

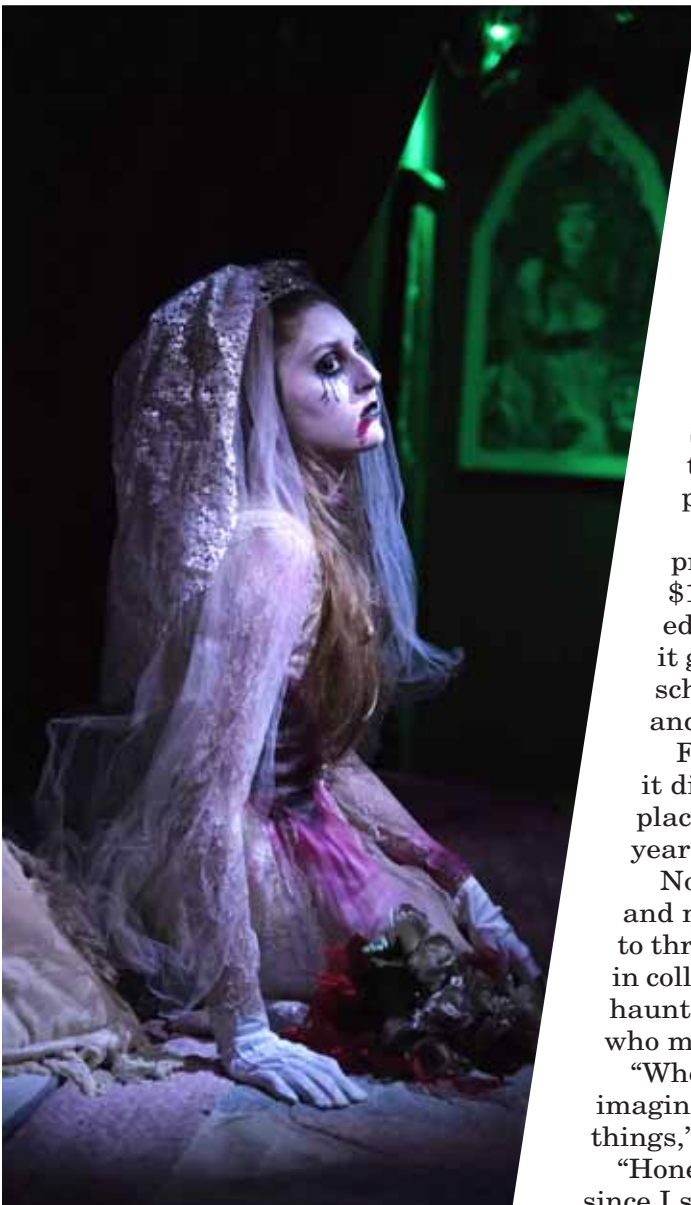


Volume 32, Number 41 Thursday, October 20, 2016

# THRILLS AND CHILLS

## Niles Attraction Ranks With the Best

by Kayla Weiss



Sophia, the “undead” bride in Dracula’s Bedroom.  
Photo by Peter Gillespie.

The days of autumn carry with them certain traditions. Occasions to pick apples, carve pumpkins, attend hayrides and bonfires, observe the gorgeous colors of falling leaves.

It’s also the chance to have the daylightscared out of you, and here in Michiana, one can only hope for something fun and spooky.

Fortunately, in Niles, Mich., there is an incredible Halloween attraction for the entire family.

Located on 44 acres, Niles Scream Park offers plenty of thrills and chills. For the past two years, *Haunted Attraction* magazine named it one of the “Top 31 Must-See Haunted Attractions” nationwide. It also was voted the 2015 Top Haunt in *Coaster Nation*’s countrywide poll.

Not only that, the non-profit community project uses proceeds to benefit local charities. In 2015, it contributed \$106,000 to such organizations. Since 1996, it has donated more than \$1.57 million to local and national non-profit groups, as well as the Niles Scream Park-funded college scholarships for students at Niles, Brandywine, Dowagiac and Edwardsburg high schools.

Forty-four years ago, when the haunted house debuted, it didn’t have a set location, bouncing around from place to place every year until it found its current home in recent years.

Now run by Matt Herm, along with seven full-time staff and more than 600 volunteers, the haunted house continues to thrive. Herm studied non-profit organization management in college and started working in Valparaiso until one day, the haunted house just kind of fell into his lap. A family member who managed it for 30 years decided to retire.

“When I first graduated from college, I never would have imagined that I would be managing a haunted house, of all things,” Herm said.

“Honestly, Halloween is not my favorite holiday, but ever since I started doing this job, I couldn’t imagine doing anything

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## THRILLS AND CHILLS

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else. It is so gratifying to be working on something like this, and with all of the amazing people we have here, not only on our staff, but our volunteers, too.”

Indeed, the effort has an incredible volunteer base. Representing more than 65 Michigan charities, each volunteer represents his/her organization. He/she logs their hours, and the scream park contributes to their charity based on how many hours they volunteer in a given season. This year alone, the park has a volunteer electrician who has logged more than 1,000 hours, building specialty controls for the different rooms in the haunted house.

“Thankfully, we live in a community where people take extreme pride in their community, and in our park,” Herm said. “We are currently one of the oldest haunted houses in the country. We are really embraced by the community and the people, and they really want to give back and help us thrive.”

Each year, staff create something new for the attraction. By the time their “season” comes to a close, they are already planning the themes and execution for next season. With their creative team, Herm and his team are constantly brainstorming new ideas, taking feedback from customer surveys to see what they can apply to their haunted houses.

“There are easily over a million haunted houses in the country, so every year, for the last two weeks of October, a few of us go on a trip, scout-

ing out different haunted houses across the country, collecting new ideas,” Herm said. “There are so many different kinds of haunted houses in the country. We always strive to be family friendly. We want to entertain everyone, not make them miserable.”

This year, Herm and his team started completely from scratch. Once they closed for the season last year, they completely gutted the inside of the haunted house, starting with a fresh slate. All year long, they work for these 22 nights a year.

“Everything we do is geared toward next year,” Herm said. “It’s just a lot of fun to create these scenes that people are going to walk into.”

Aside from the standard concessions, hayride, magic show and outdoor maze, there are three different haunted houses at Niles Scream Park: two smaller-scale houses and the main attraction. This year, themes include “Cabin 13,” a backwoods horror world, or “Krampus: A Christmas Curse.” Usually, they take a hint from hot pop-culture themes – “The Walking Dead,” creepy clowns – but this year, for the main haunted house, they took a page from the classics. Designed like an old-time theater, each room has a different horror-movie theme associated with it.

What helped achieve that goal, Herm said, was a volunteer who designed his own prop controller. Now, there is one in every room of the haunted house, which makes it so much easier to control the scares in each room.

While some of the surprises



A creature in the lagoon area of the haunted house attraction.  
 Photo by Peter Gillespie.



may be intense, the emphasis is not gore.

"We love being able to scare people," Herm said. "We have some pretty intense characters here. People hate chain saws and clowns. We usually have at least one of those at the haunted house. It's kind of like a trophy that the volunteers here compete for, to see how many people each of them can scare in the haunted house."



Children enjoy snacks on the midway. Photo by Courtlan Gordon.



Creepy masks are everywhere.

Continued on Page 4

www.mccmf.org



All Events are Open to the Public FREE of Charge

## Michigan City Chamber Music Festival Presents

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**In recital**

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**First Presbyterian Church**

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# THRILLS AND CHILLS

Continued from Page 3

The park is open regardless if it rains, and the actors are not allowed to touch any visitors passing through the attractions. Some areas are pitch black, others use strobe lights. The park also is accessible for people with disabilities.

On a busy evening, it would take three hours to

see everything the park has to offer, from the three different haunted houses, to the hayride, to the magic show, the midway and everything in-between.

Keep an eye out, too, for Nov. 4-5, which marks the final weekend of the season. That's when the scream park will do blackout nights, sending visitors through their haunted houses with nothing but glow sticks to light the way.

(Visit <http://haunted.org/> for more details.)



"The Blade" is one of many Halloween-themed games on the midway.  
Photo by Courtlan Gordon.



Visitors encounter one of the "Monsters of the Midway."  
Photo by Courtlan Gordon.

## Halloween Events Closer to Home

• **Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, La Porte, will celebrate fall and Halloween with events Oct. 22-23 & 29-30.**

The Hesston Ghost Train, appropriate even for small children, features a trip through the haunted forest aboard the Flying Dutchman Railroad.

The fall festival includes three real steam railroads. Hayride wagons carry visitors around the museum's 155-acre grounds. Other offerings include the blacksmith shop, turn-of-the-century steam-powered sawmill and plenty of food.

Admission and parking are free. Train fares are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 3-12. Trains run from noon to 5 p.m. Visit [www.hesston.org](http://www.hesston.org) for more information.

• **Families can experience child-friendly trick or treating amid animal encounters along decorated paths during Boo at the Zoo on Saturday, Oct. 22, at Washington Park Zoo.**

Due to large crowds, two sessions are planned to avoid long lines and keep everyone safe. Session One is from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with trick or treating ending and the zoo closing at 2 p.m. Session Two is from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., with trick or treating ending and the zoo closing at 6 p.m.

Zoo staff strongly recommend buying advance tickets since ticket sales will cease once the zoo reaches maximum occupancy. Tickets are available at [www.washingtonparkzoo.com](http://www.washingtonparkzoo.com) under "Boo at the Zoo," or daily at the zoo of-

fice. Tickets likely won't be available for sale the day of the event.

The cost is: \$1 — members trick or treating; \$5 for non-member adults 12 and older; \$4 for non-member children 3-11; and free for children 2 and younger. Tickets will be honored only for the time session purchased. Ticketholders attempting to enter another session will not be admitted. The event is held rain or shine. No outside food or beverages are allowed. Call (219) 873-1510 or visit [www.washingtonparkzoo.com](http://www.washingtonparkzoo.com) for tickets or more details.

• **Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, will present "Haunted Trails and Ghost Stories" from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29.**

The family friendly event will include face painting, trick or treating and ghost stories by the bonfire. Children can wear Halloween costumes as they venture along the Gardens' winding nature trails.

Visitors also can experience the Gardens when bathed in the glow of the "Trail of Lights," a new illuminated pathway of lampposts. Children also can check out Phase One of the ArcelorMittal Children's Garden, a newly installed arena for interactive natural play experiences.

The cost is \$5 for visitors 12 and older and \$2 for youth 12 and younger. Call (219) 878-9885 or email [info@friendshipgardens.org](mailto:info@friendshipgardens.org) for more details.



## Happy Birthday, Michigan City Public Library



Michigan City Public Library celebrated its 119th birthday on Sunday, Oct. 9, with apple cider and a birthday cake that read "Happy 119th Birthday Michigan City Public Library October 9, 1897-2016." Pictured are (from left) Terri Anderson, of the library's Tech Services department, Programming Director Robin Kohn and Director Don Glossinger. Photo by Maria Laliani

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## “Southside With You” Imagines First Date With Brains and Charm

by Andrew Tallackson

“Southside With You” would make a perfect double bill with Richard Linklater’s “Before Sunrise” (1995). Both chart the wary dance of two exceedingly intelligent people. They’re too smart for their own good, unnecessarily stalling the obvious attraction between them.

The difference, of course, is that “Southside With You” details the humble origins of American royalty: the first date between President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Robinson during a long, hot summer day in 1989. But the film, which marks the promising debut of writer-director Richard Tanne, is less concerned with politics and, like “Before Sunrise” and its sequels, more preoccupied with talk. Lots of it. Specifically, the way men and women carefully, and sometimes ruthlessly, use words as a litmus test for those vying for their affection.

Don’t be deceived, however, by the film’s loose nature. Layers of depth percolate beneath the surface as a black man and woman contemplate their place in a world that *is* changing, yet hasn’t shed itself of the racial politics that stymie progress.

The Obamas, by the way, had no involvement with the film. Tanne culled his tale from numerous sources, and he introduces Michelle (Tika Sumpter) as a sharp-edged lawyer prepping for what she hesitates classifying as a date with the firm’s young associate, Barack Obama. He’s played by Parker Sawyers in a star-making debut. What the actor achieves reminded me of Daniel Day-Lewis in “Lincoln” (2012). The physical resemblance between Sawyers and Obama is striking, but the way the actor disappears entirely, every cadence, posture and gesture so effortlessly captured, it felt as if I was

watching the actual Obama in his younger days. The performance is a marvel: brazenly confident one minute when speaking before a crowd furious

over the fate of a community center proposal, to devastatingly wounded over the severed relationship with his late father.

Sumpter’s portrait is fascinating as well. Michelle is hyper aware of how she’s perceived within the firm, not just as black, but as a black woman. Every time she appears close to letting down her guard, the wall returns, blocking any romantic possibilities. It is when Michelle observes the greatness within Barack, particularly during that community center meeting, her features softening, that Sumpter reveals a carefully orchestrated subtlety.

There is something heartbreaking as well about seeing Barack and Michelle – taking in vibrant exhibits that celebrate black culture, catching a showing of Spike Lee’s “Do the Right Thing” — as they explore a Chicago less volatile than today. Would these two so casually stroll through the city’s South Side now? Doubtful. Indeed, that community center hearing serves as an omen of things to come.

If there is a drawback to the film, it is that Henne’s

screenplay, at times, feels overly written. Michelle and Barack aren’t so much speaking to each other, but making speeches. Then again, Henne doesn’t over-inflate the political importance of this first date. His aim is to pack as much of the back stories of these two complicated individuals, as well as their souls, as is possible into the film’s scant, 84-minute running time. Without question, he’s succeeded.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)



Tika Sumpter and Parker Sawyers star in “Southside With You.”

### If You Go

“Southside With You” continues its run at Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Show times are (all times Eastern) 6:15 p.m. Thursday, 9 p.m. Friday through Monday, 3:15 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 9 p.m. Oct. 27. Visit <http://www.vickerstheatre.com/> for more details.



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## A Fresh Approach to Inspiring Artists

Fresh, new and steadfast.

In a time of change, this is what many seek, and the art world is certainly in a time of change, as is nearly everything else.

Paul Henry's Gallery, 416 Sibley St., Hammond, is a new approach to getting art out to people. The owner, Dave Mueller, converted half of a 1900s hardware store into a gallery that does not follow the usual rules.

(His great-grandfather, Paul Henry, founded P.H. Mueller & Sons in 1897.)

Instead of offering a particular type of art, he highlights the best locals who represent the entire spectrum, from still life to abstract, from functional pottery to the unusual.

Just as many species struggle to exist in new terrain after an evolutionary catastrophe, Mueller has had a difficult time. However, like evolving species, he has adjusted and adapted to the changing environment and is succeeding. While remaining true to his idea of creating a space anyone would feel comfortable entering, he refused to settle for a white-walled presence in an exclusive neighborhood. Instead, he adjusted his income flow, which resulted in Thursday night jam sessions.



A partial view of the gallery

What began as something small for fun has emerged as a crowded, creative venue to see some of the best musical talent — professional and amateur — in the area, including Chicago.

Still, the focus is on art, from the usual to the highly unusual, all high quality. This, too, is a unique way to run a gallery. Most focus on a particular style geared to a particular audience.

Mueller, however, is much more open and democratic.

Paintings range from traditional still lifes to highly abstract, and sometimes blastingly zany. All are from artists boasting great creativity and good technique.

There is a constant flow of art out the door, the purchasers from many different walks of life. Mueller rings a gong whenever one is sold, since that is the goal of his gallery, to let art into people's lives for the pure joy of the art, not for its resale value.



Chris Tedin's Raku pot

Even in the field of functional art, the variety is deep, from bowls and pitchers done in a traditional manner, to objects with experimental glazes, near-sculptural objects that could be found in Chicago's SOFA (Sculptural Objects Functional Art). It is a feast.

Another unusual aspect is the community a person is welcomed into. Artists, friends of the gallery and walk-ins are always around, as is Mueller. It's quite a different feel than most galleries, a loose community that is fun, lively and appreciative of art, artists and those who like art.



Claudia Selene's  
"Still Life & Monkeys"

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## Three Pianists Concert and Exhibit

ArtsBridge will launch its sixth season with “Three Pianists Concert and Exhibit” at 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, Oct. 23, at First Presbyterian Church, 475 Green Ave. on Morton Hill in Benton Harbor, Mich.

Three pianists — Masashi Sekioka, Susan Burkholz and Jean Prosper — will perform selections that include jazz, classical and religious. Fired Up! teens from Water Street GlassWorks will have original glass art on display and for sale.



Sekioka, also known as Masa, was born in 1994 in Fukuoka, Japan. He started playing the piano at 5, first encountering jazz at 12 when he became inspired by Duke Ellington, Bill Evans Trio and Miles Davis. While listening to a variety of jazz on the radio and online, he taught himself to play jazz

piano by 16. While his family remains in Japan, Masa came to the United States at 18 and lived in Los Angeles for about three years. He then relocated to Southwest Michigan near the end of 2015. He now is a student at Lake Michigan College, where he doubles majors in music and viticulture.

Burkholz is a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church, where she first performed on the piano and sang as a child. She studied piano with local instructors Anne Haupt, Gertrude Brown and Mildred Fiore.



She also studied classical piano at Interlochen Arts Academy for two years, where she graduated from high school. Then, she studied piano performance for five years at Indiana University. Returning to her musical roots, she is the church pianist at First Presbyterian Church and has been involved with coordinating ArtsBridge since 2011.

Prosper, who hails from Port au Prince, Haiti, studied classical piano at Canada's Royal Conservatory of Music in Montreal, then at Kingsway College in Ottawa, Ontario. When he moved to the United States, he continued his studies at Indiana University Bloomington and Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. His primary musical influences include classical, gospel and jazz. He has lived in South Bend, where he served Pilgrim Baptist Church as its minister of music for many years.

Fired Up! is an award-winning after-school teen glass program for Benton Harbor-area students ages 13-18. More than 300 students have participated in Fired Up! at Water Street Glassworks since its inception in 2004. Teens learn the art of glassblowing, fusing and flame working in a two-hour class once a week during the school year for at least two consecutive years.

A reception follows the program in Goff Hall. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. Call (269) 925-7075 or visit facebook at FirstPresBH.org for more details.



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# DIABETES

## Education & Health Fair

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- Nutrition Information
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## Steel Pen Writers' Conference

The Indiana Writers' Consortium will host the 2016 Steel Pen Writers' Conference on Saturday, Nov. 12, at Merrillville's Radisson Star Plaza Hotel.

The event offers workshops on fiction, nonfiction, poetry and the business of writing, as well as discussions with peers and published authors.

Following a networking lunch is a keynote address by Cathy Day, author of "The Circus in Winter," a novel in stories, and the memoir "Comeback Season." She has taught creative writing for more than 20 years and received several awards. In her speech, she will discuss literary citizenship.



The conference is open to writers of different genres and experience levels interested in getting published, marketing, writing strategies and working with editors. Authors can sell their book(s) at the conference bookstore or by signing up for a vendor table. Manuscript critiques are available.

Registration costs \$60 for students, \$90 for non-IWC members and \$80 for IWC members. Additional information and registration forms can be found at [tinyurl.com/jzylamw](http://tinyurl.com/jzylamw)

## Chesterton Art Center

The following programs are available at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.:

• **Jayde Petersen will teach a Beginning Wire Wrap jewelry class from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22.**

Wire wrapping is one of the oldest techniques to create jewelry. What makes it distinctive is the use of jewelry wire and other components mechanically joined without soldering or heat.

For the class, students will create a pendant using crystal or Lake Michigan beach glass. All supplies are included. The cost is \$30, with members receiving a \$5 discount.

• **Jane Whedbee will host a costume workshop for teens and young adults ages 14-24 from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23.**

Students can attend in costume and take a garment to transform, with Whedbee providing guidance on how to acquire the ideal results.

Participants should provide any additional materials needed to complete the costume. Holiday treats and refreshments will be provided. The cost is \$25, with members receiving a \$5 discount.

Call (219) 926-4711 to register. Visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) for more details.

## Barker Blackout Tour

Tour Barker Mansion in the dark, with glow-in-the-dark markers lighting the way, during the Barker Blackout Tour from 8 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, Oct. 21-22.

A guide leads the tour, sharing little-known stories of the city's creepy past and relating never-before told stories about the mansion.

The 8 p.m. tour is for families and the 10 p.m. tour for adults only. The cost is \$15 per adult and \$10 per youth. Reservations are required. Tickets are available on Eventbrite at [tinyurl.com/jukynxu](http://tinyurl.com/jukynxu) or by calling (219) 873-1520.

Barker Mansion is located at 631 Washington St.

**HauseFest 2016**  
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## Boat Club Offers Unique Alternative

by Connie Kuzydym

Lake Michigan draws a wide range of people to its shores, whether it is to play on the beach, walk along the sand or enjoy being on the water.

Now, visitors to the lake can spend leisurely days on a boat, without the worry of owning it.

Freedom Boat Club, which launched in May, is geared toward families, retirees, friends, novices or former boat owners who want to spend unlimited days on Lake Michigan without responsibilities and costs such as storage, insurance and maintenance.

"Boating time is family time," Freedom Boat Club President Tom Armon said. "My kids still say our best years as a family was the time when we were on the boat. It's a captive audience. Nobody ever argued about going to the boat with us."

Club membership is based on a one-time initiation fee and locked-in monthly dues. The only other cost is for gasoline usage, which is billed monthly. An initial requirement is on-water and classroom training taught by Coast Guard-licensed instructors, which has resulted in fewer water incidents and affordable insurance rates, Armon says.

With a membership comes unlimited access to the club's fleet of boats. A premier plan offers year-round reciprocal boat-use opportunity with other clubs.

"Sixty-five percent of our boat members are previous boat owners who get what all this costs," Armon said. "They get the financial part of it. Thirty-five percent are novices who really don't know if it's for them. They don't want to commit to a big payment and a big boat."

"We have been shown to incubate boaters."

New boats are rotated into the fleet on a regular basis, typically after three years of usage, so mem-

bers are constantly in new or newer boats.

How can the club keep in new boats?

"Now that I own my own franchise, I realize that the whole model is based on the depreciation of the boat," Armon said. "They are depreciating as-

sets for us. We are buying them right; we are getting them well less than dealer cost. We are getting them right from the manufacture. We are unloading them while they still have some significant residual value."

Reserving a boat is simple. Members are encouraged to reserve online for a specific date and time. If, at the spur of the moment, a member wants to take a boat out and there is not any availability on-

line, there is still hope.

"What most prospective members don't understand is, even though the boats could be booked for the entire day, they are rarely out for the entire day," Armon said. "The average member uses the boat for three hours."

"We have a book called a wait list. It's very much like if you were to go play golf and you call the starter and say, 'Can I get a foursome out at 3 tee time?' He might say, 'No, I can't get you out at 3, but does 4:15 work for you?'"

"Same kind of thing happens for us. We have a dockmaster, so he's managing who's coming in, what time the boats are coming back and who wants a boat that doesn't have a boat reserved."

Although there are no monthly meetings to attend, the club plans various activities for its members, from dock parties to boat cruises. These activities allow members to forge friendships amongst fellow members who share the same passion.

(Visit [www.freedomboatclub.com](http://www.freedomboatclub.com) for additional information.)



Representing Freedom Boat Club during this past summer's Progressive Chicagoland In-Water Boat Show at Michigan City's Washington Park were (from left) Bob Hearne, Tom Armon and Cory Moore. Photo by Bob Wellinski



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## Michigan City Public Library

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

• **South Shore Scribes at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20.**

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

• **improvPLAYHOUSE Presents: Little Red Riding Hood at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 21.**

The group will offer its take on the classic story, complete with music.

• **Bookmarks: "The Signature of All Things" at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21.**

Annemarie Kostyk will review Elizabeth Gilbert's new book.

• **Understanding Your Dreams at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22.**

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

• **Writing Out Loud: Author and screenwriter Jack Olesker at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22.**



Olesker was born in Chicago and attended Bradley University, majoring in journalism. He has written, produced and directed many projects, including more than 1,200 episodes for TV. He also sold 18 screenplays, 10 of which were produced, and published seven novels. His first novel, "No Place Like Home," became a best seller. Many of these franchises he was involved with are household names, such as "He-Man," "Care Bears" and "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers."

• **Mightiest of Mighty Mic Returns at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23.**

Guitarist Keith Scott and local artist Tara Lonzo will host the event that seeks new and former participants.

• **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25.**

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

• **Costume Parade at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26.**

The program, aimed at children birth through 5, and accompanied by an adult, begins with stories, then the parade through the library collecting treats. Wear a favorite costume and take a treat bag.

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

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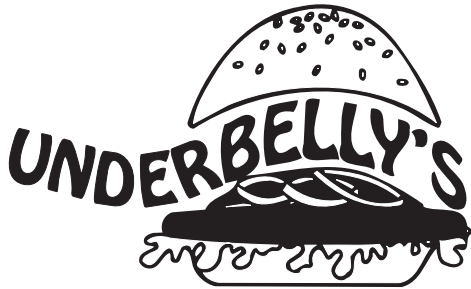
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## War Hero Next Forum Speaker

Purdue University Northwest's Sinai Forum will present Lt. Col. Jason Amerine, who went from war hero to whistle-blower, at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, in the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex.



Doors open at 3 p.m.

Amerine served in the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 and became the subject of Eric Blehm's book, "The Only Thing Worth Dying For," which tells the story of Amerine and 10 Green Berets who fought alongside the future leader of Afghanistan during the first months of what became known as Operation Enduring Freedom.

Amerine returned home a decorated war hero and was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor device and the Purple Heart for his actions in Afghanistan. He worked at the Pentagon until January 2015, when he led an Army team ordered to bring home Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, a mission that was expanded to include several civilian hostages held by Taliban-aligned militants in Pakistan. During the course of his work, Amerine wrangled with federal agencies as he navigated a maze of bureaucracy while trying to do his job.

As he worked to streamline the process of hostage negotiations, he found himself the subject of an Army investigation and faced a possible court martial. Ultimately, he was cleared of any wrongdoing, and his efforts resulted in policy change regarding western hostage negotiations. He later was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Regular season tickets are \$75. A patron season ticket, which costs \$200, includes reserved section seating for all 2016 programs and exclusive receptions with the speakers before each program beginning at 2:30 p.m. Students who show a valid school I.D. are admitted to the program for free.

Tickets can be purchased by credit card at [www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum](http://www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum) or by cash or check at: Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., Michigan City; Kabelin Hardware, 512 Andrew Ave., La Porte; and the Porter County Community Foundation, 1401 Calumet Ave., Valparaiso.

## Harbor Country Book Club

Harbor Country Book Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, Oct. 27, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Meetings are open to the public. The focus is J.D. Vance's "Hillbilly Elegy." The Nov. 22 selection is Barbara Tuchman's "March of Folly."



## LaLu Commended Students

La Lumiere School's Maria Lake and Zoe Surma, both of La Porte, have been named Commended Students in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program.



Head of School Adam Kronk (center) presented the Letter of Commendation to seniors Zoe Surma (left) and Maria Lake.

Head of School Adam Kronk presented a Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corp., which conducts the program, to the seniors.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized. Although they will not continue in the 2016 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, they placed among the Top 5 percent of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2017 competition by taking the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

## Center Gets Vehicle Charging Station

Indiana Dunes Visitor Center hopes to serve more residents and visitors thanks to a new Level 2 electric charging station.

A NIPSCO grant funded the effort through its IN-Charge Around Town program, which offers incentives to install the alternative energy stations. The Level 2 station allows for 70 miles of range per hour of charging.

Agencies involved in the planning and installation include South Shore Clean Cities, EMCOR Hyre Electric, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes Tourism. Installation finished in early September, and the first two users arrived Sept. 9 and 11. The charging station, which can accommodate two vehicles at a time, is in the west parking lot of the center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter.

Electric vehicle users can enjoy the art walk on the center grounds, tour the center and walk/bicycle the Dunes-Kankakee Trail while charging their vehicles.

Visit [tinyurl.com/avnc9ac](http://tinyurl.com/avnc9ac) for details.

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# Carrying the Torch

Oct. 8 proved cause for celebration as 33 individuals helped bring La Porte County's portion of the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay to a close at Washington Park's North Point Pavilion. Patterned after the Olympic Torch Relay, the route traveled through Rolling Prairie, then La Porte, which included a mid-day celebration at Younger Life Plaza 618, and finally North Point Pavilion. All photos by Paul Kemiell





## Westchester Public Library

*The following programs are available:*

• **“Making Your Food Dollars Work” from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Registered dietitian Gia DeMartinis will discuss “A Trip to the Store: Comparison Shopping and Buying in Bulk.”

• **Bits & Bytes series, Intro to Spreadsheets, from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, in the Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

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

• **Bookmarks at the Museum at 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Annemarie Kostyk will review Elizabeth Gilbert’s “The Signature of All Things.”

• **Books That Make You Think Discussion Group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, at Thomas Library’s Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus is Yuval Levin’s “The Great Debate: Edmund Burke, Thomas Paine and the Birth of Right and Left.” Register at the reference desk, at the upstairs computer classroom or by calling (219) 926-7696. Copies of the book are available for checkout.

• **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.

• **Bats at the Library from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21, at the Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Dan and Sharon Peterson lead the informative family program, the two having educated the public on bats since 1996.

• **Friends of the Library Computer Equipment Sale from 9 a.m. to about noon Saturday, Oct. 22, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Laptops, desktops, printers and miscellaneous equipment will be available. All items have been tested and will be sold as is. Sales are final, and returns will not be accepted. Library IT staff will be available to answer questions.

• **Battles of the American Civil War from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 22, at Thomas Library’s Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

History buff and Civil War enthusiast Thomas Murphy will discuss the Battle of Chancellorsville.

• **The Ghosts Around Us at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, at Hageman Library.**

Paranormal expert Linda Hartlerode will discuss ghost sightings, and share items she uses to communicate with the dead. The program is appropriate for older children, teens and adults.

• **Pumpkin Hunt from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday,**

**Oct. 22, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Children are encouraged to dress in costume, but are not required to do so. Parents or guardians are asked to accompany their children.

• **Nerf Battle: Capture the Flag from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, at Thomas Library.**

Sunday’s program has a zombie theme. Registration is required, and a parent permission slip must be filled out. All materials are provided. Call (219) 926-9080 to register.

• **In-between Book Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24, at the Thomas Library Children’s Department.**

Youth 9-12 will discuss Katherine Applegate’s “Crenshaw.” Space is limited, so registration must be done in person in the children’s department.

• **Eating Well for Healthy Living Series from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

DeMartinis will discuss “Foods to Fight Inflammation.” Registration can be done in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **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.

• **Harry Potter Trivia Night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Teams of one to four people can vie for a prize. Guests are encouraged to dress in costume. Refreshments will be served.

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

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



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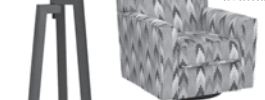
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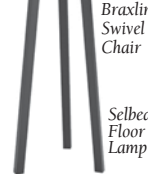
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## Celebrating Michigan City's Heritage

Guests arrived decked out for a celebration as Barker Mansion and Barker Hall served as the locations for the Heritage Ball on Oct. 1. The event, which celebrated Michigan City's 180th anniversary, included a champagne reception, live music, dancing, food, a bar and silent auction of Michigan City historical items.

All photos provided by Barker Mansion.



## Michigan City NOW

Michigan City NOW and South Shore Line will lead a presentation on the Double Track Northwest Indiana project at 8 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, at Blue Chip Casino's Stardust Ballroom.

The project, according to a press release, is expected to boost economic development over time in Michigan City, significantly reduce travel time to Chicago, provide more trains and improved reliability, and construct a new state-of-the-art downtown Michigan City train station.

Seating is limited. Registration is at 7:30 a.m., or RSVP to connect@michigancitynow.com

## La Porte Santa Parade

Applications are available for the 2016 Santa Parade set for noon Saturday, Nov. 26.

Sponsored by Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce, Downtown La Porte, La Porte County Family YMCA and La Porte Kiwanis Club, parade participation is free, and all groups are welcome. The route heads through La Porte's downtown and ends at Santa's chalet in Chamber Square, 803 Washington St.

Visit [tinyurl.com/zogxx6r](http://tinyurl.com/zogxx6r) for more information and to download an application.

## United Way Fall Gala

Tickets are on sale for United Way of La Porte County's "Fall Gala: A Tribute to the 1940s and 1950s USO," which is at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, at Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa.

Guests can dress in military attire, with 1940s and 1950s USO-style entertainment planned. The event also includes an open bar, food from local establishments, take-home party favors and picture frames, and a silent auction.

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## Elkhart Juried Regional Exhibition

With more than \$33,000 in awards, Midwest Museum of American Art's 38th Elkhart Juried Regional Exhibition has become the state's largest cash awards show.

The annual competition is a major survey of current trends by artists from 18 northern Indiana counties and four southern Michigan counties. This year, 260 artists submitted 447 works in all media. The exhibit features 207 works by 155 artists. For the first time, 21 artists from Elkhart are featured, 19 from South Bend and 12 from Goshen.

The judges were Lance Crow, director of education at Richmond (Ind.) Art Museum, and Michael Crowthers, curator of Collections, Exhibitions & Education at The Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, Ind.

*Local artists taking honors include:*

- Best Sculpture Award — "Singer the Dog," painted wood by Robert Hardt, Rolling Prairie.
- \$900 Purchase Award — "Water Series No. 2," acrylic by Ginny Scott, La Porte.
- \$900 Purchase Award — "On the Wind," oil by Michelle Lilly, La Porte.

*Also featured in the exhibit are:*

- Bunny Dimke, Michigan City — "Dune Path," oil on wood.
- Carol Estes, La Porte — "Intervention: The King Placed the Pearls but One Jack Holds Her Heart," color photo.
- Susan Henshaw, Union Pier, Mich. — "A Dream of Wild Horses from the Perspective of an Otherworldly Being," oil on canvas.
- Patricia Herman, Michigan City — "Roots," watercolor, and "Moon Glow," watercolor and mixed media.
- Lilly — "The Luna Moth," oil.
- Brett Maniscalco, New Buffalo, Mich. — "Dryads," digital color photo.
- Rosemari Petersen, La Porte — "Fall Walk," watercolor.
- Kenneth Probst, Union Pier, Mich. — "Janet No. 7," acrylic and pastel.
- Judith Rein, La Porte — "Safat Courtyard," watercolor.
- Michelle Wiser, Long Beach — "Study for Weathered in Panhandle," mixed media.

Weekly gallery talks by area artists are planned. The exhibit continues through Sunday, Dec. 4. Located at 429 S. Main St. in Elkhart, museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday and Sunday.

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## Economic Briefing Breakfast

Purdue University Northwest's College of Business and the Center for Economic Development and Research will host an Economic Briefing Breakfast from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25.

Presented with the Greater La Porte and Michigan City Area chambers of commerce, the event will be in Room 1155 at the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex.

Anthony Sindone, PNW clinical assistant professor of finance and economic development and CEDaR director, will offer a look at La Porte County's economic outlook. The guest speaker is Purdue Extension Educator Gene Matzat. A question-and-answer period will follow.

The event is open to the public. Reservations are required at [www.lpchamber.com](http://www.lpchamber.com) or [www.mcachamber.com](http://www.mcachamber.com)

## Independent Film Auditions

Jake Entertainment will have open auditions for the independent horror film "Briar Lake" from 5 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, at Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, 717 Franklin St.

Written and directed by Walter Jakubowski, the main characters range in age from 25 to 45. Supporting characters range in age from 8 to 65.

Auditions are on the seventh floor at Artspace. Those interested are asked to take a headshot and resume. Video clips are preferred.

The production is scheduled to film in March 2017. Contact Jakubowski at (773) 387-1155 or [ja-keentertainment@att.net](mailto:ja-keentertainment@att.net) for details.

## ASL Club Game Night

The Purdue University Northwest American Sign Language Club will host Game Night from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24, in the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex, Great Hall A.

Pizza will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by Children's Hour at 6 p.m. Adults and children can come in costume, with a costume contest planned. Conversational ASL will be encouraged.

Contact Karen Donah, PNW continuing lecturer and American Sign Language coordinator, at (219) 785-5432 or [kdonah@pnw.edu](mailto:kdonah@pnw.edu).

## Trivia Challenge

A Trivia Challenge is from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, at Michigan City Senior Center, 2 on the Lake.

Participants can form teams of up to 10 people 21 and older. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. Food and beverages will be sold. Admission is \$10, while parking is free.



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## Owl Banding Opportunity

Owl enthusiasts wishing to burn the midnight oil with owl-banding experts have special opportunities through an Indiana Dunes State Park program.

These behind-the-scenes nights afford a limited number of visitors the chance to work the banding nets alongside park staff and volunteers, and participate in each aspect of the research project. Dates are: Oct. 22, 27 and 30, and Nov. 3, 4, 9 and 10.

Participants will visit the nets and learn how to open up and catch owls, see owls get extracted and participate in the banding process. That involvement also includes free entry to the state park, hot coffee and cocoa. Start times vary with sunset, but range from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Registration is limited to five people each night. If no owl is caught, the option exists to visit the station another night. Reservations must be made at [www.bit.do/sawwhetowlbanding](http://www.bit.do/sawwhetowlbanding). A \$50 registration fee is required.

No children 5 and younger are allowed. All equipment and supplies are provided. Proceeds support operations of the all-volunteer owl banding program at the state park. Visitors wishing to watch the banding process at the nature center may visit nightly at no charge.

Indiana Dunes State Park is located at 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton.

## Films Sought for Festival

The National Park Service invites local filmmakers to submit short films for the Indiana Dunes Film Festival, which is Nov. 4-6 and marks the culmination of a year-long celebration of the National Lakeshore's 50th anniversary.

Films can be submitted in two categories. The first, "Happy Birthday Indiana Dunes," is for films up to two minutes in length that celebrate the National Lakeshore's anniversary. The second, "The Calumet Region," is for films up to 10 minutes in length that touch on the formation, existence and future of the National Lakeshore as it relates to the larger Calumet Region.

To enter, upload the film to YouTube or Vimeo and send an email to [indianadunesfilmfestival@gmail.com](mailto:indianadunesfilmfestival@gmail.com) with information on where it's uploaded, along with the title, category and a short description. Entries are due by midnight Oct. 30. Selection criteria are listed on the festival's webpage at [tinyurl.com/h9s9t7o](http://tinyurl.com/h9s9t7o)

The selected films will be showcased during the event at several locations throughout the region. In addition, some films will be shown later this year during Lakeshore Public Media's "Eyes on the Arts" program. Call (219) 395-1622 or visit [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu) for more details.

## Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following programs are offered:*

### Friday, Oct. 21

- **6 p.m. — Owl Wine and Canvas.**

Register for the Dunes Birding Festival-sponsored workshop at Chesterton's The Craft House, 711 Plaza Drive. The \$25 registration covers supplies.

### Saturday, Oct. 22

- **10 a.m. — Beaver Business Walk.**

Meet at the campground gate to view the special habitat along Dunes Creek.

- **2 p.m. — Who Pooped in the Park!**

Meet at the Nature Center to study the science of scatology, complete with games and prizes.

### Sunday, Oct. 23

- **10 a.m. — A Witch Hunt.**

Meet at the Nature Center for a 45-minute stroll in search of the last woodland flower of the year — the witch hazel.

- **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), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 for more information.*

## Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

*The following programs are available:*

- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21, 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.

- **Susan Young will teach a free acrylic painting class for children 12 and younger from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

The program will focus on Miller Woods, with participants creating their own artwork. Materials are furnished. Space is limited, so register by calling (219) 395-1821 to register.

- **Mount Baldy Wind, Water, Rocks! Hike from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23.**

The hike is free, but reservations are required. It starts at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. After a brief introduction, participants follow a Student Conservation Association intern to the Mount Baldy parking lot. During the 1½ hour hike, a ranger will guide groups to a high point on the dune's windward slope, then to a location on the brink of the dune to view the fall colors and a discussion on dune succession. The hike will use a trail determined to be safe on the dune's western and southern edges.

*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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## Activities to Explore

### In the Local Area:

**Oct. 20** — Books That Make You Think Discussion Group, Yuval Levin's "The Great Debate: Edmund Burke, Thomas Paine and the Birth of Right and Left," 6-7:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**Oct. 20-23** — "Clue: The Musical," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri./Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15 (2 for \$25 with coupon from website), children 12 & younger/\$10. Reservations: footlightplayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

**Oct. 21** — improvPLAYHOUSE Presents: Little Red Riding Hood, 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 21** — Bookmarks: "The Signature of All Things," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 21** — Owl Wine and Canvas, 6 p.m. Cost: \$25. Register @ Chesterton's The Craft House, 711 Plaza Drive.

**Oct. 21** — An Evening With Chad Stuart & Jeremy Clyde, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

**Oct. 21** — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**Oct. 21, 22** — Barker Blackout Tour, 8 p.m.-midnight, Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$15/adult, \$10/youth. Reservations: tinyurl.com/jukynxu, (219) 873-1520.

**Oct. 21-24** — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Mia Madre." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "Southside With You." Rated PG-13. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Mon, 3:15 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

**Oct. 22** — St. Stanislaus Catholic Church farmers market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., parking lot next to tennis courts. Info: ssmcfarmersmarket@gmail.com, (219) 851-1785.

**Oct. 22** — Free acrylic painting class, children 12 & younger, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**Oct. 22** — Boo at the Zoo, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m./3:30-5:30 p.m., Washington Park Zoo. Tickets: www.washingtonparkzoo.com. Info: (219) 873-1510.

**Oct. 22** — The Ghosts Around Us, 2 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

**Oct. 22** — Pumpkin Hunt, 2-4 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

**Oct. 22** — Writing Out Loud: Jack Olesker, 7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 22, 26** — Michigan City Mainstreet Association Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat./4-8 p.m. Wed., Eighth and Washington streets. Info: tinyurl.

com/hhaajz2

**Oct. 22-23, 29-30** — Ghost Train, noon-5 p.m., Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, La Porte. Train fares: \$5/ adults, \$3/children 3-12. Info: [www.hesston.org](http://www.hesston.org)

**Oct. 23** — A Witch Hunt, 10 a.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Oct. 23** — Independent Cat Society fundraiser, Black Cat Strut, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Red Mill County Park, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, La Porte. Cost: run/\$25, walk/\$15. Info: [stofko121@yahoo.com](mailto:stofko121@yahoo.com)

**Oct. 23** — Mount Baldy Wind, Water, Rocks! Hike, 12:30-2 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Reservations: (219) 395-1882.

**Oct. 23** — Mightiest of Mighty Mic Returns, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 23** — Purdue University Northwest's Sinai Forum, Lt. Col. Jason Amerine, 4 p.m., James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex. Tickets: [www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum](http://www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum)

**Oct. 24** — Purdue University Northwest American Sign Language Club Game Night, 5:30-7:30 p.m., James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex, Great Hall A. Info: (219) 785-5432.

**Oct. 24** — Friends of the Library Community Forum, public gardens, 6:30 p.m. EDT, Pokagon Room @ New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**Oct. 25** — Harry Potter Trivia Night, 7-8:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

**Oct. 27** — Harbor Country Book Club, 6:30 p.m. EDT, J.D. Vance's "Hillbilly Elegy," New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

**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.

**Through December** — Michael Koscielniak's "Collages in Dimension," Purdue University Northwest Technology Building first-floor, north-study area. Building hours: 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat., 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. Info: (219) 785-5593, [jnjacobi@pnw.edu](mailto:jnjacobi@pnw.edu)

#### **Farther Afield:**

**Oct. 22** — Frederic & Ronza, "Music that Moves," 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10/general admission, free/children 12 and younger. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, [info@boxfactoryforthearts.org](mailto:info@boxfactoryforthearts.org), [www.boxfactoryforthearts.org](http://www.boxfactoryforthearts.org)

**Oct. 23** — ArtsBridge, "Three Pianists Concert and Exhibit," 4 p.m. EDT, First Presbyterian Church, 475 Green Ave., Benton Harbor, Mich. Admission: free/donations accepted. Info: (269) 925-7075.

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## Tutor Training

READ La Porte County Inc. will host tutor training from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, at Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., La Porte.

Anyone interested in being a volunteer tutor for English-speaking adults in reading, or adults wishing to improve their skills in speaking English, is invited.

The morning session will cover how to get started with tutoring, traits of adult students, materials to use and motivating students. After a short lunch, the next session covers tutoring adults whose first language is not English. Tips and materials to use while teaching them to improve their speaking, as well as reading skills, will be covered.

Registration by calling (219) 325-0875 or emailing mhedge8@comcast.net is encouraged so enough space and supplies can be provided. There is no charge.

READ La Porte County Inc. also provides tutoring for children in school and outside of school time, and tutoring for adults in math, financial literacy, workplace literacy, health literacy and digital literacy skills. These services will be briefly covered.

A waiting list of students exists, so new tutors are needed. Tutors choose which subjects, ages, times and places they wish to tutor.

## Black Cat Strut

Independent Cat Society will present its Black Cat Strut from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, at Red Mill County Park, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, La Porte.

Part of the proceeds from the 5K trail run and non-competitive 5K walk, called "Race for Buddy," will benefit the Westville shelter.

The cost of the run is \$25, while the walk costs \$15. Anyone with questions should contact Paul, the race director, at stofko121@yahoo.com



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| 14 | 6 |
| 13 | 7 |
| 13 | 7 |

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1. Liz Lutterbach
2. Barb Macudzinski
3. Mary Lou McFadden
4. Tammy Vouri
5. Ann Bogart
6. Cindy Beck
7. Ellie Parkerson
8. Dottie Brinkman (series)

### SCORE

- |     |
|-----|
| 175 |
| 167 |
| 165 |
| 163 |
| 160 |
| 154 |
| 153 |
| 407 |

### SPLITS

- |                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1. Polly Fletcher    | 3-10   |
| 2. Jill Jankowski    | 5-6    |
| 3. Tammy Nelmar      | 6-7-10 |
| 4. Mary Lou McFadden | 4-5    |

### STRIKES

Sue Luegers, Ann Bogart 3-in-a-row  
More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.

## FOL Community Forum

Why public gardens matter is the topic of the next Friends of the Library Community Forum at 6:30 p.m. EDT Monday, Oct. 24, in the Pokagon Room at New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

No two gardens are alike, and Carol Line, Fernwood Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve executive director, will discuss unique qualities and common threads that make public gardens valuable cultural assets in their communities.

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

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## GARAGE SALES, ESTATE SALES, ETC.

**The Fabulous Fall Girlfriend Sale**

**Your ultimate woman's resale clothing event  
is this weekend!**

**Plus a bonus 2<sup>nd</sup> chance ½ price sale Saturday, Oct 29**

The Girlfriend Sale just keeps getting bigger & better. There are 130 partici-  
pants who have selected and collectively submitted 4,000+ items of clothing  
from petit size 0 to marvelous plus-sizes. The racks are loaded with every-  
thing from professional wear to comfy casual to elegant night out.

The changing seasons give you the advantage of sporting your outerwear,  
and there is no better place to find what you desire. Coats of every style,  
jackets and sweaters.

New this season, the sale is featuring:

An entire rack of tag on and like new Alfred Dunner, Koret, Leslie Fay, and  
similar designers in size XL.

A small rack of sweet baby girl items.

And an expanded rack of men's wear.

**Fabulous Fall Feature**

Vintage Anko, including some amazing oversized hand knit sweaters.

And for those who love to accessorize...hats, scarves, gloves, shoes, boots,  
sunglasses, readers, new boutique gift items, an entire wall of jewelry.

All this fabulousness is priced at \$5, \$10, \$15 and up.

**Our signature designer room is filled with racks and racks of new,  
never worn, designer clothing from such amazing stores as Filoni  
in Oak Park Ill., and Frecklefarm Thirty6 in Lakeside MI. It is the most  
fabulous selection of beautiful clothing in scrumptious fabric and all  
sweetly and deeply discounted.**

**Shopping Dates:**

Sat., Oct. 22, 10-2 PM sale with additional merchandise

Sun, Oct. 23, 12-4 PM famous ½ price sale day.

Sat., Oct. 29, 10-2 PM second chance bonus ½ price sale.

**There will often be a "cash only" speedy checkout,** so stop off at the  
ATM before you come.

As always, doors open on time.

Don't miss this one ladies!!!! Call your friends and come shop for unbeliev-  
able bargains, plus a whole lot of fun!

**Long Beach Community Center**

**2501 Oriole Tr. Long Beach, IN  
219-861-6188**

**Parking at the Community Center is limited; however, you may park  
on the grassy triangle in front of the building with all 4 tires off the  
pavement. Please pull in leaving room for others, regard the no  
parking signs posted, and do not park down any side street on  
residents property or may be ticketed.**

**A REALLY...REALLY GOOD Garage Sale!**

**Sat., Oct. 22, 9am-2pm, Sun., Oct. 23, 11 am-2pm**

**2518 Oriole Trail, Long Beach (across from community center)**

Authentic vintage nautical items. Binnacle, ships steering column &  
wheel, brass telegraph, porthole covers, propeller, lanterns, brass com-  
municator tube, nautical inspired art, including original Dave Langley  
watercolor paintings. Other interesting stuff you won't find at other sales.

Moving to Florida Sale-Phase 1, Fri. & Sat., Oct. 21-22, 9am-5pm

2312 Fairway Drive, Long Beach

Halloween decorations/costumes, Xmas, ladies clothing, shoes, purses,  
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Beachwalk Resort at STOP 7 has fully furnished homes, ranging from studio to 5 bedrooms available for monthly rent between Sept. 15 and May 15. Monthly rates \$900 to \$2,500, INCLUDES utilities, cable and Internet. Please call (800) 814-7501 or email [Julia@beachwalkresort.com](mailto:Julia@beachwalkresort.com) for more information.

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**RENTALS INDIANA**

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

**Long Beach Stop 31 3 BR/4BA home** with lake views and steps from beach. \$2,200 a week. Also, weekends available. (773) 718-5547.

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

**SHERIDAN BEACH:** Year-round, 1 BR, quiet building, laundry, off-street parking, no smoking, no pets, \$625/month, references required, utilities included.  
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**WATERFRONT APTS** for rent in MC. Utilities furnished. WiFi/TV incl. 1BR \$875/mo., Sec. dep. Call Pete at (219) 871-9187.

**Beautiful, totally remodeled apartments for 7-month lease, Oct.-May.** Completely furnished, all utilities included (electric/gas/water/sewer) plus TV. 2BR/\$900, 1BR/\$850; Studio/\$800. Great location. Directly across from Lighthouse Place at 402 W. Eighth St. Rents in summer for \$110 or \$150 per night. **Call Darlene at (954) 816-7765.**

**Sheridan Beach 1BR apartment, three blocks to the beach.** Available Nov. 1. \$600/month. Call (219) 814-7051.

**Beautiful fully furnished ranch-style lake house** in Sheridan Beach area. 3BR/2BA, galley kitchen, also has skylight, vaulted ceiling with bay window and a huge outside deck. Big family room with complimentary laundry room. No pets, no smoking. \$1,700/mo, includes utilities. Available Oct.-May. Call Bob at (630) 886-3986.

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

**RENTALS MICHIGAN**

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**New Buffalo apartment, 1BR/1BA, large, open, second floor, no pets, no smoking.** \$575/month (includes water). Call (269) 612-2889.

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**Long Beach lot** at Stop 18 (1713 Rosamond Drive). Size is 59.58 X 231.68 X 68.71 X 196.00. Has staked survey and approved for septic system. \$130,000. Call (219) 677-1441.

**MICHIANA SHORES building site** for sale by owner. Close to lake. Easy build lot. Asking \$139,000 OBO. Call (219) 878-1608.

**Fall Fest/Pumpkin 5K Dash**

The Burns Harbor Park Department will host its third annual Fall Fest and Pumpkin 5K Dash from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, at Lakeland Park.

The event is a fundraiser for the Burns Harbor Parks Department.

New this year is the park's support of the Teal Pumpkin Project. The intent is to provide children with non-food treats in addition to traditional ones.

The festivities begin with the Pumpkin 5K Dash, a family fun run for participants 5 and older. On the final lap around the lake, all runners will carry an 8-inch pumpkin to the finish line. Visit [tinyurl.com/z92r7xs](http://tinyurl.com/z92r7xs) to register.

Fall Fest will begin immediately following the conclusion of the race. The family friendly event includes food, bounce houses, carnival-style games, pumpkin painting, face painting, music, a bonfire and s'mores.

Food tickets may be purchased for \$1 per ticket. Visit [www.burnsharbor-in.gov](http://www.burnsharbor-in.gov) for more details.



**American  
Red Cross**

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

- IU Health La Porte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, La Porte, noon-5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24.
- Franciscan St. Anthony Health-Michigan City, 301 W. Homer St., 8 a.m.-noon Tuesday, Oct. 25.

*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](http://redcrossblood.org) for more details.*

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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**Ashes** by Laurie Halse Anderson (hardcover \$16.00 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

It's finally here! The third book in the Seeds of America trilogy about the American Revolutionary War. The other titles are *Chains* and *Forge*.

This trilogy gives voice to the unnamed and forgotten slaves who lived, fought and died according to someone else's whim. These are books you can't put down and will not forget.

Narrator of *Ashes* is Isabel Gardener, a teenage black slave girl. The time period for this book is 1781 and shows us a side of the war we don't usually read about: how the war affected the slaves in the colonies. How did they view the war? Which side did they favor? How did the colonists and the royalists treat them?

Isabel and her sister, Ruth, have gone through a lot since 1776 when the first book, *Chains*, took place: they have gone from freed slaves when their owner, the elderly Miss Mary Finch died, and back to slaves when her son decided to ignore his mother's wishes and sell them to a British Loyalist instead.

This started them off on a journey from Rhode Island to New York City, where Isabel meets Curzon Smith. He was spying for the colonists and was a firm believer that they would set him free after the war was won. Isabel didn't hold with such notions: *"I'd never felt honor-bound to either side of the conflict, for both sides looked at me and mine with evil intent. Their distorted vision saw only property, not humanity."*

After the burning of New York City, the trio made their way to Valley Forge and that horrible winter of 1776 where Curzon joined the American Army.

As *Ashes* begins, Isabel and Curzon are heading to South Carolina to find Ruth who had been sent away. Isabel recounts how they spent the years since 1776 hiding — from those who would rob them, those who would kill them, and those who were bounty hunters.

They finally find Ruth at a farm, but it is not a happy reunion. The young girl, now twelve, acts like she doesn't remember Isabel. But the wise old black couple who have been raising Ruth convince her and another boy, Aberdeen, to join Isabel and Curzon and head back north. Nearby Charleston is held by the British; it's not a safe place to go to.

The four make their way to Williamsburg, Vir-



ginia where there is a large American army encampment outside of Yorktown, which is held by the British.

Splitting up, Isabel and Ruth find work at a laundry, while Curzon again joins the American Army. Isabel wearily again states *"You have a bizarre attachment to a cause that cares nothing for you."* Aberdeen splits off from them, joining the British instead.

While Curzon still presses Isabel to choose one side over the other, she expresses her feelings, and probably of many of the slaves, in this manner: *"I am my own army. My feet and legs, my hands, arms, and back, those are my soldiers. My general lives up here — I tapped my forehead — watching for the enemy and commanding the field of battle."*

Now the reader gets a hard, honest look at what life in these circumstances was really like. Isabel and Ruth are treated badly at the laundry, working from before sunup to after sundown, sleeping in straw in a barn and eating poorer food than the white women working there.

Washing the uniforms of the soldiers was no picnic: collect wood for fire, boil water, scrub uniforms, and, as Isabel said, *"...we'd check the hems and seams to make sure all the lice had been drowned."* Yuk.

Then there was life in the army camp: constantly digging latrines, going on maneuvers, making the best of poor medical care and even worse rations. *"Maggots don't hurt no one, long as they are boiled with the meat."* Anderson gives you a mental picture that is hard to forget.

Finally, the climax comes with the battle of Yorktown, a decisive win for the Americans ending with the surrender of Cornwallis and his troops.

But where does that leave Isabel, Curzon and Ruth? While they are fictional characters, they are based on real people through diaries, letters and memoirs. An appendix at the end features a q & a on the war and the effect it had on the black slaves.

*Kirkus Review:* "Isabel's voice is strong in this first-person narrative; though the war is the backdrop, this is her personal story..."

*Publishers Weekly* (starred review): "It's a gripping finish to an epic journey that speaks resoundingly to the human capacity to persevere."

Laurie Halse Anderson is descended from many soldiers who fought in the American Revolution. Her work has earned many awards. Visit her at [www.MadWomanInTheForest.com](http://www.MadWomanInTheForest.com)

Till next time, happy reading!



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### **301 Birch Tree Lane • Long Beach Pointe** **\$145,900**

Beautifully decorated 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhome WITH A GARAGE! Living/dining room with wood floors, large bedrooms & second floor laundry. Enjoy maintenance free living in this end unit. Association pool.



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### **1720 Lake Shore Drive** **Sheridan Beach • \$795,000**

Beautifully landscaped 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with private path to the beach. Open living & dining, 2-sided brick fireplace, beamed ceiling, screen porch & three season room. Adjacent 45 ft lot also available to purchase.



### **1707 Wildomor Avenue** **Long Beach • \$499,000**

This 3 bedroom, 3 bath home is situated on almost a half acre lot. Unique parcel with rear access, limestone fireplace, hardwood floors, wooded privacy & potential private walk path to Lake Shore Drive.



NEW PRICE

### **Lindenwood Drive - Lot 6** **Shoreland Hills • \$49,000**

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### 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 level 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. Bamboo Brazilian wood floor and Italian travertine throughout the entire home. Enjoy the 100' deck with unobstructed lakeviews and cozy stone fireplace/grille, underground garage for 8+ cars and heated garage floor & driveway.



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

So many updates have taken place at this home. Additions include: electrical, insulation, furnace, humidifier, A/C, water heater, siding, soffits, fascia, gutters, roof, garage door, interior painting and carpet! All appliances included. Oak floors upstairs. Indiana limestone inside and out. Add your own touches to this bright and airy home just a block away from the beach.



### 1200 Springland Ave., Michigan City \$320,000

This 1922, unique home is a masterwork directly influenced by Gustav Stickley and Frank Lloyd Wright. Arts-and-crafts elements include an open floorplan with high beamed ceilings, 3 fireplaces, large country kitchen and vintage light fixtures. Additional features include marble-topped bar, greenhouse/summer room, newer windows and a heated artists loft above the garage.



### 128 Prairie, Sheridan Beach \$230,000

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

## VACANT LAND

Hilltop Ave., Sheridan Beach	<b>\$75,000</b>	16 E. Mechanic St., New Buffalo, MI	<b>\$499,000</b>
211 Lake Ave., Sheridan Beach	<b>\$499,000</b>	3044 Lake Shore Drive, Long Beach	<b>\$1,100,000</b>
1515 Lake Shore Drive, Long Beach	<b>\$195,000</b>		



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