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by Edmund Lawler

Debra Gunderson made Michigan's New Buffalo Welcome Center on Interstate 94 her home for 35 years.

For the past 35 years, Debra Gunderson got to tell people where to go.

Sometimes, it was to Hell, as in the small, devilishly named hamlet in Southeast Michigan. Other times, it was to Paradise in the celestial forests of the Upper Peninsula.

But far and away, it was to the shorelines and dunelands of western and northwestern Michigan, the sweet spot for the state's tourism industry. Other popular destinations included the Mackinac Bridge, Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn and the Bavarian-style village of Frankenmuth.

"My old boss here, Betsy Brandt, and I would often chuckle that we actually got paid to tell people where to go," Gunderson says.

It was a good gig for the native Yooper, who grew up throughout Michigan as her state trooper father moved from post to post. And now, her days leading a small team of tourist counselors and maintenance workers at the center has come to an end with her recent retirement.

As manager or lead worker of Michigan's New Buffalo Welcome Center on Interstate 94, Gunderson

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Labor of Love

Continued from Page 1

saw tens of millions of visitors stream through the center, one of the three busiest in the state. It also is the state's — and nation's — most historic highway tourist welcome site. It is the direct descendant of the nation's first highway tourist lodge, which began welcoming motorists on May 4, 1935, on U.S. 12 near Wilson Road. The unassuming white clapboard building still stands today, adjoined now to Dancing Feet Yoga. When I-94 was completed through Southwest Michigan, the tourist lodge was relocated to the eastbound lanes of the new interstate and became a tourist information center in 1972.

"But it was almost too small from the start," Gunderson says. "The traffic volume on the new interstate was much higher than it was on U.S. 12."

The undersized tourist information center lasted only 20 years before giving way to the current site. Three times the size of its predecessor and built on

roughly the same site, it opened in 1992. Operated by the Michigan Department of Transportation, it is situated on an 80-acre campus-like setting with its trademark ornamental lighthouse, a reed-fringed pond, picnic grounds beneath a canopy of trees, an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant playground and a dog run.

And a very busy interstate.

Inside, the center is stocked with visitors guides and maps. Display windows tout attractions such as museums, nature centers, professional sports teams and cities like Holland or Lansing. All things Michigan, of course.

Gunderson is leaving the center in fine form. In the past year, the building was re-roofed, new carpeting was installed and the exterior was completely re-landscaped.

Each year, the center's staff distributes about 1 million pieces of travel literature, 100,000 of which are maps. Yes, people still ask for maps even in the age of smartphones, Siri and GPS. Some of the



Debra Gunderson stands amid the historical markers outside the welcome center.

guests come in for just a pit stop or snack. Others browse the travel literature beneath a 30-foot glass-domed ceiling. Many enlist the tourist counselors to help them map a Pure Michigan adventure.

The center's nearly 1.5 million annual visitors hail largely from the Midwest.

"Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri and Iowa are the leading states," Gunderson says. But as a world map on a wall in the center can attest, visitors come from all over the globe. Visitors from near and far affix tiny stars to the map and are often asked to share a story about their hometown or their homeland before returning to the highway.



Providing maps and brochures was one aspect of Debra Gunderson's position.

Not every guest arrives in the spirit of a carefree vagabond. Frazzled from traffic or bad weather, or agitated by their children, spouses or significant others traveling with them, a few motorists step into the center and are quick to take things out on a travel counselor.

"But after blowing off a little steam," Gunderson says, "they catch themselves and realize what they just said and calm down."

Some days, the center can be like a three-ring circus, especially in the summer when a million visitors come calling. Gunderson recalled doing a double-take one day when she looked out her office window to see a baby elephant near the playground. The animal was a member of a traveling circus. Its handler asked a staffer if it would be OK if the el-

Continued on Page 4



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Labor of Love

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elephant drank from a water spigot to help cool down. The elephant moved on, but some animals got left behind: dogs, cats, even a chicken the maintenance staff dubbed Carlos.

It was thanks to a pair of swans that Gunderson got her first taste of the manager's role. Michigan State University loaned the center two swans to grace its roadside pond. They later mated and had offspring, which needed to be fed. The swans started leaving the pond to look for food in the picnic groves.

Each day at the center can bring a new twist. One day, Gunderson took charge of a dog whose owner had been stricken by a heart attack after pulling his RV into the center's truck lot. The man's wife rode with her husband in an ambulance as it raced to the hospital.

Sadly, he didn't make it. Gunderson was planning to take the dog home with her and care for it until the family could reclaim it. But the man's son-in-law arrived later that day to collect the RV and the family pet. He heartbreakingly recounted how his father-in-law had recently retired, and the couple was just beginning to take some long-planned trips



Debra Gunderson greets visitors to the center.

Despite their elegant reputation, the swans became overly aggressive and began attacking picnickers.

Then-manager Betsy Brandt went out to defend the guests, but slipped on the swan droppings, breaking her ankle in five places. Brandt's bad break was ill-timed. The staff was transitioning from the old center into the new one. With Brandt on medical leave for more than four months, Gunderson began applying some of the lessons learned in her business classes at Lake Michigan College and started running the center in her boss' long absence. In 2002, Gunderson succeeded Brandt upon her retirement.

"Debbie did a wonderful job in my absence," said Brandt, who began working as a seasonal tourist counselor at the original Center on U.S. 12 in the early 1960s. "Unlike me, she was very detail-oriented. Despite our very different styles, we worked well together. She helped me become more organized."

While she had a keen eye for administrative detail, Gunderson's primary focus was the visitor.

"She was always waiting on customers and was very helpful for them," Brandt said. "She wanted them to have a good experience in Michigan."

together. They had recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

Another human tale had a happier ending.

One day, a 10-year-old boy was accidentally left behind at the center by his family.

"They were traveling in a van, and the little boy was sleeping under a blanket in the back," Gunderson said. "After stopping, the family headed into the restrooms and let their son continue his nap. But while they were gone, he woke up and decided to go the restroom by himself."

Their paths did not cross on the restroom visits. Remember, the Welcome Center is a big place. Assuming their son was still asleep beneath the blanket, they resumed their trip. But when the family reached Benton Harbor, they were mortified to discover he was not onboard. In the meantime, the little boy calmly presented himself at the information desk to say he'd lost track of his family.

State police were summoned to talk to the boy, who was unable to provide much of a description of his family's vehicle, much less the license plate number. Troopers also wanted to be sure he'd not

been intentionally abandoned by his family. He wasn't. His mother raced through the door a short while later to tearfully embrace her innocently wayward son.

There isn't a corner of Michigan that Gunderson hasn't been to, including the state's only national park, Isle Royale, in the frigid waters of northwestern Lake Superior. Back in the day, the state would take travel writers and some of its tourist counselors to visit some of the most interesting tourist attractions in Michigan.

Ferried to the island, the contingent of travel writers and tourist counselors spent two nights at the island's rustic Rock Harbor Lodge. The highlight was an encounter with a moose.

"But what I remember most was how dark it was on the island," Gunderson says. "It was the darkest place I'd ever



Debra Gunderson stands near the lighthouse that greets visitors to the stop.

been."

Although she's retiring, her travels in Michigan are far from over. A gifted amateur photographer, Gunderson has visited or photographed 81 of Michigan's lighthouses on the state's four Great Lakes: Superior, Michigan, Huron and Erie.

That still leaves 43 to reach Michigan's total of 124 lighthouses — the most of any state in America. She's applying to serve as a volunteer lighthouse keeper at several locations throughout the state. The biggest perk is getting to live in the keeper's residence for a week or two in exchange for operating a gift shop, some general maintenance and providing tours.

But it will be a labor of love for Gunderson, who's spent the past 35 years selling visitors on the beauty and charms of her native state.

(All photos by Paul Kemiell.)



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A Marvelous Opening Night of Music

by William Halliar

Opening night!

For those who have never performed before an audience, it is difficult to describe the rush of emotions that accompany these special times.

The audience is buzzing with anticipation of the shared experience to come, shared because true music is made between the hearts of performers and listeners. The performers are making last minute checks of their instruments, playing warm-up scales and running over difficult passages one more time.

Saturday, Aug. 4, was opening night of this year's Michigan City Chamber Music Festival at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. "Our American Music Experience" is the theme for the 17th annual event. The opening night program was titled "Musician's Heritage Concert." In keeping with this theme, each performer introduced his/her individual explained their ethnic heritage, and why the music about to be played spoke to their family culture and traditions.

Rudolf Haken, for instance, took center stage to a volley of applause. Under his arm was his treasured viola pomposa, an odd-looking instrument conceived and executed by Haken himself. This one-of-a-kind creation combines the voicing qualities of the violin and viola in a single instrument, allowing Haken to gain a greater depth and range of sound from the strings with his bow.

Haken introduced the piece he was about to play. He spoke of his parents who were born in Germany, where they both gained recognition as skilled mathematicians. Together, they were invited to the United States in the 1960s to join our fledgling space program, and here they made their home.

The music of Bach reflects the German heritage Haken so proudly inherited from his parents. He spoke of Bach's life and that music, to this composer, was not only a way to glorify God, but also a great source of comfort in a life fraught with pain and loss.

The recent loss of Haken's own child, a young daughter, brought home to his heart the pathos

of Bach's melodies. The emotions of the haunting themes became ever more a part of his soul. Haken dedicated his performance to the memory of his daughter. Standing alone under the single spot of light, he coaxed from the strings of his beloved viola pomposa all of the feelings stirring in his heart. The audience sat breathlessly. Not a sound escaped them. The intensity of the music, and the story behind his loss and heartfelt performance, set the tone for the remainder of the evening.

Festival cofounder Nic Orbovich and Zofia Glashauser joined in two violin duets illustrating the stories of their own backgrounds. Glashauser explained that her love of music brought her from Poland to the United States to study with American musicians, while Orbovich spoke of his Serbian and Mexican heritage. The pieces they played were lively and brought a collective smile to an audience already wrapped in a musical journey of the heart.

A quartet of instruments next took

us to a colorful Mexican festival in "Transparencies for Flute and String Trio." Martha Councill's soaring flute solos explored the melodies and rhythms of old Mexico. A spirited "Rompe!" elicited a spontaneous laugh from the audience, and all leapt to their feet as one in an ovation at the end of the performance.

Oboist Jenet Ingle performed with piano accompaniment by Jennifer Muñiz and brought the program to intermission. Ingle played an interesting set of "tone poems" titled "Postcards from America"

After a short intermission, the "Piano Quintet No. 2" by Antonin Dvorak was performed by two violins, the viola pomposa, cello and piano. This grand piece in the romantic style set the entire room vibrating. The audience sprang to its feet at the conclusion of the concert, not wanting the evening and the music to end, clapping their approval long into the night.

□

More concerts remain throughout the week. Visit www.mccmf.org or call (219) 561-1939 for details.



Rudolf Haken performs during opening night of the festival. Photo by Bob Wellinski

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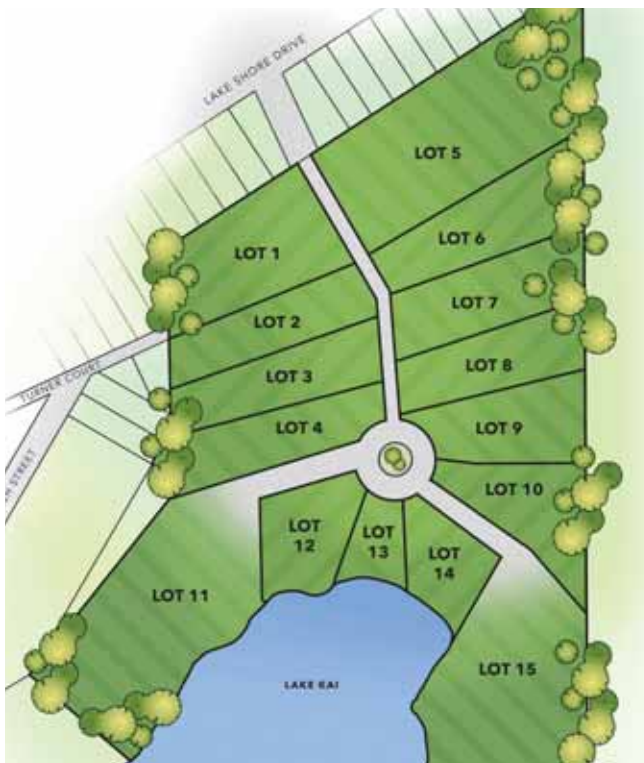
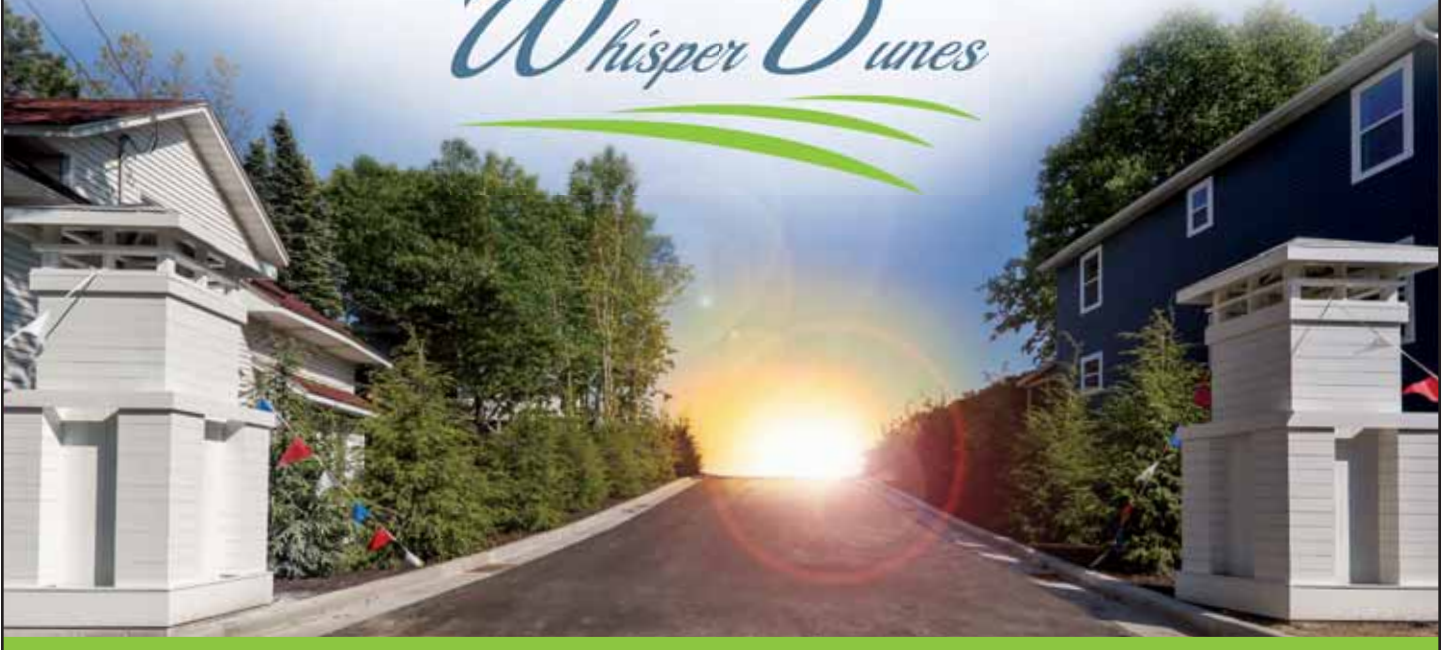
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A Driving Need for Oatmeal

As the infamous “oatmeal people” of Harbert, Mich., we travel a long way to feed our daily addiction: quarterly drives up to Country Life Natural Foods in Pullman, Mich. There, we buy two 50-pound bags of steel-cut oatmeal, 50 pounds of short-grain brown rice and other goodies.



Our quarterly load of oats and rice is ready for loading in our little car.

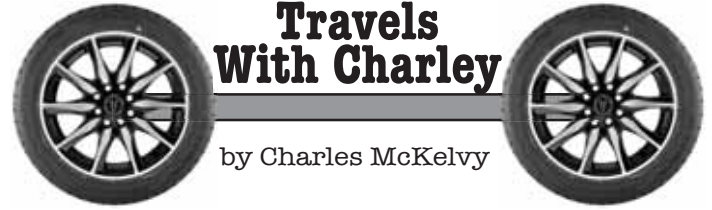
I know, I know — that’s a mouthful, and one long drive for oatmeal.

But the way we go through oatmeal every morning, and rice the rest of the day, we figure it is worth the drive up the beautiful Blue Star Highway and east on 109th Avenue to Country Life, which is nestled way back in the woods at 641 52nd St.

Yes, we begin in Berrien, pass through Van Buren and end up in Allegan County, but we are happy to drive through three counties to buy 100 pounds of oatmeal for \$50 and 50 pounds of brown rice for \$57.50. And do not forget those other goodies or, as Natalie calls them, “Charley’s food toys.”

Travels With Charley

by Charles McKelvy



Yes, I am a hefty vegan, and it’s not from a strict diet of oatmeal and rice. I have a sweet tooth and thus am a sucker for all those frozen, plant-based goodies Country Life keeps in its freezer case. Being a bearded vegan, I have to tell you bushmen out there about the ultimate beard oil at Country Life — Seven Wonders Miracle Oil. I had been spending serious money for an ounce of this and an ounce of whatever that would put a stop to the old itchy beard syndrome. Then, I tried a splash from the sampler

of Seven Wonders on the Country Life counter. Bingo! I was in beard heaven, buying a bottle on the spot, and for a whole lot less than the fancy stuff. So fond am I of Seven Wonders, I ordered a case of it and have given bottles to bearded friends and relatives as gifts.



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And we did that summer, starting by purchasing the aforementioned oatmeal and rice plus two airtight plastic drums for storing 25 pounds of oatmeal each, and a smaller drum for storage inside the house. The helpful staff assured us the drums would keep the oatmeal fresh and free from mice and insects, and they certainly have. Why, we have even figured out how to open the 50-pound bags and pour the contents into the drums with nary a spill.

And with such a system, we can gauge when we next need to take a drive up the Blue Star to Country Life. This morning, for example, I drained one of the 25-pound drums and announced, "We're a quarter-way through our last purchase. We'll be heading to Country Life in September. Maybe sooner."

We don't mind driving to Country Life in September, or December, or even February, especially now that we equip our car with snow tires November through April. So when our oats were low one February, we happily drove up to Country Life in the snow and cold and, as a reward for our efforts, saw a red-headed woodpecker alight on a telephone pole right outside Country Life.

How cool is that?

Even cooler is the way we go home.

We're retired, so we're never in much of a hurry to get anywhere in particular, and we love nothing better than to reward ourselves with meandering drives



As Yogi Berra said, "When you get to a fork in the road, take it." We follow his advice when returning home from Country Life.

in the country. And what beautiful country there is between Country Life and our home in Harbert, particular as seen from the backroads of Allegan, Van Buren and Berrien counties.

Not wishing to retrace our steps on 109th Avenue and Blue Star Highway, we whip out our map of Van Buren County and mosey our way to Grand Junction,

where we invariably park in the lot by the tracks and take a walk on the Kal-Haven Trail. Yes, that's the rails-to-trails path that runs from South Haven to Kalamazoo, and you may recall some of my past travels along its sylvan right-of-way.

So, after a hard day of shopping at Country Life (and, yes, we always call ahead to be sure they have the oats and rice we need), we reward ourselves with a walk on the Kal-Haven Trail at Grand Junction. We are often rewarded with a midday freight on the CSX line.

Then, we just sort of poke our way home through Van Buren County until we get back to the Blue Star Highway, where we chart a course for home by way, of course, of St. Joseph. We cannot very well end a successful, tri-county shopping spree without a stop in old St. Joe.

So there you have it, oatmeal fans, the full Country Life Natural Foods quarterly voyage of oatmeal.

If this sounds at all appealing, come for breakfast some morning, then mount your own expedition to Country Life. Do as we do and contact them first at (269) 236-5011 or www.clnf.org

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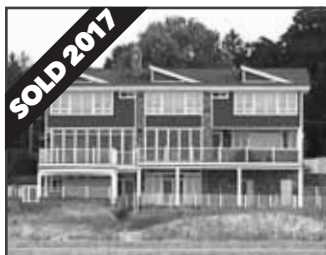
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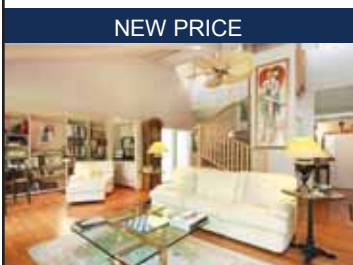
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The Force is With This Exhibit

by Linda Weigel

The Detroit Institute of Arts is hosting a special exhibit, one I could not wait to visit: "Star Wars and the Power of Costume," which is on display through Sept. 30.

Take your time and experience a "unique journey into the Star Wars universe as characters are brought to life through a dramatic presentation of more than 60 original costumes."



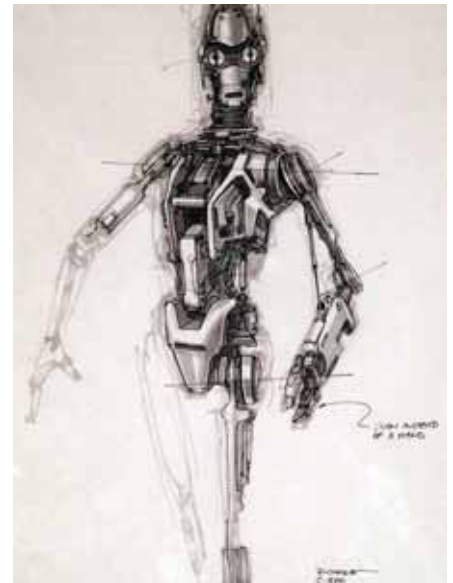
Ralph McQuarrie's 1976 concept art — pencil on tracing paper — for Chewbacca.

Wardrobe examples of iconic outfits from the first seven films are included. Queen Amidala, Darth Vader, Chewbacca, X-wing pilots, Han Solo, Luke Skywalker and more are there to be appreciated. In addition to the actual costumes themselves, there are original concept art drawings and fiber samples from storyboards.

Personally, I was captivated by the fine detail and beading in many of the costumes, the construction and originality of the design and over-the-top head-dresses. Princess Leia's slave costume revealed how very tiny Carrie Fisher really was. Chewbacca's costume also surprises. The texture is finer and softer in appearance than I would have imagined, and the size is quite large. Peter Mayhew, who wore the suit in the initial epi-

sodes, must have been quite lean and tall. Darth Vader's costume exudes a presence that is intriguing and threatening. I was glad to see Yoda and an Ewok included.

In only 3½ hours, you easily exit Interstate 94 to this established icon. Afterwards, tour the rest of the museum to explore classical works by major artists. Don't miss the 27 fresco



Doug Chiang's 1995 concept art — pen and ink on paper — for C-3PO.

paintings by Mexican artist Diego Rivera depicting industry at Ford Motor Co. located in the Rivera Court. Prints and drawings, as well as works from around the globe and throughout the ages, many featured in major art history books, inform and de-

If You Go

Detroit Institute of Arts is located at 5200 Woodward Ave. The website is www.dia.org and the phone number (313) 833-7900. Museum hours are (all times Eastern): 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. It is closed Monday.

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light. This is a pre-eminent art museum and one of the best in the country. Don't miss your chance to view this terrific art show!

From I-94, take exit 215c (John Street), turn right onto John Street and go about four blocks and there you are. A convenient parking lot, which costs \$7, is located across from the museum. Entrance fees for the "Star Wars" exhibit include the cost to visit the rest of the museum and are timed so crowds don't get too large and there is ample space to move throughout. We were able to get up close to every single mannequin.

The cost for adults is \$19 (Tuesday through Thursday), \$24 (Friday through Saturday) and \$7 for youth 6-17. We had no trouble just walking in and purchasing tickets on a Friday. However, I was told it can be advantageous to buy online for a specific time and date just in case.



A trio of droids: C-3PO, BB-8 and R2-D2.

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Hoosier Star Guest Conductor

Alastair Willis, a Grammy nominated conductor and the new South Bend Symphony Orchestra music director, will serve as guest conductor at the Sept. 8 Hoosier Star.

In past seasons, Willis, who lives in Seattle, has guest conducted orchestras around the world, including Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Mexico City Philharmonic, *Orquestra Sinfonica de Rio de Janeiro*, *Nordwestdeutsche* Philharmonic, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, China National Orchestra (Beijing) and Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma. His recording of Ravel's "*L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*" with Nashville Symphony and Opera for Naxos earned a Grammy nomination in 2009 for Best Classical Album.



Willis takes over the baton from Phillip Bauman, who stepped down from the position in May.

Rehearsals for Hoosier STAR begin Aug. 18. Presiding over the practices is Interim Music Director Charles Steck until Willis takes over Sept. 7. Finalists will work with him and the orchestra just two times before the event.

The competition starts at 7 p.m. Sept. 8 at La-Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., with doors opening at 6 p.m. Audience members receive voting ballots for a finalist in the adult and youth divisions.

Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$10 for students with ID and \$5 for youth 12 and younger. They may be purchased at the door or in advance at Roxy Music Shop in LaPorte, LaPorte Civic Auditorium, LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau in Michigan City or online at HoosierSTAR.com.

All proceeds benefit LCSO.

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Teens Aid Area's Homeless



Teens from Queen of All Saints Catholic Church donated blessing bags to the area's homeless. The youth assembled the packages, which contain everyday essential hygiene items and snacks, during a new, free, week-long program called Ignite. Activities throughout the week (July 16-20) included a bonfire, Mass and penance service with Father Kevin Huber, SoulCore prayer and stretching, a visit from the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, and a film on St. Ignatius of Loyola. Diocese of Gary seminarians Ivan Alatorre, David Martinez and Deacon Delcan McNicholas visited throughout the week. Queen of All Saints is located at 606 S. Woodland Ave. Visit www.qas.org or call (219) 872-9196 for more details.



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The New Yorker and *TIME* magazine



RESHMA SAUJANI

OCTOBER 28, 2018 / 4 PM CT

*"Women, Technology
and Leadership"*

CEO and founder of Girls Who Code,
a national technology non-profit

ROBERT COSTA

NOVEMBER 11, 2018 / 4 PM CT

*"Inside 2018: Understanding the
Midterm Elections"*

Journalist, political analyst and
moderator of PBS' *Washington Week*



LOU HOLTZ

DECEMBER 2, 2018 / 4 PM CT

*"An Afternoon with
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Author, sports analyst and football coach

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Check out safety vehicles, rigs, wreckers & cool cars at this kid-friendly, fun-filled event. Activities and entertainment include face painting, balloon artists, live music, the Funny Little People entertainers, food & vendors, car show, crafts and more.

Visit LighthousePlacePremiumOutlets.com for more information.

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“Charlotte’s Web”

Dunes Summer Theatre continues its presentation of “Charlotte’s Web” at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 10-11, at the Michiana Shores theater, 288 Shady Oak Drive.

Based on E.B. White’s classic, the play tells the story of a pig named Wilbur and his friendship with a barnyard spider named Charlotte. When Wilbur is in danger of being slaughtered by the farmer, Charlotte writes messages praising Wilbur in her web to persuade the farmer to let him live.



Jorah Fleming appears as Wilbur and Miggie Snyder as Fern in “Charlotte’s Web.”

Dunes resident actors play several roles in the production. Cast members include Jorah Fleming as Wilbur, Alecia Pagnotta as Charlotte, Miggie Snyder as Fern and the Goose, Hannah Williams as the Narrator and the Gander, Mac Westcott as Avery, Fern’s Uncle and the Lamb, and Patrick Regner as Templeton the Rat and Fern’s father. Artistic Director Jeffrey Baumgartner is the director.

Tickets are \$5 for children and \$10 for adults. Visit dunesartsfoundation.org or call (219) 879-7509 for reservations.

Club Fundraiser for Depot

Dunes Woman’s Club will sponsor a dinner fundraiser to partly benefit the Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Gallery from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 13, at Panera Bread, 5673 Franklin St.

A coupon is required and available at the depot, the town administration building or printable at www.beverlyshoresindiana.org/. An electronic version can be shown to the cashier when ordering.

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LET'S CONNECT!   YouTube

Footlight Award Winners

Footlight Players held its 12th annual Footlight Players awards Saturday, July 28, at Moose Family Lodge 980.

Emcee John Hutchinson announced nominees for the awards, nicknamed "The Footies." Joy Davidson was inducted into the Hall of Fame, while Laura Meyer received the President's Award.

The other awards are:

- Hair/Makeup Design: Emma Blanchard.
- Sound Design: Alayna Lauritsen.
- Lighting Design: Chris West.
- Set Design: Floyd Colosky.
- Costumes: Sharon Kienitz.
- Newcomer: Nikki Szymkowski.
- Choreographer: Denise Barkow.
- Music/Vocal Director: Shannon Wyels and Lee Meyer.
- Director: Robert Komendera.
- Supporting Actor: Joe Blanchard.
- Supporting Actress: Kathy Chase.
- Lead Actor: Robert Komendera and David Mikolajczyk.
- Lead Actress: Laura Meyer.
- Play: "Moonglow."



Davidson



Meyer



Komendera

Behind the Scenes Tour

Ever wondered what's behind closed doors at Barker Mansion?

The popular Behind the Scenes Tours — the final one is 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15 — journeys into normally off-limits nooks and crannies of the building. Guests discover remnants of the past, such as the central vacuum system, furnace and intricate electrical panels.

The cost is \$15 per adult and \$10 per senior or youth 15 and younger. Advance registration is required at Eventbrite.

The mansion is located at 631 Washington St. Visit www.barkermansion.com or call (219) 873-1520 for details.

Washington Park Beach Lifeguards

Starting Monday, Aug. 13, lifeguards no longer will be on duty weekdays at Washington Park beach.

They will be present from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through Labor Day weekend. Call (219) 873-1406, Ext. 390, for beach and swimming conditions.

Visit www.michigancityparks.com or contact the Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department at (219) 873-1506 for additional details.

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La Porte County Parks



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

Joyful Movement, "Shake, Rattle and Move"

The 45-minute, low-impact mindfulness program starts at 7:45 a.m. and meets at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La-Porte. Dates are:

- Aug. 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and 29.

The free program is self-paced and ideal for all ages. Participants can sit or stand. The emphasis is stretching, meditation, heart pumping and balance.

Call one week in advance of each date.

Attention Homeschool Participants

Youth 6-13 accompanied by an adult learn about birds during "Flying High" from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 13, at Luhr County Park. The minimum number of children required is five, with a maximum of 20. Preregistration is required by calling (219) 325-8315.

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. Aug. 20 and 27, Oct. 1, Oct. 15 (wear a Halloween costume and bring treats to share), Nov. 19 and 26, and Dec. 10 and 17 at Luhr County Park. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

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:

- Sept. 12 — Putting Your Garden to Rest for the Season with Gee-Burns.
- Oct. 3 — Understanding Medicare Parts A, B, C and D, and the annual enrollment period, John Williams, State Health Insurance Assistance Program medicare specialist.
- Nov. 7 — LaPorte Hospital improvements, CEO Ashley Dickinson.

Shelter and Hall Reservations

Call (219) 325-8315 to make reservations for one of many picnic shelters at any of the four county parks, or Pat Smith Hall at Red Mill County Park for a family function.



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 PLUS THREE CONCERTS FOR CHILDREN

AUG. 7 & 10 @ 6:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, Lower Level

AUG. 11 @ 12 noon
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www.mccmf.org

A recent tour of St. Anthony's new facility under way not only reflects technological advancements in the construction process, but also attention to detail that will create a state-of-the-art patient-care facility.

The 88-acre parcel, with 33 buildable acres and the remainder wetlands, is situated at the north-west corner of U.S. 421 and Interstate 94. Having broken ground two years ago, the \$242 million, 438,983 square-foot, 123-bed hospital will move non-patient care to the facility in December. Then, on Jan. 12, 2019, in a well-orchestrated one-day move, patients will be transported there from the current location at 301 W. Homer St.

Leading the recent tour were hospital officials and representatives from Tonn & Blank Construction, the project contractor.

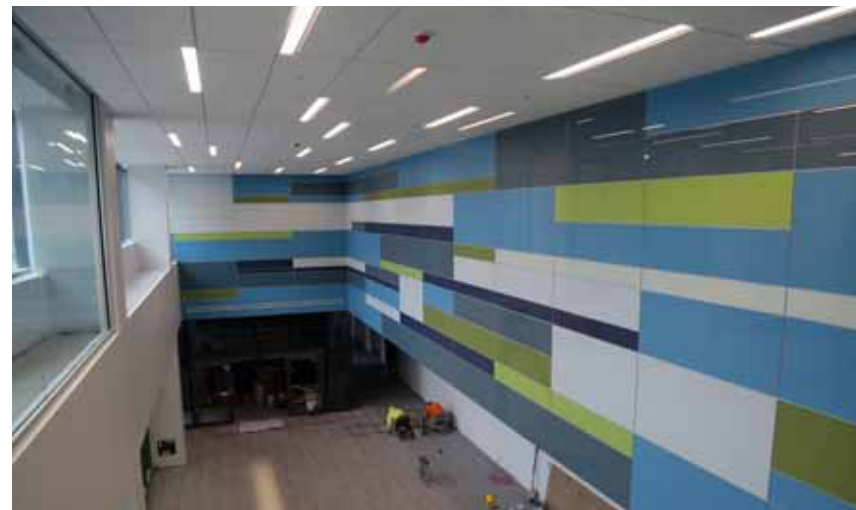
For many, fronting an extremely busy interstate may seem like an odd location, but Franciscan Health Michigan City, like any other business, seeks exposure. However, due to noise from interstate traffic, soundproofing was essential. A sound engineer placed microphones along the highway fence row that recorded the decibels off I-94. From these findings came the exact type of window needed to shield patients from the noise.

"You'll be shocked how quiet it is," said Trish Weber, Franciscan Health Michigan City vice president operations and chief nursing officer. "Several hundred thousand dollars of additional upgrade costs to put that soundproofing in the building."

Standing by a window in what will become an intensive care room, it was surreal: watching traffic fly by, but not hearing any noise from traffic.

Research shows a restful environment helps the patient recuperate and be released sooner. The TV system in each patient room, known as Evideon, will provide channels with white noise such as water running outdoors.

"All that white noise helps distract from other noises in the hospital," Weber said. "(We) invested significant amount of money in this system. Safety



Work proceeds inside the new facility.

Technology + Care = State-of-the-Art Hospital

by Connie Kuzdym



This drone shot provided by Tonn & Blank Construction offers a bird's-eye view of the new hospital under construction at U.S. 421 and Interstate 94.

and patient comfort is always the top of our focus in everything we do."

In line with this approach, all patient rooms will be private. Throughout the facility, an electronic sign outside each room will be linked to Epic, an electronic medical-record program. The technology allows doctors to communicate directly with the hospital staff in real time, whether they are in their office or on the premises.

Another amenity is Meals on Demand, which allows patients to select their meal from a limited menu, and have the food delivered when they would like to eat.

"Now, it will be on demand, like room service," Weber said. "So you call and ask for your meal when you're ready to eat. Because not everybody eats breakfast at 6 a.m. Not everybody eats lunch at noon, and not everybody eats dinner at 5."

Most importantly, care has been taken in the material used inside the building for patient safety.

The lower portion of the walls is covered in a protection material, Acrovyn, that deters bacterial growth, is impervious to dings or gouges and can be easily cleaned. All drywall is moisture-resistant, deterring mold and mildew growth. Staff counters outside patient rooms are made with solid surface materials, allowing for

"No longer do you use a tape measure or transit," Joe Coar, a consultant for Tonn & Blank, said. "A guy comes through with a little prong tied to a satellite. Points here. A column goes. Points there. That's where the 7 or 8 anchor bolts go."

With Building Information Modeling (BIM), architects, engineers and construction professionals use a 3-D model-based design and work process. This allows for more efficiency in the planning, designing, construction and managing of buildings and infrastructure.

Utilizing this type of technology, 500 pre-cast panels and 3,000 tons of steel were ordered. When it was put into place at the job site, everything fit. The exterior finish was prefabricated, as well as all duct work and plumbing.

The efficiency of such methods also helps eliminate confusion. For example, prior to any of the trades starting, the design for where utilities were running and the order of jobs was predetermined.

Because of BIM, Tonn & Blank is able to erect and finish the building sooner than in the past. According to Coar, approximately a year has been shaved off the project.

The process also gave Franciscan Health Michigan City what it wanted: a rapidly built, expandable building.

"Once again, as you go through the hospital, what you're going to see is the Sisters have gone to high expense financially to make sure LaPorte County

has the best medical service it can have out of their hospital here," Coar said.

"I very feel comfortable that the theory of having to go to Chicago to have everything done all the time is going to go away... from the expertise and the things they



Joe Coar and Trish Weber.

put together in this facility for patient care, it's over and above...over and above..."

(Photos from initial and subsequent tours of the new facility are by Paul Kemiel.)



The division of space proceeds within the facility.

Is your shoulder pain ruining your summer?

Find out if it's due to a rotator cuff tear

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- Reaching into the Back Seat?
- Reaching Behind Your Back?
- While you Sleep?

Dear Valued Client,

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It can change the way you put on your shirt...or for the ladies, your bra...because it's just too painful to do it the way you used to.

It can stop you from enjoying daily simple tasks...making you frustrated...forcing you to take more pain pills than you would care to admit.

And for golfers out there...it can ruin your game...getting scores you're too embarrassed to tell...your friends are probably wondering why you even care to play!

Is it your rotator cuff that's the culprit?

The rotator cuff is a group of four muscles that run from our shoulder blade into the top end of our bone in our arm. They help keep the ball end of our arm bone centered in the shoulder socket.

When healthy, the rotator cuff allows us to reach in all directions smoothly and without pain.

If you experience pain, weakness or difficulty during the tests mentioned here, it is highly likely that you are suffering from a rotator cuff tear.

1. This first test is called the Drop Arm Test. With your arm relaxed by your side, turn your arm out so your thumb faces directly to the side. Slowly raise your arm to the side, then slowly lower the arm. Test is positive if the arm suddenly drops or you experience severe pain on the way up or down.
2. The Lateral Jobe Test. In this test for the right shoulder, raise you right arm out to the side by lifting your right elbow to 90 degrees, with your hand hanging down, fingers pointed to the ground, your thumb pointing to your tummy. With your left hand, push down on the right arm just above the elbow. Test is positive if you experience pain or weakness.
3. The 3rd test is called Lift-Off Test. The hand of the affected arm is placed on the lower back. Now try lifting the hand off the back without straightening your elbow. Test is positive if you're unable to lift the hand off.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Now you may be asking...can a rotator cuff tear heal and pain subside without medications, injections, or surgery?

In most cases, yes...but it depends on but not limited to the following factors.

- What is the grade of the tear? There are 3 grades.
- Which of the 4 muscles of the rotator cuff is torn.
- How old is the tear.

FREE Rotator Cuff and Shoulder Pain Check-Up Event

August 13, 2018

In celebration of our newly opened location in Highland, Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists will host a FREE Rotator Cuff and Shoulder Pain Check-Up Event on the following dates and locations:

- **Monday August 13** at our **LaPorte** office (1405 E. Lincolnway, Suite B) from 1-5 PM.
- **Monday August 13** at our **Valparaiso** office (3125 Calumet Ave., Suite 8) from 1-5 PM.

During the event, each attendee will receive:

1. One on one FREE consultation time with one of our Rotator Cuff and Shoulder Pain Specialist physical therapists.
2. You will discover tips on how to:
 - Know which rotator cuff muscle is affected and the grade of the tear
 - Correct the cause of your pain and speed up the healing process
 - Prevent your shoulder from getting worse

Only 12 FREE consultation spots available for each location. **To hold your spot, please call:**

- **Crown Point 219-203-3100**
- **Highland 219-301-7961**
- **Valparaiso 219-202-2500**
- **LaPorte 219-380-0809**

Sincerely,



Arlan Alburo

Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

PS-Call NOW to hold your spot for the FREE Rotator Cuff and Shoulder Pain Check-Up Event on Monday August 13.

PPS-Only 12 spots available at each location for this free Rotator Cuff and Shoulder Pain Check Up Event.

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Master Gardener Class

A Master Gardener training program is from 6 to 9 p.m. Sept. 6-Dec. 6 at the Purdue Extension-LaPorte County office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, LaPorte.

Aug. 17 is the registration deadline.

The program's purpose is to teach people about growing plants, and to more effectively share information related to plants with others, specifically in gardening and home horticulture.

The program is an integral part of Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service.

Those interested should complete an application and return it to the extension office right away because enrollment is limited. After being accepted, attend a series of weekly classes, each lasting three hours. Upon completing the required training and passing the exam with 70 percent success, one achieves the rank of Master Gardener Intern. Those in the position must volunteer a minimum of 35 hours to be certified as a Purdue Master Gardener. Then, to maintain certification, participants volunteer 12 hours and attend six hours of educational training.

Participants pay a \$200 registration fee for the training program, which includes a Master Gardener name badge, newly published training manual in print and electronic versions, a flash drive with hundreds of Purdue reference materials, mailings and opportunities to network with other Master Gardeners.

Contact the extension office at (219) 324-9407 or visit www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte and click on "Garden," then click on "Fall Master Gardener Class." The application should be completed, signed and returned by Aug. 17 to the extension office.

Lunch With the League

LaPorte County Auditor Joie Winski will speak at Lunch With the League at noon Tuesday, Aug. 14, at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St.



As auditor, Winski is the county's chief financial officer. She is clerk to the county commission and council, maintains all county records, maintains and calculates taxes for real and personal property, and disburses tax dollars to all government units.

Reservations are not required, but for non-members, a donation is requested. Attendees should arrive at 11:30 a.m. and can buy lunch from the menu.

The program is presented by The League of Women Voters of LaPorte County. Visit LWVlaporte.org or facebook, or email lwvlaporte@gmail.com for more details.

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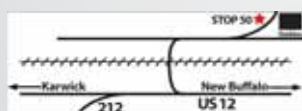
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Hazardous Waste Collection

LaPorte County Solid Waste District will hold a household hazardous waste collection from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at Kankakee Valley REMC, 8642 W. U.S. 30, Wanatah.

The collection is a free way to dispose of sharps, chemicals and other hazardous materials in an environmentally safe manner. This event also will accept electronics.

Items that can be dropped off include: batteries; fluorescent light bulbs; mercury; thermostats and thermometers; sharps; household cleaners, disinfectants and polishes; all chemicals; aerosol cans; oil-based paint and paint products; gasoline; vehicle fluids (oil, diesel, brake); moth balls; pesticides, insecticides, fungicides and herbicides; weed killer; lighter fluid; nail polish and remover; ammunition; hand held gas cylinders; and medications.

Items that won't be accepted include: latex paint (allow it to dry and dispose with regular trash, and with the lid off); commercial hazardous waste; explosives; medical waste other than medicines and sharps; and radioactive material (including smoke alarms).

All materials may be disposed of in their original packaging, except for sharps and medications. Sharps must be contained in a sealed metal or hard plastic container, such as a coffee can or detergent bottle with a screw-on lid (no milk jugs). Medications need to be placed in a Ziploc-type bag.

Call (219) 326-0014 for more details.

Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series

The 17th season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series continues Wednesday, Aug. 15, at Christ Church (the former First Congregationalist Church), 531 Washington St.

All performances are free and at 12:15 p.m. Wednesdays.

Performing Aug. 15 is Lee Meyer, who was the last regular organist and director of artistic outreach at First Congregational. He is the organist for St. Francis Episcopal Church, Chesterton.

Meyer earned Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. He has served as director of the Michigan City Community Chorus and program chairman for Monday Musicale.

For the concert, Meyer has chosen selections from William Still Grant and additional spirituals arranged for organ.

The last two recitals are:

- Aug. 22 — Derek Nickels.
- Aug. 29 — Carol Garrett.

Also of note, the 1891 Roosevelt Opus 506 tracker organ is in need of a new home. Call Ann Dobie at (219) 608-5358 for details.

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"Sips & Sounds" to Benefit Southwest Michigan Symphony

An evening of tributes to female recording artists, and the disco era of the 1970s, enlivens this year's two-day "Sips & Sounds" festival Aug. 10-11 at Shadowland Pavilion at Silver Beach County Park, 101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

Both nights raise funds for Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra.

First up is "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" from 6 to 10 p.m. EDT Friday, Aug. 10. It features the eight-piece ensemble The Big Payback, which highlights music written and performed by female artists ranging from Aretha Franklin to Beyoncé.

higher the day of) and include entrance to the event, live music and a souvenir wine tasting glass. Children 12 and younger are free. Proceeds support the SMSO's mission

Next up is the symphonic disco-tribute show, "Classical Night Fever," at 7:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 11. Lawn seating costs \$15 and reserved seating \$25, while 12 and younger are \$5. Tables of 10 (includes two parking passes) cost \$300. The day-of price is \$5 per ticket. The rain location is St. Joseph High School Auditorium, 2521 Stadium Drive.

Partnering with the SMSO is Motor Booty Affair,



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Musical talent backed by the ensemble includes Debbie Carew as Dolly Parton, Candice Elders as Sheryl Crow, Meredith George as Alanis Morissette, Beth Haire-Lewis as Ella Fitzgerald, Morgan Ingle as Janis Joplin, Charlene Jones as Aretha Franklin, Julee Laurent as Gwen Stefani, Jenna Mammina as Joni Mitchell, Kim Pedersen as Adele and Leah Tirado as Tina Turner.

Wine tasting is at 6 p.m. EDT, followed by the performance at 7 p.m. EDT. Tickets are \$15 (\$5

a popular '70s disco/funk tribute band. The group and the orchestra will perform in '70s costume.

Prior to the concert is "Silent Disco," a unique version of music and dancing, at 5 p.m. EDT. Music is heard through headphones; no sounds are heard by the crowd.

Tickets are available at www.smso.org, by calling (269) 982-4030 or in person at the SMSO office, 513 Ship St., St. Joseph, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT Monday through Friday.

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Cadet Attends Leadership Camp

Cadet 1st Lt. Tyler Stockley, of Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, attended the national senior leadership camp at the Missouri Military Academy in Mexico, Mo.

Stockley was one of 100 cadets out of about 22,000 nationally. The camp was funded by the Marine Corps, costing MCHS and the cadet nothing. It placed cadets into leadership scenarios where they solved problems and guided other cadets to accomplish a mission.

Stockley, according to Maj. Tom McGrath, senior Marine instructor, is "an exceptionally well-rounded cadet who excels in every aspect of our program."

"A commander on our drill team, captain of our Raider Team and a member of our Cyber Patriot Team, he is a true leader by example who also dedicates many hours of his time to community service."

Stockley, who will enter his fourth year in the program and is one of its senior leaders, has many goals for the program. One is to qualify for and win the National MCJROTC Military Drill Championship. The drill team is scheduled to compete in six meets this school year prior to the national one.

Stockley plans to apply for an ROTC scholarship and eventually serve as an officer in the military. The scholarship provides up to \$180,000 in educational benefits. The starting base salary for an officer at the lowest pay level is approximately \$35,000 per year. Health, dental and vision care are provided at no cost, as is on-base housing. Officers also receive an additional \$254 per month for food.

Veterans Can Attend Art Fest for Free

Michigan City Public Art Committee's \$2,500 donation to Lubeznik Center for the Arts means veterans can attend its summer arts festival for free.

The Lubeznik Arts Festival, now in its 37th year, is Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 18-19, at the center, 101 W. Second St. It features juried works by more than 80 artists, a family scavenger hunt and food. Community booths feature works by the LCA's Teen Arts Council, Area Artists Association and Social and Learning Institute. The City of Michigan City also will be represented.

Visitors can view the LCA's "Warhol: Icon and Influence," as well as special exhibits by Beverly Shores multi-media photography artist Joel Degrand and LaPorte's Thaddeus C Gallery. The South Shore Dance Alliance will present a performance inspired by the Warhol show.

Admission is \$5 and free for LCA members, children 16 and younger, active military personnel with ID and, through MAC's support, veterans.

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"Name the Stork" Contest



The stork now displayed in the Polish Garden.

A statue of a white stork was added last year to the Friendship Botanic Gardens Polish Garden, and the Polish Heritage Festival Committee wants help in naming it through a "Name the Stork" contest!

An estimated 50,000 white storks migrate through Poland every year. According to folklore,

they are considered a sign of good luck and the arrival of newborn babies.

The contest is open to everyone. Only one entry per person is allowed. Entries must include the participant's first and last name, complete mailing address, phone number and/or email address and age if younger than 18.

Each entry must include the name suggested for the stork and a brief writeup about why it was chosen. The committee will judge submissions based on originality, cleverness and content.

Entries may be received by email to namethestork-mc@yahoo.com, by mail to The Polish Peasant, 624 Wabash St., Michigan City, IN 46360, or in person to The Polish Peasant by Aug. 25.

(Entry forms and more information are available at the restaurant).

The winner will be notified and announced at least one week prior to the Polish Heritage Festival, which is from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 16, at Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Attendance at the festival to receive the prize package is encouraged, but not required. The winner receives \$100, a plush stork beanie doll and a certificate. The prize package will be mailed to the winner if he/she cannot attend the festival.

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American Red Cross

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

- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon to 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 13. All presenting donors receive a \$5 Amazon.com gift card by email.

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



Novena to St. Jude

Holy Saint Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, Faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depths of my heart and humbly

beg to whom God has given such great power To come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition, In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to come to my assistance. Say 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's and 3 Glory Be's. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. This Novena has never been known to fail. This Novena must be said for 9 consecutive days.



Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

• **Mount Baldy Summit Hike, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Fridays and 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 4 p.m. Sundays.**

The Mount Baldy parking lot and beach are open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The dune, however, is still closed for general public use, so the ranger-led hike offers a chance to experience the dune as much as is possible. No reservations are required. The parking lot is located off U.S. 12.

• **Campfire on the Beach, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10, at Kemil Beach.**

View a sunset on the beach while listening to live music. Parking lot is off East State Park Road.

• **Beginning Birding, 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays through Sept. 1 at the Great Marsh Trail.**

A ranger leads the hike. Meet at the parking lot on Broadway north of the Beverly Shores train station.

• **Junior Wildland Firefighter Program, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 11, at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

Meet the IDNL's fire crew and learn about their jobs and equipment. Children then receive a Junior Wildland Firefighter activity book and patch. The 30-minute program is repeated throughout the day.

• **Pinhook Bog Open House, noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays through Sept. 8.**

Talk a self-guided tour of the bog and talk to rangers along the trail for a better understanding of the site filled with carnivorous plants and orchids. Arrive by 2 p.m. to allow about one hour to walk the trail and tour the bog. The bog parking lot is at 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City.

• **Volunteer at Miller Woods, 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.**

Join staff and fellow volunteers to help restore the Miller Woods oak savanna. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and equipment will be provided. Dress for the weather, and be prepared to walk off trail.

• **Beach Fun Saturdays, 1 p.m. to about 30 minutes past sunset every Saturday through Sept. 1 at West Beach.**

Try a kayak or paddleboard starting at 1 p.m. All equipment is provided for free. A one-hour sunset hike on the Dune Succession Trail starts at 7 p.m. from the Ranger Contact Station in the north end of the parking lot. A beach campfire, complete with marshmallow toasting, starts shortly before sunset. Meet at the West Beach parking lot, 376 N. County Line Road, Portage. A \$6 per car parking fee is charged until 7 p.m. Take a picnic dinner and warmer clothing for the evening sunset and beach campfire.

• **Urban Farming Fun, 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at the Paul H. Douglas Center.**

Learn tips and tricks of starting a vegetable garden from park rangers and volunteers.

• **Science Saturdays, 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet scientists conducting research in IDNL. Following a short presentation, guests head outside to see their work.

• **Stargazing, 8 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at the Kemil Beach parking area.**

Members from Chicago Astronomical Society, Michiana Astronomical Society and Calumet Astronomical Society will attend with telescopes. Dress for the weather. Take binoculars. The Kemil Beach parking lot is located at 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton.

• **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike, 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12.**

Explore the grounds of both historic homes, and learn about early settlers and farmers who came to the region in the 1800s. Park at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.

• **Miller Woods Hike, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12, at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.

• **Feed the Farm Animals at Chellberg Farm, 4 to 5 p.m. Sundays through Oct. 28.**

The farm's current residents include cows, pigs and chickens. The animals are at the farm through a partnership with Dunes Learning Center, Friends of Indiana Dunes, 4-H Club of Porter County and the FFA of Westville. Chellberg Farm is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12 in Porter.

• **Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15, at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.**

Catch a Lake Michigan sunset from the pavilion, and roast marshmallows from the fireplace.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.



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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **Drama in the Dunes from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9.**

Learn how nature can inspire acting through different exercises. No experience is needed. Visit www.dramainthedunes.com for details.

- **Park Plays from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9.**

Park Plays features local theater groups presenting shows and excerpts from classic Shakespeare, to contemporary musicals, to improv. Take a blanket or beach chair to the west side of the pavilion.

- **Sunset Yoga from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9.**

The class for all levels is taught by Duneland YMCA instructors. The cost per class is \$10, which is paid to the instructor. A \$40 five-class pass is available. Classes cancel in case of inclement weather. Take a yoga mat or towel. The program is located near the beach pavilion.

- **National S'mores Day Fun from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10.**

Learn about the history of the treat, then try different variations. Marshmallow games are planned. Meet at the Wilson Shelter for the Friends of the Indiana Dunes-sponsored program.

- **Hummingbird Banding Demonstrations from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 11.**

Meet at the Nature Center as hummingbird bander Allen Chartier leads a study on the bird. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Indiana Dunes.

- **One Hummer of a Bird! from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11.**

Chartier returns to the Nature Center to discuss attracting and feeding hummers, as well as current research.

- **Perseid Meteor Shower & Stargaze from 8:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Aug. 11.**

Sky lore stories begin at the pavilion at 8:30 p.m., with the best star observations expected after 9:30 p.m. Naturalists will have a telescope on hand for deep sky viewing and constellation talks. Take a chair or towel.

- **Beach Yoga from 9 to 10 a.m. Sunday and Tuesday, Aug. 12 and 14.**

The class for all levels is taught by Duneland YMCA instructors. The cost per class is \$10, which is paid to the instructor. A \$40 five-class pass is available. Classes cancel in case of inclement weather. Take a yoga mat or towel.

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.

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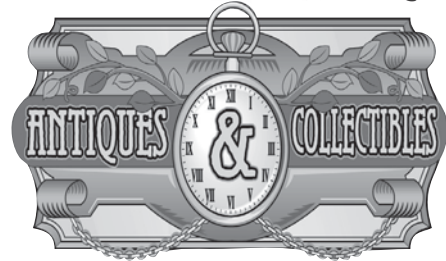
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Fernwood Botanical Garden

The following programs are through Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich.:

• **Watercolor Workshop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 11.**

Dave Knoebber of New Buffalo's Art Loft Studio and Gallery and the host of "Harbor Country Arts Scene" on WRHC, will lead the workshop featuring Fernwood's landscape. A supply list is available at registration. The cost is \$80, or \$64 for members.

• **Tallgrass Prairie Walk from 7 to 8:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 11.**

The cost is \$12, or \$10 for members, while children 10 and younger are free.

• **The Mediterranean Landscape from 1 to 2:30 p.m. EDT Sunday, Aug. 12.**

Examine the characteristics of a Mediterranean climate and vegetation, then develop a plant palette for the region that exhibits varying numbers of these traits. The cost is \$12, or \$10 for members.

• **Volunteer Educators Training Session: Tallgrass Prairie from 2 to 6 p.m. EDT Sunday, Aug. 12.**

Volunteer educators do everything from lead nature walks to assist with public programming. Dress for walking the trails. Contact naturalist Wendy Jones for more details.

• **Second Sunday Concert from 4 to 5 p.m. EDT Sunday, Aug. 12.**

Carla Trynchuk will present the concert hosted by Fernwood and WAUS. Admission is free after 3:30 p.m. EDT.

• **Pond Study for Kids from 10 a.m. to noon EDT Wednesday, Aug. 15.**

Children 6-10 can visit Fernwood's ponds to catch crayfish, tadpoles, dragonfly nymphs and giant water bugs. Dress in old clothes and shoes, and take a change of clothes. The cost is \$10, or \$8 for members.

• **Summer Yoga from 12:15 to 1:30 and 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Aug. 15.**

All levels can participate in the outdoor class that incorporates yang (energetic movement) and yin (restorative). The cost is \$12, or \$10 for members.

• **In the Clark Art Gallery: The June Cary "Retrospective" through Sunday, Sept. 30.**

Cary, who died April 26, was one of Niles' most well-known artists. Her body of work included seascapes, beach scenes, still lifes and especially her gardenscapes in an impressionistic style.



Cary



Call (269) 695-6491 or visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org for details and to confirm the status of classes.

Women in Leadership Seminar

Women in Leadership of LaPorte County will host a tech seminar, "Claiming Your Online Presence for Yourself and Your Business," from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, at Purdue University Northwest's James B. Dworkin Complex.

Seth Spencer, founder and CEO of SERA Solutions, a digital marketing agency and Google Partner in Michigan City, is the facilitator. Participants can expect to learn:

- How to successfully use online tools and social media.
- How to claim digital space for the company's website.
- How to advertise in a digital environment.
- How to use analytics to grow customer base.



Spencer

Spencer leads a team of software developers and digital marketers to develop and execute digital marketing strategies for businesses across the United States. He was recognized as the 2017 Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the Indiana Small Business Development Center Northwest.

Registration and a breakfast buffet are from 8 to 8:30 a.m., with the event from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., followed by a Q&A session from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Participants should take a laptop to the workshop underwritten by Horizon Bank and Google Partner.

Space is limited. The cost is \$40 for members and \$55 for non-members. Visit the Women in Leadership LaPorte County Facebook page or email board@women-in-leadership.com to register.

Back-to-School Yard Sale

Stepping Stone Shelter for Women, The Bridge, will hold a back-to-school yard sale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday through Sunday, Aug. 10-12, at 501 Springland Ave.

The sale will include furniture, dishes, baby items and toys.

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Red Shield Run 5K

The Salvation Army of Michigan City is gearing up for its second 5K, a summer fundraiser aiding local programs and services.

The Red Shield Run 5K is a timed road race scheduled for 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, starting at Krueger Middle School, 2001 Springland Ave. Runners will head down Springland Avenue and circle through Pottawattomie Park before returning to the school.

Runners and walkers of all paces are invited. Trophies will be presented to the top male and female overall finishers, with medals presented to the top finisher in age categories of 10 and younger, 11-15, 16-25, 26-35, 36-45, 56-65 and 66 and older.

Those looking to participate can register at www.thtiming.com or stop by The Salvation Army, 1201 Franklin St. The cost is \$25 in advance and \$30 on race day. Race day registration starts at 7 a.m. Call (219) 874-6885 for more details.

Chesterton Art Center

MaryAnn Pals will teach a Beginning Drawing Workshop from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 18-19, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 E. Fourth St.

Students, who must be 16 and older, learn the basics of drawing, from still-life objects, to buildings in perspective, to plants and trees. Class size is limited so each person receives individual attention. A one-hour break for lunch is built in to each day. All necessary art supplies are included, and students can keep the supplies at the end of the weekend.

The cost is \$95, with members receiving a \$20 discount. Online registration is available through EventBrite. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com for details.

Genealogical Society

LaPorte County Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, at LaPorte City Parks Department, 250 Pine Lake Ave.

The meeting will feature a business portion, followed by members discussing their latest research and new developments. Guests are welcome.

Visit bbpnet.com/x31a for more details.

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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **NorthShore Health Center free blood-pressure screenings from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter, and 10 a.m.-noon Wednesday, Aug. 15, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Interested patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

• **LEGO Throwback Thursday from 1 to 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The program is aimed at teens.



• **Film showing: "Ready Player One" at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The movie is Rated PG-13. Free popcorn is served.

• **Bifocal Bookies at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, at Hageman Library.**

The focus is Sherman Alexie's "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian." Copies are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

• **Minecraft Meet-up at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15, 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.

• **The AARP Driver Safety Program from 10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Registration is necessary. Visit www.aarp.org/drive or call Instructor Jeanette Pike at (219) 949-6307 to register or for more information.

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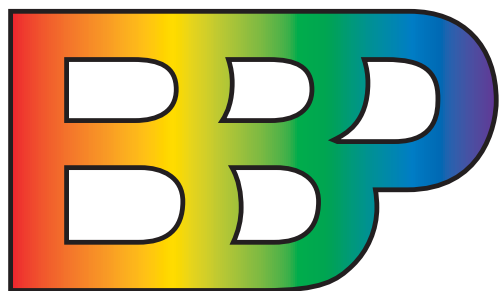
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Adult Chorus Now Part of Effort

Building on the inaugural season of The Singing Co. of LaPorte County Children's Chorus, the group will add an adult chorus to its programming.

With music direction of Matthew Nelson and accompaniment by Susan Rosselli, the chorus will rehearse and perform diverse genres of choral music. It is open to any LaPorte County resident in high school or older.

The Singing Co. of La Porte County, a newly organized non-profit, offers opportunities for children in second through eighth grade, and now adults, to rehearse and perform in a choral setting.

The adult chorus will start meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 4, at Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., LaPorte. Visit www.singingco.com to register. Email thesingingco@gmail.com, call (219) 363-7050 or like [facebook.com/singingcooflaportecounty](https://www.facebook.com/singingcooflaportecounty) for more details.

New Teacher Luncheon

The Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with Lakefront Career Network, will present its New Teacher Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10, at Pottawattomie Country Club, 1900 Springland Ave.

New teachers and administrators from Michigan City Area Schools and local parochial schools have lunch together while representatives from area businesses and organizations welcome them to the community.

Lakefront Career Network, a Chamber division, is seeking event sponsors, as well as items for resource bags to give attending teachers, such as school supplies and coupons from local businesses.

The event is open to the public. The cost is \$25. Visit MichiganCityChamber.com for the registration and sponsorship information, or call (219) 874-6221.

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Fernwood Field Trip Registration



Registration is under way for Environmental Studies Programs at Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Each year, nearly 4,000 area students participate in the programs, learning about plants, animals and habitats, while others explore natural history through in-school Travelling Naturalist programs. Call (269) 695-6491 or visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org for details.

New Birdathon Coordinators

New coordinators have been named for next year's Annual SW Michigan Team Birdathon.

Kip Miller retired from the position after 30 years. Taking over the helm for 2019 are Dianne Braybrook, Mike Mahler and Mindy Walker. The three are longtime event participants, as well as being affiliated with Sarett Nature Center in Benton Harbor, Mich.

Charles McKelvy, in his Travels With Charley column, wrote about Miller and the birdathon in the July 12 *Beacher*.

Visit www.berriencounty.org/434/birding for more details.

"Vessel" Exhibit

Seven regional artists have created works for the collective exhibit "Vessel," which runs Aug. 10-Sept. 9 at the Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

An opening reception is from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10.

Each work in the exhibit is consistent with the "vessel" theme. The artists are: Timothy Arnold, Caryn Brown, Irene Brown, Laurel Izard, Jon Hook, Robert Stanley and Jennifer Steven.

Visit www.thedepotmag.org for more details.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Aug. 8-9 — Arts in the Park, LaPorte's Fox Park.
Aug. 8: LaPorte City Band/Aug. 9: Indika (Chicago reggae band). Pre-show music/6:15 p.m., concerts/7 p.m. Info: www.artsintheparklaporte.com

Aug. 10 — Back to School Craft for Kids, 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 10 — Opening reception, "Vessel," 5-7 p.m., Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: www.thedepotmag.org

Aug. 10 — National S'mores Day Fun, 7-8:30 p.m., Wilson Shelter @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 10 — James Neary and the Bevy Blue (open-er Fragile Soul), 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$15. Info: www.acorntheater.org, (269) 756-3879.

Aug. 10-11 — "Charlotte's Web," 10 a.m. & 2 p.m., Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Tickets: \$5/children, \$10/adults. Reservations: dunesartsfoundation.org, (219) 879-7509.

Aug. 10-15 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing*: "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Wed. *Also Showing*: "American Animals." Rated R. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2:45 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

Aug. 10-12 and 17-19 — "The Wizard of Oz," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: Fri.-Sat./7:30 p.m., Sunday/2 p.m. Tickets: \$15, \$10/children 12 & younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org

Aug. 11 — The Salvation Army of Michigan City Red Shield Run 5K, 8 a.m., Krueger Middle School, 2001 Springland Ave. Cost: \$25/advance, \$30/race day. Race day registration: 7 a.m. Info: (219) 874-6885.

Aug. 11 — Touch a Truck, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets, southeast corner parking lot. Also: Great Lakers Auto Club car show, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Setup: drive in front of Gap through Finish Line. Trophy presentation: 2 p.m.

Aug. 11 — Michigan City Chamber Music Festival Children's Concert, noon, Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 11 — Film showing: "Ready Player One," 1:30 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Aug. 11 — Stargazing, 8-10 p.m., Kemil Beach parking area, 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton, (219) 395-1882.

Aug. 11 — Perseid Meteor Shower & Stargaze, 8:30 p.m.-midnight, beach pavilion @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chester-

ton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 11-12 — Burek Farms Sweet Corn Fest, Burek Farms, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., 0381 E. County Road 400 South off Indiana 35.

Aug. 14 — “Peter Rabbit,” 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 14 — Lunch With the League, LaPorte County Auditor Joie Winski, noon, Patrick’s Grille, 4125 Franklin St. Info: LWVlaporte.org

Aug. 15 — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, Lee Meyer, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church (the former First Congregationalist Church), 531 Washington St. Free. Info: (219) 608-5358.

Aug. 15 — Behind the Scenes Tours, 7 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$15/adult, \$10/senior, youth 15 & younger. Advance registration: Eventbrite.

Through Oct. 13 — “Warhol: Icon & Influence,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

Saturdays — St. Stanislaus of Michigan City farmers market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. through Oct. 27, parking lot next to tennis courts. Info: ssmcfarmersmarket@gmail.com, (219) 851-1785.

Saturdays — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Eighth and Washington streets. Through October.

Saturdays — La Porte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway & Monroe. Info: www.facebook.com/laportefarmersmarket

In the Region

Aug. 10 — Opening reception, new exhibits by David Baker, Doug & Cindy La Ferle, Gray Lyons, 5:30-7:30 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Runs through Sept. 22. Info: (269) 983-3688, info@boxfactoryforthearts.org

Aug. 10-11 — “Sips & Sounds” festival, Shadowland Pavilion @ Silver Beach County Park, 101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Info/reservations: (269) 982-4030, www.smso.org

Aug. 11 — Tallgrass Prairie Walk, 7-8:30 p.m. EDT, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Info: (269) 695-6491.

Aug. 12 — Landowska Harpsichord Society, 5 p.m. EDT, Bright Angel Retreat, 10005 Community Hall Road, Union Pier, Mich. Requested contribution: \$25/\$30. Reservations: brightangelretreat@gmail.com

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On August 9, 1812, Chicago's Fort Dearborn garrison was ordered evacuated because of a possible attack by Indian tribes.

On August 9, 1831, the first American train to be powered by a steam locomotive made a run between Albany and Schenectady, N.Y.

On August 9, 1854, Henry David Thoreau published Walden, which described his experiences while living near Walden Pond in Massachusetts.

On August 9, 1930, a forerunner of the cartoon character Betty Boop made her debut in Max Fleischer's animated short "Dizzie Dishes."

On August 9, 1936, at the Olympic games in Germany, Jesse Owens, a black American track star, played havoc with Hitler's white supremacy propaganda by becoming the first black man in history to win four Olympic gold medals.

On August 10, 1845, the United States Naval Academy was established at Annapolis, M.D.

On August 10, 1846, Congress chartered the Smithsonian Institution. Known as the "nation's attic," it was named for Joseph Smithson, whose bequest of \$500,000 made it all possible.

On August 10, 1885, America's first commercially operated electric streetcar service, designed by Leo Daft, began operating in Baltimore.

On August 10, 1993, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was sworn in as the second female justice on the United States Supreme Court.

On August 11, 1851, Isaac Singer obtained a patent for his sewing machine invention, and, with capital of \$40, started in business in Boston.

On August 11, 1924, newsreels, for the first time, filmed the nominees for U.S. president.

On August 11, 1928, President Herbert Hoover failed to foresee the Great Depression when he said, "We in America today are nearer the final triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of any land."

On August 11, 1934, the first federal prisoners arrived at the island prison Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay.

On August 11, 1956, Jackson Pollock, an abstract artist of some renown, died in an automobile accident, at 44.

On August 11, 1992, the Mall of America, the biggest U.S. shopping mall, opened in Bloomington, Minn.

On August 12, 1658, the first police force in Amer-

ica was established in Nieuwe Amsterdam (now New York City).

On August 12, 1918, the first airmail service (between Washington, D.C., and New York City) was established by the U.S. Post Office.

On August 12, 1960, the first balloon satellite, ("Echo 1"), was launched from Florida's Cape Canaveral.

On August 12, 1962, for the first time in space history, the Soviet Union sent a cosmonaut into orbit while another was circling the earth.

On August 13, 1899, radio and movie director Alfred Hitchcock was born in London.

On August 13, 1923, the tune, "Yes, We Have No Bananas" became a No. 1, hit setting a new record in sales of sheet music.

On August 13, 1930, Captain Frank Hawks set a new speed record when he flew from Los Angeles to New York in 12 hours and 25 minutes.

On August 13, 1942, Walt Disney's animated feature "Bambi" premiered at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

On August 14, 1511, Michelangelo's paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel were exhibited for the first time.

On August 14, 1935, Congress passed the Social Security Act, establishing old age and unemployment benefits.

On August 14, 1941, the "Atlantic Charter" was signed (aboard a ship in the Atlantic Ocean) by President Franklin Roosevelt and Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

On August 14, 1995, Shannon Faulkner became the first female cadet in the history of The Citadel, South Carolina's state military college. She would quit the school days later.

On August 15, 1057, Scotland's King Macbeth, the inspiration for a William Shakespeare play, was murdered by Malcolm III, the son of former King Duncan.

On August 15, 1859, Charles Comiskey, founder of the Chicago White Sox, was born in Chicago.

On August 15, 1939, the MGM film musical "The Wizard of Oz" premiered at the Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood.

On August 15, 1967, Mayor Richard Daley unveiled Pablo Picasso's 162-ton, 50-foot high steel gift "to the people of Chicago," the Daley Plaza sculpture now known in the city simply as the Picasso.

On August 15, 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair opened in upstate New York.

On August 15, 1987, in Michigan City, Nancy Adams, former award-winning feature writer for *The Chicago Tribune* and *The Chicago Sun Times*, died at 44 in Memorial Hospital.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

he: A Novel by John Connolly (hardcover, \$26.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

"At the Oceana Apartments, at the dawning of the last days, he chases butterfly memories...He was famous once. No, he and Babe were famous once. But now Babe is gone and he is alone."

This fantastic book is the amazing story of two of Hollywood's most talented and endearing comedians: Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy. The "he" of this story is Stan, and Babe is the name Oliver was known by his friends and fellow actors.

Throughout the book, Laurel will always be referred to as "he" — never by his name. Readers might find that a bit daunting at first, but the use of the pronoun soon becomes natural and easy to embrace.

One more thing — Connolly has employed a certain style of writing that may be off-putting to some. Short, crisp, to-the-point sentences fill the book, sometimes almost in a poetic way. Sometimes, just normal sentences prevail. For example:

"These remembrances are flickering images on a screen.

"Two figures in a dance eternal.

"He and Babe.

"Now only he."

Laurel and Hardy's lifelong friendship and career are woven into Stan's memories as an old man now alone after Babe's death.

Theirs was a true friendship, always sticking up for each other, always there in a crisis. Don't we all wish for someone like that.

However, they didn't meet until the 1920s, and it wasn't a Zen moment. Here's some background from a book that took years of research and study.

"he" was born in England — Arthur Jefferson, same name as his father, the dramatist and impresario of the British stage. They will both be called A.J., but in 1931, he will change it to Stan Laurel. To get out from under his father's ever-present shadow? Maybe.

He appears on his father's stage at 16. *"In that moment he loses himself, and will never be found again."*

By 1910, he is working as an understudy for Charlie Chaplin for Fred Karno's studio. He adores Chaplin and spends hours in front of a mirror imitating him. When Chaplin leaves Karno for Mack Sennett, he is adrift again...trying to find his own

character to play.

Babe is born in Milledgeville, Ga. He is enamoured of the stage and the new moving pictures, becoming the projectionist for the local theater. In 1913, Babe leaves for Jacksonville, Fla., where the pictures are being made. While singing at a local roadhouse, he waits for the day the movies need a fat boy. The day comes, and "Outwitting Dad" becomes his first motion picture.

Bronco Billy Anderson is the movie's first cowboy. "He" remembers Billy fondly, not only for believing in him, but for introducing him to Babe. Their first movie together in 1921 is for Bronco Billy. They have a few scenes together, shake hands and part.

By the time the "talkies" come along in 1927, he and Babe have each found their character, realizing each is dependent on the other for it to work.

In between Stan's final days of reminiscing, the amount of information in this book is staggering. There is fact and gossip galore — from "morals clauses" in contracts, to the women who made them both happy and busy in divorce court, their battle for artistic control of their movies and so much more than I can relate here.

Through Laurel and Hardy's story, we can see the film industry's pro-

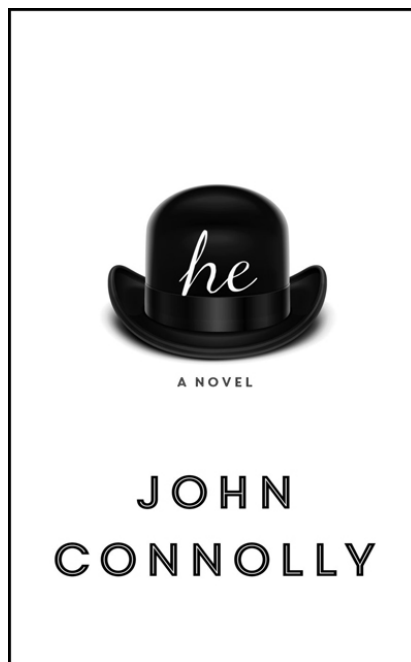
gression from vaudeville, to the first nickel showings of the "flickers" and on to the "talkies." If it hadn't been for people like Laurel and Hardy, convinced they had something people would enjoy, we wouldn't have the big screen entertainment of today.

Beside the movie magic shown here, the recurring theme is that the friendship between Laurel and Hardy never wavered, only grew stronger as the years passed by. When Babe died, "he" only wanted to be alone with his memories, often thinking up new skits, performing them in front of the mirror.

While their friendship for each other never faded or died, their luck with women took a nose dive. Both had numerous wives, all ending in divorce, except for Lois, who stayed with Stan until his death.

Connolly certainly has spread his literary wings. He is best known for his Charlie Parker mysteries that won him several major awards: He was the first non-American to win the U.S. Shamus Award, and the first Irish writer to receive the Edgar Award by the Mystery Writers of America.

Till next time, happy reading!




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