain unless secured by a season gift card or payment. Reservations are recommended by calling (219) 874-4035 or through the website.

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Green Bully: Fighting Phragmites

by Guest Columnist David Hoppe

Once you start seeing them, it's hard to stop.

Phragmites — the official name is Phragmites australis, but from here on, let's call them phrags — are an invasive reed that have found a home in Northwest Indiana. You'll find it crowding out cattails — another invasive species — in Beverly Shores. If you ride the South Shore, you'll see it in profusion along the tracks. It even found its way onto foredunes leading to Lake Michigan in Long Beach.

"It's swallowing up whole habitats," botanist Nathanael Pilla of Save the Dunes says. "It's just a bully."

These invasive phrags arrived on the East Coast around 200 years ago. Since then, they have migrated westward, where wetlands, like those around Lake Michigan, have been particularly congenial.

Laura Brennan has spent the past 13 years searching for and dealing with invasive plants at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. In that time, she has witnessed phrags' uncommon ability to overpower our region's world famous biodiversity.

"These plants are incredibly successful at invading wetlands and completely replacing native species," Brennan said in an email. "It simply pushes the more conservative, higher quality plants out of the way — taking not only space, but also the sunlight, water and nutrients away from any other



An example of Phragmites in Long Beach.

plants that have a chance at survival.

"Not only does this cause a decrease in plant species biodiversity, phrag is much less beneficial to wildlife as it offers little nutritional value and serves as poor habitat for many birds."

As far as Pilla is concerned, Phragmites are "possibly the worst invasive plant."

It's easy to see why. Compared to most other plants in our region, the invasive, or nonnative phrag, is a monster. It grows as high as 18 feet in densely thatched clusters that block light and can be virtually impossible to see through. It also is prolific, able to reproduce at a rate of up to 5 meters (or roughly 15 feet) per year.

This contrasts with phrags' native cousin, which reaches just more than 6 feet in height and tends to

grow in looser colonies, with scattered stems that break down quickly. This indigenous variety sports yellowish green leaves, where the invasive leaves appear to be a bluish gray-green.

"Phragmites," Brennan said, "love disturbance."

And, there is very little ground in Northwest Indiana that has not, at some time, been messed with.

"Extensive alteration of the natural hydrology of the area, the expansive system of highways, rail lines, industry, and communities all of these contribute to the influx of invasive plants,"



Phragmites in the Beverly Shores area.

Brennan said. "The matrix of land ownership in the area further complicates the issue — someone may work really hard to eliminate phrag from their land, but right across the street or next door there may be a huge seed source that will bring it back to the starting point."

Pilla adds, "It used to be thought that Phragmites only transport by its rhizomes (an underground stem sending out roots and shoots). But we're finding it germinates by seeds as well. So taking care of the seed heads is a huge part of management."

That management includes cutting the seed heads before the seeds develop (usually early to mid-August) and, regretfully, using herbicide, being careful while doing so to protect wildlife, desirable vegetation and the groundwater supply.

Even then, the chances are phrags, like green zombies, will rise again.

"It's been found that when killed with herbicide, the ground occupied by Phragmites sees a resurgence of native plants," Pilla said. "But two years later, the Phragmites are back. So retreatment is super important. This is something we'll be dealing with for a long time."

Pilla and Brennan both emphasize that, after cutting, seed heads should be bagged and disposed of — probably in a landfill. This is not something you want to add to your compost.

"While I wouldn't expect many people to have the resources (and the patience) to eradicate Phragmites altogether, we can at least have the conversation of how to work together to prioritize where we focus our efforts and how community members can get involved," Brennan said.

"Ultimately, any dead phrag is a good phrag — but working toward treating populations in and adjacent to higher quality wetlands where native plants are still holding on, should be our No. 1 goal. The first step is to encourage people not to plant any invasive plants, but to use native plants instead. Often, natives are much easier to care for, and offer a greater benefit to our native wildlife."

Brennan is surprised to find phrags growing in unexpected places, like, for example, in close prox-



Phragmites along the south course at Michigan City Municipal Golf Course.

imity to beaches.

"Phrag needs moist soil to grow," she said, "and while the surface of the sand is dry, their roots are deep enough to reach the damp soils close to the lake."

Pilla is concerned about the impact phrags could have on the ecology of our beaches.

"It could out-compete the marram grass," he said. "What will happen is the seeds will creep over the natural areas. If you like the natural areas, then the responsible thing to do is remove it. Your neighbors will appreciate it."

For More Information

Save the Dunes has published "Living in the Dunes: A Homeowner's Guide to Landscaping In Indiana's Dune Communities." The online version is at savedunes.org/dunes-residential-guide

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore has been working with many other land managers in Northwest Indiana as a Cooperative Weed Management Area to address invasives as a team. Visit tinyurl.com/goax29u for more information or to get involved.

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PNW Sinai Forum

Astronaut and Northwest Indiana native Jerry Ross will detail his final space flight, and the state of the country's space programs, at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, during the final Purdue University Northwest Sinai Forum of the season.



The presentation, "Spacewalker: My Jour-

ney in Space," will be in the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex, 1401 S. U.S. 421. Doors open at 3 p.m.

A retired Air Force colonel, Ross logged more than 4,100 hours of flight time and holds the world record for space flights with seven. He performed nine spacewalks, spending more than 58 hours in the vacuum of space.

He will share his space race-era journey: a small-town Indiana boy who attended Purdue University to pursue his dream of being in the U.S. space program, and who ultimately became one of NASA's most highly decorated astronauts.

Ross also is the author of two books, "My Journey in Space and Faith as NASA's Record Setting Frequent Flyer" and the children's book "Becoming a Spacewalker: My Journey to the Stars."

Tickets can be purchased at www.pnw.edu/sinaiforum, or by cash or check at: Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., Michigan City, and Porter County Community Foundation, 1401 Calumet Ave., Valparaiso. Students who show a valid school ID are admitted for free.

Visit www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum for more details.

NB Library Community Forum

Local historian Bob Myers will explore the Great Depression's impact on Berrien County's families, farms and industries at 6:30 p.m. EST Monday, Dec. 5, in the Pokagon Room at New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Myers, the Berrien County Historical Association curator, has presented other FOL Community Forum programs, including those on Berrien County's railroads and gangsters.

The next program, "Caroling at the Library," is from 2 to 4 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 11. The annual holiday sing-along, led by the Harbor Country Singers, offers holiday favorites and light refreshments.

Call the library at (269) 469-2933, follow the face-book link at newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org or email new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com for more details.



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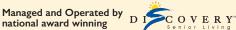


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Giving Children the Wings to Fly

by William Halliar

Imagination Station, the brightly painted sign boldly proclaimed.

I was intrigued.

Imagination and curiosity are pillars of the creative intellect, and I am ever a student of the often praised, but maddeningly elusive, creative process.

Invited to tour the facility and learn of its history and mission, I jumped at the chance. To my surprise and delight, the building was filled with young, pre-schoolaged children. What group of human beings better embraces and exemplifies the spirit of curiosity and creativity than our children?

Dr. Janice Katz met me in the front office and personally guided me through the various classrooms that comprise the non-profit Imagination Station, 1200 E. Coolspring Ave. We talked to teachers and were greeted by enthusiastic students, all

happy to share the excitement of what they were learning.

Here is a place where children come first, and Katz stressed that if I told the story of Imagination Station, it should not focus on her, even though she is the project's founder and guiding spirit, but rather upon the dedicated staff and their mission to excite eager young minds into becoming lifelong learners, with imagination enough to invent the future.

Imagination Station provides the foundation that will allow these young people to reach their full potential. The teachers work tirelessly to reveal the basics of life, planting students firmly in reality while giving them the tools to reach for the stars. Lofty goals, these, but the responsibility of raising the next generation can never be taken too seriously.

The world we live in today is much different than one of 1865, when most families in the United States lived on farms, and both father and mother were home to raise their children and be examples to them as they grew into adulthood. Soon, the fathers moved out of the homes and into factory jobs, and the sole responsibility for influencing the young feel upon the mother.

Back in the 1950s, mom could stay home, raise the young ones and teach them proper values while



Snack time — always a favorite time. All photos by William Halliar.

dad was away all day at work. Soon, it became necessary, even socially expected, that the mother should join dad in the workforce to achieve the desired standard of living.

To whom was the important torch to be passed, that of nurturing the next generation?

When Katz's first son was born in 1985, she began searching for a day care facility that would meet the standards she sought for her child. She discovered a dearth of quality facilities in the area, so, with the support and encouragement of friends and family, she founded her own facility, the mission being to provide intentional, reflective child care that would enhance the social and emotional well being of her children and the community's children.

Katz knew affluent families in the area could afford

whatever child care seemed best, but to those with fewer resources, the options were limited. She decided to focus mainly on families with fewer resources, and build a program that could be accessed through a voucher system that would allow lower income families to provide quality child care for their children. Sixty five percent of the children attending Imagination Station today take advantage of this system.

What I witnessed on my tour was refreshing. Children eager to learn were concentrating their tasks: no misbehavior, loud talking or uncontrolled wildness. There was discipline and order in each classroom. The studentto-teacher ratio was such that each child had plenty of contact time with an adult.

Imagination Sta-



Janice Katz holds one of the youngters attending Imagination Station.

tion's goal also is to encourage professional development staff memamong bers, so each teacher either is degreed or certified. They work together to teach children not mere facts, by wrote, but also to stress and educate these young people in the actual process of learning through "evidence-based" teaching. In this way, they will become lifelong learners.

Imagination Station nurtures children from 6 weeks of age to 6 years. Each year, summer enrich-

ment programs are offered to students 6 to 12. All classes benefit from many field trips outside of the school environment, which opens a new world of learning to children of all ages. The classrooms are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the benefit of working families. The school supports two additional neighborhood preschools for 3- to 5-year-olds.

A full-service kitchen on premises provides nutri-



Toddlers engage in age-appropriate play at Imagination Station.





Children follow along with the teacher during story time.

tious meals. Children in need of early intervention are identified and referred to specialists for additional support.

The Child Care Consortium Inc. and Imagination Station, by the way, are nonprofit organizations. Teaching is a labor of love. The board is comprised of dedicated volunteers, and Katz takes no salary. She looks on her young charges with great joy, and her goal is to help to create "successful citizens."

Imagination Station is a member of

The National Association for the Education of Young Children. This nonprofit group focusses on the well-being of young children, "with particular emphasis on the quality of educational and developmental services for children from birth to age eight."

The development center also is recognized as an Indiana Paths to Quality, Level 4. This rating system ranks the quality of early child care and education. Level 4 Programs are the highest rated and have demonstrated a commitment to the highest level of professionalism in early care and education. The achievement is honored by nationally recognized accreditation.

The school also has an open door policy for parents with special observation widows for viewing classroom activities.

Such efforts reiterate the mission of Imagination Station, to offer hope for future generations and give wings to the dreams of our children.

(Visit www.childcareimaginationstation.org for more details.)



Local America Recycles Day Effort Sets Record

Residents brought in a record-setting amount of more than 21,000 plastic bags for recycling during La Porte County Solid Waste District's recent America Recycles Day events.

During the past four years, the District has used these events at Al's Supermarkets to educate residents about the right way to recycle plastic bags. A new event was added at Wanatah's J-MARt BP.



Alicia Ebaugh (left), La Porte County Solid Waste District educator, appears with Master Recycler volunteers John Marchese and Betty Brewe amid the thousands of plastic bags collected.

said. That figures out to about 308 per person, so a family of four might go through about 1,250 single-use plastic bags per year. The amount collected would have been used by only about 68 residents over one year.

they also can be included with

clean and dry retail, newspa-

per, dry cleaning, bread, produce and other plastic bags

labeled No. 2 and No. 4, as

well as plastic food storage

bags, furniture and electronic

wrap, and case wrap used on

paper towels, diapers, bath-

room tissue and water bottles.

tic bags - about 100 billion -

used each year in the United

States is astounding, Ebaugh

Haddigan

butterfly extension

tables in a

smoky dark

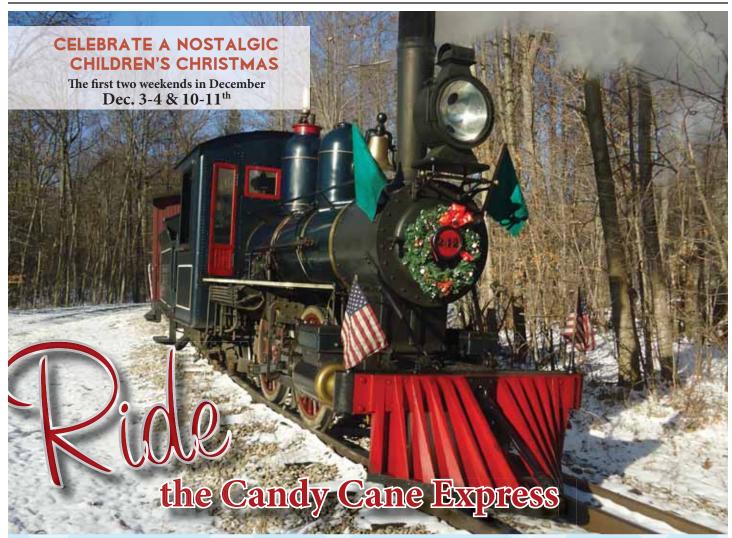
The sheer number of plas-

That's why the District also used these events to promote reuse, Ebaugh said, giving out about 350 reusable bags to residents in exchange for plastic bags. More people than ever participated in the swap events this year, which Ebaugh said is encouraging. Several of the District's Master Recycler graduates also pitched in to help with the events by talking with residents and counting bags.

"It's very important for people to know that we no longer accept loose plastic bags in our recycling program, and these events gave me a chance to explain why to hundreds of residents," said Alicia Ebaugh, the District's education and public-outreach coordinator. "It's even more important that everyone knows they can bring plastic bags back to many stores to be recycled."

Ebaugh used these events to promote the fact that all Al's Supermarket locations now accept plastic bags for recycling year-round, but noted they also can be taken to Meijer, Kroger and WalMart. Not only are grocery bags acceptable to recycle, but





Santa in his real railroad Caboose, the blacksmith and our 1930's Soda Fountain.

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Merry Christmas from the volunteers of the Hesston Steam Museum!



Breakfast Served 9 - 11:00



HESSTON STEAM MUSEUM

www.hesston.org

Museum Campus opens at 11:30 trains run 12:00 - 5:00 CDT

Greet Santa when he arrives at Noon

Doc's Soda Fountain opens at 9:00 for breakfast. See website for details.

Look for the billboard at CR 1000 North and IN-39

GPS: 1201 East 1000 North LaPorte, IN 46350 Hesston Steam Museum



Shirley Heinze Honors Partners, Area Native Planting Projects



The Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Nature Preserves was honored during the event. Pictured are (from left) Kris Krouse, John Bacone, Tom Post, Tom Swinford and Myrna Newgent. Seated is Barbara Plampin.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust hosted its Partnership Luncheon on Nov. 4, at Porter's Spa Banquet Center, uniting more than 100 people from businesses, civic groups and Northwest Indiana's environmental conservation community.

Executive Director Kris Krouse gave special recognition to two partners: the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Nature Preserves and the Indiana Bicentennial Nature Trust.

"Both have played an integral part in our 35-year history, making significant contributions to the acquisition of more than 1,000 of the 2,100 acres we have protected," he said.

Krouse also thanked DNP "for the decades of partnership and support which have helped advance the mission of Shirley Heinze Land Trust to protect important natural areas in northwestern Indiana."

He recognized BNT for its role in three recent conservation projects: Meadowbrook Nature Preserve, the Little Calumet River Corridor and Lydick Bog.

John Bacone, DNR Division of Nature Preserves

director, and Assistant Director Tom Swinford spoke about the 50-year history of natural area protection in Northwest Indiana.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust presented Bacone with a special award.

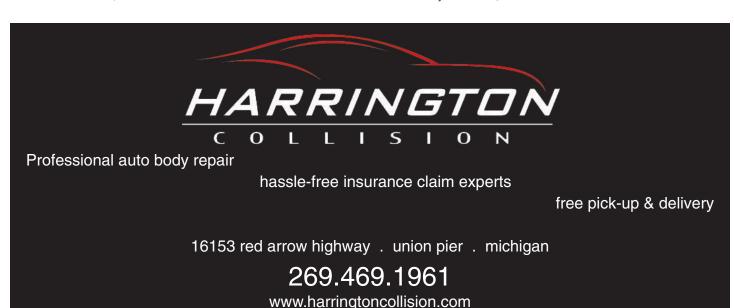
"Throughout John's 36-year career as director, he has weathered many changes in administrations and has been a staunch advocate and supporter of the entire land trust community throughout the state," Krouse said.

Warren Buckler and Laura Henderson of the Friends of Shirley Heinze gave Bringing Nature Home awards to two organizations for incorporating native plants into their landscaping plans: Porter County Parks for its Pond and Prairie Restoration Project at Sunset Hill Farm County Park, and La Porte County Soil and Water Conservation District for its outreach/demonstration garden, "The Community Conservation Walk," at La Porte County Fairgrounds.

In other news, Shirley Heinze Land Trust has acquired a 7.7-acre property along the Little Calumet River in Porter.



The La Porte County Soil and Water Conservation District was honored for its "Community Conservation Walk." Pictured are (from left) Don Lode, Ethyl Turkowski, Nicole Messacar and Laura Henderson.



The property, located west of the Keith Richard Walner Nature Preserve and adjacent to Hawthorne Park, is the latest addition to the Little Calumet Conservation Corridor. The effort was approved in 2014 as an Indiana Bicentennial Nature Trust Conservation Area, one of five such designated project areas in the state. Its goal is to help connect protected natural areas along the Little Calumet River, which meanders at this location and contains an actively forming oxbow, as well as a small island. Originally part of the Hokanson family farm, the property includes both banks of the river and features a spring. While there are no plans for direct public access at this time, paddlers will be able to travel through the area.



Porter County Parks was honored for its Pond and Prairie Restoration Project. Pictured are (from left) Laura Henderson, Walter Lenckos, Warren Buckler, Myrna Newgent and Kris Krouse.

The organization also has acquired a 10-acre boreal flatwoods habitat within the Ambler Flatwoods Project area in Michigan City. The property, located near U.S. 12 and Meer Road, was donated by area residents Jannine and Glenn Aldinger. It will provide a buffer for the wooded wetlands and wildlife habitat found within nearby Ambler Flatwoods, a 353-acre state-dedicated nature preserve.

The preserve is home to rare plants, including some species that are more commonly found in locations further north.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust has been protecting and preserving natural land since 1981. Five of its properties - Cressmoor Prairie, Seidner Dune & Swale, John Merle Coulter Preserve, Barker Woods and Ambler Flatwoods - have been dedicated as state nature preserves. Visit www.heinzetrust.org, call (219) 242-8558 or access its facebook page at www.facebook.com/heinzetrust for more details.

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JROTC Boasts Strong Performance at Competition



Cadets display the many trophies earned during the competition.

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps delivered a strong performance in a military skills competition Nov. 19 at the school.

The Wolves finished first in six out of 11 events against seven other schools from Indiana and Chicago. Five of the first-place finishes were in nine close-order drill categories. They also scored four third-place finishes, thereby placing in every drill category.



The Armed Exhibition Platoon executes its routine.

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The events, place and cadet commanders are:

Event	Place	Commander
Unarmed Platoon	1st	Capt. Arturo Moreno
Armed Platoon 3rd	1st	Sgt. Michael Livengood
Armed Exhibition	1st	2nd Lt. Damon Adams
Unarmed Exhibition	3rd	2nd Lt. Ana Nowatzke
Armed Squad 1st	1st	Lt. Pauline Lutton
Color Guard A 1st	1st	Sgt. Michael Livengood
Color Guard B 3rd	2nd	Lt. Ana Nowatzke
Personnel Inspection	3rd	Capt. Arturo Moreno
1st Year Squad	1st	Cpl. Tyler Stockley
Marksmanship	1st	1st Lt. Pauline Lutton

The meet was sponsored by Michiana Marines, the local chapter of the Marine Corps League. Judges came from the Purdue University Navy/Marine Corps ROTC. The MCJROTC Booster Club ran the concession stand and provided meal support to the cadets.

"This has to be one of our best drill meets," Master Sgt. Jeff Benak, the Marine instructor, said. "Our cadets drilled great, and we received many compliments from the visiting schools as to how professionally the meet functioned."

Maj. Tom McGrath, the senior Marine instructor, also had high praise for the cadets, but was cautious about providing too many platitudes.

"The kids really have worked hard in preparing for this first meet," he said. "However, we have many more meets to go. Our next meet, Dec. 3 in Chicago, will be a real test, as Navy Nationals finalists East Aurora and Zion Benton will be there."

In preparing for the meet, the cadets also must adapt to winter sports being in full swing when competing for practice time in the gym, as well as supporting school and community events such as the "One City One Sound" concert and Toys for Tots campaign.

Pre-Release Book Signing

Patty Carroll will discuss the images behind her new photo book, "Anonymous Women," at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

The event is part of the First Friday Art Walk, which runs from 5 to 8 p.m. Copies of the book, set for a January release, will be available for sale, with prints on display.

"Anonymous Women" is a series of "un-portraits," as Carroll calls them, of women draped in lush textiles, home appliances, common foods and items that reflect daily domestic life. Her portraits are politically loaded, with historical and gender-based baggage.

"The work is from my ongoing obsession with the idea of home — what it means, where it is and what it feels and looks like," she explains.

Carroll has taught photography at School of the Art Institute Chicago, Columbia College Chicago, The Institute of Design at Illinois Institute of Technology and the Royal College of Art in London. Her photographs have won international competitions and been featured in magazines and blogs, including Huffington Post.

Debuting during First Friday in NIPSCO Art Education Studios is Area Artists' Association member Larry (Lars) Jensen's sculptural exhibit, "Ect., Ect., Ect." His handcrafted pieces made of wood and botanicals run through Jan. 2.

Also in the NIPSCO Art Education Studios is "All Buttoned Up," which features mixed-media paintings by Kimberly Jensen Stout. The artist uses old buttons as decorative elements, resulting in layered compositions. The exhibit runs through Jan. 7.

Visitors also can view "The Hunt-The Prey-The Spirit," an all-woman show focused on the portrayal of animals. The diverse pieces consist of vegan and rogue taxidermy, installation, sculpture, printmaking and drawing. It runs through Jan. 7.

Admission during First Friday is free. Visit lubeznikcenter.org or call (219) 874-4900 for more information.

Snowflake Parade

The Michigan City Snowflake Parade returns to Franklin Street at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3.

The parade begins at 10th Street and proceeds north to Fourth Street, where caroling around the tree is planned at Michigan City Public Library, followed by the annual ceremony of turning on the Festival of Lights in Washington Park at 4:30 p.m.

Cookie decorating is from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at At the Beach, 1222 W. Fourth St. Santa's Chalet, usually at Seventh and Franklin streets, will be relocated to the parking lot near the courthouse during the parade. Storefronts will be decorated with a "Christmas Around the World" theme.



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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• Decorating Gingerbread Houses on Thursday, Dec. 1, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

Adults and children 5 and older can participate in the free program. Materials will be provided, but candy donations will be accepted. Space is limited, so registration is required for each of the six sessions held every half hour from 1 to 4 p.m. Call (219) 926-9080.

• Teen Library Council from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave.

Teens in grades 6-12 can recommend library programs, books and other programs for Teen Services. Community service hours are available.

• Chesterton Writing Group from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.

The group is open to adult writers – fiction or nonfiction — of all levels, whether published or unpublished. Attendees share their work and learn about publishing.

• Family Coloring Friday Nights from 5 to 7 p.m. Fridays at Hageman Library.

Materials are provided, but patrons can take their own. No registration is necessary.

• Make-N-Take Holiday Ornament Craft Time on Saturdays in December at Thomas Library.

Stop by the children's department to make a new holiday ornament while supplies last.

• Knitting Together from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave.

Area knitters, and those who crochet or do needlework, are invited.

• Novel Conversations with Edward Kelsey Moore from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at the Baugher Center (formerly Library Service Center), 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Moore is the author of "The Supremes at Earls All-You-Can-Eat," which is set in Plainview, Ind. The program is part of the library's Indiana bicentennial celebration. The book will be discussed as

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part of the "Popular Books" meeting at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, at Thomas Library.

• Adult Coloring Program from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at Hageman Library.

Registration is necessary and can be done in person or by calling (219) 926-9080.



Moore

• Pokemon League from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays at Thomas Library.

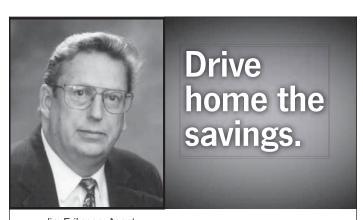
The program is aimed at children in first grade and older. Attendees learn to make decks of 60 cards. They don't need to take anything unless wanting to take a starter pack of cards.

• Holiday program at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, at Westchester Township History Museum.

Joan Costello will lead caroling around the Hill-strom organ.

• Children's Crochet Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.

Aimed at children in third grade and older, attendees learn beginning crochet from Sadie Steciuch. Children should take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium weight yarn. Class size is limited, and registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.



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Tiedeman-Cockrell Wedding



On Oct. 15, 2016, Jonathan A. Tiedeman and Kristin Cockrell fulfilled the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at St. John Chrysostum Antiochian Orthodox Church, Fort Wayne, Ind., with Father Michael Sakran presiding.

Anna Steele (Fort Wayne), friend of the bride, served as Matron of Honor. Joseph Hannon (La Porte), friend of the groom, served as Best Man. Master Andrew LaHayne (Harmony, Fla.), nephew of the groom, served as Ring Bearer.

Jonathan, the son of John and Becky Wildhart-Tiedeman (Long Beach), is a 2013 graduate from Valparaiso University's double master's degree program in school psychology and is employed as a school psychologist within a California school district. Kristin, daughter of Joseph Cockrell Sr. and Sandra Cockrell (Fort Wayne), is a 2016 graduate from Purdue University-Fort Wayne's Bachelor of Health and Human Services program, and is employed as a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurse in California. They live in Pittsburg, Calif.



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Michigan City Public Library

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

• South Shore Scribes at 6 p.m. Thursdays, Dec. 1 and 15.

The writing group meets the first and third Thursdays each month.

• Free Gentle Flow Yoga at 12:15 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3.

Certified yoga instructor Lauralee Sikorski emphasizes deep breathing and releasing stress. Take a mat and wear comfortable attire, and come on an empty stomach.

• Understanding Your Dreams at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3.

Experienced dream therapist Terese Fabbri leads the workshop for people interested in dreams and their significance.

• An Evening with Santa Claus at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6.

The program designed for children birth to 10 and accompanied by an adult includes stories and songs. Take a camera for photos with Santa.

• Story Time with Santa Claus at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7.

The program designed for children birth to 10 and accompanied by an adult includes stories and songs. Take a camera for photos with Santa.

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

Night in Bethlehem

First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St., will present "Night in Bethlehem" from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4.

The family event includes shops, opportunities to make jewelry, clay pots or pretzels, and food such as baklaya.



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Trails Advisory Board

The Department of Natural Resources is seeking nominations for five openings on the state's Trails Advisory Board.

Nominations will be accepted Dec. 1-30. The openings are for representatives from environmental groups, hikers, mountain bikers, trail support groups and users with disabilities. Nominees should be involved with a local or statewide trails-oriented organization.

If selected for the board, members are expected to serve a three-year term starting March 1, 2017. Meetings are the first Thursday of March, September and December, and the last Thursday in June. All meetings start at 3 p.m., and locations vary throughout the state.

The 15-member voluntary TAB advises DNR Director Cam Clark on trails-related issues. Members also report on news from their user groups and share pertinent trail information with their constituents.

Having a TAB is required for Indiana to receive Recreational Trails Program funds through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. The state distributes \$1.2 million in RTP grant funding to acquire and develop multiuse trails for motorized and non-motorized use.

More details about the TAB and nomination information are at dnr.IN.gov/outdoor/4094.htm

Winter Concerts

Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra will present two winter concerts, the first at 7:30 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 3, at South Haven (Mich.) High School, 600 Elkenburg St.

The orchestra features student musicians from grade school to college senior.

The Youth Symphony will perform selections from "The Nutcracker Suite," along with Georges Bizet's "Carmen Suite No. 1," at the Dec. 3 concert.

The second concert, which features the Youth Symphony, Encore Strings and Concert Strings, is at 4 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 11, at Bridgman (Mich.) High School, 9964 Gast Road.

Tickets, which are available at the door, cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and students. Contact the symphony office at (269) 982-4030 or visit www. smso.org for more details.

Christmas Cantata

The Christmas cantata "Oh Night Divine" is at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at the La Porte Salvation Army Chapel, 3240 Monroe St.

The program is presented by St. John's Lutheran Church Jubilee Ensemble and friends, directed by Sue Rosselli. The concert is free, with refreshments and fellowship afterward.

Showing Some LOVE



Coolspring Elementary School celebrated American Education Week on Nov. 14-18 with a number of special events, including a family book fair, special activities involving math and a "stop, drop and read" day. For a big finish on Friday, students and staff encircled the building to give it (and one another) a huge, schoolwide hug.

Santa at the Museum

Santa, along with the La Porte Little Theatre cast of "Miracle on 34th St.," will be at La Porte County Historical Society Museum starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 3.

Santa will meet with children, while the cast will sing carols from noon to 1 p.m.

(The show opens Dec. 10.)

Holiday decorations will remain up through the first week in January. The theme is "Season's Greetings!," with the Historical Society's vast collection of antique Christmas cards on display. Trees in period rooms are decorated with ornaments from their respective pasts.

A La Porte tradition for many years, the Giese Church is on display in the museum's lower level. The miniature choir and minister still make their ways to the front of the church just like they have every Christmas for more than 60 years.

The museum is located at 2405 Indiana Ave. in La Porte. Call (219) 324-6767 or visit www.laporte-countyhistory.org for more details.

Pioneer Land Christmas Open House

Pioneer Land will present its annual Christmas Open House from 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3-4, at La Porte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, La Porte.

Pioneer Land will be decorated with handmade period creations in keeping with the theme of the 1840s. All 12 buildings are open, while draft horse wagon rides are available depending upon the weather.

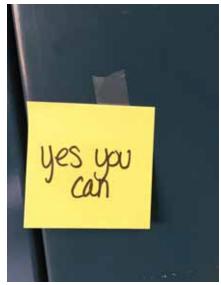
The event is free. Visit pioneerland.org for more details.





Post-it Surprise





Michigan City High School students recently found a surprise when they arrived at school: Teachers stuck Post-it notes with positive messages on all 2,000 lockers, classroom doors, windows, computer screens and restroom mirrors.

Post-its read: "You are awesome!"; "You are not alone"; "Be

brave"; "Got your back"; "You are powerful." A few members of the school's Poetry, Japanese and Bible clubs stayed after school to help teachers with the Post-its. After about an hour of sticking and taping, the school was transformed.

The reaction?

"Kids were amazed that someone took all the time to do all the Post-its," said teacher Julie Geyer, who found the idea online and suggested it to the group of teachers who coordinated the project.

"As soon as students realized what was happening, they were really excited to find their locker to read the message. And, of course, there were lots of pics taken to post on their social media pages."

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ASL Game Day

The Purdue University Northwest American Sign Language Club and Indiana Dunes Visitor Center will co-host the first American Sign Language game day from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at the visitor center, 1215 N. Indiana 49.

The event, open to hearing and non-hearing community members, will offer participants the opportunity to learn new signs through interactive games led by ASL faculty members.

Children will learn about the Indiana Dunes, discover what it takes to become an Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore junior ranger and earn prizes by participating in activities or finding hidden Mickey Mouse symbols in Art Walk murals.

Guests are encouraged to communicate using ASL. The event's primary language is ASL, with interpretation into spoken English.

More details are available by contacting Karen Donah, American Sign Language continuing lecturer, at kdonah@pnw.edu

Holiday Pop-Up Gallery

ECLECTICA's holiday pop-up gallery kicks off from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, in Down Gallery, located downstairs at Revive Consignments, 523 Franklin St.

Items have been gathered or handmade by three women who have been producing, designing or collecting art, jewelry and clothing for years.

Anneke Dekker-Olthof is the former designer/ owner of ANKO Fashions. Kathy Dennis is a collector of Native American and indigenous tribal objects, jewelry and art. Graphic designer Dani Lane is a fashion devotee and collector.

Joining them are three photographers — Gloria Newcomb, Jack Lane and Kyron Williams — as well as Sue Quiriconi's lake glass and fossil jewelry, Kathi Millet's wire weaving and wrapping jewelry, and pieces by Staara.

ECLECTICA also will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 10-11 and 17-18.



The American Red Cross La Porte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobile:

• St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, Michigan City, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org for more details.



Long Beach Women's Bowling

Nov. 22, 2016

Nov. 22, 2016				
TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST		
1. Bitchin Bowlers	35	9		
2. Queen Pins	29	15		
3. Bowling Beauties	27	13		
3. Alley Katz	27	17		
HIGH INDIVIDUAL G	SCORE			
1. Tammy Nelmar		191		
2. Sue Labovitz		177		
3. Debra Smith		156		
3. Sue Luegers		156		
4. Dottie Brinkman		149		
SPLITS				
Robyn Rice	5-6-10, 1-2-3-5	5-7		
Peg King	5-10			
STRIKES				
Tammy Nelmar	4			
Debra Smith	3			

More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.

Candy Cane Express

Santa's Candy Cane Express will run Dec. 3-4 and 10-11 at Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, La Porte.

Visitors can ride the Candy Cane Express in open or enclosed railroad coaches on a 2 1/2-mile railway line through the woods and past lakes and farm fields. Meanwhile, Santa waits for children in a vintage 1900s caboose.

Doc's Soda Fountain will be open for breakfast at 9 a.m., with Spire of La Porte serving meals. Children can greet Santa when he arrives at 11:30 a.m. Santa will remain on the museum grounds to meet with children. Trains start running at noon and continue through 5 p.m. Fare are \$5 for adults, while children 3-12 cost \$3. Children 3 and younger are free.

To support the U.S. Marine Corps, visitors can bring a new unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots drive and receive a free train ride.

Visit www.hesston.org or call (219) 778-2783 for additional information.

Crafts for the Holidays

Independent Cat Society will present "Crafts for the Holidays" from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Westville American Legion, 107 Flynn Road.

The event includes cat toys, catnip and other crafts made by ICS volunteers to benefit the shelter.

Call (219) 785-4936, email shelter@catsociety.org or visit www.catsociety.org for details.





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Winter WellnessLand

Winter WellnessLand returns to The Crossing at La Porte Hospital, including photos with Santa in exchange for non-perishable food items, from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at The Crossing, 1203 Washington St., La Porte.

New this year are holiday movie shorts with popcorn at 4:15, 4:45 and 5:15 p.m. Also planned is information on how to beat stress at the holidays, healthy holiday recipes and information on wellness classes and membership at The Crossing.

To keep the Santa line moving quickly, organizers ask that there be one photo only per family. Photos will be printed and mailed to families upon request, and families are welcome to take their own.

Call (219) 326-2048 for more information.

Anniversary Christmas Concert

The 150th Anniversary Christmas Concert, featuring Michigan City Community Chorus under Lee Meyer's direction, is from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, 411 W. 11th St.

Admission is a non-perishable food items for Sacred Heart Food Panty.

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Christmas Candlelight Tour

The 17th Annual Christmas Candlelight Tour, presented by People Engaged in Preservation, is from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4.

The tour, supported by Visit Michigan City La Porte tourism bureau and the La Porte mayor's office, features five historic homes, a church and a boutique. Tickets are \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door. Advance tickets are available through Friday, Dec. 2, at:

- La Porte Arbor Hill Inn, Coachman Antique Mall, CO-OP Shoppes, Judee's Boutique, La Porte County Historical Society Museum, Plain & Fancy Antiques, Posh Day Spa, Temple News Agency and Town & Country Florist.
- Michigan City The Antique Market and Hoity Toity.
- New Buffalo The Villager.

Day of tickets can be purchased at La Porte New Church — Swedenborgian. Call (219) 362-5712 or (219) 363-7485 for additional information.

Holiday Art Celebration

Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St., will present its "Holiday Art Celebration" during First Friday Art Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 2.

The exhibit will feature art with subjects by members and guest artists, including paintings, photography, sculpture, glasswork and fiber art.

Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Visit www.southernshoreartassociation. com for details.

Christmas Grand Opening

Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., will kick off an annual holiday tradition with the grand opening of its Christmas display from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3.

View three floors of decorated rooms during the event, which includes self-guided and guided tours, cocoa and tea, and children's crafts.

The cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for youth 15 and younger. Visit www.barkermansion.com for details.



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following program is available:

• Monthly Stargazing Program at 4:20 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, Kemil Beach parking area.

Chicago Astronomical Society members will take telescopes so visitors can get a closer look at the night sky. For December, the focus is the crescent moon with its craters until twilight ends. After dark, the focus will shift to star clusters, colored double stars and visible galaxies.

The Kemil Beach parking lot is located at 27 N. East State Park Boundary Road, Chesterton.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is on Lake Street in Gary. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

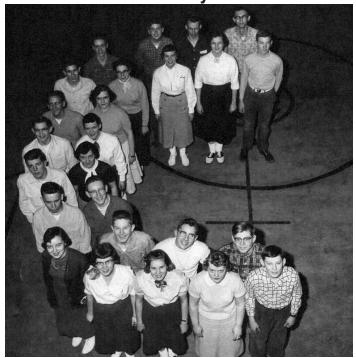
"The Nutcracker"

The Pokagon Fund will present "The Nutcracker" at 1 and 5 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 3, at New Buffalo Performing Arts Center, 1112 E. Clay St.

The performance is free to residents of Chikaming, New Buffalo and Three Oaks townships. Otherwise, the cost is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children. Tickets are available at the center the day of the performances.

Read The Beacher On Line http://www.thebeacher.com/

Historical Society Calendars



La Porte County Historical Society's 2017 calendars are available for sale at the museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte. This year's theme features La Porte County high schools past and present. From cheerleaders to basketball teams, faculty to prom, an array of old photos are shown on each page. The cost is \$12. Call (219) 324-6767 or email info@ laportecountyhistory.org for details. Pictured are students from Clinton Township High School forming a "C" in 1956.

Photo of the Week Contest

Help Us Capture Life Along the Beach!

Snap a high-resolution photo of a friend or family member, place, event...even the beautiful scenery. Include the day, time and location of the photo.

Submit the photo to The Beacher by 5 p.m. each Wednesday. We'll contact you by 5 p.m. Thursday if the photo is chosen to appear in an upcoming edition.





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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Dec. 1 — "One City, One Sound," 7 p.m., Michigan City High School gymnasium, 8466 Pahs Road. Free; donations of canned good/non-perishable food item for Salvation Army.

Dec. 2 — First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Uptown Arts District (downtown Michigan City).

Dec. 2 — "Holiday Art Celebration," 5-8 p.m., Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St. Info: www.southernshoreartassociation.com

Dec. 2 — ECLECTICA holiday pop-up gallery, 4-8 p.m., Down Gallery (downstairs at Revive Consignments, 523 Franklin St.)

Dec. 2 — Pre-release book signing, Patty Carroll's "Anonymous Women," 6 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: lubeznikcenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

Dec. 2 — Debut, Larry Jensen sculptural exhibit, "Ect., Ect., Ect.," 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: lubeznikcenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

Dec. 2-3 — Madrigal Dinner, First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Seating: 6 p.m., Tickets: \$35/\$240 table for 8. Reservations: (219) 362-1421.

Dec. 2-4, 8-11 — "Seven Nuns at Las Vegas," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$12, \$10/ Thursday shows, youth 12 & younger. Reservations: www.footlightplayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

Dec. 2-5 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Now showing: "Christine." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. Also: "Coming Through the Rye." Rated PG-13. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

Dec. 3 — Independent Cat Society "Crafts for the Holidays," 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Westville American Legion, 107 Flynn Road.

Dec. 3 — Christmas display opening, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$8/ adults, \$5/youth 15 & younger. Info: www.barkermansion.com

Dec. 3 — Santa at the Museum, 10 a.m., La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767, visit www.laportecountyhistory.org

Dec. 3 — Free Gentle Flow Yoga, 12:15 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Dec. 3 — County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz program, "The Rest of the Story," 1 p.m., La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

Dec. 3 — "The Nutcracker," 1 & 5 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Performing Arts Center, 1112 E. Clay St. Free/Chikaming, New Buffalo and Three Oaks townships residents. At door/everyone else: \$12/ adults, \$8/children.

- **Dec. 3** Understanding Your Dreams, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.
- **Dec. 3** Michigan City Snowflake Parade, 3 p.m., Franklin Street. Annual Festival of Lights ceremony, 4:30 p.m., Washington Park.
- **Dec. 3** Monthly Stargazing Program, 4:20 p.m., Kemil Beach parking area, 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton. Info: (219) 395-1882.
- **Dec. 3-4** Christmas Candlelight Tour, 4-8 p.m. Sat./1-5 p.m. Sun., La Porte. Tickets: \$20/advance, \$25/door. Info: (219) 362-5712, (219) 363-7485.
- **Dec. 3-4** Candy Cane Express, Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, La Porte. Rides: Noon-5 p.m. Cost: \$5/adults, \$3/children 3-12, free/children 3 & younger. Info: (219) 778-2783, www.hesston.org
- **Dec. 3-4** Pioneer Land annual Christmas Open House, 3-8 p.m., La Porte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, La Porte. Free. Info: pioneerland.org
- **Dec. 4** Novel Conversations with Edward Kelsey Moore, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library Baugher Center (formerly Library Service Center), 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.
- **Dec. 4** Purdue University Northwest American Sign Language Club game day, 2-4 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49.
- **Dec. 4** Christmas cantata, "Oh Night Divine," 3 p.m., La Porte Salvation Army Chapel, 3240 Monroe St. Free.
- **Dec. 4** 150th Anniversary Christmas Concert, 3:30-4:30 p.m., St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, 411 W. 11th St. Admission: non-perishable food items for Sacred Heart Food Panty.
- **Dec. 4** Astronaut Jerry Ross, Purdue University Northwest Sinai Forum, 4 p.m., James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex, 1401 S. U.S. 421. Tickets/info: www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum
- **Dec. 5** FOL Community Forum, Great Depression's impact on Berrien County, 6:30 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.
- **Dec. 6** An Evening with Santa Claus, 5:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.
- **Dec. 7** Story Time with Santa Claus, 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Through Dec. 28 — Holiday Artisan Market, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: lubeznikcenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

Through Jan. 6, 2017—Exhibit, Dorothy Graden, Laurel Izard & Edwin Shelton, Visit Michigan City La Porte. Opening reception: 5-8 p.m. Nov. 18.

In the Region

Dec. 3 — Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra winter concert, 7:30 p.m. EST, South Haven (Mich.) High School, 600 Elkenburg St. Tickets: \$5/adults, \$3/seniors & students. Info: (269) 982-4030, www. smso.org





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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



On December 1, 1824, the presidential election was turned over to the House of Representatives to break a four-way deadlock between John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, William Crawford, and Henry Clay. Adams was declared the victor.

On December 1, 1880, the first telephone was installed in the White House.

On December 1, 1913, in Pittsburg, Gulf Refining Co. opened the world's first drive-in gasoline station. Motorists, up until that time, were accustomed to buying gas in garages and livery stables.

On December 1, 1927, Chicago's first contract airmail plane landed at Municipal (now Midway) Airport.

On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Ala., black seamstress Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give a white man her seat on a city bus. As a result of her arrest, the law requiring blacks to sit in the back of buses was eventually struck down by the United States Supreme Court.

On December 1, 1957, the last wood and steel transit car was taken off the Chicago Rapid Transit lines

On December 2, 1816, the first savings bank to operate in the U.S. opened for business under the name of the "Philadelphia Savings Fund Society."

On December 2, 1834, the Chicago Lyceum, the forerunner of Chicago's library system, was formed by a group of book intellectuals.

On December 2, 1942, below the football stadium at the University of Chicago, a group of scientists, led by Enrico Fermi, for the first time demonstrated a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction.

On December 2, 2001, Houston based Enron, in one of the largest bankruptcies in U.S. history, filed for Chapter 11 protection.

On December 3, 1833, Ohio's Oberlin College opened, becoming the first coeducational college in the United States.

On December 3, 1925, in New York's Carnegie Hall, George Gershwin performed as a soloist, playing his *Concerto in F*. It was the first public performance of a jazz concerto for piano in musical history.

On December 3, 1947, Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened on Broadway.

On December 3, 1948, the famous Pumpkin Papers came to light with the revelation that microfilm of secret documents was found hidden inside a hollow pumpkin on the farm of Whittaker Chambers. Chambers, a former communist agent, claimed he

received the papers from Alger Hiss.

On December 3, 1967, in Cape Town, South Africa, Dr. Christian Barnard performed the first human heart transplant. The patient, Louis Washkansky, lived with the new heart for 18 days.

On December 4, 1783, George Washington retired as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.

On December 4, 1875, New York's William "Boss" Tweed, the former leader of Tammany Hall, escaped from prison while serving a sentence for swindling. He was later captured in Spain.

On December 4, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the dismantling of the Works Progress Administration, which had been created to provide jobs during the Depression.

On December 4, 1979, City Supervisor Diane Feinstein became the first female mayor of San Francisco, replacing the assassinated Mayor George Moscone.

On December 4, 1996, the *Mars Pathfinder* lifted off from Cape Canaveral, FL, and began its 310-million mile odyssey to explore the red planet.

On December 5, 1929, the "American League of Physical Culture," the first nudist organization in America, was established. While December would not seem to be the best time of the year to go around without clothes, the enterprise appears to have flourished.

On December 5, 1978, Pioneer Venus 1 began beaming back its first information and pictures of Venus.

On December 6, 342, Saint Nicholas, an archbishop of Myra, is reported to have died at the age of 38 or 39. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of Russia, mariners, youth, and virgins. From earliest times he has been one of the saints most often pictured, and is especially noted for his charity. Santa Claus, and the presentation of yuletide gifts, derived from the works of Saint Nicholas.

On December 6, 1923, Calvin Coolidge's address to a joint session of Congress marked the first time that a president's speech was broadcast over the airways.

On December 6, 1933, liquor stores, bars and restaurants in America were jammed as, for the first time in 13 years, one could legally get drunk.

On December 6, 1972, *Apollo 17,* America's last mission to the Moon, blasted off from Cape Canaveral.

On December 7, 1842, the New York Philharmonic gave its first concert, performing works by Ludwig van Beethoven and Maria von Weber.

On December 7, 1941, Japanese warplanes attacked American and British territories and possessions in the Pacific, including the home base of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Join our team! Miller Pizza By the Beach is taking applications at 1012 N. Karwick Road, MC. Full and part time. Apply within.

Marquette Catholic has an open position for certified ENL teacher/ dean. Full-time day schedule with benefits and housing, if needed. Email resume to mrichardson@marquette-hs.org

Marquette Catholic High School seeks: Girls JV Basketball Coach; Boys Volleyball Coach; Girls Volleyball Coach. Teaching/staff positions available. Send resume to katie.collignon@marquette-hs.org; jwhite@marquette-hs.org

Marquette Catholic High School seeks development/alumni coordinator. Proven experience in philanthropic endeavors. Degreed and/ or appropriately certified in philanthropic work. Full-time w/benefits. Highlight experience in field. Resume to jwhite@marquette-hs.org

FOR SALE

ART SUPPLY GIFT SETS FOR BUDDING ARTISTS – FIRME'S (2 Stores) 11th & Franklin Streets, Michigan City - 219/874-3455 Hwy 12, Beverly Shores - Just West of Traffic Light - 219/874-4003.

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Stop 31. Nicely furn. 3BR, 2BA with 3-season porch. Family room. WiFi. Winter/spring available for \$895/mo +util. Short or long term. \$1,850/wk. summer rental avail. W/D. No smoking, no pets. 4-min. walk to beautiful beach. See VRBO #372192. Call Pat at 708-361-8240.

Long Beach home for rent this season. Four bedroom, 11 beds, 2 baths, recent renovation and gut remodel, available July 23-Sept. 30. Near Stop 26 beach in central Long Beach. Contact Rick at Century 21 Middleton Co. at (773) 908-1969 or rremijas@hotmail.com

SHERIDAN BEACH: Year-round, 1 BR, quiet building, laundry, off-street parking, no smoking, no pets, \$625/month, references required, utilities included.

Call (219) 879-2195.

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

Just one block from the lake! 3BR/1BA year-round apartment in Sheridan Beach. Lake facing deck, in-unit laundry, ample parking, A/C. \$800/mo. + utilities. Call Tom at (773) 339-8141.

SHERIDAN BEACH RENTAL.

Walk over majestic dune to beach. 2BR/sleeping porch. 2 decks, W/D, two parking spaces. Nov. to June \$750/mo. Ready to go. 1st and last month deposit. **219-262-5154.**

Long Beach. Stop 26. Spacious, well-furnished, perfect for families and all four seasons. 5BR/2 full BA, 2 half BA, sleeps 11. WiFi. Steps from beach entrance. No pets. Email for price/details: longbeachstop26@gmail.com

Furnished 2BR open-concept loft (duplex) for rent December thru April. \$1,000+ utilities. Call (334) 790-1197.

RSVP Receives Honor

United Way Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Northwest Indiana has received the Exemplary Volunteer Program honor from Serve Indiana, the state's volunteer service agency.

The award was one of eight given to outstanding Hoosiers and organizations.

This year, RSVP has grown to more than 400 volunteers who give more than 30,732 hours to assist more than 160,900 people in Lake, Porter, La Porte and Starke counties. The program engages individuals 55 and older to support local nonprofit services to meet community need. Volunteer opportunities include basic needs collection drives, Meals on Wheels delivery, hospice care and transportation services for veterans, homeless and the elderly.

Visit UnitedWayPC.org for more details.

La Porte County Historical Society

"Seasons Greetings" is the theme for the Christmas season at La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz will present "The Rest of the Story," a program highlighting outstanding La Porte County people not featured in the Society's bicentennial display, at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3. Santa will be present.

The 2017 calendars of La Porte County high schools are available. The cost is \$12, and they are available at the museum's front desk.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

A Christmas Message by Anne Perry (small hardcover, \$20 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

Bestselling-author Anne Perry brings us the 14th novel in her Christmas mystery series. Being a small size, 5.5 x 8 inches, and only 163 pages, it's easy to see why this makes a popular book for the holiday season. Whether to provide a little "me" time in-between all the shopping and party planning, or to give as a hostess gift or small present to a friend or co-worker, this series has proven very popular over the years. Here's a preview of this year's offering...

It's the first Christmas of the new century — December 1900. English-

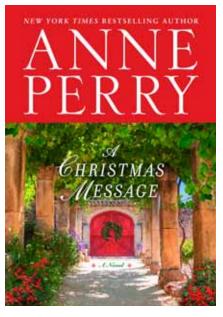
man Lord Victor Narraway has a special Christmas gift for his wife, Vespasia. It's a trip to Jerusalem, the holy city for Christians, Jews and Muslims, especially at this time of year.

"They were on a private holiday, a journey intended as a gift, an exploration peculiarly appropriate to this time of year. Christian in values, perhaps, but not in any spiritual sense. At least that is how it had begun."

As the story opens, the couple is in Jaffa, on the coast of Palestine. The next day, they are to take the train into Jerusalem. This beautiful cool night finds them heading into the hotel's lounge to await the evening meal. They ask an elderly gentleman if they can join him, and soon find themselves in pleasant conversation. Strange that he does not offer his name, only that he is an astronomer by occupation. Vespasia catches movement from a shadowy figure in the doorway. As the evening progresses, it becomes obvious they are being watched. And that someone does not want to be seen.

The next day, Victor and Vespasia spend the day walking the marketplace of Jaffa and making the acquaintance of another English couple, who invite them to supper. Returning late to the hotel, they pass the room of the old man and discover the door slightly ajar. Entering, they are shocked by the sight of the old man lying in a pool of blood — his throat cut, the room ransacked.

Who would want to kill such a mild-mannered old gentleman? Hang on, we're about to find out...well, sort of. Back in their hotel room, Narraway finds an old piece of parchment folded up in his jacket pocket. The old man must have slipped it there before they parted company. It is in a language neither



Narraway recognizes nor understands. But there is a smaller piece of paper with it written in English:

"The Watcher draws near, and I am afraid I will not be able to deliver this myself. I entrust it to you, for the sake of all mankind. Take it to the House of Bread on the Via Dolorosa. It must be there by Christmas Eve. May the hand of God protect you."

Without really knowing why, Victor and Vespasia decide to fulfill the old man's request and board the train to Jerusalem.

The train keeps breaking down, several strange turbaned men are dogging the pair and an even stranger man, named Benedict, inserts himself into their compart-

ment and shows them a piece of parchment much like the one they have. Does the plot thicken? Of course, it does. But not in the way you might think.

In a bizarre turn of events, the Narraways and Benedict are left behind in the desert when the train takes off without them! Now what? Suffice it to say, they are rescued and finally make their way to Jerusalem, thanks to a desert sheikh.

What will they find at the House of Bread? A lot more than loaves of bread, to be sure.

Perry has written a story of faith and spirituality that brings up more questions than answers. Why did Vespasia want to visit Jerusalem? Was it to reaffirm her faith? Or just to see the sights? Their meeting at the House of Bread with a Greek Orthodox bishop, a Protestant minister and a Catholic cardinal may bring understanding to the mysterious pieces of parchment.

The story is not for everyone. Online reviews show just as many people hate the book as do those who love it. It is an interesting look at the meaning of faith and religion — a departure from Perry's usual themes.

From *Library Journal*: "A strangely intriguing mystery handled neatly by the wonderfully capable Victor (Narraway) and (his new wife, Lady) Vespasia."

Perry also is the author of two series: the William Monk series and the Charlotte and Thomas Pitt series set in Victorian England, five World War I novels, and <u>The Sheen on the Silk</u>, a work of historical fiction. She divides time between Los Angeles and Scotland. Visit <u>anneperry.co.uk</u> or <u>facebook.com/AnnePerryAuthor</u>

Till next time, happy reading!



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202 Hoosier Drive Michiana Area • \$569,000

4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. Dramatic 2-story vaulted Great room, granite fireplace, floor-to-ceiling windows & hardwood floors. Professional kitchen. Main floor master suite. Three season room. Many outstanding amenities.



1920 Oriole Trail Long Beach • \$549,000

3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Great room, exposed beams, fireplace, walls of windows & open kitchen. Main floor master suite. Partially finished lower level. Expansive wrap around deck.

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338 Oak Drive LaPorte • \$399,000

4 bedrooms, 2 baths. High end kitchen, well appointed baths, elegant master bedroom. Finished lower level with temperature controlled wine cellar. Rear access. This home offers lake views to enjoy in all directions.



2032 Oriole Trail Long Beach • \$395,000

3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Great room, 18ft ceiling, gas fireplace, French doors to covered deck & hardwood floors throughout. Open concept dining/kitchen. Walk-out lower level. Rear deck. Just 3 blocks to the beach.



2923 Roslyn Trail Long Beach • \$269,900

3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Two fireplaces. New hardwood floors, cabinets & appliances in kitchen. Walk-out lower level. Updates include boiler, roof, soffit, gutters, majority of windows & more. Over 1600 sq ft of living space!

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128 Prairie, Sheridan Beach \$230,000

Looking for an investment by the most desirable beach in Northwest IN? Charming duplex close to the beach, nestled among pine trees. Each apartment has a kitchen and dining area that is open to include the living room with a cozy fireplace. Create a getaway and relax, or stay in one side and rent the other.



805 Birch Tree Lane, Michigan City \$179,500

Best of both worlds! Enjoy low maintenance 3-bedroom 3-bath condo living within a beach community! Only one of four units this size. Wonderful amenities include garage, private patio and pool area. Beautiful common area. Association fee includes gas, trash, water, grass, snow removal and all of the pool maintenance.



2919 Loma Portal Way, Long Beach \$360,000

So many updates have taken place at this home recently. All you need to do is add your personal touch! Additions include: electrical, insulation, furnace, humidifier, A/C, water heater, siding, soffits, fascia, gutters, roof, garage door, interior painting and more! All appliances included.



160 Turner Court, Michigan City \$1,999,000

The living is easy in this impressive, generously proportioned open-concept residence with lake views, located within a stroll to the sand and surf. Wonderful kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite countertop, custom made cherry cabinets and large living area with wood-burning fireplace.



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Principal Broker

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