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All in the Family

by Drew Holt

Editor's note — This is the first in a two-part series highlighting young professionals who grew up in the beach area and came back here not only to work, but also to work with family.



Rick and Jeff Remijas, at work at Century 21-Middleton.
Photo by Bob Wellinski

In an article that appeared in *The Beacher* last July, I wrote that, as a teen, I couldn't wait to leave Michigan City behind and never look back.

While in high school, I didn't necessarily despise the area. It was just that everything that could be experienced in the area had already been experienced. It wasn't until having a couple years of college under my belt that it became apparent the area had much more to offer than just a pretty lake.

My experience isn't isolated. Indeed, many young adults feel the need to dissociate with their hometowns. What some may not realize, however, is how often those feelings transform into a longing and respect for the area they grew up in, especially one as rich in beauty and history as Northwest Indiana.

This two-part series focuses on four families. The first concentrates on two generations of Realtors. The second will introduce the Stokes of Michigan City Dental and the Applegates of Applegate & Co. PC.

Throughout my experiences talking with them, I learned they are families who not only have high regard for each other, but also for their community

and the region.

First up was Rick and Jeff Remijas, brokers at Century 21-Middleton. Shortly before New Year's Eve, I arrived at their Karwick Road office 30 minutes after sunset. Jeff, who is in his early 30s, met me at the door. As we walked into a small conference room, he apologized on behalf of his father, who was in a meeting. While we waited, we spoke about his high school years at Marquette Catholic High School. Soon afterward, Rick joined us, and we got down to brass tacks.

Jeff, who graduated from Marquette in 2003, is much like myself.

"The idea (of working with family) had kind of always been there, I think, in one way or another. I've always been around this business. He (Rick) had a brokerage out here when I was a kid," he said.

The seed may have been planted, but for Jeff, it wasn't yet apparent to him.

"I think like any 16- to 18-year-old, I didn't want to do what my parents did. I didn't want to live in my hometown," he said.

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Micky and Jordan Gallas, outside their Long Beach office.
Photo by Bob Wellinski

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After graduating from Marquette and ending up at Indiana University-Northwest, where he received a history degree, it became more appealing.

“Going through school, and from an income standpoint, it began to make more sense than waiting tables, you know, working at bars and restaurants,” he said.

Thus, Jeff started pretty young.

“I was 18 at that point so I could be licensed,” he continued. “That was when I got licensed initially. It worked at the time. Then, I realized that you could make a career out of it, that people actually do. It’s provided a nice life.”



Jeff and his wife, Jennifer, attend Jeffrey Jr.’s first day in pre-K at Notre Dame School, with younger sister Victoria also present.

Not only does Jeff enjoy his work in real estate, but he also values the time the profession affords for family as well.

“You work hard, but it does offer you some flexibility, you know?” he says. Gesturing to his father, he adds, “He got to come to all of my baseball games and coach them. I want to do the same thing for my kids. That flexibility isn’t offered in some other sales-oriented roles.”

For Jeff, working with family also comes with the bonus of knowing his employer as only a son can.

“I respect the way he runs his business, a lot,”



Jeff with his daughter, Victoria, in Warren Dunes last year.

Jeff said. “I think there is something to be said for someone who is honest, up front. It means a lot to be a part of that. To be a part of something that has integrity.”

That being said, Jeff didn’t start out with family, a fact his father pointed out.

“Well, you know Jeff was out of town for a while, don’t you?”

I was intrigued, so Jeff continued.

“I spent some time in the mortgage business,” he explained. “I got to see another side of sales life. There was a more corporate structure. Different. Definitely different from the real estate side of things.”

Asked why he came back to the area, Jeff again stressed his devotion to his family.

“We wanted to raise our kids here. I mean, plain and simple,” he said. “(My parents) are in Long Beach. My mother-in-law is in La Porte on Pine Lake. The whole family’s here.

“Chicago wasn’t right for us to raise our family, is what it came down to. The opportunity to work with (my dad) was still here.”

Rick added, “It just kind of fit. There was no conscious decision, ‘Hey, let’s move back, I’ll work with Dad.’”



Jeff in 2001, out at Michigan City Municipal Golf Course during his sophomore year at Marquette Catholic High School.

Rick continued.

"You know, there's a job opportunity for Jenny (Jeff's wife, who works at Franciscan St. Anthony Health) and, to a certain extent, it was, 'let's get settled,' but that was the opportunity for them to get settled back in Indiana. As part of that, we started talking."

Rick emphasized that in addition to Jeff's previous work experience, being family made hiring him a no-brainer.

"It's easy for me to communicate with him. That's a big deal," he said. "I don't have to explain anything to Jeff the way I would a team member or assistant. He knows the beach communities, he knows Marquette High School, he knows Notre Dame, he knows City. There's no education or explanation — period. We're past having to worry about geography."



A Marquette Catholic High School yearbook photo shows Jeff Remijas (front, left) and Jordan Gallas (back, right) with friends.

Jordan and Micky Gallas can relate.

Jordan, who is the same age as Jeff, has worked for his mother at Micky Gallas Properties since 2013. He also graduated from Marquette, where he is the head boys and girls golf coach, as well as the varsity boys basketball assistant coach.

He admitted he once felt Michigan City had little to offer.

Continued on Page 4

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All in the Family

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Jordan Gallas (center), Marquette Catholic High School's varsity boys basketball assistant coach, celebrates the school's triumph as state champions in 2014.

"I think every kid goes through their middle school to teenage years (thinking that), but after you get out for a while and realize just how great the area is, that becomes super super valuable," he said.

"That, ultimately, was the big draw for me to come back after living in Chicago for a few years."

Jordan emphasized a main reason he returned here was the change of pace from a big city like Chicago to a town like Michigan City.

"The ease and standard of life here is so much better here than living in the city, where it was just so difficult to do just about anything," he said. "You have to clear your entire day to do anything, and here you feel like that weight is lifted completely off of your shoulders. You can really enjoy living where you are."

Micky, who also grew up in the area and starting working for her father when she was younger, had a different opinion of the area growing up.

"I was born and raised here," she said. "I always thought that this was paradise, particularly in the summer."

Micky returned to the area after college for the same reasons her son did: the ease of life here and beautiful background unique to the area.

Speaking of uniqueness, Micky and Jordan agree there is more than one reason Northwest Indiana is a unique locale.

"I think it's the people," Micky said. "I think any

place can have a lovely community, but this community is lovely because of the people. There is so much to do here as an adult, and we're growing leaps and bounds, as you can see by the development in this city."

Jordan added, "I would just say the overall location is what makes it unique to me."



Golf is an important aspect of the Gallas family, with Jordan pictured here with his brother, Sean, at the Long Beach Country Club course.

"You get all the seasons, you're close enough to pretty much anything you'd want to do. If you want to go to a big city, Chicago's a close train ride away. You can go skiing up in Michigan. You can do tons of different activities in this place."

Jordan values his professional and personal relationship with his mother.

"I didn't come back straight from college to work with family," he said. "I went out on my own and



Micky Gallas reconnects with contributors at an Indiana University Foundation weekend.

saw kind of what it was like without having a parent as a boss, and working for somebody else to develop that work ethic.”

He was quick to point out, however, that things aren't so easy working for mom.

“It's not like I'm trying to take advantage of her, and feel like I was getting special treatment, because I don't feel like I get special treatment at all.”

“Quite the opposite,” Micky interjects.

That being said, there are some perks to having your mom as your boss.

“It's such a valuable resource to be able to call her and know she's going to answer,” Jordan said, “or else I'll call her until she picks up.”

He added with a chuckle, “It doesn't matter if I have a broken leg or a question about a deal, she has to answer.”

For Jordan, it wasn't always in the cards to work with his mother.

“I kind of was in that same boat of ‘I couldn't wait to leave,’ and I really feel growing up I didn't appreciate what I had until I left to realize what I was missing,” he said. “No, it was definitely not a plan to come back. It was more of, ‘I can't wait to come back.’”

(Editor's note — The second part in our series will appear in the Feb. 11 edition.)



As part of Long Beach's July 4th celebration, Micky Gallas Properties collects food to aid The Salvation Army.



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Service League Play Features Twist on Little Red Riding Hood

La Porte Service League will present a new twist on what happens when a favorite children's fairy tale ends with "Little Red Riding Hood and the Magic Dragon."

Nanda Danitschek again is directing and acting in the 82nd production presented by the local volunteer organization in La Porte High School's auditorium. The show is written by David and Julie Payne, with music by Martha Vordy.

"And Little Red Riding Hood lived happily ever after" is where the show begins. But Little Red isn't happy. Through the song, "Fairy Tale Lament," we learn she has grown tired of her story. She dreads knowing that every time someone opens up her book, she will be forced to relive "the same old story over and over again."

With the help of Toby, the magic dragon, Little Red sets off for new adventures. Along the way, she meets, and sometimes becomes, other fairy tale characters, such as Rapunzel and Hansel. She manages to find excitement and sometimes danger, which leads her to the realization "that anything is possible when you use your imagination."

League members serving as actresses include: Little Red Riding Hood – Claudia Winter; Grandmother – Beth Mann; Woodsman/Hansel/Knight – Deb Ault; Toby the Dragon – Voice, Lucy Vergo/Actor on Stage, Ramona Komasiński; Witch 1 – Sheryl Edwards; Witch 2 – Julie Long; Prince – Danitschek; Magic – Shelia Saunders, Rosie Flitter. Extra characters will join the cast for dance breaks and the final song.

As usual, the play features colorful costumes sewed by members, as well as sets that require multiple hours of design and building. Interactive



Ramona Komasiński (left) and Claudia Winter rehearse for La Porte Service League's annual play, "Little Red Riding Hood and the Magic Dragon."

elements are crucial as well.

"We'll throw bubble balls out for the kids to bounce around, blow bubbles and many characters enter and exit from the audience," Danitschek says. "The schools have the option to teach the children the chorus to our final song, and the walls will be decorated with Hansel's 'candied sweets' from the coloring pages that children can pick up in advance to color/decorate and return."

"It's less of a chance to put on a good show as it is

an opportunity to engage the imagination and sensory development of the children!"

The play will be presented for grade schools and other community groups throughout La Porte County and the surrounding area Feb. 1-5. However, the community is invited to attend the dress rehearsal at 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, or the closing performance at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 6.

Audience members are welcome to take pictures with cast members and get a closer look at the stage after the public performances.

The suggested donation is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children. If weather forces the cancellation of one of the two public dates, that information will be shared on the League website and facebook page.

Groups interested in reserving a time to attend the production during the school week may visit www.laporteserviceleague.com/play.

The La Porte Service League play has been presented since the organization was founded by Hallie Fox in 1932. It is a year-long project, and each of the active members is required to spend at least 15 hours working on the event.

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Krasl Art Center to Unveil Two New Exhibits

Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich., will unveil two exhibits that celebrate creativity, local industry, animation and 3-D printing.

Michael Hambouz's "Factory Made" and Jonathan Brand's "Pieces from the Weight," both free and open to the public, run Jan. 29 through April 24.



Michael Hambouz

Hambouz, born and raised in Niles, Mich., has lived in Brooklyn for the past 15 years. With his mother's recent passing, he used art to reconnect with his hometown from afar. He accomplished this using the papers and factory aesthetic of French Paper Co., an independently-owned, family-operated company one mile from his childhood home.

In "Factory Made," Hambouz hand-cuts paper stock from French Paper Co. to create abstracted scenes of the factory where the paper is produced. The series provides a glimpse into the operations of the 145-year-old American paper mill by showcasing the production process and machinery – from pulp to the final paper product – in intricately layered collage format.

"Factory Made" had its debut in New York City in 2014. Unique to the Krasl exhibit, the artist has created an animation that includes imagery from the series and sound recordings from the factory itself. These elements mark new perspectives about the factory, his hometown and his practice as an artist.

For Brand, he always wanted a motorcycle, but his accident-prone nature saw him resist the urge. For this New York artist, a torn ligament and successive surgeries on his drawing arm led him to blend mechanical hobbies with sculptural practice. "The Weight" is a 1970s-era Honda motorcycle made of thin pieces of plastic generated from a 3-D printer. Brand used downloaded design files and low-resolution video game renderings to build the piece. Modifications were made, making the bike an



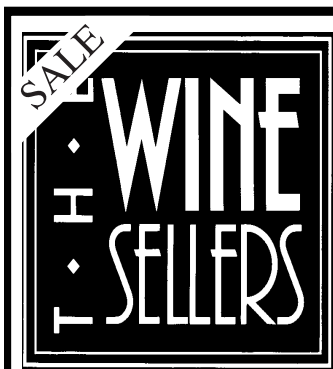
Jonathan Brand's motorcycle creation.

amalgamation rather than a specific model. In addition to "The Weight," a handful of ink drawings using the design files for its construction, and paper constructed auto parts by Brand, will be on view.

A series of events are planned in conjunction with the exhibits (all times Eastern):

- "Screening in the Artlab" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28. Hambouz will unveil his new "Factory Made" animation.
- Opening party from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29. Hambouz will be present. The event will include mixed music, local wine and craft beer. During that time, a Children's Art Workshop in the classroom studios will feature make-and-take art projects for youth. It's free for members and \$10 per non-member family.
- Gallery tour and art activity with Hambouz at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30. The activity involves making artwork using papers from French Paper Co. All ages are welcome.
- Coffee with the Curator: a KAC member's-only event at 9 a.m. Monday, Feb. 1. Curator Tami Miller leads the talk.
- Family time in the galleries with Brand from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 12. Explore 3-D prints during the all-ages gallery tour and art-making event.

Call the center at (269) 983-0271, or visit www.krasl.org for more information.



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LCA Spring Classes Open for Registration

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., has begun open registration for spring classes, which kick off Feb. 23 and run through May.

New this spring is "Life Drawing" taught by Gideon Douglas. Students learn various techniques and mediums used in drawing, with a focus on composition, mark-making and concepts. In addition to teaching, Douglas will showcase his paintings in "The Art of Letting Go," an exhibit in the NIPSCO Education Studio.

In the returning class "International Art Cinema," students will be introduced to pivotal films from the Italian Neorealism movement, such as Chris Marker's French film "Sans Soleil" and Roberto Rossellini's war drama "Rome Open City."

Those interested in a more traditional art form can take "Watercolor Plus," learning to apply classic watercolor techniques and mix with colored pencils and other media. All art levels are welcomed as instruction will be tailored to each individual.

Other adult classes include "Photography," "Abstract Painting" and "Sandcastle Writers."

New for young artists is "Photography for Kids," which will introduce younger students to traditional camera skills through hands-on projects. They'll leave learning how to paint with light while learning about shutter speeds, exploring color and composition, hand-tint silly self-portraits, capturing macro toy scenes and crafting creative ways to display their photos.

Popular courses for youth include "Cookies & Canvas," "Drawing for Teens" and "Painting for Teens."

One-day workshops include "Daring Derby Hat Making," "Fused Glass" and "Masters & Merlot." Students who previously enrolled in "Zentangle Method" and wanting to learn more can take "Zentangle Beyond the Basics." New complex patterns will be taught, with a focus on shading and composition.

In "Block Printing," local artist Melissa Washburn will cover tools and techniques for linoleum cut printmaking. Students will view the work of other printmaking artists, discuss what makes a good print, learn how to plan a print, transfer it, cut it safely and print it.

Washburn is an artist and illustrator who rediscovered her love of printmaking after participating in last year's Steamroller Printmaking Project in downtown Michigan City. She was a 2012-2013 recipient of an Individual Artist Program grant from the Indiana Arts Commission, and is a founder of Community Supported Art Valparaiso, a unique co-op buying program for local artists.

Summer Camp registration is open for parents already planning activities for their kids this summer. Both camps are geared for ages 7-13.

"Inspired by Nature" is a new two-week camp starting July 11. Students will take an eco-friendly expedition of the arts, with a focus on learning how to create art from nature, such as felting wool and creating dyes from natural resources.

"Famous Artists Camp" is a one-week camp starting Aug. 5 that will introduce students to works of well-known artists. They will learn how to create their own masterpieces from the inspirational subjects and techniques covered. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. Contact Education Director Janet Bloch at (219) 874-4900, Ext. 203, or at jbloch@lubeznikcenter.org

Visit lubeznikcenter.org to see a full listing of classes, teacher bios and to register for classes. LCA members receive a 10 percent discount. Call (219) 874-4900 for additional information.



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The following programs are available:

• **Teen Scene: Wii Gaming from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Teens in grades 6-12 are invited. No registration is necessary.

• **Money Matters for Kids from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29, at Thomas Library.**

Cohosted with 1st Source Bank, 4- to 7-year-olds meet downstairs in the Thomas Library Children's Department and 8- to 11-year-olds in the Bertha Wood Meeting Room. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **WPL Gaming Guild from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Events include a fifth edition "Dungeons & Dragons" campaign, as well as "Settlers of Catan" and "Pandemic."

• **Popular Books at 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 1, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.** The focus is Sara Gruen's "At the Water's Edge."

• **Arm Knitting an Infinity Scarf from 3 to 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 1, at Thomas Library's IT Classroom.**

No needles are necessary, just yarn. Registration is required at the Thomas Reference Desk.

• **Adult Coloring Program from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

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

• **Bits & Bytes series, Internet Security, from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2, and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, in the Serials/Automation Department at Thomas Library.**

Registration is required by visiting or calling the IT Department at (219) 926-7696, or registering at www.wpl.lib.in.us. Click on the Bits & Bytes link.

• **Minecraft Meet-up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 3 and 17, at Thomas Library.**

Registration is required and must be done in person. The WPL Gaming Policy and Rules of Conduct must be signed as well. Parents are welcome to attend, but required for youth 10 and younger.

• **Pokemon League from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through May 24 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.

• **Children's Crochet Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays through June 29 in the Children's Department at Thomas Library.**

Attendees learn beginning crochet from instructor Sadie Steciuch. Children should take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium weight yarn. Register by calling (219) 926-7696.

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Krueger Middle School seventh-grader Jibreel Hoskins introduced U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky at his Town Forum on Jan. 15 at City Hall. After the introduction, Visclosky presented Hoskins, an honor student in the GT/High Ability program at Krueger, with a certificate acknowledging his outstanding academic accomplishments.

Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Basket Weaving at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30.**

Margie Warner offers the one-day class in which all materials are provided. Registration and a \$10 deposit are required. Stop by circulation to see the basket and verify the cost.

• **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24.**

Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.

• **Knitting Club for All Ages at 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24.**

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

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

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Or did something memorable happen on a Leap Day many years ago?

If so, we'd like you to share your story with us for an upcoming article in *The Beacher* celebrating 2016 as a Leap Year. Contact Editor Drew Tallackson at (219) 879-0088 or drew@thebeacher.com if interested.

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Earth Day Exhibitors Sought

The Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County is accepting online registrations for exhibitors to participate in the 2016 Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration on April 16.

The largest free public environmental event in Northwest Indiana, it draws visitors concerned about the environment and interested in learning more about reducing their impact on the planet.



Silly Safaris' Amazon John entertains the crowd with a pet and wildlife stage show during a previous Earth Day Celebration.

Organizations and businesses from around Chicagoland and beyond that can provide environmental awareness, services and products to attendees are invited to participate. More information and online registration are available at www.ItMeansTheWorld.org

The event will be held in three buildings at Valparaiso's Porter County Expo Center. Exhibitors can set up Friday, April 15, and have the options of expanding their booths, connecting to electricity and advertising themselves on the bingo card given to attendees.

The district also seeks Earth Day event sponsors. Call (219) 465-3815 for more information.

Website Celebrates 2016 Milestones

Indiana Dunes Tourism has launched a website devoted to the celebrations planned for the many milestone anniversaries in 2016.

These include the Indiana Bicentennial, the centennial of Indiana's state parks and the National Park Service, the 50th anniversary of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the 30th anniversary of Indiana Dunes Tourism.

The website, www.indianadunes.com/2016, features a link to local and outside-the-area anniversary celebration events, like the National Park Service 100th Anniversary Concert at West Beach in Portage in August and the Bicentennial Gala in Indianapolis in December. New events are being added regularly, like the bicentennial torch run through Porter County on Oct. 9.

The website also offers area residents a chance to get involved in other ways, such as participating in the Take a Closer Look Scavenger Hunt. Each month, a close-up photograph of a historical local site will be posted on the website along with clues about what is photographed. People who guess what is photographed will receive an invitation to a VIP event in early 2017, and can win prizes such as a hotel stay, restaurant gift certificates and framed photographs of local treasures.

The website also will feature educational facts that pertain to entities celebrating anniversaries, such as information about the National Park Service and how many total acres it preserves.

There also is a tagboard so people who use the hashtag #CloserLook2016 can share their photos and thoughts about the anniversaries.

Book Signing

Award-winning sportswriter Tom Brew will sign copies of his new book, "Missing Banners," from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at Book Warehouse of Michigan City at Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets.

The book, co-written by Brew and longtime *Indianapolis Star* colleague Terry Hutchens, is about Indiana University basketball and its tradition of winning national championships. It includes interviews with more than 50 former players, coaches and media members, plus 60 photos.

Call (219) 262-5040 for more information.

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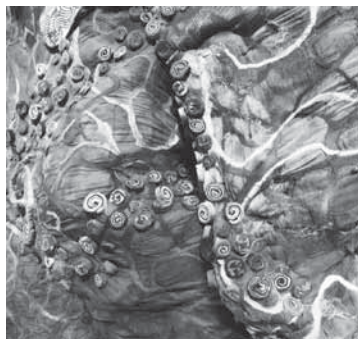
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We're about to embark on a new tradition at *The Beacher*, so let me extend the official invitation.

Welcome to our first Oscar contest, where you, the reader, have the chance to win free movie passes and gift certificates to Holly's and Hammer's. The flyer tucked between these two pages — that's your ballot. My predictions will appear in the Feb. 25 edition.

What's my qualifications? After graduating from Indiana University-Bloomington with degrees in journalism and film, and getting my feet wet as a reporter, then editor, at The Peru (Ind.) Tribune, I was the entertainment editor at *The News-Dispatch* for almost 15 years, reviewing films and sponsoring Oscar contests. And save for some of the more obscure titles, I've seen most of the nominated films this year.



"Spotlight"

Shamelessly placing my background on an Oscar-selection pedestal hardly makes me more qualified than you, however, to predict the winners. Truth is, the Oscars thrive off flipping conventional wisdom the bird.

Don't let early buzz or Golden Globe triumphs color your guesses. Save for Leonardo DiCaprio, whose Best Actor win for "The Revenant" was practically etched in stone before the movie's release, and we'll get to that later, nothing is ever a given with the



Bridge of Spies

Welcome to The Beacher's First Oscar Contest

by Andrew Tallackson

Oscars. And this year, there are no frontrunners.

Once Academy Award nominations are released, the campaigning commences, and believe me, Hollywood talent lobbies hard to nab trophies. The Weinstein brothers are the poster children for such behavior. How else can you explain, back in 1998, their pleasant, but trivial "Shakespeare in Love" beating out "Saving Private Ryan," which needs no explanation, for Best Picture?

Politics also come into play. Naughty public behavior can knock surefire winners from their golden perches. Take Russell Crowe. In 2001, he was all but assured a win for "A Beautiful Mind," but cal-



"The Big Short"

lous behavior toward the media, including disruptive shenanigans in hotel rooms, turned off voters. So, the Best Actor honor went to Denzel Washington for his ferocious work in "Training Day." The actor took the Best Supporting prize for "Glory" in 1989, but had yet to win Best Actor. The award was seen as long overdue.

Which gets to DiCaprio and "The Revenant."

Since his first Oscar nomination in 1993 for "What's Eating Gilbert Grape?," the actor has



"Brooklyn"

January 28, 2016

knocked it out of the ballpark with practically every performance. There was that little movie with the boat, of course, as well as "Gangs of New York," "The Aviator," "Revolutionary Road" and "The Wolf of Wall Street" (2013), the latter a movie I didn't care for, but DiCaprio was astonishing. How he kept his performance at such a fever pitch is unreal.

The actor is good in "The Revenant," Alejandro Iñárritu's followup to last year's "Birdman (or the Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)," which walked away with, among others, Best Picture and Director honors. But all that Oscar love DiCaprio is experiencing now appears more for his catalog of work,



"The Martian"

that he's long overdue, making "The Revenant" the equivalent of a consolation prize. His work in "The Revenant" is physically compelling — an example of suffering for your art. But is the performance itself memorable? That is the question Academy voters must ask themselves.

And what about the movie? The first hour is hypnotic, with Best Supporting Actor nominee Tom Hardy hardly content to chew the scenery. He devours it whole so there's nothing left but his electri-



"Mad Max: Fury Road"

fying presence. There's also a bear-attack sequence that is so horrifyingly real, you are almost afraid to breathe for fear of bringing attention to yourself. But then, slowly but steadily, Iñárritu as a filmmaker loses his grip on you. The movie stretches on for another 90 minutes, too in love with its own arty pretensions, not to mention testing the limits of credibility. Sorry, but no one can leap from the top of a cliff while riding a horse and survive it the way DiCaprio does in the picture.

And with "Spotlight" picking up more honors, the 12 Oscar nominations for "The Revenant" likely won't translate to 12 wins.

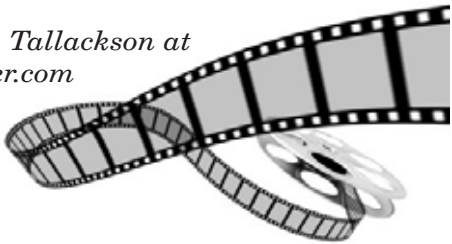
Again, I stress the following: Anything goes. But that's the fun of it, isn't it? Staring into Oscar's crystal ball, setting emotions aside and second-guessing who might actually win?



"Room"

So, think long and hard about it, then with pen in hand, let the games begin.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



"The Revenant"

In Memoriam



Christina M. Karamesines, 1948-2016, Long Beach/Michigan City, passed away Friday, Jan. 15, 2016. She was born in Chicago on Aug. 2, 1948.

Christina inspired all who knew her through her holistic healing, poetry and love of music. Extremely active in the arts, she loved being involved in programs that included music therapy for children and Native American causes. Her primary area of focus was her home of Long Beach and Michigan City.

Christina was preceded in death by her parents, Chris and Penny Karamesines, and sister, Carol Karamesines Byas.

She is survived by brothers, Peter Karamesines, Beaverton, Ore., Chris (Sandy) Karamesines, Chicago, Mike (Kim) Karamesines, Valparaiso, and Tom Karamesines, Muncie. She leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews, and her beloved guide dog, Max.

A memorial service to celebrate Christina's life will be held around the Summer Solstice.

Memorials may be made to Guide Dogs of America, 13445 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar CA 91342. Dykes Funeral Home Inc. handled the arrangements.

Artwork Sought for Display

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., is partnering with St. Mary Medical Center to provide artwork by local artists that will hang in the Valparaiso facility, 3800 St. Mary Drive.

Artists who would like to be considered must be an art center member. All 2-D mediums will be accepted. Submissions should include one digital image per piece, with a maximum number of pieces at 10. With each submission, include the title, size (with frame) and medium. All entries are to be sent to Martha McGuckin, liaison between the center and St. Mary. Her email is bomar17@frontier.com. Submissions will be forwarded to St. Mary for its approval.

St. Mary is seeking large artwork or groups of pieces that will cover a significant amount of wall space. The subject matter should be appropriate for a soothing, professional environment. Mats and frames (if applicable) must be in pristine condition and include "C" or "D" hangers. No wiring is necessary. The accepted pieces will hang until May 15, with new work coming in approximately three times a year. The artist will be asked to be present when the work is hung. Each participant can leave information about themselves and their work, including pricing and possible custom options.

Contact the center at (219) 926-4711 for additional information.

Valentine Tea

The First United Methodist Church Women will present the 66th Valentine Tea at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6, at the church, 121 E. Seventh St.

Tea, sandwiches and cookies are planned, along with fellowship, devotions and entertainment.

Call the church office at (219) 872-7200 for more information.



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Industrial Heritage Exhibit

Substation No. 9, South Shore Arts' downtown Hammond branch, will present "Calumet's Industrial Heritage: Works by Kathy Los-Rathburn and Matthew Kaplan," through April 2, with an opening reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday Jan. 28.

The Calumet region, which extends from southern Chicago through Michigan City, is the Chicago metro area's best-untapped resource. Mostly known as the industrial powerhouse that once provided much of the nation's steel, the region now is appreciated for its natural beauty, biodiversity, expanding artist communities and excellent outdoor activities.

The Calumet Heritage Partnership seeks to preserve the Calumet region's bi-state industrial heritage and promote its natural, cultural and recreational features.

Substation No. 9 is located at 435 Fayette St., Hammond. Regular viewing hours for the exhibit are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

Queen of All Saints Science Night

Queen of All Saints School will present its Science Night, featuring the Vikings Science Fair, from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, at Queen of All Saints School, 1715 E. Barker Ave., Michigan City.

Classrooms will have interactive science experiments conducted by middle-school students.

The Science Fair will feature two divisions in the school gym: one for grades 3-6 and the other for grades 7-8. Projects will cover topics such as social science, forensics and aerodynamic principles.

The top three winners in each division will represent Queen of All Saints School at the Northern Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair at the University of Notre Dame on Feb. 27.

Call the school at (219) 874-4420 for additional information.

Zoo Society Receives Grant

Washington Park Zoological Society has received a \$120,000 grant by the Otto J. and Margaret M. Zack Charitable Trust.

The grant will help start work on a Vet Clinic, purchase food and cover medical expenses for the animals.



Johnny Stimley (left), Washington Park Zoological Society vice president, and Zoo Director Jamie Huss hold the check celebrating the \$120,000 grant.

This is the fourth year the grant has been awarded to the zoo for a total of \$282,000. The money has allowed the zoo to provide better care for the animals and create a better facility.

The Otto J. and Margaret M. Zack Trust was awarded to the Washington Park Zoo Society as a non-profit organization.

The zoo will open for the 2016 season April 1 and hold its annual Fur Ball Gala "Zoobilee" on April 2. Tickets and info are available at www.washingtonparkzoo.com. Call (219) 873-1510 or email ssheldon@emichigancity.com for more information.



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Ice Cream Social



Catherine Barker as a girl.

The public is invited to an ice cream social focusing on the treat's history, and how people have enjoyed it through the ages, at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.

Guests will sample flavors popular during Catherine Barker's time, including vanilla, strawberry and chocolate varieties made with real ingredients. Visitors can make their own ice cream using snow from the garden.

The cost is \$2 per person. Reservations are not necessary. Visit www.BarkerMansion.com for additional information.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

• **Learn about nature in winter, and how to explore its beauty on snowshoes, during the ranger-led program from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 30, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

A brief indoor program on winter and the use of snowshoes is followed by a chance to try them out on a ranger-led hike through fields and woods surrounding the center. A limited number of snowshoes are available for loan, or visitors can take their own. A hike will be offered if there isn't enough snow.

• **Join volunteer yoga instructor Angela Appleton-Carver to learn poses and stretching exercises while listening to nature stories from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at the Paul H. Douglas Center.**

The sessions are geared to all ages and require no equipment.

• **Find Your Park Film Series on Saturdays and Sundays.**

Explore a different National Park Service site through films shown at 2 p.m. Saturdays at the Paul H. Douglas Center and 2 p.m. Sundays at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. Call the park's information line at (219) 395-1882 for this week's film.

• **Open House at the Douglas Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Family friendly activities include the chance to borrow cross country skis if there is enough snow. Visitors also can feed the center's resident turtles and fish, or just explore the center's exhibits.

• **"Kid's Rule" from 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

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

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

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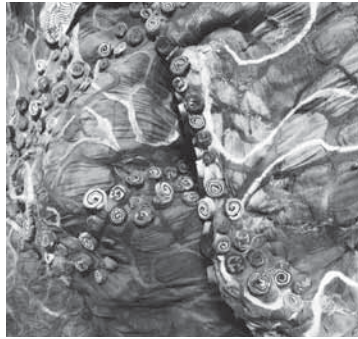
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Parks Master Plan, Awards

The La Porte County Park Department will review its five-year master plan, and congratulate this year's award winners, right after the public meeting at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2, at Red Mill County Park, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, La Porte.

The 2016-2020 Master Plan is being developed to guide decisions about park development to remain eligible for grant opportunities. Input has been gathered from public meetings and user surveys. Comments and suggestions are welcomed.

Light refreshments will be served. Call (219) 325-8315 for more information.

Color Between the Wines

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., will offer "Color Between the Wines," an adult coloring club, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every other Wednesday starting Jan. 27.

The club will provide all materials (coloring pages and crayons), as well as free adult beverages. Participants can take books, pencils and pens. This is not a structured class, but a social opportunity to decompress while using a creative outlet.

The cost is \$5 per session. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 to reserve a spot.



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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

Saturday, Jan. 30

• 10 a.m. — Winter Hike into Beaver Bayou.

Meet at the campground gate for a short stroll to the newly created beaver damn, lodge and flooded area.

• 2 p.m. — Behind the Scenes of the Dunes Nature Center.

Explore lesser-seen items during the 45-minute program at the Nature Center.

Sunday, Feb. 1

• 10 a.m. — Feed the Birds.

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

• 2 p.m. — 100 Years of Indiana State Parks.

Meet at the Nature Center auditorium for the 50-minute documentary, produced in 2009 by PBS, that captures 100 years of Indiana state parks.

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

Sarett Nature Center

The following programs are offered through Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.:

• Cross country ski with the 18-and-older Outdoor Adventure Club from noon to 3 p.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 30.

The \$15 fee includes equipment rental, lesson and guide. Call to register and check snow conditions.

• The annual Gourmet Glide at 6 p.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 30.

The lighted trail begins and ends at the nature center building. "Gliders" then can enjoy a potluck dinner. Participants should take food to share, dishes and silverware and a favorite beverage. The fee is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children. Snowshoe and ski rentals will be available.

• Winter Crafts Day from 1:30 to 4 p.m. EST Sunday, Jan. 31.

Craft prices are \$1 to \$2 in addition to admission. Call (269) 927-4832 to register or for additional information.

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New Exhibit by Multimedia Artist

The Village Gallery at Pines Village Retirement Communities will present the works of multimedia artist Michelle Wiser through March 3.

Pieces by Wiser, Michigan City, feature watercolors, oils and textiles presented in the context of portraits and ornamental architectural facades.



Michelle Wiser's "Dennis with Turkeys."

After earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts, Wiser studied portrait painting with Robert Bentley and classical watercolor painting with Alan Gavin. Her commercial art experience includes architectural renderings for Perkins & Will, visual merchandising for Gap Stores and mural work for Hotel Intercontinental. Her interests in textiles lead to several years of textile restoration for Textile Conservators, in conjunction with Leslie Hyndman/Sotheby's Auctioneers. After moving to Michigan City, she began teaching arts programming at Lubeznik Center for the Arts. At Purdue University-North Central, she curates and installs exhibits in addition to teaching art classes.

Pines Village Retirement Communities is located at 3303 Pines Village Circle, off Calumet Avenue just north of Cumberland Crossing in Valparaiso. The gallery is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (219) 465-1591 for more information.

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4-H Clover Crop



The silent auction table is a highlight of the annual 4-H Clover Crop event.

All area scrapbookers are invited to the "4-H Clover Crop," sponsored by La Porte County 4-H, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 5, at La Porte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, La Porte.

The cost is \$25, or \$30 after Feb. 5. That includes table space, breakfast, lunch, contests, prizes and goodie bags. There also will be classes, make 'n takes, a silent auction and vendors on site. All proceeds aid the La Porte County 4-H endowment fund.

Registration forms are available at the Purdue Extension-La Porte County Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, La Porte, as well as the facebook event page "2016 4-H Clover Crop."

Call Patty Keating or Mindy Rose at (219) 324-9407, or e-mail msrose@purdue.edu, for additional information.

Critique Night

Local painter Mark VanderVinne will host Critique Night at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

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

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

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

Center of the World Awarded

Center of the World Woodshop, 13400 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich., has won "Best of Customer Service" on Houzz, the leading platform for home remodeling and design.

The annual Best Of Houzz is awarded in three categories: Design, Customer Service and Photography. Customer Service honors are based on several factors, including the number and quality of client reviews a professional received in 2015. A "Best Of Houzz 2016" badge will appear on winners' profiles. These badges help homeowners identify popular and top-rated home professionals in every metro area on Houzz.

Center of the World Woodshop, a 40-year-old design and woodworking company, is run by Terry and Lorraine Hanover.

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JROTC Earns Award at Event

The Michigan City High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps competed in a military drill meet at East Aurora (Ill.) High School on Saturday, Jan. 16.

The event attracts many of the best units from the hundreds of JROTC schools of all services in the Chicagoland area. Twenty two schools competed in the meet, with MCHS earning third place in the armed basic drill category. That unit was command by Cadet Capt. Jalen Stockley.



The armed basic platoon executes its movements during the competition.

The Wolves also competed in unarmed basic drill, armed and unarmed exhibition drill, first year squad drill and two color guards.

Maj. Tom McGrath, the senior Marine instructor, commended the cadets, particularly since many of the team's key drillers were absent.

"We had a number of starters who did not compete, either for health or work reasons," he said. "I was very impressed with the way our younger cadets stepped up to the challenge, especially since the competition here was so tough."

The Wolves' next meet is Feb. 20 at Pike High School in Indianapolis — another competitive event. That, however, will take a back seat in preparation time to get ready for Marine Corps' Inspector General Inspection on Feb. 17.

"This is our Super Bowl," McGrath said. "This is the primary way that we can be compared with other schools in our region."

(Michigan City's region includes 45 schools.)

The cadets also will participate in events that support the school and community, such as providing color guards for all home boys basketball games and workers for the Queen of All Saints Fun Night on Jan. 29.

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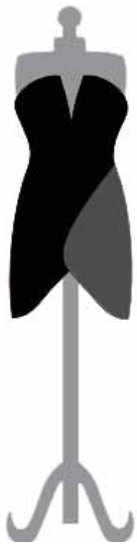
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SPR GO! Game

Discover the hidden treasures of Indiana's state parks as they celebrate their centennial year by taking part in SPR GO!

The game, an abbreviation for State Parks & Reservoirs, Get Outside, is similar to bingo. Players must find game codes at designated locations on the properties and record them on their card in the appropriate space. Completing five spaces in a row, column or diagonal qualifies the player for prizes.

As a bonus to celebrate the 100th birthday of Indiana State Parks, participants can try the more challenging "Centennial Cover-All" version. It requires participants to visit at least 25 of the 40 sites on the card. Finishers receive a free Indiana State Parks centennial coin and qualify for prizes.

The game's webpage, stateparks.IN.gov/game-card, is the place to download a card, read hints for finding the game code locations at each property and read rules and regulations.

Each household is limited to one game card, which must be received by the Department of Natural Resources by Jan. 31, 2017, to be eligible for prizes.



**American
Red Cross**

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

- La Porte High School, 602 F St., La Porte, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Jan 29.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, Michigan City, noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2.

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 information.

Summer Employees Needed

The National Park Service needs short-term housing near Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore for the summer's seasonal workforce of rangers, guides, maintenance workers and research aids.

Summer employees often have difficulty finding suitable short-term housing. Most are college students, or people just starting their careers and with limited budgets. Many apartments will not lease or rent for fewer than six months or a year. The park's summer employees typically work less than that starting in May. Most employees need temporary (two to six months) housing, preferably furnished apartments or rooms with cooking privileges.

Anyone interested in receiving referrals for summer renters should contact Administrative Support Clerk Florida Harris at (219) 395-8585, Ext. 1772.

Jewelry Classes

Mara Wible will offer a different jewelry class from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays in February at Chester-ton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

The schedule is:

- Feb. 2 — Crochet Bracelet. Students use a basic chain stitch with beads. The cost is \$25, and no prior experience is required.
- Feb. 9 — Fringy Bracelet. The introductory class focuses on multiple needle weaving. The cost is \$25.
- Feb. 16 — Box Chain Bracelet. Box chain is a reasonably simple and straightforward weave that produces a flexible, dimensional chain maille piece that appears more complicated than it is. The cost is \$30.
- Feb. 23 — Basic Peyote Bracelet. Students learn even count peyote in the off-loom bead weaving technique. The cost is \$25.



A fringy bracelet.

In a number of the classes, participants will work with small beads, so take appropriate glasses. Supplies are included, and members receive a \$5 discount per class. There is a three-person minimum, and students must be signed up no later than the day prior to the start of class. In some cases, a project may not be completed in the two-hour time slot.

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



Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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



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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

Jan. 28 — Wii Gaming, 4-5:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Jan. 30 — Breakfast With the Birds, 9:30-11 a.m., Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Info: (219) 325-8315.

Jan. 30 — Winter Hike into Beaver Bayou, 10 a.m., campground gate @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 30 — Book signing, Tom Brew and “Missing Banners,” noon-2 p.m., Book Warehouse of Michigan City at Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets.

Jan. 30 — Ice cream social, 1 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$2. Info: (219) 873-1520.

Jan. 30 — Behind the Scenes of the Dunes Nature Center, 2 p.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 30 — Snowshoe program, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 31, Feb. 6 — La Porte Service League play, “Little Red Riding Hood and the Magic Dragon,” La Porte High School auditorium. Times: 1 p.m. Jan. 31/9:30 a.m. Feb. 6. Donation: \$1/adults, 50 cents/children. Info: (219) 362-2693.

Feb. 1 — Arm Knitting an Infinity Scarf, 3-5 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Feb. 2 — Adult Coloring Program, 6-7:30 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter. Registration: (219) 926-9080.

Feb. 3 — Critique Night, 7:30 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Through March 3 — Multimedia exhibit by Michigan City artist Michelle Wiser, The Village Gallery at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. Info: (219) 465-1591.

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

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

Farther Afield:

Jan. 29 — Opening reception, “Calumet’s Industrial Heritage: Works by Kathy Los-Rathburn and Matthew Kaplan,” 5-8 p.m., South Shore Arts’ downtown Hammond branch, 435 Fayette St.

Jan. 29 — Opening reception, new exhibits, 6-8 p.m. EST, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org

Jan. 30 — Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Info: (773) 275-1514.



Long Beach Women's Bowling

Jan. 19, 2016

TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Queen Pins	7	1
2. IncrediBowls	5	3
2. Gutter Golfers	5	3
2. Alley Oops	5	3

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE
1. Mary Lou McFadden	178
2. Sue Luegers	160
3. Nancy Kubath	150
4. Ann Bogart (series)	408

FOUR STRIKES IN A ROW
Mary Lou McFadden

SPLITS	
1. Heidi Jaffee	3-10
2. Debbie Novak	3-9-10
3. June Salmon	3-10

Taltree "Girls Night Out"

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens will host its Girls Night Out: Jewelry, Wine & Chocolate, which features a wire-wrapping demonstration by local artist Jayde Petersen, from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30.

All supplies are provided, but guests can take their own. Tickets are limited and expected to sell out. Petersen, a popular instructor at Taltree, is currently featured at the Porter County Museum CSA Valpo Exhibit. She has shown and sold her work across the region.

The event will be held in the Depot Visitors Center. Tickets, which are \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members, can be purchased at tinyurl.com/zqag8tq

Taltree is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso. Visit Taltree.org or follow Taltree on twitter at @TaltreeArb and facebook at facebook.com/Taltree

Cookies and Canvas

Jennifer Martin will host a Valentine's edition of Cookies and Canvas on Friday, Feb. 5, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., Chesterton.

Children ages 3-7 can attend from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and ages 8-14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The evening will include an 8-by-10 Valentine's Day-themed stretched-canvas painting, as well as cookies and juice.

The cost is \$10 per child, or \$5 for members. All interested students must register by contacting the center at (219) 926-4711 no later than Wednesday, Feb. 3.

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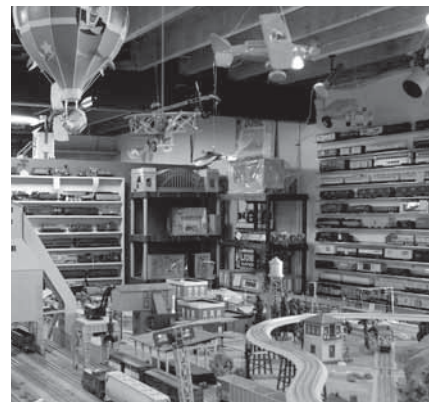
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Positions available in Michigan City, La Porte and surrounding areas.

Call (219)662-2999 or visit www.seniorhelpers.com/michigancity-in

Housework in Rolling Prairie. Been sick. Lots to put away, then clean.

Need 2/3 temporary helpers, then 1 permanent helper to keep up.
Respond in writing to 911 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360, attn:
Housework ad.

COMFORT KEEPERS NOW HIRING CAREGIVERS

Comfort Keepers is actively hiring dedicated individuals who enjoy working one-on-one with seniors. Assisting with personal care, meal preparation, companionship and transportation are some of the ways we help seniors remain independent.

Apply Online: <http://ck341.ersp.biz/employment>
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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.

WANT TO BUY

WANTED: I buy all types of antiques and collectibles, including toys, advertising, military items and more. Call Matt at (219) 794-6500.

Wanted: Vintage furniture, lamps and rugs.
Please call 219-871-9064.

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WATERFRONT APTS for rent in MC. Furnished-utilities, WiFi/TV incl.
1BR \$775/mo., 2BR \$975/mo. Sec. dep. Call Pete at (219) 871-9187.

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.

Stop 30 spring rental available. Furnished, 3BR/2BA. 1/2 block to beach. Lake views. W/D. No smoking. No pets. \$895/mo + util. Available mid-Feb thru mid-May. Call Gloria at (219) 214-3451.

2BR/1BA Uptown Arts District apt., furnished, available mid-February for short-term lease. \$850 per mo., includes utilities. Call Gloria at (219) 214-3451.

Looking for a cabin in the woods?

Home for rent in Beverly Shores. 3BR/2BA Private, secluded, 10-minute walk to best beaches. \$1,475/month plus utilities.

Call Bruce @ 219-406-5231

RENTALS MICHIGAN**Heart of New Buffalo**

Available now! Two bedroom, one bath condo with a large private deck and one private parking spot located in a residential area in the heart of New Buffalo. The unit is a 3-minute walk to shops and a 10-minute walk to the lake. The building is well lit and the surrounding area quiet and safe. Rent is \$550 per month and does not include utilities. Please contact Milt for more information. (708) 334-9955.

Apply for this property at www.terrafirmainvestments.org.

 **REAL ESTATE FOR SALE** 

For sale: Grand Beach summer cottage, 2 BR/1BA, living room, family room, ½ block from private beach. Fully furnished. \$279,000. Unlimited summer rental income potential. Call Mark at (630) 918-7373.

Waterfront home for sale by owner on Lake Clare.

Open house: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Jan. 30-31.

3 BR, 2 full BA, hardwood floors, 2.5 car garage, gas fireplace, radiant floor heat, central A/C, 400 sq. ft. Patio with screened 10x10 gazebo.

\$349,900. 219-898-5433. 141 Shorewood Dr.

Kids Caring for the Community

La Porte's Crichfield Elementary was selected in a blind drawing of participating La Porte County schools as the Session 1 winner through the Kids Caring for the Community service program.

Crichfield was selected from a pool of local schools that included Knapp Elementary in Michigan City, Westville Elementary, Indian Trail Elementary, Kingsford Heights Elementary and Rolling Prairie Elementary.

For the past four years, the Indiana/Kentucky/Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters has partnered with local elementary schools to promote volunteerism and giving back to the community through its Kids Caring program. Participating schools throughout Northwest Indiana complete service projects and are entered in a drawing to receive a monetary award.

Each year, Kids Caring for the Community awards \$9,000 total to participating elementary schools in Lake, Porter and La Porte counties. One winner from each county is chosen. There are four Kids Caring sessions throughout the academic year, giving local schools multiple opportunities to be selected as winners.

As its service project, Crichfield students collected pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, which supports families of children being treated for cancer and other serious illnesses or trauma while the child receives treatment at a nearby hospital or medical treatment center.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Searcher by Simon Toyne
(hardcover, \$26, retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

A barefoot, albino amnesiac is seen running away from a plane crash in the Arizona desert that has started a brush fire threatening to engulf the nearby town of Redemption. On a hill outside of the town, residents are gathered to bury the man just elected sheriff.

All this in the first seven pages!

Set aside some reading time—this one is going to keep you on the edge of your seat with mouth wide open.

Simon Toyne certainly is the king of cliffhanger chapter endings. He gives you just enough information to make your mouth water like a thirsty person and then...bam! He ends the chapter and takes you somewhere else. Here's a story to challenge the likes of Stephen King.

As Sheriff Morgan is racing toward the plane crash, he almost runs over the barefoot man. *"He looked strange, extraordinary, his hair as white as his skin."*

When questioned, the man doesn't know his name, where he comes from or where he was going.

They find a book in the man's pocket: Riches and Redemption. The Making of a Town. A Memoir by the Reverend Jack "King" Cassidy, Founder and First Citizen. The dedication page says it was to Solomon Creed from James Coronado.

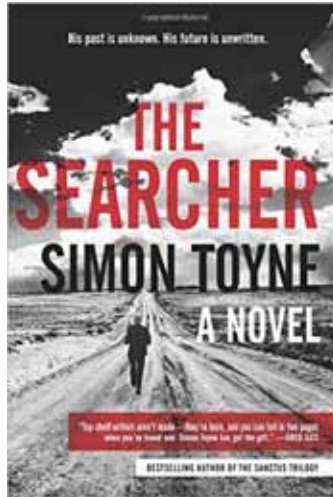
Redemption is the town Cassidy started, and every mayor since has been a Cassidy, including the present one.

Creed said, *"I think I'm here to save him...I'm here to save James Coronado."*

Problem for Creed is, Coronado was the man being buried that morning. Inquiring if there is a Mrs. Coronado he could speak with, Creed finds Sheriff Morgan reluctant to have him do so. Creed thinks maybe she might know who he is and why he thought he was there to save her husband.

Meanwhile, in another sequence not far away, a man named Mulcahy and two Mexican men are parked at an airfield scanning the sky for a plane to land. They are there to pick up a "package" for a Mexican drug lord known as Papa Tio. When they realize the crash in the desert is the plane they were waiting for, they go into panic mode—Papa Tio is not a forgiving or understanding man.

Back at the crash site, Creed seems to instinctively know how to contain the fire and help save the town. After the fire is out, the sheriff remarks that the cross Creed is wearing is a replica of the one on the altar of the local church. Creed knows



that meeting Mrs. Coronado and visiting the church are essential to finding out who he is and why he is in Redemption.

After this, the clues keep piling up and get creepier and creepier...

Meanwhile! Mulcahy races to the crash site and poses as an air traffic inspector to get a closer look at the plane and take some photos to send to Papa Tio to (hopefully) save his life.

He finds the charred remains of a man with a steel plate in his head...uh, oh. It looks like the remains of Papa Tio's only son. How can he possibly negotiate now?

Meanwhile! There are intermittent pages from Cassidy's book telling of him receiving a Bible back in the early 1800s, and his journey to Arizona territory and the building of a church and the town of Redemption. You just know that somehow, as you read more of his story, the closer you will come to Solomon Creed...maybe.

Meanwhile! Creed finally meets Mrs. Coronado. As he persuades her of his amnesia, they work together to find a connection between him and her husband, instead coming to the conclusion that the car accident her husband died in was no accident at all...he was murdered.

There are many elements of secrets kept, revenge and a whole lot more, including the age old fight of good versus evil. And can a man find redemption when he can't even remember his past? Toyne throws some illusory elements into the mix to keep you guessing as to what is really going on, and I must say, it works! I was intrigued to get to the end of the story and find out what Creed was all about. Was that wish fulfilled? I never read and tell!

New York Times Book Review: "How do you create suspense?...That's the defining strategy of The Searcher, as Simon Toyne holds information tantalizingly out of reach over the course of his wild, mysterious novel...I read it in a two-day fever."

Bestselling author Steve Berry said: "Not a dull page to be found anywhere. The Searcher is a thriller gem. Simon Toyne is a first-class talent, speeding in the fast lane to the top of the genre."

Toyne is the bestselling author of the Sanctus trilogy. He was a writer, director and producer in British television for many years. His books have been translated into 27 languages and published in more than 50 countries. He divides his time between England and the south of France. His website is www.simontoyne.net

Till next time, happy reading!



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NEW LISTING



3016 Mayfield Way

Long Beach • \$340,000

This 4 bedroom, 3 bath home is a stone's throw to beautiful Stop 30 beach. Large bedrooms, two recently updated bathrooms, wood burning fireplace, enclosed screened porch, large open areas for entertaining, and private backyard for all to enjoy. This property is a wonderful combination of beachy & charming.



2923 Roslyn Trail

Long Beach • \$299,000

Charming, updated 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage. Two fireplaces, spacious kitchen with new hardwood floors, cabinets & appliances. Family room has sliders to back yard. Updates including entire new plumbing system, hi-efficiency boiler, on demand hot water, roof, soffit, gutters, fascia, light fixtures & majority of windows.

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A Bit of Country With a Bit of the Beach 4201 Hillside Trail

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The secluded 4 bedroom 3 bath home is located on a
beautiful wooded lot and just a block away from the beach.
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Great Condo ~ A special 3 bedroom, 3 bath home 805 Birch Tree Lane

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