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THE ACCIDENTAL ARTIST

by M.D. Cunningham

Bernie Scott fell into his career the old-fashioned way. Someone else didn't show up. Scott was a grocery store manager at the time when the floral arranger bowed out without notifying him. So, Scott took over.

A Chicago saleswoman noticed his work. It took six months before she finally persuaded him to take design classes.

Scott studied with renowned designer Gloria Ray in Tinley Park, Ill. His work quickly escalated, but nothing compared to the call for the Royal Ballet's

50th anniversary gala at Manhattan's Metropolitan Opera House. The hosts were none other than former First Lady Nancy Reagan and Prince Charles.

"It was enormous," he said. "*New York Times* said it was the event of the decade. It was just an amazing event...it was huge."

Scott and a design team worked day and night on the gala. Magnates, financiers and socialites attired in black ties and designer gowns attended by the thousands. Scott, who stayed all night, admits he wasn't brazen enough to approach celebrities.

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For Bernie Scott, floral arrangements are an art form that appeal to his creative side. Photo by Bob Wellinski

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Asked if there was anyone he regretted not approaching, he replied without skipping a beat, “Yes, Diana Ross. She was there, and she was absolutely glorious. She was just beautiful...”

At one point, he found himself face to face with Elizabeth Taylor.

“And I just looked at her,” he recalled. “Everybody said she had violet eyes. I didn’t know what they meant by that.

“I looked at her — it was just a glance, but it was enough that I could see that that was true. She was absolutely stunning.”

Scott could have made a life for himself in New York or Chicago. Instead, he chose to stay in his hometown. It’s a decision that makes him smile.

“We looked at a shop near Olympia Fields, but the area didn’t scream ‘home,’” Scott said of the decision he and Joy, his wife of 47 years, made about staying in Michigan City.

“Living in New York City never had an appeal. I loved the excitement of the city, and endless party work in the Hamptons, but after four or five days, I was always ready to catch a plane home. I think that most people know that my home is where my family is, and Joy and I wanted our children to grow up in a community that was not pretentious. We never regretted staying right here.”

By far the most meaningful experience of his freelance career, however, arrived in 1987, shortly after the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. Scott was brought in to supervise a flag consisting of more than 58,000 roses — one for each casualty of war and those missing in action.

“The floral flag was assembled by Vietnam veterans, lo-



One of Bernie Scott’s floral arrangements at the anniversary gala.



The Royal Ballet’s 50th anniversary gala was hosted by none other than First Lady Nancy Reagan and Prince Charles.

cal florists, actor Chuck Norris and myself,” Scott said. “Chuck and I had both lost a brother in Vietnam, so the project was very personal for both of us.”

“Good Morning, America” highlighted the flag, while Time-Warner produced a documentary that included Scott and Norris and was shown worldwide the following Veteran’s Day.

A proud graduate of the Elston High School Class of 1966 — “The class with class,” he points out — Scott’s emphasis in his own shop, Joy of Flowers, is an inviting, friendly ambience.

“I told the wife, I said, ‘You’re not going to see me behind the counter or coming out and talking to people with a white shirt and tie. That’s not who I am, that’s not the mood I want to set in my store,’ he said. “The last thing we’d ever want to do is intimidate someone. That’s not who we are.”

Techniques Scott absorbed working with other designers,

along with the support of his family, particularly his daughter, Erica, who helps run the shop, allow Scott creative freedom.

"It is art. It definitely is," he said. "Any floral artist will tell you this that they don't like repetition ...It is creativity and what we want to do at that particular time."

Each day is an adventure.

"You never know what's gonna come in through the day, and you already know what you're going to be doing: you think about that before you go to bed and you think about it in the morning, but it's always exciting getting up," he said. "Every day is starting something new."

For Scott, one particular tool is indispensable.

"I love Swiss Army knives," he says, his excitement pulsing in staccato fashion. "I've always used them. I still have the one I had 35 years ago. I retired it. It's home in a drawer, but it means something to me. I've taken it all over the country."

The life of a floral designer looks different to outsiders. There are 364 days that aren't Valentine's Day. For every wedding and bashful Romeo, there are floral arrangements requested for tragedies. Scott takes these with the utmost seriousness and respect.

"You just want to do the best you can," Scott said. "With this, it's a final tribute. You only have one chance to do something great."

His eyes, typically marked by happiness, are shot with weariness.

"You want to be very strong when they're here," he said. "The flower business is not all fun. It's not. We like to keep it lighthearted in here, but it's an emotional roller coaster."



Bernie and his wife, Joy, have been married for 47 years.

Joy of Flowers has been in Michigan City for 35 years, but it was only five years ago that he moved it to the Uptown Arts District. He speaks of the city's revitalized downtown with pride, calling it a "dream come true" for the community.

Continued on page 4

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"I was here when the downtown area hit rock bottom," he said. "It took visionaries, such as Bob Lake, to purchase buildings with a promise of remodeling and/or restoring."

"We had an amazing opportunity to bring our customer base to the center of the arts community, and from our windows, we have watched an amazing transformation on both sides of our flower shop. There are specialty gift shops, varied art studios, fabulous restaurants, Artspace and many, many new customers coming into the area."

Scott stresses, too, that he once was told by a fellow designer the best thing to be is humble. In his community, Scott is well known for his volunteerism. Though he's reduced leadership roles these days, Scott has steadily served his community. Perhaps most notably, he's been a staple in efforts to empower the area's homeless.



Family is one reason why Bernie Scott says he remains in Michigan City. Here, he works side by side with his daughter, Erica. Photo by Bob Wellinski

"These are people who are struggling for all different reasons," he said. "And I'm a firm believer that you never look down on someone unless you're helping them up."

As a founding member of a "pad program" that provided shelter and food, Scott lost track of how many churches he approached to coordinate a support network.

"When we first got that started, we bought 12 beds," he said. "The first night...nobody came."

Another member worried the program might fail. "I said, no, you have to look at it this way, like 'Field of Dreams,'" Scott said. "If you build it, they will come. The next night, we had our first person."

There was one person for two weeks. Then two. Then three. Then six. And so on.

One freezing night, Scott was volunteering. A man knocked at the door after the 10 p.m. curfew.

"I knew it was midnight. Had I not opened the door and let him in, he would have frozen to death that night," he said. "You just can't judge people. I hate it when people call people bums. That's not a word that should even be in the dictionary."

As a child, Scott recalls being a hellion. He was a redhead with a red-hot temper. He remembers swinging from drapes like Tarzan as a 4-year-old. At his parents' first home on Gardena Street, he shattered his bedroom window with his fist. There's still a scar.

Scott says it was a rocky start to life, but given his craft and his heart, one thing is clear: A rose can grow from concrete.

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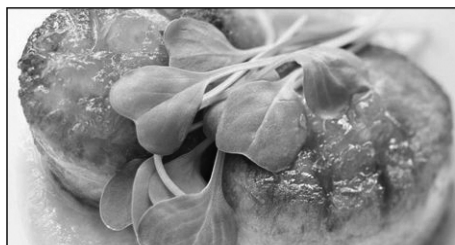
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A Snag in the Success of “The Walking Dead”

by Andrew Tallackson

By the time this edition of *The Beacher* goes to press, AMC will have aired its mid-season finale of “The Walking Dead.” The network’s ratings juggernaut is notorious for killing off a beloved cast member at this point in the season. Show forerunner Scott Gimple likes to pat himself on the back, arguing it’s important to remind audiences life in the zombie apocalypse is a perilous journey. Fair enough...although more than likely, it’s penny pinching AMC leaning on Gimple to thin out the payroll.

Cautionary warnings online that another “Walking Dead” cast member may bite the dust typically give the show a hearty ratings boost. When Season 7 debuted in October, finally revealing who among Rick’s group succumbed to Negan’s spiked baseball bat, the series hit a near-record high of more than 17 million viewers.

That episode, however, signaled the brilliance and potential undoing for one of TV’s bravest ventures. Ratings these days are the lowest they’ve been in four years, leaving the network scratching its head as to what went wrong.

Here are a few theories.

Many have hailed “The Walking Dead,” based on Robert Kirkman’s popular series of graphic novels, as the greatest zombie epic produced...and it is an apt description, more so than the George Romero tales that inspired it. Its success rests with its tone, thoughtfully exploring how likable people survive and perish in a nightmare world. We deeply care for these folk. They are like family to the viewer.

Trouble is, with each passing season, one more popular character succumbs to a gruesome fate. Few cast members remain, in fact, from the first season, which is why viewers are especially sentimental about them. And that is why, in the Season 7 opener, when Negan took that fateful swing at Glenn (Steven Yeun), pulverizing him as his wife and friends helplessly watched, enough viewers were turned off to quit viewing. Glenn was one of the show’s most cherished characters. He was like

the audience surrogate, reacting much like viewers would do if trapped in the same scene with him.

So by the season opener’s end, as the characters huddled together in the dust, souls broken, so, too, did the viewer feel as if he/she had been beaten into numbed submission. You didn’t know whether to admire what Gimple achieved — another character, Abraham, fell victim to Negan’s wrath — or abhor the fact that the episode felt like torture.

Gimple wisely cut viewers some slack with the ensuing episode, an uproarious one in which Carol

(Melissa McBride, who deserves an Emmy for her game-changing work), encounters a wildly improbable community known as The Kingdom.

“The Walking Dead,” however, is at its best when Rick Grimes and crew stick together, a makeshift family scrambling to thwart the latest threat. Negan is one doozy of a menace, played by Jeffrey Dean Morgan like a psychotic tiger that gleefully devours its young. But much of his momentum has been lost this season as the show meanders through too

many detours, too many side communities and too many supporting characters. The zombies, in fact, take a back seat to all the dangling plot threads. Granted, “The Walking Dead” is not just apocalyptic horror, but a metaphor for humanity, specifically in exploring what defines a “monster.” Negan and his minions, however, are so hideous, the zombies by comparison are no longer scary. They are more an inconvenience, an irritation, stragglers in the way of getting from Point A to Point B.

Don’t get me wrong. “The Walking Dead” remains one of my all-time favorite TV programs. Even on a bad day, it is more engrossing than most major network shows. It’s just that for a show that repeatedly sets the bar high, our expectations are equally inflated. We demand a roller coaster ride. What we’ve been treated to so far this season is a leisurely stroll through the park.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Jeffrey Dean Morgan's Negan has been the driving force behind the latest season of “The Walking Dead.”

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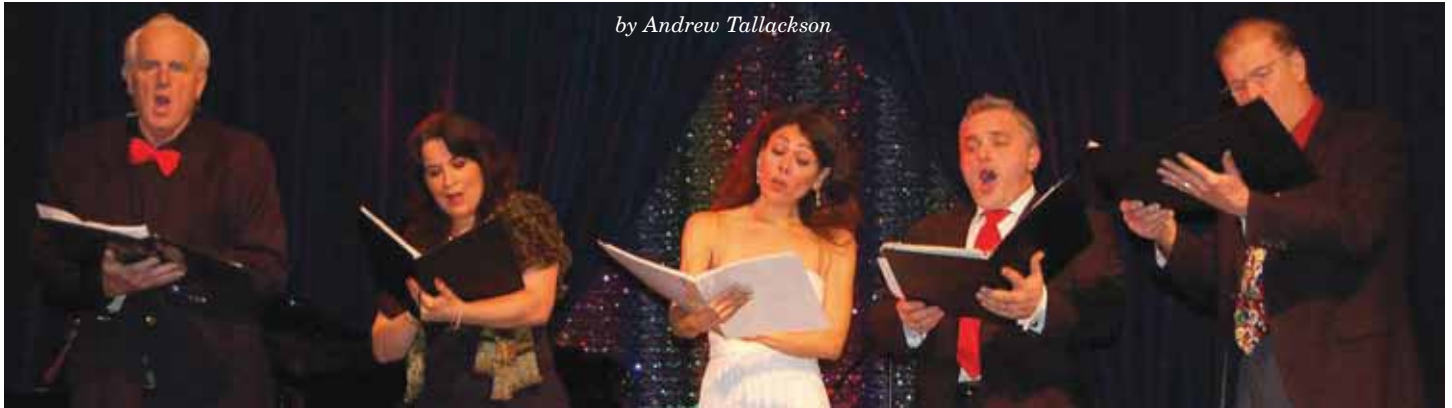
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Good-Natured Fun a Staple of “Christmas at The Acorn”

by Andrew Tallackson



Bob Swan (left) and his fellow performers during the 2010 show.

Anyone who thumbs their nose at opera as elitist entertainment has not been privy to the lively shenanigans of a “Christmas at The Acorn” show.

True, Harbor Country Opera Founder Bob Swan and his consummate performers deliver a program chock full of Christmas classics: many familiar, others long-forgotten treasures. But the show’s inclusive nature, the audience frequently invited to sing along and, more importantly, laugh with the cast belies a desire for audiences to leave the theater smiling, fully prepped for the holidays.

How else, then, do you explain this year’s addition, a new piece by “Saturday Night Live” alumnus Nate Herman titled “A Global Warming Christmas.” The musical number was written specifically for “Christmas at The Acorn,” complete with Santa appearing in Bermuda shorts.

Expect that, and plenty more good-natured fun, when Harbor Country Opera presents its 11th annual “Christmas at The Acorn” at 8 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 17, at The Acorn Theatre, 107 Generations Drive. The show is consistently popular with fans.

“I don’t think anyone thinks it’s Christmas until they come see our show,” Swan said. “It’s the way the holidays start for a lot of our fans.”

Preparation for each “Christmas at The Acorn” begins not long after each performance wraps. Swan issues a challenge to his fellow singers to research possibilities for next year’s show, particularly pieces less familiar to today’s audiences. That, Swan says, results in about 50 possibilities eventually winnowed down to 30 or so.

Then, it’s up to Swan and his “regulars,” including Martha Cares, John Concepcion, Dominique

Frigo, Warren Moulton and Christine Steyer, to put their unique, sometimes comical spins on them.

This year, rarely heard medieval Christmas motets are on tap, along with seasonal favorites such as “The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)” and Elvis’ “Blue Christmas.” Concepcion’s interpretation of “Balulalow,” accompanied by harpist Ramona Kim, is a particular favorite.

“There are certain songs I can’t imagine not doing (in the program),” Swan said.

Adding to the eclectic mix this year are “Ding Dong Merrily on High,” first published in 1924 by English composer George Ratcliffe Woodward, and “Hardrock, Coco and Joe,” a staple from Ray Rayner’s WGN show.

Such genial entertainment, Swan says, helps restore his faith in the holiday season.

“One of the reasons I did this was because I stopped watching TV around Christmas time because there were so many horrible stories,” Swan said. “It’s like they go around the world to find the most awful stories they can possibly find.

“It’s depressing, and commercially, it’s irritating as well. It’s all about buying. This brings me back to the good, old Christmas feeling, and I know it does for a lot of people.”

If You Go

General admission tickets are \$25, while VIP seating costs \$35. Free hot-roasted chestnuts will be served. Visit www.acorntheater.com or call (269) 756-3879 for reservations.

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Dune Country Attractions: Dune Acres Clubhouse and Guesthouse

Editor's note — This column by Jim Morrow, sponsored by Partners in Preservation, highlights the area's historic structures.

The town of Dune Acres came into being on Sept. 15, 1923. Development was the responsibility of Dune Acres Inc. The incorporators were William Wirt, Colonel Melton, Harry Hall, C.R. Kuss, C.V. Ridgely, H.B. Snyder and W. B. Ittner.

Alden Studebaker was hired to supervise the construction of roads and the installation of utility and waterlines. During this period, Studebaker stayed in the clubhouse, probably the oldest structure in Dune Acres. Almost all house construction within the town between this time and the start of World War II was built by Studebaker.

Studebaker had, from the beginning, produced his own cement blocks for use in the construction. At first, they were made on the beach where sand, gravel and water were readily available. Later, production moved to a site on Fern Lane, where a locally hired employee was kept busy making the hand-tamped blocks. In 1937, he moved the plant again to a location on East Road, the land being leased from a Mr. Tackett, who built the first house in the west end of the development. The new plant had a power driven tamper and conveyor belt. The new equipment could be operated by a crew of two to five men, depending on the demand for cement blocks. The top production rate was two per minute, with a top production of one thousand in a single day.

At first, the plant's production was primarily used in Studebaker's contracting business within Dune Acres. Before long, however, the blocks were in demand by contractors working outside Dune Acres: a school in Hebron, houses in Michigan City and a garage in Valparaiso were built from these "Studie" blocks, a name still used by locals when referring to cement blocks.

The last year of production at the plant was 1947, and the structure was lost in a forest fire in 1949.

The heart and soul of the little community always was the guesthouse and clubhouse. The guesthouse register shows the little hotel was open year-round in the 1920s, but by 1930 was open only April through October. The guesthouse had 12 rooms,

each with a private bath. The register also shows that during these months, especially the summer months, it was full of guests.

The facilities remained popular during the Depression and through World War II. A 1944 or 1945

menu from the restaurant, Harbor View Inn, offered a roast turkey dinner for a \$1.10, broiled lake trout for 85 cents, a casserole of baked beans for 65 cents, cake or pie for 15 cents and coffee or tea for 10 cents.

The guesthouse operated on the American plan: rates in 1926 (including meals) were \$5 per person on weekends and \$3.50 on weekdays. For an additional \$3, the

guest could have access to the club's golf course. A menu from 1926 advises guests to "keep off the golf course greens, unless you have golf shoes on."

Eventually, the guesthouse and clubhouse came into the possession of the town, and their maintenance and operation often were the only concern of the town board's meetings. Today, only the clubhouse remains. The guesthouse was demolished some years ago.



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“The Signal: A Doo Wop Rhapsody” Comes to Theatre at the Center

To complement the Chicago Blues Museum exhibition “Motown vs. Chi-Town” at Munster’s South Shore Arts gallery, Theatre at the Center is bringing back “The Signal: A Doo Wop Rhapsody” for a performance at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29.

The live jukebox musical recounts the story of show creator Henry Farag’s experiences growing up in Gary, Ind. It presents 21 popular Doo Wop hits intertwined with recreations of radio broadcasts that take the audience back to the 1950s and 1960s.

Local DJ Vivian Carter also was just getting started in her career in the 1950s. While continuing to work at the local radio station, she opened a record store in Gary. She and her husband, James C. Bracken, also started a record label called Vee-Jay Records. Vee-Jay released records by The Spaniels, The Eldorados, The Dells and Blues legend John Lee Hooker. One of their biggest hits was by The Four Seasons, the first white act featured on the label. Vee-Jay also was the label that first introduced the Beatles to American audiences with “Please, Please, Me” and “Ask Me Why” released on 45 in 1963 – one year before “The Ed Sullivan Show” appearance. Carter passed away in 1989.

The show features a cappella groups Stormy Weather and The Spaniels, along with Grammy winner Willie Rogers performing Doo Wop favorites. Many performers represented were discovered singing under the streetlamps in Gary, not far from Farag’s childhood home. Popular songs include “My Girl,” “Big Girls Don’t Cry,” “Goodnite Sweetheart Goodnite” and “When I Saw Her Standing There.”

A ticket to “The Signal” also includes admission to The Chicago Blues Museum exhibit. It explores the history of the music scenes of two cities from the 1950s through the 1970s, with stories told through historic photographs, rare video footage and original artifacts. It showcases the many blues and R&B legends who began their careers in Chicago and De-



The cast of “The Signal: A Doo Wop Rhapsody.”

troit. One highlight is an original booth from the legendary Chicago blues spot, the Checkerboard Lounge. A special section explores Northwest Indiana’s connection to the music scene. Vee-Jay Records and their artists are highlighted as one of the earliest black-owned record companies in the country. Vee-Jay went on to become a major R&B label.

A spotlight also is placed on the origins of a better-known aspect of Gary’s history, The Jackson 5, which first opened for James Brown and The Chi-Lites, and whom Gladys Knight brought to Berry Gordy’s attention prior to 1969, when they became hits as Motown artists.

The exhibit was created by the Chicago Blues Museum, which was founded by Gregg Parker in 1991. Stefanie Mielke is the curator. The exhibit runs through Jan. 29.

Individual tickets for “The Signal” cost \$30, while student tickets are \$20. That cost includes admission to “Motown vs. Chi-Town,” presented under the same roof at The Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road. Call the Box Office at (219) 836-3255 or visit TheatreAtTheCenter.com for more information.



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La Porte County Parks



All registrations/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 details.

Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Dec. 19, Jan. 23 and 30, March 6 and 20, and April 3 at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first. The next program is:

- Jan. 25 — Hunting Tracks.
- Feb. 8 — Happy Hibernators.
- Feb. 15 — Flying High.
- March 8 — Snakes Alive.
- March 22 — Spring Has Sprung.
- April 12 — It's Feeding Time.
- April 19 — Tree Treasures.

Chit-Chat with the Park Superintendent

Park Superintendent Jeremy Sobecki invites the community to the meet and greets, which are from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, at Luhr Park Nature Center, and 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, at Red Mill County Park — Pat Smith Hall.

No pre-registration is required. Those attending can share their thoughts and ideas, and learn about what's new in county parks. Coffee will be served.

Breakfast with the Birds

The free program is from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

Registration is not required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Teachers-Groups-Scout Leaders

Free environmental education programs are offered to groups throughout the year. Programs last one hour or longer depending on the group size and age. Programs can be scheduled at Creek Ridge, Luhr, Bluhm or Red Mill parks. Call (219) 325-8315 for more information or to make a reservation.

Laser Light Show to Help Ring in New Year at TATC



Echoes of Pompeii is considered one of the country's best Pink Floyd tribute groups

Echoes of Pompeii, the Pink Floyd tribute band with a flair for high-intensity visual effects, will help celebrate the new year with two performances Saturday, Dec. 31, at Munster's Theatre at the Center.

The group will perform many songs from the band's repertoire, a laser light show creating the full sensory experience.

"We wanted to kick it up a notch for New Year's Eve, so we have added a more comprehensive laser light show than we have ever done before," Jeremy Andrews, the group's founder, said. "We want to give people the quintessential Pink Floyd concert experience that so many of us remember as being truly life-changing."

Echoes of Pompeii is considered one of the country's best Pink Floyd tribute groups. Based in Gary, the 10-piece band covers nearly 50 years of Pink Floyd music. It also incorporates video projections, sound effects and other Floyd-like elements.

The group features Jason Andrews, lead vocals, guitars; Jeremy Andrews, bass guitar, backing vocals; Andy Hescher, lead guitars, backing vocals; Bob Wray, guitar; Greg Bueltmann, keyboards; Josh Andrews, keyboards; Mike Perriera, drums; Bob Frankich, saxophones; Jessica Lopez, backup vocals; and Alison Stage, backup vocals.

The first performance is at 6 p.m., the second at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$45. Also planned is a New Year's Eve buffet before each show that will open at 4:30 p.m. and again at 8:30 p.m. The combination dinner and concert ticket is \$75.

Theatre at the Center is located at The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road. Call the Box Office at (219) 836-3255, visit www.Tickets.com or call (800) 511-1552 for reservations. Visit www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com for more details.



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Ancient Visions Inspire Exhibit

The Village Gallery will showcase award-winning contemporary artist Dorothy Graden in a solo exhibit inspired by her travels to prehistoric rock art sites in the American West.



Graden shares her own interpretations of the art early hunters/gatherers left on stone hundreds of years ago. Giving an authenticity to her work, she creates textured, hand pulled and dyed cotton paper. The pulp is carefully layered on the rag, providing a three-dimensional look. The pastels bring out the interior shapes of the paper, keeping the rock art themes. She often will add India ink for detail and definition.

An Indiana native, Graden was drawn to art at a young age, winning her first Best of Show in the fourth grade. Her education took her down the "practical" path, earning an education degree from Indiana University-Bloomington and her Master's in Liberal Studies at Valparaiso University.

After 25 years as a teacher in Valparaiso, Graden now pursues her artistic interests full time. She has presented her field work on rock art at the Russian Academy of Science in Moscow, University College Cork, Ireland, and the University of Innsbruck in Austria.

The Village Gallery is located at Valparaiso's Pines Village Retirement Communities off Calumet Avenue just north of Cumberland Crossing. It is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (219) 465-1591 for more details.

Barker Middle School Honored

Barker Middle School has been recognized by the Indiana Department of Education as a school of Promising Practice in the area of STEM Community Challenges.

Barker's Promising Practice is one of 200 education or wrap-around service programs to be recognized by the DOE in honor of Indiana's bicentennial celebration.

"It has been a joy to witness rockets launching, eggs dropping, slingshots propelling objects and paper airplanes taking flight as Barker students engage businesses, professional engineers, community groups, senior citizens, elementary students and others in these projects," said Barbara Eason-Watkins, Michigan City Area Schools superintendent.

Identified programs like Barker's are student-centered and focus on positively impacting them through innovative programming and activities. Barker's STEM Community Challenges Promising Practice will be shared with educators across Indiana.

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore/Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are available at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:

• **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.

• **Kids Acrylic Painting Class from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Paul H. Douglas Center.**

The program will focus on Miller Woods. Free painting materials are furnished. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required by calling Julie Larsen at (219) 395-1821.

• **Stewardship Day — Preparing for Maple Sugar Time at Chellberg Farm from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 17.**

Volunteers can split and stack firewood, and clear paths in the sugar bush. Dress to be outdoors the entire time. Meet at the parking lot, which is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.

• **Winter Solstice Hike from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at West Beach.**

Catch the sunset and enjoy sweeping views of Lake Michigan and Chicago from atop the stairs on the Dune Succession Trail. Meet at the West Beach parking lot, 376 N. County Line Road, Portage.

• **A ranger will lead a two-hour tour of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in one of the park's 16-passenger buses at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18.**

The tours meet at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. After a brief introduction, participants board for the tour. Tours are free, but reservations are required by calling (219) 395-1882.

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 following programs are offered at Indiana Dunes State Park:

Saturday, Dec. 17

• **Indiana Dunes Christmas Bird Count.**

The annual event for serious birders starts before 7 a.m. Feeder counters are needed if living in the Duneland area. Inquire by calling the Nature Center at (219) 926-1390.

• **10 a.m. — Jaunt to Ecology Cove.**

Enjoy panoramic views from atop the high dunes and down into interdunal coves. Meet at the Nature Center.

• **2 p.m. — End of the Year Waterfowl Tour.**

Meet a naturalist for a carpool tour to find congregations of duck species. Guests likely will drive 10 minutes to the Port of Indiana for a look at scaup, mergansers and buffleheads. Take a driver's license for access.



Volunteers can help split and stack firewood on Dec. 17 in preparation for next year's Maple Sugar Time festival.

Sunday, Dec. 18

• **10 a.m. — Feed the Birds.**

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

• **2 p.m. — Scales and Tales.**

Meet at the Nature Center for a look at reptiles of Indiana Dunes, with live animals present.

Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chester-ton. Call (219) 926-1390 for more information.



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Festival Wine and Canvas Event

The third annual Indiana Dunes Birding Festival may be some time away, but organizers are thinking ahead with a wine-and-canvas Birds and Brews event at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at The Craft House, 711 Plaza Drive, Chesterton.

Participants will have all supplies covered as they paint on an 11x14 canvas during the two- to three-hour workshop led by local Duneland artist Kristina Knowski. The registration cost is \$25.

The festival, set for May 4-7, 2017, is a partnership with the region's major environmental groups, highlighting the dunes area's biodiversity and bird-watching opportunities. Visit facebook.com/indunes or call Indiana Dunes State Park's Nature Center at (219) 926-1390 for more information.

Afternoon Tea Tickets

Tickets for New Buffalo Township Library's Third Annual Afternoon Tea will be available starting Monday, Dec. 19.

The event is at 2 p.m. EST Sunday, Jan. 29, in the library Pokagon Room. The \$7 cost includes teas, tea sandwiches, cookies and cakes. Tickets also provide a chance to win a door prize.

The last day to buy tickets is Jan. 28. Email Courtney at nbtcreate@gmail.com for details.

Kemiel Wins "Public's Choice" Title



Beacher photographer Paul Kemiel is the "Public's Choice" winner of La Porte County Historical Society's "Barns of La Porte County" photo contest. The society received 58 entries, and museum visitors could vote for their favorite. Kemiel's photo of a barn on County Road 1300 South near Wanatah was the winner.

"Christmas Memories"

"Christmas Memories," starring 2013 Hoosier Star winner Jeremiah Souza and The Footnotes, is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Tickets are \$10. Call (219) 874-4035 for reservations.

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.





All photos by Paul Kemiell



Families braved the chilly temperatures Dec. 3 to enjoy the annual Snowflake Parade, which traveled through Michigan City's Uptown Arts District. The afternoon also included Christmas carols, visits with Santa, hot cocoa to help stay warm and the annual ceremony of turning on the Festival of Lights in Washington Park.



Unity Foundation Announces Community Scholarship Recipients

Two La Porte County students have received full-tuition, four-year scholarships as Unity Foundation of La Porte County 2017 Lilly Endowment Community Scholars.

Danielle Adams and Bree Winter will receive tuition to the Indiana colleges of their choice, and an annual \$900 stipend for books and equipment.

Adams is the daughter of Douglas and Lisa Adams. She plans to pursue an anthropology degree. Second in her class at South Central High School, she will graduate with an academic honors diploma, having taken 12 AP and Honors classes and five dual credit courses.

Participation in drama activities has been a priority since sixth grade, and Adams credits it with helping her build confidence and team-building skills. She is an Honor Thespian, serving as secretary, a Drama Club member and student director of last year's high school musical. She also acts and provides tech for two to three shows each year.

She has volunteered for a variety of projects through National Honor Society and her church youth group, including participation in an Appalachia Service Project. She's also a member of the Spanish, Chess & Book Clubs.

Winter is the daughter of Belinda Witherow. She plans to pursue a career oriented toward financial

or actuarial study. Ranked in the top of her class at La Porte High School, she will graduate with an academic honors diploma, having taken eight dual credit, AP and Honors classes.

While working 35 to 40 hours a week between two jobs, she also participates in many activities. She's served as class treasurer all four years for student council. She is on the Principal's Advisory Council and National Honor Society, and has participated for four years in Debate and Academic Super Bowl. Other activities are Academic Decathlon, Spanish Club and athletics – soccer, track and cross country.

Community volunteerism was exemplified through participation in Girl Reserves for four years, Rotary Interact Club projects and National Honor Society efforts.

Unity Foundation received 74 applications for the scholarship from students throughout the county. Applicants were judged on academic achievement, service to others, extracurricular activities and, to a lesser extent, financial need. A committee comprised of La Porte County residents reviewed the applications, not knowing the applicants' names until after the finalists were selected. The eight finalists then were interviewed, and nominee and alternate names were submitted to the Independent Colleges of Indiana Inc. for the final selection.



Pictured with scholarship recipient Bree Winter (third from left) are guidance counselors Caleb Hunter and Caryn Schmidt, Scholarship Selection Committee Member Irene Rosevear, Principal Ben Tonagel and Unity Foundation VP Sandy Gleim.



Pictured with scholarship recipient Danielle Adams (center) are South Central Principal Sandra Wood, Unity Foundation VP Sandy Gleim, Scholarship Selection Committee Member John Weithers and Guidance Counselor Tina Randall.



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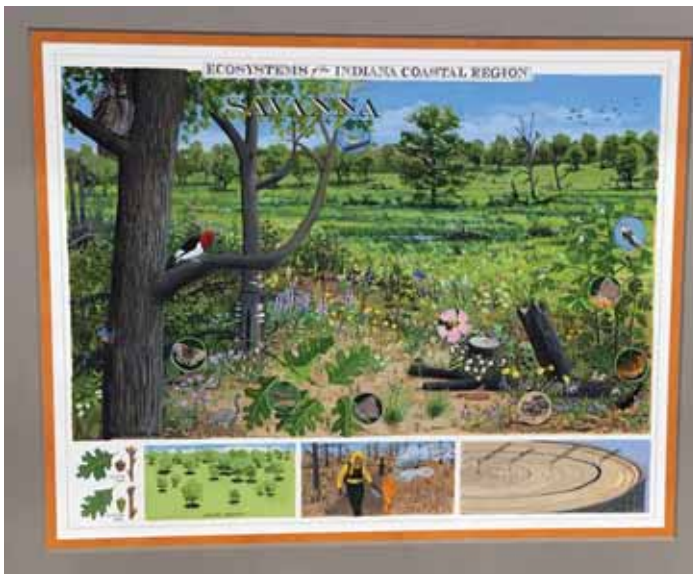
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DNR Offers Free Poster

A new poster that illustrates the savanna ecosystem of Northwest Indiana's Lake Michigan coastal area is available for free.

The Indiana DNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program unveiled the poster, "Ecosystems of the Indiana Coastal Region — Savanna," earlier this year. It is part of a series launched in 2005 and expected to conclude in 2024 once all 10 Northwest Indiana ecosystems are portrayed.

Painted by Whiting artist Barb Labus, the posters are a collage of colorful landscapes, maps and graphics that explain scientific concepts and identify native plant and animal species.

The poster is available for free at Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center and the DNR Michigan City office. All previous posters are available as well, including: "Overview" (2005); "Lake Michigan" (2007); "The Dunes" (2010); "Dune & Swale" (2012); and "Rivers" (2014). Additional information is available at dnr.IN.gov/lakemich/9387.htm.

Posters also are available upon request from the DNR Customer Service Center. There is a \$5.95 shipping and handling fee for posters requested for delivery. Email cscinquiry@dnr.IN.gov the name of the posters wanted and contact information. There is a limit of one copy of each poster per request.

"50 Years of Drama"

River Valley Drama Club will honor the 50th anniversary of River Valley High School with "50 Years of Drama" at 2 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 18, at River Valley Middle/High School, 15480 Three Oaks Road.

Everything from "The Boyfriend," performed the year the school opened in fall 1967, to "Pirates of Penzance," performed last spring, is part of the show. Carrie Ehlert is the director.

Tickets are a donation only at the door.



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Michigan City Public Library

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

- **STEAM Ahead Kids: Gingerbread Door-knob Hangers Craft at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15.**

Children 5-10 and accompanied by an adult can make a foam gingerbread doorknob hanger. Children must be present to receive craft materials.



- **"The Polar Express" at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 17.**

Light refreshments will be served. Children 18 and younger are eligible to win a copy of the movie.

- **Holiday at the Movies: "Christmas in Connecticut" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18.**

Christmas cookies will be served, and guests have a chance to win a copy of the DVD.

- **Monday Musicale: The Sounds of the Holidays at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19.**

The program will include traditional Christmas music. Food pantry donations will be accepted.

- **Night Time Story Time at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20.**

Wear pajamas and take a stuffed animal to the family story time.

- **"Finding Dory" at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21.**

Light refreshments will be served. Children 18 and younger are eligible to win a copy of the movie.

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

Citizen's Advisory Committee

The La Porte County Solid Waste District seeks environmentally minded residents to join its Citizen's Advisory Committee, which affords direct input on the county's solid waste planning and management process.

The committee serves the district's board many ways, including commenting on proposed district budgets, conducting studies of waste management and diversion programs, acting as a study committee for identified problems and providing volunteer assistance with district efforts. Committee members also can work with staff to create new community outreach events and enhance existing ones. Experience in recycling, waste reduction and waste management is helpful, but anyone is welcome.

The committee meets a minimum of four times a year (more if needed) at the district's La Porte office. Two of those meetings are joint meetings with the board.

Anyone who would like to apply should send a letter of interest by Dec. 31 to Executive Secretary Lisa Woodson at 2857 W. Indiana 2, Suite E, La Porte, IN 46350. Call (219) 326-0014 for more details. All applications will be considered at the district's January board meeting.

Calumet Outdoors Series

The Calumet Outdoors Series, hikes organized by the Calumet Stewardship Initiative, continues at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, with Bailly Homestead.

Led by Series Coordinator Eric Neagu, meet at the Mineral Springs parking lot between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served afterward. Contact Neagu at (773) 403-5237 or ericneagu@gmail.com

The Calumet Stewardship Initiative is a coalition of more than 40 organizations that promotes a sustainable relationship between people and nature in the Calumet region of Northwest Indiana and Northeast Illinois. Visit <http://calumetstewardship.org/events> for additional information.

Historical Society

Michigan City Historical Society's annual meeting was held at Barker Mansion, a highlight being the presentation of an engraved clock to Jacqueline Glidden, who will retire at the end of the year.

Glidden has served for years as a museum docent, director, researcher and Society board member.

Also, Society member and *Beacher* correspondent Bill Halliar presented a talk on the area's famous "Battle of Trail Creek."

The 2017 board members include: Jim Retseck, president; Kirk Rogers, vice president; Annette Baker, secretary; Amanda Retseck, treasurer; Jan Hoepfner, Fred Miller, Larry Swiger, Fred Devries, Johnny Stimley, Jeff Thorne and Jim Adduci.

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Midwest Museum of American Art

Three new exhibits celebrate the contributions by artists to the region, and the nation, at Elkhart's Midwest Museum of American Art.

"Barbara Aubin: Hidden Messages" highlights the late, well-known Chicago artist, teacher and active founding member of the Chicago Chapter of the Women's Caucus of Art. "Works on Paper by Chicago Imagists" shows the internationally recognized efforts of the "Hairy Who" (and other Chicago artists) demonstrating the influences of Surrealism, Outsider Art and figuration. "Works by Important



Aubin

Women Artists of the 20th Century" includes Joan Mitchell, Lee Krasner, Elaine De Kooning, Coleen Browning, Anni Albers and Ellen Lanyon.

The exhibit helps place Aubin in context with the growing roster of important women artists of the 20th century who contributed to the changing cultural dialogue of Modernism and Post-Modernism.

These exhibits could stand alone, but collectively present a larger national view of the art world that included Aubin, whose work and personal papers have been acquired by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Art & archives.

A book containing a collection of essays about Aubin, "Barbara Aubin, A Lifetime of Art: 1928-2014," was published earlier this year by Jane Stevens, associate curator of fine art at Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery. It gives a clear picture of Aubin's accomplishments as a professor of art at Chicago State University for more than 20 years, and her years as an artist, activist, writer and curator, giving women artists visibility in Chicago.

All three exhibits run through Feb. 26. The museum is located at 429 S. Main St. Hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call (574) 293-6660 or visit midwestmuseum.us for more details.



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Westchester Public Library*The following programs are available:*

- **“Making Your Food Dollars Work” from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Registered dietitian Gia DeMartinis will discuss “Saving Dollars & Menu Planning.”

- **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, 200 W. Indiana Ave.**

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

- **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.

- **NorthShore Health Center free blood-pressure screening from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Dec. 21, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Interested patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

- **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.

**American Red Cross**

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

- **Midwest Warehousing Co., 3999 Hupp Road, Building R-5-2, Kingsbury, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19. Donors receive T-shirts while supplies last.**

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.

Book Signing/Reception

Long Beach author Susan Pound and Michigan City illustrator Edwin Shelton have just published “Revolution Road: A Bernie Bedtime Story.”

An homage to Bernie Sanders, the idea for the book was born at Lakeshore Coffee & Specialties, 444 Wabash St., so a reception is planned there from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17.

Signed books and photo opportunities are planned.

Angel Tree

Visit Michigan City La Porte again has partnered with Michigan City’s Salvation Army to support its “Angel Tree” effort.

The annual holiday program provides clothing, toys, games and other gifts to children in need. Shoppers can buy a gift for a child 0-12 by selecting the appropriate gender/age range from tags on the tree inside the visitors bureau, 4073 Franklin St.

Contact Candice Silvas at The Salvation Army at (219) 874-6885, Ext. 224, for details.



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Curator's Report

La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., has released its November curator's report.

Visitors came from 10 counties, 13 states, China, Canada and Mexico. "Aelita, Queen of Mars" was performed Nov. 14 during a membership drive. A book signing for "Honest Eats," about diners and restaurants along the Lincoln Highway, was Nov. 19. A Freemasons display and program was Nov. 26. Two groups of third-graders from Crichfield Elementary School toured the museum, as well as Pine Elementary School fourth-graders.

Donations include:

- Letter opener made by an inmate for the Indiana State Prison warden in 1931, and a loaded club and gavel that belonged to Bud Kintzele, Tom Pawloski.
- Paper fan from Clendenen, shoe clips, compact comb, Spanish lace mantilla, silk scarf from the 1940s, Phyllis Nichols.
- La Porte Savings Bank money bag, Coburn Hoffman.
- Michigan City Concert Association scrapbooks, Dolores VanUlzen.
- Rumely Factory framed photos and scrapbooks belonging to 40-year employee Charlie Hood, William Richman.
- Archival information, DeEtta Coe, Mike Lindsay and Charles Thomas.
- Sale table items, Coburn Hoffman and Susie Richter.



Calendars for 2017 are for sale. The "School Daze" theme features La Porte County high schools past and present. The cost is \$12.

The museum is decorated for Christmas with the theme "Season's Greetings!" The Giese Church is up and running.

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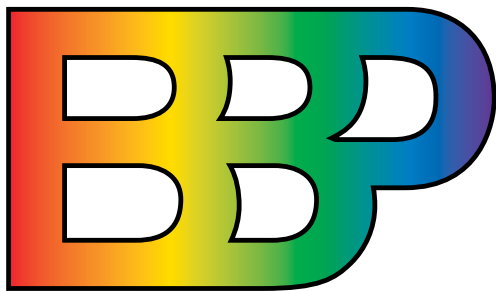
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JROTC Earns Awards



The Armed Exhibition platoon completes its routine.

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps earned numerous awards during a military drill competition at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The Wolves earned first place in Armed Squad and Personnel Inspection, second in Unarmed Platoon and third in Color Guard.

Twelve schools competed, with MCHS finishing third overall. The units earning awards were commanded by (respectively) 1st Lt. Pauline Lutton, Capt. Arturo Moreno (Inspection and Unarmed Platoon) and 1st. Sgt. Michael Livengood. Livengood also finished third and Staff Sgt. Christen Lepage finished ninth out of 300 cadets in individual competition.

"This was a very competitive meet," Maj. Tom McGrath, senior Marine instructor, said. "With perennial powerhouses like East Aurora and Zion Benton in the mix, our cadets did very well to place the way they did."

With 700 cadets, East Aurora is the largest JROTC in the world. Zion Benton has so many cadets, it had two separate teams at the meet.

MCHS' cadets will stay busy through December, supporting school events like providing the Color Guards for home basketball games, and supporting the community with events like Wreaths Across America and Bell Ringing for The Salvation Army.

The cadets' next drill meet is Jan. 14 at East Aurora (Ill.) High School.

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Friday at Noon is the deadline for the following week's issue. (219) 879-0088

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Long Beach Women's Bowling

Dec. 6, 2016

TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Bitchin Bowlers	37	15
2. Striking Beauties	35	17
2. Queen Pins	35	17
3. Alley Katz	31	21
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE	
1. Nancy Kubath	189	
2. Margie Midkiff	186	
3. Susan OConor	174	
4. Sue Labovitz	163	
5. Lenore Hadaway	162	
6. Cindy Beck	157	
6. Debra Smith	157	
7. Kathy Osborne	155	
7. Dottie Brinckman	155	
8. Tammy Vouri	152	
8. Sue Luegers	152	
9. Ann Bogart (series)	431	
10. Peggy King (series)	401	
SPLITS		
Susan Kieffer	5-10	
Robin Rice	4-6	
THREE STRIKES IN A ROW		
Celena Byrnes		
Nancy Kubath		
Lenore Hadaway		



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

New Troy Indoor Flea Market

New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road, will present its Indoor Flea Market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 17.

Admission is free. Antiques, tools, crafts, books, memorabilia, housewares, furniture and locally made or grown items will be available. A hot lunch will be served.

Vendor spaces are \$13 and include a table and chair. Proceeds from space rentals benefit the center, an all-volunteer facility run by the non-profit organization Friends of New Troy.

The market season continues the second and third Saturday of every month through March. Contact Donald at (773) 803-9773 for more details.

Christmas Bake Sale

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 7396 W. Johnson Road, will present its annual Christmas bake sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Dec. 15 — STEAM Ahead Kids: Gingerbread Doorknob Hangers Craft, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Dec. 15 — Damian McGinty: This Christmas Time Live in Concert!, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$35, \$60/VIP + meet & greet. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

Dec. 16 — Indiana Dunes Birding Festival wine-and-canvas event, 6 p.m., The Craft House, 711 Plaza Drive, Chesterton. Cost: \$25. Registration: (219) 926-1390.

Dec. 16 — "Behind the Scenes Tour," 6 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$15/adult, \$10/youth. Reservations: (219) 873-1520.

Dec. 16 — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Dec. 16-18 — "Miracle on 34th Street," La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15, \$12/students. Reservations: www.laportelittletheatreclub.com, (219) 362-5113.

Dec. 16-19 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Moonlight." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "Aquarius." Not rated. In Portuguese with English subtitles. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2:30 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

Dec. 17 — Christmas bake sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 7396 W. Johnson Road.

Dec. 17 — "The Polar Express," 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Dec. 17 — Kids Acrylic Painting Class, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center, Lake Street in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Registration: (219) 395-1821.

Dec. 17 — Jaunt to Ecology Cove, 10 a.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Dec. 17 — Book signing/reception, "Revolution Road: A Bernie Bedtime Story," 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Lakeshore Coffee & Specialties, 444 Wabash St.

Dec. 17 — Winter Solstice Hike, 3-4:30 p.m., West Beach, 76 N. County Line Road, Portage. Info: (219) 395-1882.

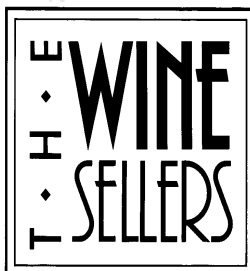
Dec. 17 — "Glowing Lights Night," 5 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Standard admission charge. Info: (219) 873-1520.

Dec. 17 — Christmas at the Acorn, "Jolliest Christmas Ever at the Acorn!," 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25/side sections, \$35/center sections

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Dec. 17 — "Christmas Memories," 7:30 p.m., Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Tickets: \$10. Info: (219) 874-4035.

Dec. 17-18 — Old Lighthouse Museum, Washington Park, noon-4 p.m.

Dec. 17-18 — Handel's "Messiah," First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Preview: 10:30 a.m. Dec. 17. Presentation: 3 p.m. Dec. 18. Tickets: info@MCMessiah.com, (219) 879-4501.

Dec. 18 — Holiday at the Movies: "Christmas in Connecticut," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Dec. 18 — River Valley Drama Club, "50 Years of Drama," 2 p.m. EST, River Valley Middle/High School, 15480 Three Oaks Road. Donation only.

Dec. 19 — Monday Musicales: The Sounds of the Holidays, 6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Dec. 21 — FIRST DAY OF WINTER.

Dec. 21 — "Finding Dory," 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.

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

Mondays, Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan St. Anthony Health, 301 W. Homer St., 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: <https://oa.org>, (219) 879-0300.

Wednesdays — Al-Anon meetings, 6-7 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (708) 927-5287.

In the Region

Dec. 17 — Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free. Info: (773) 803-9773.

Dec. 17 — Vinyl release party, The Rain Dogs, 7 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$20. Reservations: tickets@theraindogs.us

Dec. 18 — ArtsBridge, 4 p.m. EST, First Presbyterian Church, 475 Green Ave., Morton Hill in Benton Harbor, Mich. Free; donations accepted. Info: (269) 925-7075, firstpresbh.org or Facebook.

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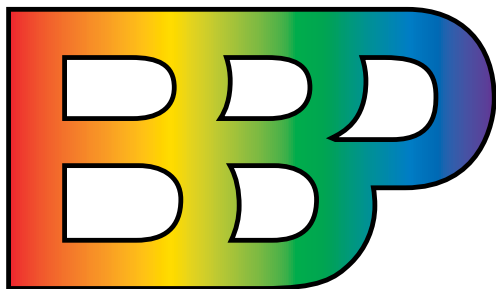
Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

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

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

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



On December 15, 1791, the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, which went under the title of “The Bill of Rights,” went into effect after being ratified by Virginia.

On December 15, 1908, the last of the notorious “1st Ward Balls,” sponsored by Aldermen John “Bathhouse John” Coughlin and Michael “Hinky Dink” Kenna, and which included most of the city’s higher echelon prostitutes, gamblers and assorted criminals, was held in Chicago’s Coliseum.

On December 15, 1939, the motion picture *Gone With the Wind* premiered at Loew’s Grand Theater in Atlanta.

On December 15, 2001, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy, was reopened to the public after a \$27 million realignment that had dragged on for over a decade.

On December 16, 1775, Jane Austin, England’s first great woman novelist, and author of the classic *Pride and Prejudice*, was born at Steventon — a small town about 50 miles southwest of London.

On December 16, 1835, there was a \$20 million loss as more than 700 buildings burned in New York City.

On December 16, 1905, *Variety*, a weekly magazine devoted to all phases of show business, came out with its first edition. It contained 16 pages, and sold for a nickel.

On December 16, 1916, Grigori Rasputin, the “mad monk” who wielded a mystical influence over the Czar and Czarina of Russia, was lured to a Petrograd palace and poisoned. When this failed to kill him, he was stabbed to death and his body sunk beneath the ice of a local canal.

On December 16, 1959, The Second City improvisational comedy troupe staged its first performance in Chicago.

On December 17, 1791, a New York City traffic regulation established the new nation’s first one-way street.

On December 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright made the world’s first successful airplane flight as they soared over the sand dunes near Kitty Hawk, N.C. Only five people, besides themselves, were present. Although a general invitation had been issued to everyone within a five- or six-mile radius, not many were willing to face a cold December wind to see, as they no doubt thought, another flying machine that would not fly.

On December 17, 1933, in the first world championship of professional football, the Chicago Bears

defeated the New York Giants by a score of 23 to 21. (Each player on the winning team received \$210).

On December 17, 1969, on NBC's *Tonight Show*, more than 10 million television viewers witnessed the marriage of singer Tiny Tim to Miss Vicky.

On December 18, 1892, Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia.

On December 18, 1936, the first giant panda to be imported into the United States from China arrived in San Francisco.

On December 19, 1776, Thomas Paine published his first *American Crisis* essay, in which he wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls."

On December 19, 1843, Charles Dickens' famous Yuletide tale, *A Christmas Carol*, was published in England.

On December 19, 1957, Meredith Wilson's musical play "The Music Man" opened on Broadway.

On December 19, 1958, a United States satellite, the Atlas, began the first radio-voice broadcast from space. It was a Christmas greeting from President Dwight Eisenhower, including, "...to all mankind, America's wish for peace on earth and goodwill toward men everywhere."

On December 19, 1985, Mary Lund became the first female artificial heart recipient.

On December 19, 1997, "Titanic" opened in movie theaters across the nation, at the time becoming the highest grossing movie ever.

On December 20, 1820, Missouri imposed a \$1 annual bachelor tax on unmarried men up to age 50.

On December 20, 1946, the Frank Capra film "It's a Wonderful Life" had a preview showing for charity at New York City's Globe Theatre, a day before its "official" world premiere.

On December 20, 1963, the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to allow West Berliners a one day pass to visit relative in the eastern zone.

On December 20, 1976, Chicago's Mayor Richard Daley died, of a heart attack, at the age of 74.

On December 21, 1620, the Pilgrims, who crossed the ocean on the *Mayflower*, first set foot on American soil at what is now Plymouth, MA. "Forefathers Day," observed mainly in New England, is in commemoration of this landing.

On December 21, 1913, the Sunday supplement of the New York World contained the nation's first crossword puzzle.

On December 21, 1914, the first feature-length silent film comedy, "Tilly's Punctured Romance," was released.

On December 21, 1937, Walt Disney's animated cartoon, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, which was based on a Grimms' fairy tale, was shown in Los Angeles for the first time.

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Four La Porte-area Edward Jones offices are
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- Financial Advisor Jennie Girton, 601 State St., Suite A.
- Financial Advisor Jess Denger, 408 Perry St.
- Financial Advisor Jon Salisbury, 717 Michigan Ave., Suite 102.
- Financial Advisor Sarah Brown, 1233 N. Indiana 39, La Porte.

Donations may be dropped off between 8 a.m. and
5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (219) 326-0034
for more details.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The One Man by Andrew Gross
(hardcover, \$26.99 in bookstores and on-line; also available as an eBook)

Never have I read a book as emotional as this one. Never have I read a book that shows the effect of man's inhumanity to man on such an individual level. This story is historical fiction, much of it based on historical fact. You may think it a strange selection for the holiday season, but I submit to you that if we truly want to sing songs about "peace on earth and goodwill to men," then we must learn from the mistakes of the past.

In simplest terms, this is the story of the attempt to get a Jewish physicist out of Auschwitz. To do so, someone must break *into* the death camp.

That is the bare bones story, but it conveys a much more profound message...

Three separate stories unfold at the beginning. The people involved don't know it, but their paths will converge.

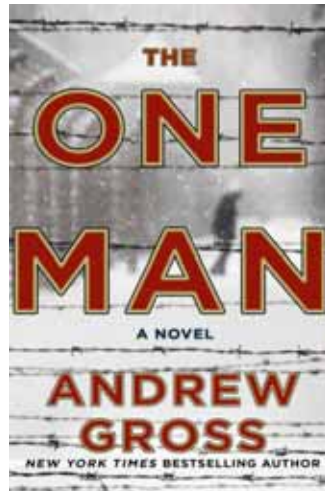
The first story is that of two men who actually escape from Auschwitz and wind up in the hands of U.S. intelligence, where they give details about the camp, including an accurate map of the complex.

The second story involves the Blum family in Krakow, Poland. The son, Nathan, is charged to flee the ghetto to save precious 12th century Talmud papers from the Nazis. Nathan makes his way to America and three years later, in 1944, joins the U.S. Army, where his knowledge of Polish, German and English puts him in the O.S.S. as a translator.

The third, and most important, part of the story is that of Professor Alfred Mendl, a Polish physicist. As his story unfolds, he, his wife and daughter are herded onto a cattle car headed for Auschwitz. Once there, Mendl is separated from them, never to be reunited again. He becomes just another number at the work camp. What his Nazi captors don't know is that Mendl holds vital information for the eventual success of building an atom bomb. The papers he carried in his suitcase were burned. He knows he probably will not survive Auschwitz, but how can his knowledge be preserved in hopes that somehow, they will make their way into Allied hands? Then one day, he meets Leo, the 16-year-old chess prodigy with a photographic memory...

Col. Donovan calls Blum into his office one day and lays out an extraordinary plan: Will he volunteer to break into Auschwitz, find a certain person and bring him back safely to the Allies? Can't tell him why this man is being rescued.

What to do? It sounds like a suicide mission. But



if this man is so important, this may be the way for Nathan to redeem himself from the guilt he feels every day for leaving his family to die in Poland.

Maybe not eagerly — after all, he doesn't really know much about this mission — Nathan sits down with Col. Donovan and maps out a strategy that must occur within a 72-hour window. With one month to prepare, Nathan must starve himself and have a tattoo inked on his wrist to look just like another Auschwitz prisoner.

Finally, the day arrives, Blum is sent to England, and from there to Poland. He manages to get into the camp. Then,

the real problems begin...

He's basically looking for a needle in a haystack — one man among thousands. What he sees there, and happens to him, makes him sick — mentally as well as physically.

Will Blum find Mendl? It seems a doomed mission. After all, he only has a name and a photo to go on. It's all a crap shoot. Careful planning can win out in the end, or fate can call the shots. Blum only knows that at the end of three days, he and Mendl must meet a plane to take them out of Poland or... they both die.

An interesting side story about the wife of the commandant at Auschwitz is one not usually explored. She thought she'd married a good man, a man who wanted to be a lawyer. Now, she sees the sad truth of what absolute authority can do to him. She is conflicted every day, and has no idea her path will cross that of Blum and Mendl.

The climax is as heartstopping as they come. You will feel as though you are there alongside Nathan as time moves relentlessly toward his deadline.

This story goes to the heart of the war — directly to the people who suffered and died, and those who lived and suffered the agony of the survivor. Each person's story is so emotionally told, I defy you to read this book and not shed a tear at the end. It can't be done.

"As moving as it is gripping. A winner on all fronts."—*Booklist* (starred review)

"Heart-pounding...This is Gross's best work yet, with his heart and soul imprinted on every page."—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

Gross is *The New York Times* and international bestselling author of nine novels. He also is the co-author of five bestselling novels with James Patterson. His books have been translated into more than 25 languages.

Till next time, happy reading!



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3008 Northmoor Trail, Long Beach \$450,000

Hidden Treasure with lake views! This home features 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms and two fireplaces. Perfect getaway! Call for your private showing.



2017 Lake Shore Drive, Long Beach \$629,000

If you are looking for views, then this is it. MOVE IN READY! Beautiful 4-bedroom, 3-bath home on Lake Shore Drive. Living room with wood floors, wood-burning fireplace & sliders to enclosed porch. Huge master bedroom suite with gas fireplace, French doors opening to balcony & private bath. Lower level rec room, three-car garage and driveway parking. Beautiful Stop 20 beach is ready to enjoy.



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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