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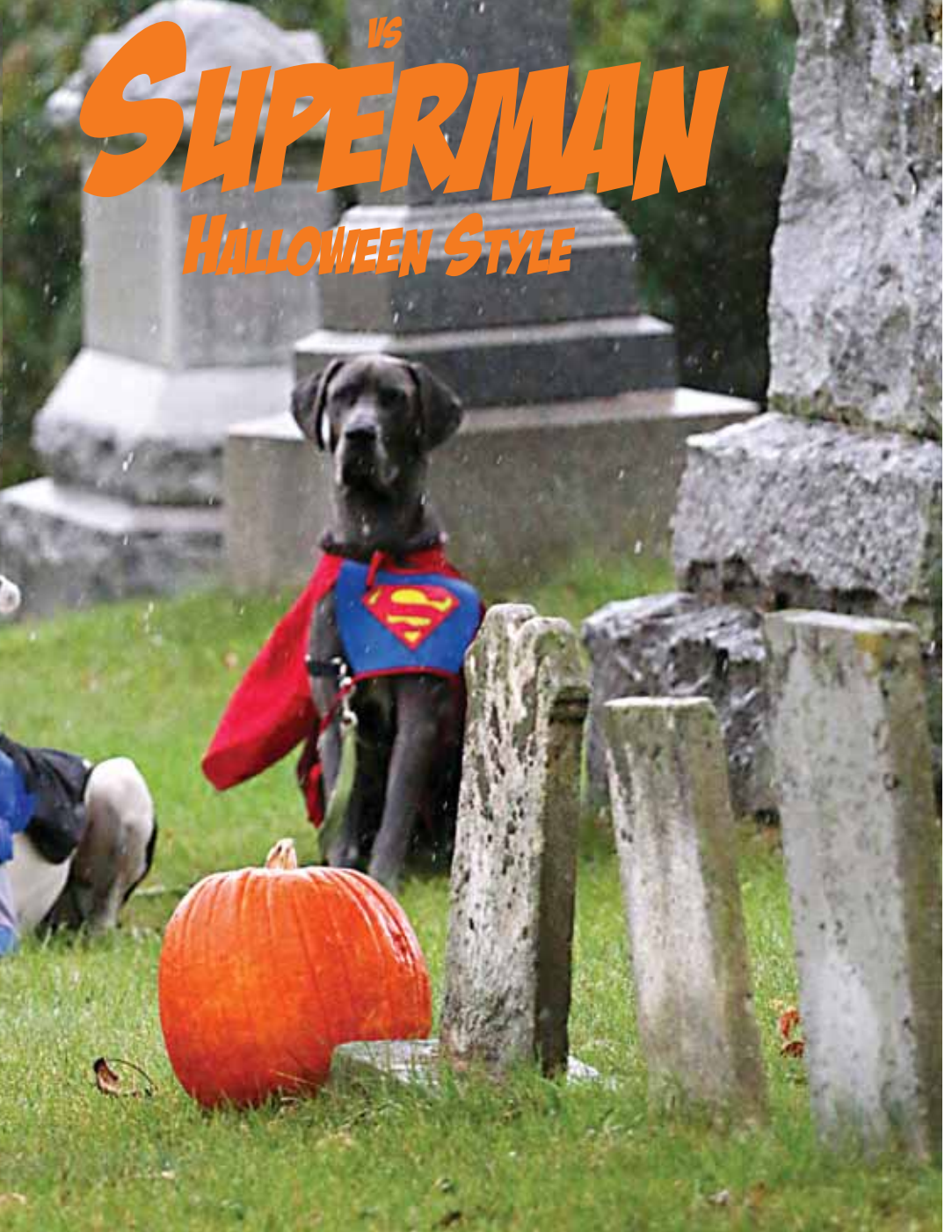
# Beacher™

Weekly Newspaper

911 Franklin Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360

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## BATMAN VS SUPERMAN HALLOWEEN STYLE





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Beacher

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# Fact vs Fiction

## The Beacher's William Halliar Sifts Through Local Urban Legends

by William Halliar

Everyone likes a good story. Tales passed down through the years take on a color and flavor each time they are recounted from the storyteller to the listener. Like ghosts from the past, these stories are repeated, speculation woven with fact until no one knows for sure what is fact and what is fiction.

The many folks who have lived their lives in and around the dunes and swales of Lake Michigan have added their own voices to these collected tales. Legends born of fact, but nurtured in the imaginations of average folks have been part of Michigan City lore almost since its founding.

A legend is more than just a good story. It is an accumulation of facts, mingled with speculations

and half-remembered anecdotes, magnified and exaggerated by time and retelling.

As the seasons change, the days shorten and Halloween approaches, it is a time of spooky stories and unsolved legends. Now, we slow down a bit to spend a little more time in the dark contemplating these tales that swirl in our minds and knock furtively on the doors of our memories.

We decided to look into a few of them and determine whether they have a kernel of truth, are mostly myth or if there is something of substance that has kept them alive all these years. I am relatively new to the community, so each of these stories was news to me. My interest, if possible, was to uncover the truth behind them.

### Urban Legend 1: Was Michigan City a Potential Site for a University Instead of a Prison?

The first legend involves business wheeling and dealing in high places. It is said by some that Michigan City once was a potential site for Ball State University, which today exists in Muncie, Ind. Michael Gresham, founder of the message board [citybythelake.org](http://citybythelake.org), has long been curious about this tale and spent some time researching it. He shared his findings on his message board.

Who were the Ball brothers, and why would they care about Michi-



gan City? George, Lucius, Frank, Edmund and William Ball were born of Lucius, a farmer and merchant, and Maria, a former school teacher, during the early 1800s. After marrying in 1846, the Balls settled in upstate New York and raised a family of eight children: six boys (one of whom died in infancy) and two girls.

The brothers were close and began manufacturing glass in Buffalo, N.Y., in 1880, but moved the family business to Muncie in 1888.



The Ball brothers.

In 1876, coal miners were drilling in Eaton, Ind., searching for coal deposits. At one such boring site, an underground chamber was breached and a foul-smelling gas emitted. The miners feared they had “breached the ceiling of hell” and quickly plugged the bore hole. In 1888, natural gas was discovered in Ohio, and the Indiana miners realized the significance of their earlier discovery, returning to the original dig site to take advantage of the newly discovered fuel source.

As it turns out, Trenton Gas Field, which spans central Indiana and Ohio, was the largest source of natural gas discovered to date. Many manufacturers, including the Ball brothers, decided to make central Indiana their home because of this ready source of natural gas, a commodity vital to their glass-making process.

The Ball brothers were an industrious and generous family. Known for their philanthropy, they supported many projects in their community, including the founding of a university that eventually bore their family name.

Did the Ball brothers originally consider Michigan City for the location of their university, as legend has it?

Gresham's research might shed some light into the dark corners of this persistent legend. He wrote to a BSU history professor, who referred him to curators at Minnestrista, a cultural center established by the Balls in Muncie. Minnestrista contains many papers from the Ball brothers and an extensive history of the company. Gresham's letter read, in part, “As you may, or may not, know, Michigan City is home to a very large state prison which was opened in 1860. The legend goes that the family behind the Ball Company was interested in purchasing the land which eventually became the prison. For some

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## Michiana Humane Society's 13th Annual HARVEST HOME TOUR

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## Fact vs Fiction

Continued from Page 3

reason, the owner of the land became upset and instead sold it to the state of Indiana, which wanted to use it for the prison location.”

Those familiar with the Ball history at the Minnestrista Cultural Center had never heard of such a story and could find no foundation for the legend in their records. Minnestrista archivist Susan Smith wrote back to Michael's inquiry, *“This legend appears to be just that...I have never seen anything remotely resembling this story.”*

Susan stated she had worked with the family and the company archival materials for many years.

An interesting aside to this story is the color of Ball canning jars manufactured in Muncie over the next 30 years. Ball became quite famous for its “Ball Blue” canning jar. Ball did not have exclusive rights to the color, but it seems to have been a natural occurrence in the manufacture of glass made from the sand of Michigan City's Hoosier Slide. No additives were added to the natural sand, but the glass after cooling turned a shade of aquamarine that became Ball's trademark color. Sand from the Hoosier Slide was completely consumed by 1936 and after that Ball began making clear glass jars.



The famous Ball jars.

In an article published by *The Society for Historical Archeology* titled “Bottle/Glass Colors,” it is noted, *“Aqua glass is a natural result of the iron impurities found in most sands. It is very rare that sand does not contain some traces of iron. Sand deposits with very low iron content are highly valued commodities. Aqua glass is the result of sand which is relatively low in the amount of iron.”*

## Urban Legend 2: Is This Relic a Submerged Train?

Down a gravel road, just to the north of Striebel Pond and into the thicket of a long-forgotten forest track, sits the remains of yet another urban legend.

Tucked away on the forest floor, amid the ruins of a structure surrounded by a tangle of rotting railroad ties and twisted rebar, lies the remains of what appears to be an ancient boiler.

Legend has it this rusted hulk is all that remains of a steam engine that must have pulled freight or passengers through Michigan City many years ago. The heavy iron structure is rusted to the point that each separate piece has melted into the other, becoming a sculpture of red abandon and wonder.

A trail worn in the woods leads through gullies and around trees and broken concrete walls to the derelict buried half its diameter in the earth. Over the years, many children have played here, and the stories they made up as



they played, or those passed down by their parents, created a legend around the rusted relic of bygone days. But what is it? Where did it come from? Who left it there to rust?

I searched for what I was told was a well-worn trail into the woods. I passed it several times as I drove down a gravel road in a fairly well-developed area of the city. I was looking for that well-worn trail so many children mentioned. Sure I was in the right area, I drove back and forth, actually following several traces into the woods that appeared promising, only to find tangles of ancient railroad ties and bits and pieces of broken concrete sticking out of the ground in a haphazard array that

resembled sad, broken teeth...but no boiler.

One last time, I stopped and pushed my way into the woods. I slipped down gullies and tripped over vines until I finally came upon the rusted iron of



the old boiler. Being an old railroad man, with more than 40 years in the business, I thought I might be able to determine for sure what the remains are.

Approximately 3 ½ feet in diameter, it sat silently buried in a mound of cinders and clinkers that attested to the fires that once brought it to life and gave it purpose, but what purpose? The boiler is in two pieces, each about 6 feet long, made of heavy steel plates with rivets driven at each joint to hold the whole assembly together.

On both ends of each boiler section, on the top is a device known as a lifting lug — a heavy, eyelike structure used to fit a hook into for lifting the assembly into place. This might seem to indicate the boilers were not part of a locomotive, but instead a stationary operation, and that the boilers were intended to lay horizontally rather than standing upright.

What may give people the idea it was a locomotive is the chimney like structure at the end of one of the boilers standing up towards the sky, as if it once spewed the smoke and embers of a mighty locomotive. It seems to me, however, that the metal of this feature was too heavy to have been a chimney, but perhaps a perpendicular accessway into the steam tubes of the boiler. It might have once been used for the maintenance of the steam tubes.

Examine the photos of the boiler, and you will notice that at the ends of each boiler an important fea-



ture common to all steam locomotives — the smoke box — is not present. The smoke box usually is fitted with an access hatch with dogs, or clamps, all

Continued on Page 6

## Bring your Halloween Party to Life With Help from Al's.



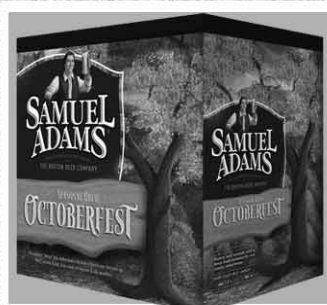
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## Fact vs Fiction

Continued from Page 5

around its circumference to hold it in place. There also is no fire box visible. All of this indicates to me the boilers were not part of a traction engine.

I inquired of people who live in the vicinity, and no one knew for sure what the old rusted structure was, only that it had "always been there." CSX railroad tracks run along the north side of the woods where the would-be boiler, industrial remains and long abandoned debris lay. I contacted CSX's public-relations department, hoping they might have some clue as to what activity once occurred here.

Gail Lobin of CSX was excited when she received my call. She liked the idea of helping me solve this mystery, if pos-



The path to the submerged relic.  
Photo by William Halliar

sible. She exhausted all of her resources and finally contacted me indicating that finding any information about the old industrial site was like looking for a needle in a haystack, and that all of her sources came up dry.

So, as of this writing, there is no record of why that old scrap iron lays abandoned in the woods, or what it was doing there in the first place. The greater mystery, though, is why it was so hard to find. I asked a teenager about this. She said kids today live on their phones and computers, not venturing outside. Now content to live in virtual worlds, many young people stay indoors. Someday, the paths in the woods will become overgrown, and the intrigue and mystery of the old boiler will be forgotten. The legend will continue, but the location will be lost.

### Urban Legend 3: Did Belle Gunness survive the 1908 fire?

For those who like a good spook story, the life of Belle Gunness is difficult to top. What makes this story even more intriguing, one that comes to mind on dark and stormy Halloween nights, is that no one knows for sure what became of La Porte County's famed mass murderer. Did she die in a fire at her farmhouse in 1908, or did she escape the fire and end up in California, only to die in jail, waiting to be tried for the poisoning of another man. Or, did she escape punishment altogether?

Everyone knows the story of how Belle lured single men to her farm with promises of marriage and a partnership in building a farm. From her photos, it is difficult to believe anyone could find the offer attractive, but surviving letters reveal a charm that proved irresistible to many would-be suiters who fell into her web of deception. They would arrive, hopeful, at the farm, and after she wrangled or charmed away their fortunes, the men disappeared. Relatives often inquired of the whereabouts of their brothers and friends, but Belle would play dumb or create a story that they had left with no word of where they were headed and no forwarding address.

Belle's reign of deceit and murder came to a head

in 1908 when a jealous farmhand threatened to spill the beans on the whole plot. A mysterious fire broke out in the farmhouse, but by the time the ineffectual firefighting equipment of the day arrived, it was

too late to put out the blaze. In the wreckage of the house were the bodies of Belle's three children and the corpse of a headless woman supposed by many to be Belle. The corpse was buried in Chicago next to the remains of Belle's first husband.

No witnesses to the crimes were left alive, and the headless corpse believed to be Belle's was never positively identified. Bodies uncovered in the pig pen of the farm after the fire brought to light the true horror of what happened

over the years, and the news was sensationalized and spread across the entire nation by news sources of the day.

Like any good legend and ghost story, the tale does not end here. Sightings of Gunness were reported for several decades in towns all across the United States. Was she spotted on the streets of Chicago days after the fire? Some think so. There were reports of sightings in San Francisco and New York. In 1931, it was reported she was living in a Mississippi town and the mistress of a great deal of



Belle Gunness with her children.

property.

In 1931, one Esther Carlson was arrested in Los Angeles for poisoning a man. It was said her photo bore resemblance to Belle. Many discounted the idea that photos of Esther looked anything like Belle, but who could really know for sure? Speculation began to spread that Esther was Belle continuing her lethal spree. Esther Carlson died in prison awaiting trial, and for the time being, the story was put to rest and buried with Carlson in a California cemetery.

But the legend continued, and the story invites speculation to this day. Was the headless corpse found in the burned-out house Belle? Was Esther Carlson an assumed name Belle took after escaping a fire she set?

Now, modern science and an unquenchable curiosity have been brought to bear to untangle truth from fiction.

According to a 2008 report by Dan McFeely, in *The Indianapolis Star*, Andrea Simmons, an attorney and graduate student at the University of Indianapolis, attempted

to extract a sample of DNA from an envelope licked and sealed by Belle to a would-be victim sometime before 1908. The headless corpse buried in Chicago so many years ago was exhumed and DNA extracted from the bones and teeth. Was this really Belle, or did she escape to carry on her crimes?

The answer still lays in an FBI laboratory. No conclusion has been reached as of yet from the testing. It was reported Simmons is so intent on finding the answer to this mystery that she is prepared to have the bodies of Belle's older sister and Esther Carlson, who are both buried in California, dug up and tested as well.

How many are eager to know the truth of the story? When and how did Belle Gunness die, and how many people did she murder during her lifetime? Only time and modern forensics will tell.

The facts and the legends are bound together in a tangled quagmire of fact and fiction. Will we ever know the truth? Such is the fascination of our legends.



The remains of the 1908 blaze on Belle's property.

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## Remembering Our Veterans Gears Up for Veterans Day Events, Wreaths Project

by Andrew Tallackson

Remembering Our Veterans Inc. continues gaining momentum within the community as organizers Keith and Donna Harris prepare for their most ambitious undertaking yet.

First up is the Veterans Breakfast & Parade on Saturday, Nov. 5, followed by the Wreaths Across America effort that culminates with a brief ceremony Saturday, Dec. 17. For the latter, the Harrises seek sponsorships for 400 wreaths, the ultimate goal being that every veteran grave at Greenwood Cemetery is covered, including those in the GAR section and World War I, World War II and Veterans of All Wars circles.

It's all part of the mission of Remembering Our Veterans, a non-profit group the Harrises formed in 2014 to ensure those who served their country are honored and never forgotten.

The first Veterans Breakfast & Parade, Keith Harris said, resulted in 170 people attending the breakfast and the parade featuring 20 participants. The next year, 200 people attended the breakfast, with 25 participants in the parade.

The breakfast switches locations each year so more groups become involved, he said. The first year, it was at American Legion Skwiat Post 451, then American Legion Post 37 the ensuing year. This year, it's at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2536, 1101 Earl Road. From 8 to 11 a.m., the breakfast features everything from eggs and hash browns to fruit and biscuits and gravy.

"No pancakes," Harris said with a laugh. "With this being an election year, everyone has had enough of pancakes."

Veterans and children 10 and younger eat for free. All others can pay a \$5 contribution.

The parade kicks off at noon, starting at 10th and Franklin streets and heading north to Fourth Street. The first year, the parade honored Battle of the Bulge veterans, followed by Korean War veterans the next year. This time, it's Vietnam veterans.

"We want to offer a big welcome home to these veterans who never really received one," Harris said.

The parade also will feature the Soul Steppers, as well as Michiana Marines, whose Toys for Tots program invites parade spectators to bring unwrapped toys to assist their efforts. Another parade presence is Cookies for Soldiers Inc., which sends signed cards and Girl Scout cookies to troops overseas.

It is important to note, Harris said, that police,



Participants in last year's parade head north on Franklin Street. Photo by Janet Baines

fire and other rescue groups are part of the parade, as they are vital to protecting and serving people in the community.

Those wishing to appear in the parade can contact Harris at (219) 229-2389 or [kharris@rememberingourveteransinc.com](mailto:kharris@rememberingourveteransinc.com)

Wreaths Across America, for the unfamiliar, is a national effort begun by Morrill Worcester, the owner of Worcester Wreath Co. in Maine. When the company had excess wreaths at the holiday season in 1992, Worcester found support from Maine Sen. Olympia Snowe, subsequently placing the wreaths in an older section at Arlington Cemetery. Over the years, a groundswell of support emerged. In 2005, a photo of wreaths at Arlington went viral, drawing national attention and culminating with the group's incorporation as a non-profit entity in 2007.

For every two wreaths purchased, Wreaths Across America sends back a third one for free. One wreath costs \$15. People can place their orders at [www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org); however, those who schedule orders through Harris can have the wreaths placed on specific graves. The deadline to place orders is Sunday, Nov. 20.

Last year, efforts by Remembering Our Veterans resulted in 70 wreath sponsorships, a tally that included specific grave sites. This year, the goal is 400. The group also notes that veteran graves at Swan Lake Memorial Gardens can benefit from Wreaths Across America as well.

Indeed, Harris said, Remembering Our Veterans strives to become all-encompassing, with veterans groups and posts throughout the county becoming involved in its efforts.

Harris believes it can happen.

"Each year," he said, "this grows just a little bit bigger."



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Kataifi	Nuts and cinnamon wrapped in shredded filo pastry w/syrup	_____	2.50 ea.
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Kourabiedes	A bite size cookie w/a hint of walnuts dusted w/powdered sugar	_____	1.00 ea.
Karidopita	A rich and delicious nut cake drizzled with syrup	_____	2.00 ea.
Melomakarona	A crumbly cookie, hint of orange, soaked in syrup, topped w/nuts	_____	1.00 ea.
Paximadia	Greek zwieback, a Greek cookie, great with coffee for dunking	_____	8.00 doz.
Pita	1 pan of Spinach or Cheese Pita, 24 appetizer-size triangles, frozen	_____	25.00 ea.

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## Michigan City Public Library

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

• **STEAM Ahead Kids: Fly, Creep, Crawl or Ooze at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28.**

Children 4-10 accompanied by an adult can choose from a selection of crafts to create something unusual. All materials are provided.

• **Scary Saturday Boo-vie!: "Hocus Pocus" at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 29.**

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

• **Costume Contest for Kids & Teens at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29.**

The three age groups are birth to 5, 6-10 and 11-17, with two winners per age group: Most Original Costume and Scariest Costume. Registration is from 3:30 to 4 p.m., with the contest at 4 p.m. Winners receive a \$40 gift card.

• **Bicentennial Project Film: "A Piece of Eden" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30.**

The library and La Porte County Genealogical Society will present local director John Hancock's 2000 film about immigrants with a La Porte County apple orchard. Hancock and *Beacher* Editor Drew Tallackson, who was an extra in the film, will introduce it, then discuss it afterward with the audience.



Hancock

• **Dia de los Muertos: Day of the Dead at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2.**

Celebrate the Mexican holiday with a showing of the short film "Funny Bones," followed by a craft and treats.

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



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## About the Cover

by Andrew Tallackson

It was a race against time of super-hero proportions. Literally.

For our Halloween edition cover, Tom Montgomery took the high-concept approach, recreating this year's "Batman vs. Superman" with canine characters, complete with *The Beacher's* mascot, Scooby, and Scooby's great dane pal, Zulie, as the comic book rivals. The setting would be Galena Township's Posey Chapel Cemetery.

Turns out, the day of the shoot, Wednesday, Oct. 12, proved iffy in the weather department, the forecast predicting showers late in the afternoon.

The showers debuted early.

Montgomery and crew arrived at the cemetery amid a considerable downpour at around 4:15



Scooby shakes off some of the rain while Zulie ignores him during the Oct. 12 photo shoot.

p.m. With him were *Beacher* photographer Bob Wellinski, Judith Joseph, a veteran of "Scooby Covers" who helped with costumes, Scooby's owner, Tommy Parker, his friend, Dennis Mayberry, and Zulie's owner, Trina Van Gieson.

The group held out as long as it could. By 5 p.m., the rain persisted, but lessened to some degree. Seizing on the opportunity, everyone sprang into action. Over the next 10-15 minutes,

Wellinski snapped as many pictures as he could before the rain intensified and everyone again ducked for cover.

The result, despite the odds, is a cover that captures the playful Halloween feel Montgomery hoped to achieve. We hope it makes you smile as well.

# Landscape

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## Cookie Cutter Model

by Kevin Scott

Everyone has friends who try to influence them with what they think is best.

We all know those friends, right? Whether it is political views, religious views, lifestyle views, sports views

or nutrition, everyone thinks their way is the best. Guess what? As I am writing this, a news flash came across my TV that says, "Your friend is not right!"

There is a saying: "Everything works, everything just doesn't work for you." Indeed, almost anywhere on the planet, you can find people who have their way, and it works.

Think of marketing. TV may work for some companies, but some might not have the budget; hence, it doesn't work for them.

Think sports. Playing small ball in baseball may work for some teams, but others have power hitters; hence, small ball doesn't work for them.

Think nutrition. You have that friend with a fast metabolism and can eat anything, but once you eat the same thing they do, you gain 27 pounds. Hence, it doesn't work for you.

With nutrition, as with anything health and fitness related, there isn't a "once size fits all." But that is what traditional media and pop culture want us to believe. Try this 21-day fix, and everything will be fine! Try this workout video, and you will lose all your belly fat!

Well, guess what? The people in the workout video don't even do the workout video. They go to the gym, they eat right, they occasionally may do the video workout. But above all, it is a lifestyle they chose to live. Pop in your Tony Horton P90x video and watch all the ripped and oiled-up models rock the workout you are barely keeping up with. This is setting yourself up for failure. Setting realistic goals and working with someone who knows these specific goals is not putting you into a cookie cutter routine, which results in success.

The same goes for nutrition. Everyone has a friend who follows a different diet plan or nutrition lifestyle. They will always say their way is the best, but it may not be for you.

Many right now are trying to live a vegan lifestyle...and it is working for a lot of people. You will find people who are passionate on both sides of the

fence. Nutritionally-speaking, there are clear benefits to following more of a vegetarian lifestyle, and some studies even indicate the reversal of several chronic diseases. The research is fascinating and, as a result, near-vegetarian diets have been espoused by the likes of Pritikin and Ornish for years.

That said, the stricter the diet is — and veganism is very strict — the harder it is to maintain in the long run. In addition, animal foods are high in several key nutrients that positively affect your health. They also add unique textures and flavors to a given meal, and enhance the palatability of a number of dishes.

In the end, it's important to eat a balanced, nutrient-dense diet that incorporates all of the major food groups. Though I personally wouldn't advocate veganism, I would strongly encourage you to make plant-based foods a larger part of your diet. Then, you can make the personal decision as to whether veganism is right for you.

Remembering that each diet or workout plan your friend tries, or you see on TV and may be working for them doesn't mean it will work for you. Trial and error, even as adults, really does work. Just because one diet or workout plan doesn't produce the results you want, don't give up.

Also, make sure you are sticking to this and getting guidance that is geared specifically to YOU! Think of your profession, whether you work in customer service, are a doctor, nurse, lawyer, grocery bagger, waitress, writer, painter or musician.

Start by making the small changes. Live a healthy lifestyle, exercise more and watch TV less. Your body will thank you!

*Kevin Scott is the manager at Michigan City's Anytime Fitness. Email him at kevinthomascott00@gmail.com*

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## CD Release Concert

Pianist Jasmin Arakawa will celebrate the release of her latest CD with a free concert at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

Arakawa is a University of Southern Alabama professor of piano. Her performance, which features works by Haydn, Schumann and Scriabin, is presented through Michigan City Chamber Music Festival. The CD is through the MSR label.

Arakawa's interest in Spanish repertoire grew out of a series of lessons with Alicia de Larrocha in 2004, which led to her recording of "Iberia" by Albeniz, sponsored by the Embassy of Spain as a prize winner at the 10th Annual Competition in the Performance of Music from Spain and Latin America.

An avid chamber musician, she has collaborated with artists such as cellists Colin Carr and Gary Hoffman, flutists Jean Ferrandis and Marina Piccini, clarinetist James Campbell and the Penderecki Quartet. A founding member of Trio Micheletti, she has toured extensively and recorded chamber works by Latin American composers.

She is a regular presence in Michigan City through the chamber music festival.

A reception is planned after the concert, with CDs available for sale. Visit [www.mccmf.org](http://www.mccmf.org) or call (219) 561-1939 for more details.



## Howl-O-Ween at Ames Field

Michigan City High School's Athletic Department will host its annual "Howl-O-Ween" trick-or-treating night from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, at Ames Field.

The event features more than 30 stations of activities, games, prizes and candy for trick-or-treaters 13 and younger. The event is free, but there is a suggested \$1 donation to benefit Special Olympics. Call (219) 873-2044, Ext. 4439, for more details.

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## "N.E.W." Opportunities



Girls engage in roundtable discussions during the conference.

More than 200 girls from middle schools in La Porte County and New Buffalo, Mich., attended a workshop at Michigan City's A.K. Smith Career Center on Oct. 18 introducing them to Nontraditional Employment for Women opportunities.

The day-long event featured a keynote address from Lennaire Vaughn, CEO of MeForward, a non-profit organization based in South Bend that aims to encourage, equip and empower girls 8-17. Among the special guests leading roundtable discussions and demonstrations were female professionals from UPS, NIPSCO, Purdue University Northwest, Horizon Bank, La Porte County EMS, Edward Jones Financial, Friendship Botanic Gardens, Michigan City Fire Department, Michiana Brick and Building Supply, the La Porte County Sheriff's Office and



Participating in the check presentation from Women in Leadership La Porte County are (from left) Nancy Nelson-Taylor, president; Sherri Waddle, board member; Nancy Robinson, secretary; Audra Peterson, director of La Porte County Career and Technical Education; and Rene Ray, board member.

Michigan City Dental.

Girls also could try "hands on" activities relating to careers such as welding, machining, construction, automotive tech, fire, law enforcement, energy/electronics and logistics.

Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce, Michigan City Commission for Women and Women in Leadership La Porte County supported the conference.

Representatives from Women in Leadership La Porte County, in fact, stopped by the A.K. Smith Career Center on Oct. 12 to present \$500 in support of the conference.

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## Railroad Museum Receives Grant

The New Buffalo Railroad and History Museum has received a \$5,000 matching grant from The Pokagon Fund.

Established in 1989, the museum is located on the grounds of the Pere Marquette Railroad Roundhouse, 530 S. Whittaker St. The collection includes artifacts, documents, photos and displays to illustrate the greater New Buffalo area's history, while also highlighting the role that the railroad played in its development.

Housed in an exact replica of the original Pere Marquette depot that existed near the site in the 1920s, the museum contains a model train layout of the village, the New Buffalo fire department pump-er used to fight the Great Chicago Fire, a World War II Pullman troop sleeper car and a C&O boxcar.

More than 6,000 families visit the museum annually. There is no admission fee. The museum relies on contributions and grants. Its sole fundraiser is the spring Box Car Buffet and silent auction.

To take full advantage of the matching grant, the museum's board seeks donations to the museum — a tax-exempt charity — either online at [www.new-buffalo-railroad-museum.org](http://www.new-buffalo-railroad-museum.org) or by mail to: New Buffalo Railroad Museum, 530 S. Whittaker St., Suite B, New Buffalo, MI, 49117.

## Shakespeare Fest Summer Schedule

The Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival has announced its 2017 summer offerings: a kick-off celebration and two comedies.

The season begins with "ShakeScenes," the annual Shakespeare mashup with an all-ages cast. Next, the festival's touring company brings "Twelfth Night" to parks and gardens throughout the region. Finally, the professional company will present "Much Ado About Nothing."

The touring company consists of students from the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College and other Midwest universities. In addition to performing "Twelfth Night," they participate on and off stage in "Much Ado About Nothing," receiving nine weeks of training in all areas of stagecraft.

Helming "Twelfth Night" is Cameron Knight, returning for his second year as director of the touring company. Performance dates throughout Southwest Michigan and northern Indiana are July 16 through Aug. 21, 2017.

Presented by professional actors, designers and directors, "Much Ado About Nothing" runs Aug. 15-27, 2017, at Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Actors Theatre of Louisville regular Drew Fracher returns to direct, having helmed the 2015 production of "The Winter's Tale."

Visit [shakespeare.nd.edu](http://shakespeare.nd.edu) for more details.



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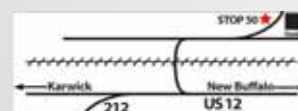
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Harry Lennix has eight projects in the works through 2017.

We had “nothing but love” for Harry Lennix’s character “Dresser” in “The Five Heartbeats.” Our pulses raced, swooning over his smooth moves.

His work in the 1991 musical-drama, co-written by Keenan Ivory Wayans and Robert Townsend, was just the beginning of Lennix’s acting career. He’s also known for roles in Spike Lee’s “Mo’ Money,” “Get on the Bus” and “Chi-Raq,” as well as “Love & Basketball,” “The Matrix Reloaded,” “The Matrix Revolutions,” “Ray,” “Barbershop 2: Back in Business” and “Stomp the Yard.” The multi-dimensional artist also wowed us on the small screen with his work in “The Blacklist,” “ER,” “Diagnosis Murder,” “The Practice,” “Commander in Chief,” “24,” “Dollhouse” and “Emily Owens M.D.”

Between this year and next, IMDB.com has him listed as having eight projects in the works.

Art+Times had the opportunity to speak with Lennix, who has made a career out of pushing boundaries.

Take, for instance, 2015’s “H4.” The actor, doing double duty as the movie’s producer, portrayed Henry IV, combining the language from Shakespeare’s “Henry IV Part I and Part II” and unfolding in an African-American 20th century setting.

As a young man who read Shakespeare, studied it and watched the movie adaptations, Lennix says he never saw blacks or people of color in significant roles during that time in history, which is what

made “H4” significant.

His goal is to bring all of Shakespeare’s plays to life with a true American experience. “H4” paralleled events in Shakespeare’s original play and what takes place in today’s society with leaders and their fathers, such as Jesse Jackson Sr. and Jesse Jr., Martin Luther King Sr. and Martin Jr. and Adam Clayton Powell Sr. and Adam Jr.

The Chicago native attended Quigley Preparatory Seminary South with plans to become a priest, but admits he shifted his career choice and attended Northwestern University after leaving the seminary after just a few weeks.

“I decided to go elsewhere (Northwestern) to pursue a girl, but that didn’t work out and I settled on a career,” he added with a laugh.

After graduating with a degree in acting and direction, Lennix taught music in the Chicago Public Schools for eight years. As a teacher, he continued to hone his craft as an actor and performed at Goodman and Steppenwolf theaters. He maintains his relationship with Goodman as its artistic associate. He commuted two hours each way to travel to Chicago’s Englewood community to teach and perform in plays at night. It was in Chicago, in fact, where Lennix landed his first movie role in “The Package” starring Gene Hackman and Tommy Lee Jones.

With a former career as a music instructor, the actor says he seized every opportunity to explore that aspect of his talent. However, on the stage, Lennix explored and

## Harry Lennix: Consistently Pushing the Boundaries

by Kim Ward



Harry Lennix appears with Henry Cavill in “Batman vs. Superman.”

former is to tell untold stories of unsung heroes in black history, which are some of the most important in his career.

“My whole purpose in acting is I want to contribute to the consideration of the African-American black

showcased his musical talents. He learned to play the trumpet for August Wilson’s “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom,” which is set in the actor’s hometown. He also played the saxophone in a production and has played the piano in other theatrical roles.

The most prolific role of his career was as the late Malcolm X in the theatrical project “The Meeting,” which earned him an Obie Award.

Lennix admits one of his missions as a per-

man image,” he said. “I want to change that and help make that better. I want to rehabilitate the image that goes out in the world of the black man. Whenever I

show up on a screen or on a stage, there’s a bunch of actors in my category who say ‘I’m an actor and black second, or I’m American first’. I’m black, whether or

not I describe myself as anything else. The first thing I am is a black man because I can’t separate that from the rest of my being.

“So, I want to change what people automatically think of me and others like me when they see me show up on the screen or on a stage because it’s horrible right now. Even black people think negatively of black men when they see us across the screen or on the stage, generally.”

Helping shatter that image was Lennix’s portrayal of Gen. Swanwick in 2013’s

## Art+Times

where art and culture intersect



Harry Lennix (second from right) first leapt to prominence as an actor in Robert Townsend’s “The Five Heartbeats.”

“Man of Steel,” which featured the first British actor, Henry Cavill, in the role of Super Man. He also appeared in this year’s sequel, “Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice.”

But with an artistic career that spans more than 20 years, Lennix admits there’s nothing else he needs to prove in his career. However, he looks forward to continuing to grow and learn more in his craft as an actor as he takes on three-dimensional roles. There are still characters in history he’d like to portray, one of which is the late jazz musician Duke Ellington, a role he wants to play live in a theater setting. Within the next 10 years, he’d also like to take on the role of King Lear, and participate in a project with Jeymes Samuel and his book, which tells the history of black outlaws.

Lennix admits success is something that changes every day, but doing his absolute best remains constant.

“For me, success is if I can wake up in the morning, look in the mirror or go to sleep at night...and know I did my best,” he said. “When I come to the end of my days, I want God to say, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant,’ and that’ll be all the success I need.

“If I never acted again, it would be OK. I wouldn’t like that, but I would be OK with it because there’s so much other needed work that most of us who are conscientious about it need to be doing.”



Harry Lennix appears with John Cusack at the New York premiere of “Chi-Raq.”

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## Westchester Public Library

*The following programs are available:*

• **Bits & Bytes series, Intro to Evernote 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, 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.

• **Graphic Novel Book Club from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus is Alan Moore's "Saga of the Swamp Thing." Register in person with the IT department or by phone at (219) 926-7696.

• **Family Coloring Friday Nights from 5 to 7 p.m. Fridays at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

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

• **Rainbow Loom from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28, at Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children in grades 3-6 create rainbow loom bracelets. Looms and rubber bands are supplied, but participants can take their own. Supplies are limited. Registration is required in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Children's Movie: "Ratchet and Clank" at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, at the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

The movie is Rated PG. Free popcorn will be available.



"Ratchet and Clank"

• **Westchester Public Library Comic Con 2016 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, at the Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Comic and graphic novel artists and authors will sign autographs and offer panels about the industry. Also planned are a trivia contest, costume contest, children's activities, movies, a game table with role playing and other tabletop games available for drop-in participation.

• **The Unnamed Guild of Gamers from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30, at Thomas Library's Ber-**

**tha Wood Meeting Room.**

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

• **Let's Talk About Cuba from 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The presentation describes Joy Marburger's trip to Cuba in August and hosted by Friends of the Caribbean.

• **Adult Coloring Program from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, at Hageman Library.**

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

• **Minecraft Meet-up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2, at Thomas Library.**

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

• **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.

• **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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## La Porte County Parks



All registrations/questions go through the Red Mill County Park Administrative Office, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, La Porte. Call (219) 325-8315 or visit [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org) for more information.

### Nature's Tiny Tots

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

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Oct. 31 (come in costume), Nov. 14 and 28, and Dec. 5, 12 and 19 at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

### Parent & Child Discovery Days

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

- Nov. 16 — Turkey Time.
- Dec. 7 — Let It Snow.

### Senior Lifestyles

Join the free 55+ Club, a social club designed for adults 55 and older to learn and explore various types of nature. Free coffee is served to participants. The group meets from 9 to 10 a.m. at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Call at least one week in advance to register. The schedule is:

- Nov. 2 — Nutrition facts on food labels, clean eating and diabetes, and how it affects the body's health, Registered Dietician Stephanie Mahan.

### Attention Homeschool Participants


"Hooting Good Time" is from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, at Luhr County Park.

A minimum of five children and a maximum of 30 are needed. Preregister by Nov. 9 by calling (219) 325-8315. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

### Teachers-Groups-Scout Leaders

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


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## Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following programs are offered:*

### Saturday, Oct. 29

#### • 10 a.m. — **Zombie Hike.**

Meet at the Nature Center for the hour stroll in search of all things fall.

#### • 2 p.m. — **Creepy Campground Crafts.**

Meet at the campground shelter by site 113 for a craft project.

#### • 4 to 5:30 p.m. — **Trick or Treating.**

The annual tradition is set in the campgrounds.

#### • 5:30 to 7 p.m. — **Hay Rides.**

Trips head to the beach and back. Tickets, which are \$2, or free for children 3 and younger, can be purchased at the campground gate.

#### • 6 p.m. — **Owl Prowl.**

Registration is limited for the night hike. Signup starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Nature Center. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

#### • 7:30 p.m. — **Saw-whet Owl Banding Night.**

Meet at the Nature Center for a look at the project. If conditions are right, close views of the owl are possible.

### Sunday, Oct. 30

#### • 10 a.m. — **Spooky Feed The Birds.**

Meet a naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding.

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

Meet at the Nature Center auditorium for the 45-minute PBS documentary.

*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.*

## Partnership Boosts STEM Camps

Purdue University Northwest and Enbridge have united to support PNW students interested in STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering and math.

Through the partnership, Enbridge has become the named sponsor of the Purdue Northwest Enbridge Summer Engineering Camps, which support STEM education among middle and high school students in Northwest Indiana. Enbridge also will provide scholarships to qualifying PNW students.

The 2017 Purdue Northwest Enbridge Summer Engineering Camps will welcome students for lab and classroom experiences in civil, mechanical, electrical and computer engineering – all areas in which degree programs are offered at PNW.

Enbridge's Chicago Region transports North American crude oil and natural gas liquids from Canada and North Dakota to refineries in the Great Lakes Region and beyond. It is regionally headquartered in Schererville and operates a terminal for its liquid transportation system in Griffith, with more than 30 full-time employees.

## "Ernie" Joins Bicentennial Celebration

Jerry Holt's stage drama "Ernie" is included with the Indiana Bicentennial Celebration.

Based on the life of Hoosier native and Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent Ernie Pyle, the play was performed Oct. 15 at the Indianapolis statehouse, part of festivities that included the arrival of the Indiana Bicentennial Torch as it completed its journey through the state's 92 counties.



Playwright Jerry Holt (left) with actor Steven Becker.

A second performance, sponsored by La Porte County Historical Society, is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, at La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St.

Written by Holt, a Purdue University Northwest associate professor of English, the play stars Indiana actor Steven Becker. It celebrates the one-time *Herald-Argus* reporter who was a war correspondent for the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain from 1935 until his death in April 1945. He stormed beachheads and endured foxholes with troops to report the war.

The play was first produced last December at Purdue University Northwest Sinai Forum.

Tickets for the Oct. 29 performance are \$15 and can be reserved by calling (219) 324-6767. The event is a fundraiser for the Historical Society.

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## Shirley Heinze Partnership Luncheon

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host its annual Partnership Luncheon on Friday, Nov. 4, at The Spa, 333 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter.

Land Trust officials will honor the Department of Natural Resources Division of Nature Preserves for its decades of partnership and support. Another honoree is The Bicentennial Nature Trust for aiding the protection of Meadowbrook Nature Preserve, the Little Calumet River Corridor and Lydick Bog.

John Bacone, DNR Division of Nature Preserves director, and Assistant Division Director Tom Swinford will speak about 50 years of natural area protection in Indiana.

Also planned is this year's corporate/civic/organization category of the "Bringing Nature Home" Awards. Sponsored by the Friends of Shirley Heinze, the awards recognize local landscaping projects that incorporate native plants. Porter County Parks and La Porte County Soil and Water Conservation District will receive recognition for their respective projects. Visit [tinyurl.com/qarccqo](http://tinyurl.com/qarccqo) for more details.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. and the program at noon. Tickets and table sponsorships may be purchased at [www.heinzetrust.org](http://www.heinzetrust.org), or by contacting Bonnie Hawksworth at (219) 242-8558 or [bhawksworth@heinzetrust.org](mailto:bhawksworth@heinzetrust.org). RSVPs are requested no later than Wednesday, Nov. 2.

## Flame & Flair Festival

Families are invited to participate in Flame & Flair Uptown Halloween Festival 2016 from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, in Michigan City's Uptown Arts District.

The evening kicks off at 5 p.m. with trick-or-treating throughout the UAD, with businesses and shops handing out candy to trick-or-treaters. Also, several floors at Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts will offer trick-or-treating, the theme being video games.

At 6 p.m., Ryan's Irish Pub will host the "Thriller" dance at 6 p.m. in the 400 block of Franklin Street. Crimson Pulse Fire+Flow fire-dancing troupe performs at 6:30 p.m. in the 600 block of Franklin Street.

Visit [www.uptownartsdistrict.org](http://www.uptownartsdistrict.org) for details.

## Trivia Night

Friends of the La Porte County Public Library will host Trivia Night from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4, at La Porte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana St.

Participants can form teams of up to 10 players. The \$10 cost includes food, a cash bar and silent auction. Proceeds assist library efforts such as Summer Reading Adventure, adult classes, technology events and visits from children's characters.

Visit [tinyurl.com/jlka399](http://tinyurl.com/jlka399) for more details.



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## Body of Knowledge

Twenty Michigan City High School juniors and seniors spent the day with curious fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders at Knapp Elementary School on Oct. 18, leading lessons and hands-on activities on human anatomy.

The students, who are studying anatomy, AP biology and human body systems, manned six stations they created for the children, who are in Knapp's Gifted and Talented program. As they rotated among stations on the immune system, cardiovascular system, nervous system, skeletal/muscular system, digestive system and respiratory system, they blew into balloons and straws to compare lung capacity, pretended to be antibodies and walked through simulated heart chambers.



Michigan City High School Senior Ella Bogart instructs Knapp GT students Ryan Darschewski (left) and David Serrano as they begin dissecting a fetal pig, which helped them learn about the digestive system.

Other hands-on activities involved fetal pig dissection, examining a sheep brain and a human skull, and learning how to take blood pressures.

"Our class just finished a unit on the human body, where each student became a specialist in a particular system," Knapp GT teacher Megan Boyter said. "These activities really added to their learning."

Knapp sixth-grader Alaina Kotaska said, "My favorite was the stomach and pig station, and even though it was gross, I learned about the intestine and the route of food."

Fifth-grader Madison Gresham said, "At the respiratory system station, I learned how hard it is to breathe when you have asthma. People with asthma have way more sympathy from me now!"

The day-long visit included an opportunity for the elementary and high school students to eat lunch together.



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## MCAS Celebrates Bus Safety Week



Michigan City Area Schools joined school bus industry officials nationwide for National School Bus Safety Week on Oct. 17-21, the theme being “Stop on Red.”

To highlight the week, MCAS bus drivers and monitors made short presentations to students about a different safety topic each day, including avoiding “danger zones” near buses, procedures at railroad crossings, safe loading and unloading, good behavior and bullying prevention. Elementary students participated in a poster contest about bus safety. The previous week, students riding all 60 MCAS buses were involved in school bus evacuation drills.

In conjunction with Bus Safety Week, the MCAS

Transportation Department congratulated five drivers with the most years of service:

- Dan Kilgore — 36.
- Mary Cotton — 32.
- Pat Breitzka — 30.
- Donna Jean Ada — 29.
- Deb Schroll — 27.

MCAS officials also congratulated five bus monitors (a newer position with the department):

- Becky Smith — 18.
- Annie Childs — 17.
- Val Anderson — 16.
- Sue Waskow — 12.
- Hilda Gayden — 10.



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## Art After Dark

Chesterton Art Center will host Art After Dark, its annual fundraiser that supports education and outreach programs, on Friday, Nov. 4, at Sand Creek Country Club, Chesterton.

The event starts at 6 p.m. with appetizers and cocktails from the open bar, followed by a sit-down dinner, then the silent auction, presentation of the patron award and dancing to music by a local DJ. Dimensions School of Social Dance in Chesterton will give a presentation.

The silent auction includes items from local artists and businesses. Guests can bid on original paintings, handmade pieces and baskets from Chesterton businesses. The patron award goes to a center member who consistently helps improve the organization.

Individual tickets are \$75, and sponsorship opportunities are available. Patrons or businesses may purchase an entire table, which will include advertising before, during and after the event.

Make reservations or sponsorship opportunities by calling (219) 926-4711.

The art center offers nine children's classes during the school year, and an average of six to eight adult classes on a weekly basis.

## MQT Parents Guild Banquet

Marquette Catholic High School's Parents Guild will host its second "Love Blue — Give Gold" Banquet on Saturday, Nov. 5, in the Scholl Center.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with an open bar until 7 p.m., followed by a cash bar. Hors d'oeuvres, musical entertainment and a silent and live auction are planned, with all proceeds directly benefitting Marquette students.

Visit [tinyurl.com/ht7yjrj](http://tinyurl.com/ht7yjrj) to purchase tickets, which cost \$75.



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## American Red Cross

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

- Farmers Market, 800 Washington St., Michigan City, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, Michigan City, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1.

*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.*

## New South Shore Line Website

The South Shore Line invites users to explore its newly launched website, which aims to enhance user experience and further simplify access to vital information like train schedules and updates.

The modern look and layout make accessing information on desktops and mobile devices easy, along with additional features such as real-time updates and trip planner.

Highlights from the new website include:

- Improved overall usability.
- Improved mobile experience.
- Numerous resources for leisure riders in South Bend, Northwest Indiana and Chicago.
- A complete list of advertising opportunities on the SSL.
- Comprehensive listing of commuter perks.
- Direct links to download the SSL iPhone and Android app.

Visit [www.mysouthshoreline.com](http://www.mysouthshoreline.com) for details, or download the SSL mobile app available for iPhone and Android.

## CALL THE BEACHER WITH YOUR NEWS!

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

## Prescribed Fires Planned

The National Park Service is planning six prescribed fires this fall at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, with about 850 acres to be burned.

On the park's west end in Gary, 138 acres are to be burned west of, and around, the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education. Two different parcels make up the burn area and are part of an area being restored to an Oak Savannah habitat.

Also in Gary, 270 acres will be burned south of U.S. 12 and west of Spencer Street in the area known as Tolleston Dunes. Prescribed burning here contributes to wildlife habitat restoration.

At West Beach in Portage, another 138 acres are to be burned north of the entrance road and east of County Line Road. Burning here is part of restoring former home sites and road beds to their native state, as well as reducing the threat of wildfires.

In the east end of the park, 95 acres along Furnessville Road and between county roads 150 East (Hadenfelt Road) and 200 East (Veeden Road) will be burned. If conditions permit, an additional 92 acres between Furnessville Road and U.S. 12 may be burned.

In Beverly Shores, 215 acres will be burned as part of the Derby Ditch prescribed fire. This area is between East State Park Road and Broadway, north of U.S. 12 and the South Shore tracks. Burning here is part of a long-term wetlands restoration project that has seen great success in the last several years.

The prescribed fire program is conducted by trained and experienced National Park Service fire personnel. Smoke dispersal is a primary concern, and park staff will do everything possible to limit smoke in the area by monitoring wind and atmospheric conditions prior to ignitions. However, smoke drifting in and around park lands and roadways is possible.

Designated conditions must exist before burning, including ideal air temperature, wind speed and direction, and relative humidity. Weather conditions will be monitored to ensure safety.

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## Long Beach Women's Bowling

Oct. 18, 2016

### TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Bitchin Bowlers	18	6
2. Striking Beauties	16	8
3. Alley Katz	15	9

### HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Liz Lutterbach	189
2. Tammy Vouri	178
3. Cindy Beck	175
4. Mary Lou McFadden	172
5. Sue Luegers	169
6. Linda Neulieb	159

### SPLITS

1. Polly Fletcher	1-3-7
2. Nancy Klausner	1-5-6
3. Jill Jankowski	5-8-10
4. Janet Miernicki	2-7
5. Tina Sonderby	8-10

### STRIKES

4 strikes	Liz Lutterbach
3 strikes	Sue Luegers, Cindy Beck, Lenore Hadaway, Celena Byrnes

*Honorable mention: For the first time in three years, Mary McDonald did not throw a gutter ball. She also had a high game of 137.*

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

## Scrabble Fundraiser Winners



The Scrabble tournament winners are (from left) Jeff Wilks, Jeffrey Wilks, Patrick Klimczak and David Wittchen.

READ La Porte County Inc. held its 13th annual Scrabble Tournament fundraiser Sept. 27, raising \$3,000 to support its tutoring program.

Twenty teams from Indiana and Michigan participated. For the first time, there was a tie for first place. The winning teams were Jeff Wilks and partner Jeffrey Wilks, and David Wittchen and partner Patrick Klimczak. Susan Schab and Sara Scherberg had the next highest score. Scherberg also won the lightning round by making the word with the highest point value from a special set of letters given to participants.

Each winner received prizes donated by local merchants. The Honorable Steven King served as judge, monitoring questions about rules and challenges on words played.

A small silent auction of items donated by local merchants and board members was held. Christine Rosario was the chairwoman.

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## Activities to Explore

### In the Local Area:

**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.

**Oct. 27** — Michigan City High School's Athletic Department "Howl-O-Ween," 6:30-8 p.m., Ames Field. Free/suggested \$1 donation to benefit Special Olympics. Info: (219) 873-2044, Ext. 4439.

**Oct. 28** — STEAM Ahead Kids: Fly, Creep, Crawl or Ooze, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 28** — "Sound and Vision: The Music of David Bowie," 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$10. Info: [www.acorntheater.com](http://www.acorntheater.com), (269) 756-3879.

**Oct. 28-29** — Barker Blackout Tour, 8 p.m.-midnight, Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$15/adult, \$10/youth. Reservations: [tinyurl.com/jukynxu](http://tinyurl.com/jukynxu), (219) 873-1520.

**Oct. 28-Nov. 1** — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "The Beatles: Eight Days a Week — The Touring Years." Not rated. Times: 5:45 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "Mia Madre." Rated R. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Mon., 2:45 p.m. Sat.-Sun. *Also:* "(Dis)Honesty: The Truth About Lie." Not Rated. Time: 7 p.m. Nov. 1. Free/discussion afterward. All times Eastern. Info: [vickerstheatre.com](http://vickerstheatre.com)

**Oct. 29** — St. Stanislaus Catholic Church farmers market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., parking lot next to tennis courts. Info: [ssmcfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:ssmcfarmersmarket@gmail.com), (219) 851-1785.

**Oct. 29** — Children's Movie: "Ratchet and Clank," 10:30 a.m., Westchester Public Library Children's Department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**Oct. 29** — Scary Saturday Boo-viel: "Hocus Pocus," 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 29** — Westchester Public Library Comic Con 2016, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**Oct. 29** — Do-It-Yourself "Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" with Dan Schaaf, 2 p.m., The Nest, 803 Franklin St. Take instruments & noise makers. Cost: \$5.

**Oct. 29** — CD-release concert, pianist Jasmin Arakawa, 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Free. Through Michigan City Chamber Music Festival. Info: [www.mccmf.org](http://www.mccmf.org), (219) 561-1939.

**Oct. 29** — Costume Contest for Kids & Teens, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 29** — Flame & Flair Uptown Halloween Festival 2016, 5-9 p.m., Michigan City's Uptown Arts District. Info: [www.uptownartsdistrict.org](http://www.uptownartsdistrict.org)

**Oct. 29** — "Haunted Trails and Ghost Stories," 4-7 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Cost: \$5/12 & older, \$2/12 & younger. Info: (219)

878-9885, [info@friendshipgardens.org](mailto:info@friendshipgardens.org)

**Oct. 29** — “Ernie,” 7:30 p.m., La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Cost: \$15. Reservations: (219) 324-6767.

**Oct. 29** — HauseFest 2016 (benefit), 7:30 p.m.-midnight EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: [events.org/hausfest2016](http://events.org/hausfest2016)

**Oct. 29** — Saw-whet Owl Banding Night, 7:30 p.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Oct. 29, Nov. 2** — 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](http://tinyurl.com/hhaajz2)

**Oct. 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. 30** — Bicentennial Project Film: “A Piece of Eden,” 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 31 — HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

**Nov. 1** — Washington Park Zoo closes for season.

**Nov. 2** — *Dia de los Muertos*: Day of the Dead family program, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**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)

## Harvest Home Tour

Tour seven homes through Harbor Country as a way to benefit Michiana Humane Society during the 13th Annual Harvest Home Tour from noon to 5 p.m. EDT Saturday, Nov. 5.

Advance tickets are \$60, or \$75 the day of the event. A wrap-up party is from 4 to 7 p.m. EDT at Judith Racht Gallery, 13689 Prairie Road, Harbert, Mich. A cash bar, free hors d’oeuvres, silent auction and raffle are planned.

Visit [www.michianahumanesociety.org](http://www.michianahumanesociety.org) for more details.

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## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



**On October 27, 1871,** William Marcy "Boss" Tweed, the political leader of New York's Tammany Hall, was arrested and charged with defrauding the city of several million dollars.

**On October 27, 1904,** the New York subway (America's first) opened for business. It ran from the Brooklyn Bridge to downtown Manhattan.

**On October 27, 1938,** DuPont announced that it had chosen a name for its new synthetic yarn. The world was to know it as nylon.

**On October 27, 1947,** the radio show, "You Bet Your Life," starring Groucho Marx, premiered on ABC Radio. It later became a TV show on NBC.

**On October 28, 1886,** the Statue of Liberty was dedicated in New York harbor.

**On October 28, 1893,** disappointed office seeker Patrick Prendergast killed Chicago's Mayor Carter Harrison.

**On October 28, 1977,** the first "Mother-in-Law Day" was observed. It honors Mothers-in-Law, among other reasons, for not becoming violent when hearing those appalling jokes about themselves.

**On October 28, 1989,** the Oakland A's won the "earthquake-interrupted" World Series, sweeping the San Francisco Giants four to zero.

**On October 29, 1929,** the New York Stock Market crashed. Known as "Black Tuesday," it would take World War II to bring the nation out of the depression that followed.

**On October 29, 1940,** the United States began its first peace-time military draft.

**On October 29, 1964,** thieves made off with the Star of India and other gems from the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The Star and most of the other gems were recovered; three men were convicted in the case.

**On October 29, 1967,** the musical "Hair" opened off Broadway.

**On October 29, 1979,** Chicago's State Street Mall was officially dedicated.

**On October 29, 1998,** at age 77, Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio) roared back into space aboard the shuttle *Discovery*, retracing the trail he blazed as an astronaut 36 years earlier.

**On October 29, 2003,** a powerful geomagnetic storm walloped the Earth, knocking out some airline communications but apparently causing no large power outages or other major problems.

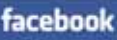
**On October 30, 1938,** a national panic took place



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as Orson Wells did a radio dramatization of *The War of the Worlds*, a novel by H. G. Wells. As he described the invasion of New Jersey by the Martians, thousands of listeners fled their homes, many heading for remote parts of the country.

**On October 30, 1940**, in a radio address to the nation, President Franklin Roosevelt said, "I shall say it again and again. Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars."

**On October 30, 1975**, the *New York Daily News* ran the headline "Ford to City: Drop Dead" a day after President Gerald R. Ford said he would veto a proposed federal bailout of New York.

**On October 31, 1926**, Harry Houdini, one of the world's greatest magicians, died in Detroit of gangrene and peritonitis resulting from a ruptured appendix at 52.

**On October 31, 1934**, Chicago's "Century of Progress" closed, having hosted 16 million visitors, as well as grossing more than \$200 million.

**On October 31, 1983**, Bears founder and owner George Halas died in Chicago at 88.

**On November 1, 1512**, the public, for the first time, was shown Michelangelo's paintings on the ceiling of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel.

**On November 1, 1604**, Shakespeare's tragedy, "Othello," was staged at London's Whitehall Palace.

**On November 1, 1893**, the Art Institute of Chicago moved to its new home, a Renaissance-style building (located at Michigan Avenue and Adams Street), which was built for the Columbian Exposition.

**On November 1, 1913**, Notre Dame, captained by Knute Rockne, popularized the forward pass in defeating favored Army 35-13.

**On November 2, 1920**, Pittsburg's station KDKA began the nation's first regular radio broadcasts, reporting the Harding-Cox election returns.

**On November 2, 1947**, Howard Hughes' massive wooden airplane, the "Spruce Goose," made its first (and only) flight. The 200-ton aircraft, which is now a major exhibit at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, OR, flew for about one minute over Long Beach Harbor.

**On November 2, 1959**, Charles Van Doren admitted he had been given the answers in advance before his appearance on the popular NBC-TV game show "Twenty One."

**On November 2, 1983**, President Reagan signed a bill establishing the third Monday in January as a national holiday for civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

**On November 2, 2000**, Eva Morris, recognized in March by the *Guinness Book of Records* as the world's oldest woman, died, in London, six days short of her 115th birthday.

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

Good pay, good hours, good conditions. Housework, bookwork, some  
errands and personal care. 1-3 people. Mail detailed cover letter and  
application to The Beacher, attn: Housekeeping ad, 911 Franklin St.,  
Michigan City, IN 46360.

New Buffalo company seeks nature lover for in/outdoor work. Must have  
valid driver's license and transportation to and from work. Pay based on  
work ethic and dependability. Training included. (269) 756-9172.

## WANT TO SELL

**ART SUPPLY GIFT SETS FOR BUDDING ARTISTS – FIRME'S**  
(2 Stores) 11th & Franklin Streets, Michigan City - 219/874-3455  
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**1989 PORSCHE, 964 Speedster, wide body, cabriolet, highly upgrad-  
ed many years ago. Asking \$70,000. Call (219) 878-1608.**

**FOR SALE: 1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee 4W; Boat-Bayliner 18"**  
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rest, Drive MFG; 3-wheel electric scooter – Falcon; 6-wheel electric  
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**Gas-powered, 10 horsepower leaf shredder/wood chipper. \$225.**  
**Call (219) 878-0279.**

## GARAGE SALES, ESTATE SALES, ETC.

**The Fall Girlfriend Sale LAST CHANCE 1/2 PRICE SALE**  
**is this Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

130 participants and 3 specialty boutiques have contributed thousands  
of items to this sale filling 2 huge rooms with selected resale, and new  
designer clothing plus accessories. All items are deeply discounted, with  
most now 1/2 PRICE!

This is the day everyone returns to the sale for a slower pace shopping  
experience. The racks are a little lighter, allowing you to really go through  
and easily find all the great items you missed. Even the volunteers, who  
have worked the sale from the beginning, find things they have never  
seen before.

Come shop for beautiful clothing, amazing bargains and a whole lot of fun.

Visit and "like" The Girlfriend Sale on Facebook for more information.  
Email [thegirlfriendsale@gmail.com](mailto:thegirlfriendsale@gmail.com) and ask to join the e-list for exciting  
event updates.

Look for details next week on our "One Day Super Sale" with additional  
discounts and proceeds to benefit the Samaritan Center.

**Long Beach Community Center**  
2501 Oriole Trail.  
**Long Beach IN 46360**

### STORE CLOSING SALE! 25%-50% Off Many Items!

Quality refurbished bikes-adult to children's. Collectibles: lamps, art,  
glassware, pottery, primitives, wood crates. Vintage designer material,  
antique large Treenware handled bowl, collectible toys, furniture, oil paint-  
ings, custom industrial tractor seat stools. Signed & dated, rare 1980s  
Tell City oak dinette set table w/6 tall bent oak chairs, Rougier rotating  
modernist coffee table, tall Wilmarth oak glass display case, wicker, Ficks  
Reed glass table set w/4 armed Rattan upholstered chairs & more.  
**Fri.-Sat., Oct. 28-29, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., 3110 W. Dunes Hwy, MC.**

**Lake House Sale • 13426 Timber Lane in Harbart, Mich.,**  
**off Harbart Road • Sat.-Sun., Oct. 28-29, 9am-1pm EDT**  
**Lots of great stuff. Cash or check only.**

## WANT TO BUY

**WANTED:** I buy all types of antiques and collectibles, including toys,  
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from studio to 5 bedrooms available for monthly rent between Sept.  
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**FOR SALE:** Encore Consignment Boutique, 815 Franklin St., in  
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Info: (708) 372-6898, facebook @ Encore Consignment Boutique.

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**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.  
**Call (219) 879-2195.**

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

**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

**FOR RENT long or short term:** rustic family retreat, Michiana, MI, 1 block to beach. No smokers, no pets. All amenities, huge in-ground pool. (773) 870-0918.

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

**New Buffalo rental: 3BR/1BA, cottage-style home. Completely remodeled. No smoking, no pets. \$875/month. Call (269) 612-2889.**

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**2,500 square-foot home on 18+acres. Recently upgraded on quiet country road between Michigan City and New Buffalo, within 4 miles of lake. 4BR/2.5BA with attached 2-car garage + 92' x 28' enclosed pole building. \$300,000. Call (219) 898-5215**

**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.**

## Share Foundation Gala

Share Foundation for the Handicapped will present its "Share Our Dreams Gala and Silent Auction," complete with music by Tom Milo Band, on Friday, Nov. 4, at Munster's Center for the Visual and Performing Arts.

A \$100 donation includes dancing, cocktails, dining, table wines, a silent and brief live auction. Those who sponsor a table of 10 at one of three distinction levels receive recognition in the program and in Share Foundation's monthly *Good News* newsletter.

All proceeds benefit the non-profit Share Foundation, which serves the residential, vocational and social needs of people with disabilities. Call (219) 778-2585 or email [share@sharefoundation.org](mailto:share@sharefoundation.org) for reservations, which also can be made at [www.sharefoundation.org](http://www.sharefoundation.org)

**Call The Beacher With Your News  
(219) 879-0088**

## Chesterton Art Center

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

• **A new six-week session of Monday Night Ceramics begins from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 31.**

Beginning students develop fundamental wheel-throwing techniques, while returning students refine techniques to create more complex forms.

Instructor Tom Cernius will perform short demonstrations while assisting students to improve throwing skills. Hand-building and sculpture are encouraged. Students can try slab-building, pinch-pot hand-building and basic sculptural techniques, including figurine/small statue construction. All pieces will be glazed during the final class. The cost is \$135, with members receiving a \$25 discount. The cost of clay is \$15. All other supplies are included.

• **Local painter Mark VanderVinne will host Critique Night at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2.**

Guests are welcome, with no prior registration required. All ability levels and artistic styles are encouraged. 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 at any stage, from conception to the final version. While it is a friendly environment, it is a critique providing advice and insight into the effectiveness of a work or artistic concept.

• **Dick Church will lead a six-week Beginning/Intermediate Watercolor Class from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Nov. 4.**

Church will highlight a variety of techniques. The cost is \$80, with members receiving a \$5 discount. Supplies are not included. Church will discuss supplies with beginners to start the class.

• **Herb Helm will teach a watercolor workshop focusing on grapes from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6.**

The workshop is designed for advanced beginning painters or beyond. The composition will require a number of techniques, including pouring, splattering, blowing and possibly throwing paint. Helm will incorporate negative painting, which will require students to pull (or paint) elements out of their pouring. Participants also will be asked to use tighter, more controlled techniques.

The cost is \$50, with members receiving a \$5 discount. A lunch break is planned, and participants can take lunch or step out. A supply list will be provided to registrants.

• **Life Drawing Open Studio is from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays.**

The setting includes a fully clothed model. Each participating artist must take supplies and clean up afterwards. There is no formal instruction. The cost is \$10, plus a tip for the model.

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





## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**In a Dark, Dark Wood by Ruth Ware** (paperback, \$16, retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

In America, it's called a bachelorette party. But in the U.K., it's a hen party. And Nora Shaw, narrator of this story, is not sure she's happy to receive the invitation.

Clare Cavindish is getting married. Once best friends, Nora hasn't seen nor heard from Clare in 10 years — since they were 16. Yes, they were once best friends, but drifted apart after...well, that doesn't matter, not right now, anyway.

Ware sets the stage oh so carefully with a seemingly innocuous event. For a few pages, at least, you are drawn into what seems like chick lit — just don't forget the title...

Nora calls best friend Dr. Nina da Souza, who confirms she also received an invitation to the hen party, plus one to the wedding. Strange. Nora didn't get one for the wedding.

Emails with Flo Clay, organizer of the event, confirm the party is a weekend affair north of London in a secluded country retreat. Don't yawn. There's lots more to come!

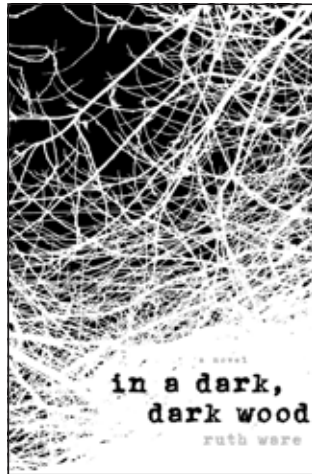
Nora can't decide whether to go. In the end, she decides it might be fun to reconnect with Clare. Yet, there is something nagging at the back of her mind about their history together...

So in the end, this big affair turns out to be only six people: Nora, Clare, Flo, Melanie Cho (another school chum), Nina and Tom Deauxma...Tom? Turns out he's a playwright friend of Clare's. Not a large guest list for someone who is beautiful and always the born leader of anything she put her hand to.

On the other hand, Nora is reclusive. She is a writer who spends most of her time alone in her apartment. She was never a Type A personality like Clare.

Now, I ask you to consider how the story actually starts: *"It hurts. Everything hurts. The light in my eyes, the pain in my head. There's a stench of blood in my nostrils, and my hands are sticky with it... What has happened? What have I done?"*

Now do I have your complete attention? Alternating chapters float between the weekend gathering and something that must have happened during that time. But what? Nora can't remember what occurred during that last night of the party. It's just beyond her memory. Why does her head hurt so much? And why is there a policeman stationed outside her hospital room?! All she can remember



is that it wasn't a fun weekend, and she and Nina planned to leave early Sunday.

Flo had every move of the weekend planned out: Friday night drink session and a seance that turned out weird, then Saturday morning to a shooting range where they shoot clay pigeons.

Who organizes a hen party with a gun range as the highlight?! Only Flo, of course. She's a strange one, to say the least. She hangs on Clare's every word, even dresses like her. Rather like high school: She wants everything to go as she planned and pouts when it doesn't.

But Saturday night changes everything...

Nora awakens to the sound of footsteps. Everyone is on the landing, Flo with a shotgun in her shaking hand. Who is there? A shot rings out...someone falls down the steps...and the intruder turns out to be someone Nora doesn't expect to see.

Now we're back in the hospital room, and Nora hears the policewoman outside her room on the phone: *"Oh Jesus, so now we're looking at murder?"*

Funny how when a traumatic event happens, our mind can lead us to believe all kinds of things: It can distort memories, make us think we did something we didn't do and, if said enough times, make it all seem real. Nora is beyond upset that she can only remember what happened up to a certain point, and then it all becomes fuzzy. But when a policewoman starts asking questions, she gets confused and can only say she didn't kill anyone.

But the policewoman says they have her cell phone with incriminating emails on it. Problem is, Nora lost track of where she put her phone after that first day because the cell service was practically nil in that deep woods. And now, she may be charged with murder.

Wow. Ware certainly knows how to build suspense, making the most simple event seem sinister — like you're waiting for the other shoe to drop. Layer upon layer is offered to the reader to savor and guess what will happen next, but you never quite get it right. She's much too savvy to give away the plot until she's ready.

In the genre of murder mysteries, this one is at the top. At 310 pages, it's not a long read, but the author has a way of making much use of few words.

From *Marie Claire*: "Just try to guess how sinister this plot can get (hint: VERY)."

From *Library Journal*: Ware writes with verve and energy, building up the suspense and keeping the pages flying."

Ware lives in London. This is her first novel.

Till next time, happy reading!



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