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*Beacher*<sup>TM</sup>  
*Weekly Newspaper*

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Happy Easter



THE  
Beacher

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# Name Recognition

*by Connie Kuzydym*



Beaches along Lake Michigan remain a destination point for locals and tourists within Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Pictured here is Dunbar Beach in Beverly Shores.



Bailey Homestead is a historic landmark.

It is simply a name change.

Bill H.R. 6291, which unanimously passed the House of Representatives in December, is proceeding through the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. If approved, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore officially becomes Indiana Dunes National Park.

According to IDNL Superintendent Paul Labovitz, it is simply semantics.

“Officially, we can’t express a position on pending legislation,” Labovitz said. “But, the impact of the name change will just basically become a reason to talk about the current national lakeshore in a new light. But it doesn’t change our regulatory authorities. It doesn’t change anything but the name of the park.”



Indiana Dunes National  
Lakeshore Superintendent  
Paul Labovitz.



Henry Chandler Cowles,  
considered the father of  
ecology in North America.

So why, you may ask, are we even discussing the topic? If you are like me, the word “simply” evokes numerous questions. Call it life experience, but nothing is simple.

The road on which the National Lakeshore traveled these past 100 years has been fraught with twists and turns, the journey anything but dull.

Conservation efforts to preserve the Indiana Dunes date back to the late 1800s. Henry Cowles, a University of Chicago botanist, spent much time studying plant diversity and the ever-changing habitat from the edge of Lake Michigan to the forested upland dunes. What he described evolved into the science of ecology.

Closer to the turn of the century, middle-class groups of professionals, mainly from Chicago, began visiting the Dunes. Enjoying the recreation, treasuring nature and savoring the outdoor beauty, they

eventually became the center of efforts to create a national park in the Dunes.

A mere month after the National Park System's inception in August 1916, Chicago businessman Stephen Mather, the first NPS director, led park advocates on a tour of the Dunes. The following month, a hearing in Chicago tried to gauge the public's sen-

Continued on Page 4



Stephen Mather (far left), the National Park Service's first director, leads a tour of park advocates through the dunes in 1916.

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## Name Recognition Continued from Page 3

timent toward the formation of “Sand Dunes National Park.” There were no opponents; rather, 42 people in the group of 400 spoke favorably on establishing the dunes as a national park.

The following year, our country entered World War I. Financial resources appropriated to develop the national park instead were used for national defense. During that time, the popular slogan “Save the Dunes” became “First Save the Country, Then Save the Dunes.”

One can only speculate, had there been no war, the National Lakeshore would have been the first national park.

It wasn't until 10 years later, in 1926, that an Indiana petition to preserve the dunes led to the opening of Indiana Dunes State Park.



Dorothy R. Buell was an Ogden Dunes teacher and the first Save the Dunes Council president.

Little did anyone know our country would face more adversity, from the Great Depression to World War II. After that grip of despair loosened its hold, a push began again for the Indiana Dunes to become a national park. By 1952, efforts by educator and preservationist Dorothy Buell helped establish the Save the Dunes Council.

During this time, politicians and businessmen attempted to maximize economic development along Lake Michigan's shores by seeking federal funds to build the Port of Indiana. Meanwhile, Buell and Save the Dunes Council began a nationwide push to raise awareness, increase membership and generate funds to purchase land they felt needed to be preserved.

Their first acquisition was Cowles Tamarack Bog in Porter County. Today, the bog is one of four national natural landmarks — nature's equivalent of the national registry — within the National Lakeshore's boundaries.

Fortunately, for those fighting the good fight at the time, President John F. Kennedy took a stand on the National Lakeshore. According to the NPS website, The Kennedy Compromise in essence “linked

*the nation's economic vitality to a movement for conservation of the natural environment. It entailed the creation of a national lakeshore and a port to satisfy industrial needs.”*

Illinois Sen. Paul H. Douglas worked tirelessly, informing the public and Congress of the importance of saving the dunes, garnering him the title of “third senator from Indiana.” Douglas was instrumental in making sure the Port of Indiana would only become a reality if the INDL did as well.



This undated photo shows Ill. Sen. Paul H. Douglas (center, seated in the jeep) amid efforts to “Save the Dunes.”

By an act of Congress, in the latter part of 1966, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was established, having met the necessary criteria.

With the exception of the national monuments, most units of the national park system are established by an act of Congress. Before that can occur, the location being considered must meet three criteria, one being the area must possess nationally significant natural, cultural or recreational resources.

“I would argue beyond the semantics of the name, the Indiana Dunes passed with flying colors the evaluations that determine if it's eligible to be a national park unit,” Labovitz said. “The name which stuck with it just happened to be an artifact of the time.”

Today, the IDNL is ranked among the top five most ecologically diverse units in the national park system.

“We're particularly known for our plant diversity,” Labovitz said. “When you look at the plant diversity on a per acre basis, we may be in the top 3 of the most diverse national parks. That's the kind of thing that people traditionally think about, if you have exquisite nature and or exquisite culture. That's national park stuff.”

Also, there is a remarkable archaeological resource within the National Lakeshore that is not often spoken of due to the issues of archaeological sites being pilfered.

“We have evidence of 12,000-plus years of human

inhabitation of this region in the lakeshore," Labovitz said.

The park boundaries are home to cultural resources, such as the Century of Progress world's fair homes, Chelberg Farm and Bailly Homestead, which is a national historic landmark. Like most national parks, the IDNL has nature and culture.

"This is the real deal," Labovitz says.

Over the past 100 years, the National Park System has tried various names to differentiate the parks. Today, there are more than 20 different names for the 417 units within the system, which includes the 59 national parks.

"Thinking back then versus what we know now, it's evolved into a source of confusion," Labovitz said. "Internally, it's become a pecking order and hierarchy. Amongst some of the employees, national

parks are top of the pile, everything else is scattered below them somewhere."

For most people, the naming of the park units is something they do not know nor care about. Like anything, there are those who do, making a big deal regarding the name and what it means.

"There's biases out there," Labovitz said. "People think that you can only have big western landscapes as national parks. The dunes is not a big western

landscape. It is a big midwestern landscape, 15,000 acres of public land, an hour from the third largest city in the country. (It) is pretty spectacular, I would argue."

Since its inception, the IDNL has expanded from its initial 8,330 acres to more than 15,000. Indiana Dunes State Park still exists within the National Lakeshore's boundaries.



The IDNL draws visitors every winter to cross country ski its many trails.

Continued on Page 6



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## Name Recognition Continued from Page 5

Although the park may not be big in acreage, it is in the top 15 of most visited park sites. Having more than 3 million visitors a year, it also is in the top 30 for size of budget and staff. The late Dale Enquist, a former IDNL superintendent, stated that "acre for acre the Indiana Dunes might be the most diverse national park in the USA," and Labovitz concurs.

"There's a variety of ways to rank it," Labovitz said. "I would argue, I have been working for the parks service for almost 30 years, a place like Indiana Dunes really represents what a lot of the rest of the national park system has been trying to do, that's deliver a national park experience to a diverse visitor. Who doesn't have to plan for a year in advance to visit the place because it's right close to where people live."

Think about it. The National Lakeshore is less than an hour from downtown Chicago. We who live here or nearby can get to the National Lakeshore by car, train or bike. Rather quickly, we can enjoy an hour escape or an entire day of fun and relaxation. According to Labovitz, that in and of itself makes it an element of national significance.

"The NPS has been talking about serving diverse urban audiences for a couple of decades, and have been struggling with that except in places like Indiana Dunes," he said.

Along with natural and cultural resources, the INDL provides recreational resources, with Lake Michigan providing sandy beaches. There are miles

of hiking and equestrian trails. In the winter, people come to cross country ski and snowshoe. There also is world-class birding, with more than 300 species of birds to be seen in the wild. Looking at the surrounding area, there is plenty to do within and around the park, a similarity to most national parks.

"The real measurement, that people have figured this place out, is the high visitation here," Labovitz said. "There's a lot of people who love this place, and this is their national park. They come here to swim, they come here to bird, they come here to get away from the hustle and bustle of their life. Because it's nestled in this populated place, this is an easy place to do that."

Labovitz credits U.S. Rep Pete Visclosky with getting the ball rolling again.

"This opportunity we're looking at now came out of the 'Shifting Sands' documentary two years

ago," Labovitz said. "Proponents of the park, and the partners of the park, and Congressman Visclosky realized that something that had started 100 years ago, maybe we just needed to finish the job."

According to Labovitz, Bill H.R. 6291 was co-sponsored by every member of the Indiana delegation. Currently, there's a companion senate bill that is about to go through the senate natural resource committee. It's

a bill that has garnered broad support.

If the bill does pass, individuals who want to visit all 59 national parks will have a 60th national park to add to their list.

One that just so happens to be in our backyard.



Bird watching is increasingly popular within the IDNL. Pictured here are such enthusiasts at Great Marsh.

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## Room Service on the Broadway Limited

First, allow me to say how thrilled I am to finally return to the pages of *The Beacher*.

Yes, I have been away since December 2012, when it seemed I was taking my retirement. Well, guess what: Blogging was not enough. I found myself reading *The Beacher* and longing to be back as your *Travels with Charley* guy. The one whose philosophy is: *All Travel is Local*.

Meaning that the morning trip to the bathroom is travel in its own right. Not worth writing about, mind you, but travel nonetheless, and so it will be my travels, both near and far, that I will share with you in the coming weeks, months and years.

Yes, I am planning a multi-year commitment, as I am only 67. Well, I'll celebrate my 68th birthday in May and will, of course, write about the trip we plan to take to the Gilmore Festival in Kalamazoo, Mich., as part of the gala celebration. Suffice it to say, I hope to be truckin' on down the road with y'all for a day or two more.

Before offering my first out-of-retirement story, I should explain how and when I got the travel bug.

I grew up on the South Side of Chicago, first South Shore, then Beverly, and I was introduced to train travel at an early age, first on the Illinois Central electrics from South Shore, then on the Rock Island from Beverly on the so-called suburban line. I loved getting on a train and going somewhere, especially when the destination was downtown Chicago. A land of charm and mystery, to be sure.

I also must dust off my paperback copy of the No. 1 national bestseller from 1962 and state unequivocally that John Steinbeck's love affair with America known as *Travels with Charley: In Search of America* has had a lasting effect on my travels. Steinbeck, you may recall, set out in 1960 when he was almost 60 with a French poodle named Charley to discover America. Together, they outfought a hurricane in New York and attended a witches' sabbath in New Orleans. Steinbeck, one of my favorite authors, spoke to me in those pages, and so, when I proposed to the late Sally Montgomery a



Heading west through Pennsylvania in October 2015 on the train they call the Pennsylvanian.

regular travel column, I said "Travels with Charley" without a second thought. So give a thought to going back on the road with Charley. I'm mighty shaggy these days, but I'm no French poodle. Just your basic *Travels with Charley* guy from Harbert, Mich.

Now, if you will, please direct your attention to this true story from

my earliest travels:

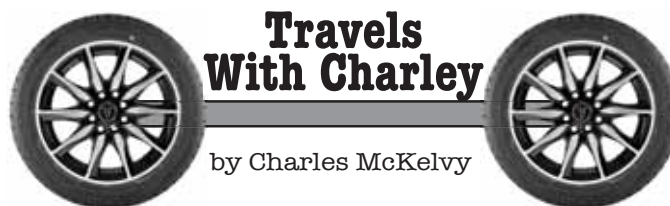
My grandfather, Kenneth Macfarlan, worked as a freight clerk for the Pennsylvania Railroad in Philadelphia; hence, we were loyal to the Pennsy even after *Poppa's* death in 1955. So, when my mother decided to take my 4-year-old brother, Donald, my sister, Mary Louise, who was due to arrive in October, and my 7-year-old self from our home on the South Side of Chicago to see her big sister, Molly, and her family in Malvern, Pa., late in the summer of 1957, she automatically booked us a bedroom on the *Broadway Limited*.

We would travel to Pennsylvania in style, and we would return to Chicago in style because, after all, we were a Pennsy family.



Dinner in the diner on the Capitol Limited in September 2014.

So imagine our excitement on the day of our departure as we stood trackside at storied old Englewood station watching a Tuscan red E8 lead the *Broadway* around that sweeping curve at 63rd Street and draw nigh unto us. I was literally breathless with excitement, because this was to be my first overnight trip on a







The Paoli, Pa., train station as it appeared in October 2015.  
It didn't look much different than it did in August 1957.

train. Yes, I had ridden both Illinois Central and Rock Island commuter trains for most of my seven years, but I was about to ride the *Broadway*, both going and coming!

I could scarcely contain myself, I was so thrilled.

And the going only got better after we boarded and made our way to the dining car, where we enjoyed the most amazing meal of my young life as the verdant Midwest landscape scrolled past our window. I resolved then and there that I would enjoy the same feast on white tablecloths with real silverware on the return trip.



Self-portrait on the Capitol Limited in September 2014  
on the way to Pittsburgh to bury his mother.

Yes, I was lulled to sleep that night by the serenade of steel wheels on steel rails, but I couldn't get that amazing meal in the dining car out of my head.

So, as we concluded our two-week visit with my Aunt Molly, her husband, Uncle Jack, and our cousins, John and Anne, Aunt Molly announced she had made a special going-away dinner just for me, her godson: hot dogs AND hamburgers. "Your favorite, Charley," she said.

And, as she set the feast before me, I folded my arms over my chest and stubbornly refused to eat.

"What's the matter?" Aunt Molly asked.

"I'm having dinner on the *Broadway*," I announced. And there was nothing Aunt Molly, my mother, brother and cousins could say to dissuade me.

I did not mean to offend my dear Aunt Molly, but I certainly did mean to take my dinner in the dining car of the west-bound *Broadway*.

Aunt Molly could only shake her head and say: "If your grandfather was alive, he would make you eat dinner here with us."

"No," I said, "Poppa worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad. He would want me to eat my dinner on the Pennsylvania Railroad."

Oh, I was a stubborn little cuss, but my aunt and mother went along with me, and when we boarded the *Broadway* at Paoli, my mother asked our porter about seatings for dinner in the dining car.

He said the dining car was full up for the night.

Mom said that served me right, and that I would just have to go without my dinner, and that I should think all night about all those hot dogs and hamburgers Aunt Molly made, cooked just for me.

I entertained no such thoughts and instead looked beseechingly at the porter. He saw a disappointed little boy who had his heart set on dining in the dining car.

"Let me go to the diner and see what I can do," he said, giving me a nod.

I knew the fix was in when, within the hour, a waiter appeared at our bedroom door with room service for one — me.

"I hope you enjoy it," my mother said, as the waiter set dinner before me.

I did, and I knew my grandfather was smiling down from heaven as I ate every last bite.



A cup of really good Amtrak coffee  
makes any train ride go better.



The Capitol Limited arrives in Pittsburgh in September 2014 in  
time for the author to get to his mother's burial.



## Art Barn School of Art Presents Annual Children's Exhibit

by Linda Weigel

Valparaiso's Art Barn School of Art is showcasing its Annual Children's Exhibit, which opened March 10 and continues through April 22.

Forty-six current and former students ranging in age from 5 to 13 present works created over the past year, both in class and independently.

The Art Barn, located in a restored country barn, boasts 69 acres of beautiful landscape. A non-profit organization, it was founded in 1977 by Jan Sullivan. Jan was an art educator in Chicago public schools when her husband became instrumental in developing and constructing buildings at Burns Harbor, eventually requiring a move to Northwest Indiana. Initially, the farm ran cattle.



The Art Barn School of Art.

However, Jan wanted to create an independent, unique, rural and all-inclusive art school.

The primary goal has always been to host a wide range of events, and most especially bring in big-name artists to teach and hold workshops. Continued educational opportunities through classes and courses would provide a welcoming place to explore and create.

The children's art show started last year and is the culmination of select works produced in their Comprehensive Art for children 10 and older, and the All Media Art for children 5 to 9. Emphasis is placed on individual expression, safety and a non-competitive environment.



"Mr. Hops" by Lucas Conrad, 8.



"Prince Potluck" by Caleb Acker, 12.

### Meet Our New Art Columnist

The *Beacher* would like to introduce Linda Weigel as our new art columnist. Linda graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts. Over the years, she completed additional studies at School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Savannah College of Art and Design and Columbia College. She is a retired art educator and chair of the Fine Arts Department at La Lumiere School. She also has been active in the arts community as a working artist, exhibitor and member of regional and national organizations.

### If You Go

The Art Barn School of Art is located at 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Call (219) 462-9009 or visit [www.artbarnschool.org](http://www.artbarnschool.org) for details.



"Shallows" by Kayla Webber, 11.



## Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Spring Break Movie: "Coco" at 10 a.m. Monday, April 2, in the meeting room.**

The movie is Rated PG, and light refreshments are provided. Children 18 and younger have a chance to win a DVD of the movie.

- **Improv Playhouse Presents "The Ugly Duckling" at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 3.**

The musical adapts the Hans Christian Andersen classic.

- **Hedgehog Hannah at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 4.**

The hands-on, educational experience lets children and adults touch and learn about critters from all over the world.

- **Allen County Public Library bus trip.**

The library and LaPorte County Genealogical Society co-sponsor the April 18 trip. The center has an extensive collection of North American genealogy resources. The cost is \$21. Send a check payable to LaPorte County Genealogical Society, c/o Patricia Harris, 504 Greenwood Ave., Michigan City, IN 46360. Paid reservations are due by April 1.

- **Friends of the Library Collector's Breakfast.**

Tickets for the annual fundraiser, held April 21 at Full Gospel Church of Deliverance, 2700 Ohio St., are \$25. Martin Papke will share his expertise on collector items. Guests can take one item for appraisal. Portofino Grill will cater breakfast. Tickets are available from Friends' board members and at the library circulation desk.

- **Holiday Closing.**

The library will be closed Sunday, April 1, for Easter.

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

## LP Jaycees Easter Egg Hunt

LaPorte Jaycees will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 31, at LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

Egg-hunting areas will be divided into age groups: 0-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. The event features hundreds of prize-filled eggs, and photos with the Easter Bunny starting at 8:15 a.m. The hunt and photos are free; however, families can bid on Easter baskets through a silent auction.

The event also includes the annual Port-A-Pit chicken sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kabelin's Ace Hardware West, 512 Andrew Ave. Proceeds support Jaycees events. Pre-sale tickets can be purchased from any Jaycees member or through the group's Facebook page. Pre-sale tickets can be redeemed from 10 a.m. to noon.



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## Rail Rangers Shed Light on Life Along South Shore Line

A dedicated group of volunteers has scheduled more than a dozen educational programs on the South Shore Line between April and August that illuminate the people, places and history between Chicago and South Bend.

The interpretive guides are members of the non-profit American Passenger Rail Heritage Foundation's Rail Rangers program. There is no extra cost beyond regular train fares, with no reservations needed.

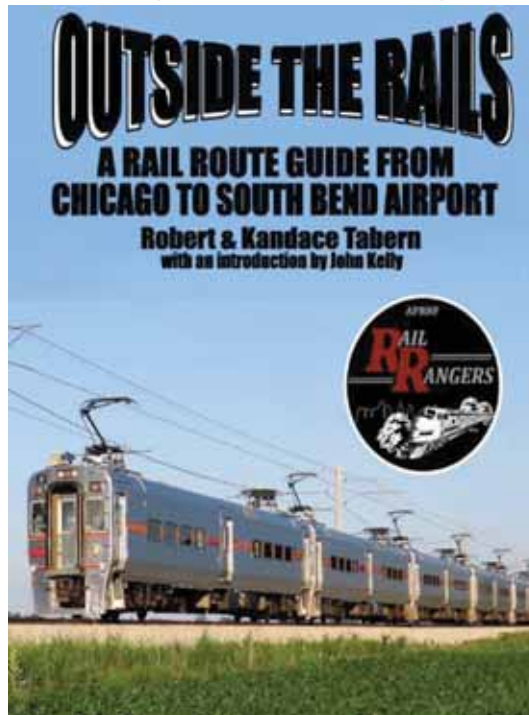
For the past eight months, APRHF volunteers have ridden the South Shore on select weekends, sharing facts with passengers about what they see out their windows. Guides typically ride one round-trip between Chicago-Millennium Station and South Bend-Airport Station two to three weekends per month. Eastbound trips leave downtown Chicago at 8:40 a.m. and arrive in South Bend at 12:10 p.m. EDT. Westbound trips leave South Bend at 1:05 p.m. EDT and return to downtown Chicago at 2:40 p.m. Programs are presented on one car. Look for the yellow Rail Rangers signs for where to find the guides.

The upcoming schedule is::

- **April:** April 7\*, April 14 and 28.
- **May:** May 5\* and 19.
- **June:** June 3\* and 16\*.
- **July:** July 8\* and 14.
- **August:** Aug. 11 and 25.

Dates with an asterisk indicate "enhanced" programs with a Junior Rail Rangers program and the APRHF Passport Program Cancellation Stamps.

Passengers who travel on other South Shore departures when interpretive guides are not aboard can learn about sites out their window through a



The Rail Rangers route guide book.

route guide book written by the Rail Rangers. Outside the Rails: A Rail Route Guide from Chicago to South Bend contains more than 100 pages of information and is available at [MidwestRails.com](http://MidwestRails.com) as a hard copy book (\$20) and a downloadable e-book PDF file (\$15). A podcast version is in the works for later this summer.

Proceeds from the sale of route guides fund the Rail Rangers' program, including expenses for route guide sheets and other handouts, a wireless speaker system and the insurance required by the NICTD. A limited number of route guidebooks sometimes are for sale on select South Shore Line excursions.

Visit [DunesTrain.com](http://DunesTrain.com) and [RailRangers.org](http://RailRangers.org), or email [vp@aprhf.org](mailto:vp@aprhf.org) for more information.



Interpretive guides share facts about people, places and history along the South Shore route.

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## About the Cover

by Andrew Tallackson



It was time for another “bunny cover,” and Jaime Cipares again came to the rescue.

And, it turns out, just in the nick of time.

For years, Jaime has bred rabbits shown in American Rabbit Breeders Association-sanctioned shows. In 2015, she helped orchestrate our Easter edition cover with five “camera-ready” rabbits, a few of which gazed directly into Bob Wellinski’s camera.

Jaime, however, is phasing out that aspect of her life. When I inquired if she had a floppy-eared candidate for this year’s Easter cover, she did, in fact, have one...but we had to move fast. The rabbit was being sold to a 4-H family.

What a rabbit! Cuddles is an adorable 2-year-old Mini Lop in the shaded variety known as “Broken Smoke Pearl.” She exhibited no diva-like traits as Bob quickly snapped a series of photos over a five-minute stretch.

The photo shoot commenced late one Friday afternoon, as the sun began to set. Two days later, Cuddles moved in with her new family.

Thanks to Jamie for all her help, and to Bob for creating another gem of an Easter cover. We hope you enjoyed it!

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## LaPorte University Recognized as Indiana Historic Site

LaPorte University is about to attain long-sought recognition with the installation and dedication of a state historical marker.

Indiana Historical Bureau officials will participate in a dedication event at 2 p.m. Friday, March 30, at Clay and Harrison streets in downtown LaPorte (adjacent to Lincoln Elementary School).

The public is invited.

Founded in 1838, the university included a literary department and law and medical schools that were arguably the first such schools west of Ohio. A group of well-educated early settlers, headed by attorney John Barron Niles, had a vision to create "an intellectual center in a natural setting of beautiful lakes and fertile prairie lands" when LaPorte had been in existence fewer than 10 years. The first structure was located on what is now Lincolnway, and it was replaced by a much larger building on the present Lincoln Elementary site.

The Literary Department and Law School flourished for a time, but it was the medical school, later known as the Indiana Medical College, that was the most robust. Dr. Daniel Meeker, a local physician and university founder, was a surgeon and anatomist. He, along with Dr. Thompkins Higday, professor of physiology and general pathology, were joined by other well-trained physicians recruited to create what medical historians have called a distinguished medical faculty. Niles taught chemistry and was said to have devoted a large portion of his time to developing and prospering the university. Higday also helped found LaPorte County Historical Society and LaPorte County Public Library.

Many faculty members helped form the Indiana and American medical associations, and several went on to leadership positions in larger university medical schools. Meeker's appointment to the Council on Medical Education was reportedly the

first one made by the newly formed American Medical Association.

The university's second building, which was located on Clay Street between Harrison and Walker streets, was completed in 1847. It was designed to accommodate 200 to 250 students, and included two large lecture halls, a large dissecting room, two large museums and private offices for the faculty. Extensive teaching charts had been obtained from England, and the school had what was thought to

be the first microscope to be used extensively for scientific purposes west of Cleveland. One researcher noted Harvard Medical School did not have one for another 20 years.

Although there was no local hospital, the faculty's reputation attracted patients from a wide area, and complex surgical procedures were performed. The lecture halls provided for observers of these procedures, and they were extensively reported in local news media.

The university prospered for several years, and its future seemed promising for a time, but several factors contributed to its discontinuation in 1851 when it merged with Indiana Central Medical College in Indianapolis, where a much larger population base was available. A period of uncertainty about the future of medical education in Indiana was ended in 1908 when the present Indiana University School of Medicine was founded by the merger of several institutions.

The 1847 building that housed the LaPorte University Medical School burned to the ground in 1856, on a day when the temperature reportedly stood at 32 degrees below zero and the water from the firemen's hoses quickly congealed into ice. The building and all its equipment and records were destroyed.

Leigh Morris, former LaPorte Hospital president and former LaPorte mayor, coordinated efforts to attain recognition of the university by the state. He was assisted by M. Barbara Backer, a retired cardiologist, Maria Fruth, Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte president and CEO, and Bruce Johnson, LaPorte County Historical Society president. The Healthcare Foundation has partnered to make the designation possible, and Larson-Danielson Construction Co. installed the marker. Morris is publishing a commemorative booklet about the university that will be available through LaPorte County Historical Society Museum. Contact him at (219) 363-2294 or lmorris@csinet.net for details.



An undated photo of LaPorte University.



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## SMSO Announces “Summer Vibes” Season

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra’s 2018 “Summer Vibes” season features concerts performed along Lake Michigan and highlighting everything from classical and modern musical theater to chamber music and disco.

For the Water’s Edge Series, all performances are at Shadowland Pavilion, St Joseph, Mich., with the rain location being St. Joseph High School Auditorium, 2521 Stadium Drive.

The lineup is (all times Eastern):

- Independence Day Celebration on Wednesday, July 4. Pre-concert music is by The Van Dyke Revue at 6 p.m., followed by fireworks, complete
- June 7 — American Sounds featuring Helen Lukan and Brad Wong.
- July 12 — “Songs & Stories” featuring Matt and Rachel Combs.
- Aug. 2 — “Great American Songbook Favorites” featuring Jonathan Beyer.

*Special events include:*

- Coming Home Coming Together 20th Anniversary Concert on Sunday, June 24, at Dwight “Pete” Mitchell City Center Park (Corner of Main and Pipestone). Doors open at 4 p.m., followed by the show at 5 p.m. The free concert features headliner Niki Haris and local performers. The rain loca-



Niki Haris



The Swift Brothers.



Matt and Rachel Combs.



Jonathan Beyer

with Tchaikovsky’s “1812 Overture,” at 9 p.m.

- “In the Heights — The Musical” on Friday, July 20, at Shadowland Pavilion. Stage direction is by Paul Mow and Leah Tirado in partnership with South Bend Civic Theatre. Gates open at 6:30 p.m., with the performance at 7:30 p.m.
- The disco-themed “Classical Night Fever” on Saturday, Aug. 11. Gates open at 5 p.m., with the performance at 7:30 p.m. At 5 p.m. is “Silent Disco!,” a new craze where people dance to music heard only through wireless headphones.

Performances in the “Casual Classics Series” are at 6 p.m. Thursdays at The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center, 601 Main St., St. Joseph. The schedule is:

tion is the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center Mainstage

- Summerfest Music & Microbrews at 4 p.m. Saturday, July 21, at Shadowland Pavilion. Gates open at 4 p.m., followed by The Swift Brothers at 5 p.m. and Fool House at 7:30 p.m.
- Sips & Sounds at 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10, at Shadowland Pavilion. The event includes live music with wines and local cuisine. Gates open at 6 p.m. followed by R-E-S-P-E-C-T, featuring local female vocalists and the Big Payback, at 6:30 p.m.



Contact the SMSO office at (269) 982-4030 or visit [www.smso.org](http://www.smso.org) for ticket prices, reservations or additional information.

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## Clean It Up Day Program Evolves Into Larger Effort

LaPorte County Solid Waste District is expanding its annual Clean It Up Day litter cleanup event into a Clean It Up program.

Instead of just one day, groups can choose any date in April or May that is most convenient.

"Last year, around 820 people participated in more than 46 cleanups countywide, and we'd like to have even more this year," said Sacha Gee-Burns, Solid Waste District environmental educator and public outreach coordinator.

Now in its seventh year, Clean It Up is put on with help from several government agencies, as well as donations from local businesses and the national non-profit group Keep America Beautiful.

To participate, volunteers can choose a place to

clean up and a date in April or May. The district arranges for the collected trash to be picked up, if needed.

Signups are accepted through May 1.

People and groups that sign up receive garbage bags and bottled water. The district will have work gloves and visibility vests available if needed.

A thank-you lunch is planned in June. Gee-Burns said many groups already have indicated their interest in the cleanup, including political and religious organizations, school clubs, Girl and Boy Scout troops and families.

Contact Gee-Burns at (219) 326-0014 or email [geeburns@solidwastedistrict.com](mailto:geeburns@solidwastedistrict.com) to sign up or donate food or materials.

### Cleanup Sites


#### *Places identified in Michigan City:*

- Trail Creek Greenway Trail – Litter cleanup.
- Gardena Park – Limbs, sticks, leaves along ball field fences, garbage in wood lines.
- Fedder's Alley – Limbs, sticks, leaves and garbage throughout Fedder's and in brush area north of parking lot (towards the beach).
- Westcott park – Weeding, leaves and garbage on hill and along wood lines.
- Water tower – Limbs, sticks, leaves and garbage in and along wood lines.
- Washington Park (not the beach) – Limbs, sticks, garbage, shelters.
- Michigan City Senior Center – Garbage in the dune grass around the entire building and out the back door area.
- Liberty Trail – Garbage along road. Rake and clean around trees.
- Oak Hill – Limbs, sticks, leaves, garbage and play area.
- Hansen Park – limbs, sticks, leaves and garbage throughout park and wood lines.
- All of Woodland Avenue (Michigan Boulevard area south to Pahs Road).

- Barker Avenue (two corners on at intersection with Woodland Avenue).
- Barker Road (from Woodland Avenue to Cleveland Avenue).
- Corner area south of Petco and east of Ross.
- Ohio Street north of St. John Road (small wooded area).
- St. John Road (Franklin Street to Ohio Street) and behind old Marquette Theatre.
- Cleveland Avenue Corridor (U.S. 20 on south).
- Meijer Avenue/Timm Road/AMC Showplace.
- Small corridor from Franklin Street to Walmart by Denny's.
- Empty lot across from Panera Bread (next to Ryan's) and small wooded area moving west.
- Empty lot just north of Al's on Franklin Street.
- Small area on Johnson Road between U.S. 20 and Pahs Road across from farmer's field.

#### *Places identified in the La Porte area:*

- Fox Park (especially along wooded areas).
- Kesling Park (especially along east and south park boundaries).
- All of Johnson Road, from U.S. 20 south to Summit Farm.



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### Lunch & Learn Series

"Aging in Place: Home Modifications" is the topic of the next Lunch & Learn program from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, at Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave.

The program is sponsored by REAL Services and Alzheimer's & Dementia Services. REAL Services will provide a free lunch, including a beverage, to family caregivers who make a reservation at least one week in advance.

Call (800) 552-7928, Ext. 7132, for reservations.



## Friends of Indiana Dunes Plant Sale



Volunteers Mark McColley and Roz Potter fill a pre-sale native plant order.

Pre-orders are urged for the Friends of Indiana Dunes' 22nd Annual Native Plant Sale, which is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter.

More than 100 native plant species, including woodland flowering plants and ferns, dry, medium and wet prairie flowering plants, grasses, shrubs and trees, are offered. All varieties come in pots, and most species are native to Northwest Indiana, Northeast Illinois and Southwest Michigan.

The supply of plants the day of the sale is determined by their popularity as a pre-order item. Pre-orders are filled in the sequence in which they are received. Every year, several varieties sell out in advance. Forms are available at the Indiana Dunes State Park office, Chesterton Feed and Garden Center and Indiana Dunes Tourism. To request a form be sent by mail, contact Native Plant Sale Chairwoman Angel Gochee-Goins at (219) 980-6723. The deadline is April 7.

The sale, admission to which is free, is open shopping. Consultants can answer questions. Free leaflets on planting, and the benefits of going native, will be available. All profits support the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

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## New Lubeznik Center Curator

CarolAnn Brown, Lubeznik Center for the Arts' curator of exhibitions, has resigned to pursue independent artistic projects.

Brown served as LCA's curator for 12 years. During her tenure, she mounted exhibits that explored intriguing themes such as relationships between humans and animals in "The Hunt, The Prey The Spirit" and "Magical Realism."

"I'm so grateful to have been given the opportunity to be part of an arts organization that has had such a positive impact," she said in a press release. "It anchors the community and region. I will remain an active volunteer and supporter in the future to the LCA."



Brown

Lora Fosberg has been named the new director of exhibitions and has been working with Brown for the last two months to facilitate a smooth transition. A nationally recognized artist, Fosberg lives in Michigan City and has been an active supporter of the arts community. Working with, and for, the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission and Michigan City Public Art Committee, she is responsible for adding the artworks "You Are Beautiful" by Matthew Hoffman (a 6x30 outdoor sculpture), "The Barker Get Down" by Bernard Williams and "Steel is Real" by Nathan Pierce to the Michigan City Permanent Collection of outdoor sculpture. She also curated "Sculptfusion," MAC's outdoor sculpture lease program, since 2016.



Fosberg

Lubeznik Center is located at 101 W. Second St. Visit [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org) for details.

## Read The Beacher On Line

<http://www.thebeacher.com/>

## Washington Park Zoo Anniversary

Washington Park Zoo is celebrating its 90th anniversary with a series of events leading up to the April 28 Zoobilee.

Educating the community, and involving the community, has been part of the zoo's mission this year as it prepares to celebrate the milestone. One example is a partnership between Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts and Michigan City High School art program students. Artspace offers a ground-floor studio.

Coming soon are:

- Zoo Members Night from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at Artspace, 717 Franklin St. The zoo-members only event is free and affords a chance to view the artwork by MCHS students.
- Zoobilee, "For the Art of Animals," from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 28, at Artspace. The cost is a \$50 donation per person, or a \$90 donation per couple. The event marks the end of the "For the Art of Animals" gallery show at Artspace. Attendees can bid on works created by MCHS students and local artists. Tickets include hors d'oeuvres, desserts and an open bar for wine and beer. They are available at [zoobilee2018.eventbrite.com](http://zoobilee2018.eventbrite.com)

Visit [washingtonparkzoo.com](http://washingtonparkzoo.com) or call Zoo Manager Shawne Sheldon at (219) 873-1510 for details.

## Harbor Country Hikers

The springtime wetlands and protected landscape of Tryon Farm is the next Harbor Country Hikers destination at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, March 31.

The eco-friendly community is located at 1500 Tryon Road, Michigan City. The 120 acres of open landscape that surround the eco-friendly houses are managed and protected in perpetuity by the Tryon Farm Institute, an independent non-profit land trust and education organization.

HCH member Stacey LaRocco, who's also a Tryon Farm Institute member, will lead the two-hour visit. The hiking distance is up to 3.1 miles of moderate difficulty, with potentially wet patches in the meadows, dunes and oak wood forests.

Although membership is encouraged, HCH events are open to the adults and children accompanied by an adult. Membership is \$20 for individuals or \$30 for families. Visit [harborcountryhikers.com](http://harborcountryhikers.com) for membership information or more details.

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Tricia Meyer @ 219-871-2680





# The Right “Stuff”

Michigan City Senior Center was bustling with activity March 21 as volunteers, many from local service groups, helped stuff plastic Easter eggs with candy for the seventh annual Easter Egg Hunt. The event, hosted by Police Chief Mark Swistek, Capt. Ed Beutner, Mayor Ron Meer and the Michigan City Police Department, was held March 24 in Fedder’s Alley in Washington Park. All photos by James Conlin.







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### 2004 LAKE SHORE DR, LONG BEACH, IN

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### 1938 LAKE SHORE DR, SHERIDAN BEACH, IN

**\$998,000** - Coveted beach front, 4 bed, 3 bath, 180-degree views from lakeside screened porch, wood burning stove, garage.



### 2308 LAKE SHORE DR, LONG BEACH, IN

**\$875,000** - Build ready, new septic, seawall, permits for 4 bed lakefront new construction, only 50' beachfront lot available.



### 314 SUNSET TRL, MICHIANA SHORES, IN

**\$825,000** - Magical design, 4 fireplaces, 4 bed, 4 bath, private dune setting, pool, separate guest quarters/studio, deeded Lake Michigan access.



### 201 GEORGIA AVE, SHERIDAN BEACH, IN

**\$750,000** - 3 bed, 3 bath, screened porch, balconies, patio, decks, finished basement, garage, Lake Michigan views, 30 steps to sandy shoreline.



### 111 RUE DE LAC W, SHERIDAN BEACH, IN

**\$589,000** - Sheridan Beach, Lake Michigan views and beach, 4 bed, 4 bath, contemporary design, balconies, private patio, hot tub, garage.



### 106 E MOORMAN RD, SHERIDAN BEACH, IN

**\$425,000** - Sheridan Beach, Sweeping Lake Michigan views, sunsets, beach access, open design, fireplace, garage, 4 bed, 4 bath, decks, balconies, garage.



### DUNE ACRES, CHESTERTON, IN

**\$165,000 - \$195,000** - Limited opportunity, choice building site with gated entrance, no public parking, town-owned Lake Michigan beach.

10 N Whittaker Street | New Buffalo, MI 49117

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# Happy Spring



14928 LAKESHORE RD  
Lakeside, Michigan  
10 BEDROOMS/8 BATHS  
\$7,100,000



3415 LAKE SHORE DR  
Duneland Beach, Indiana  
9 BEDROOMS/12 BATHS  
\$3,950,000



13173 SUNSET POINTE  
New Buffalo, Michigan  
6 BEDROOMS/5.5 BATHS  
\$2,699,000



3777 LAKE SHORE DR  
New Buffalo, Michigan  
5 BEDROOMS/4 BATHS  
\$2,499,000



3121 LAKE SHORE DR  
Duneland Beach, Indiana  
5 BEDROOMS/4.5 BATHS  
\$2,150,000



827 E LAKE FRONT DR  
Beverly Shores, Indiana  
4 BEDROOMS/4.5 BATHS  
\$1,750,000



16204 QUALITY LN  
Union Pier, Michigan  
6 BEDROOMS/4.5 BATHS  
\$1,275,000



2411 E 109TH AVE  
Crown Point, Indiana  
3 BEDROOMS/1 BATH  
\$1,007,000



4145 LAKE SHORE DR  
New Buffalo, Michigan  
6 BEDROOMS/4.5 BATHS  
\$999,000



2211 OAKENWALD DR  
Long Beach, Indiana  
3 BEDROOMS/5 BATHS  
\$895,000



4109 PONCHARTRAIN DR  
New Buffalo, Michigan  
3 BEDROOMS/2 BATHS  
\$695,000



16240 STONES THROW LN  
Union Pier, Michigan  
3 BEDROOMS/3.5 BATHS  
\$665,000



8691 THOMAS RD  
Lakeside, Michigan  
4 BEDROOMS/1 BATH  
\$590,000



9174 SHAFFNER  
Lakeside, Michigan  
7 BEDROOMS/5 BATHS  
\$589,900



1501 W WATER ST, #1  
New Buffalo, Michigan  
3 BEDROOMS/3 BATHS  
\$589,000



20 PLEASANT  
Beverly Shores, Indiana  
3 BEDROOMS/3.5 BATHS  
\$550,000

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# Happy Spring



304 E MICHIGAN ST  
New Carlisle, Indiana  
5 BEDROOMS/7 BATHS  
\$499,900



3475 BLUEGRASS WAY  
St Joseph, Michigan  
6 BEDROOMS/3.5 BATHS  
\$490,000



704 E ROGERS  
Beverly Shores, Indiana  
3 BEDROOMS/2 BATHS  
\$455,000



12000 W WILSON RD  
New Buffalo, Michigan  
3 BEDROOMS/1 BATH  
\$409,995



11442 RIVIERA DR  
New Buffalo, Michigan  
.36 ACRES/PRIV ASSOC BEACH  
\$375,000



2928 BELLE PLAINE TRL  
Long Beach, Indiana  
3 BEDROOMS/3 BATHS  
\$374,900



314 MAPLEWOOD DR  
Michigan City, Indiana  
4 BEDROOMS/1.75 BATHS  
\$369,900



3843 BIRCHWOOD DR  
Michiana Shores, Indiana  
3 BEDROOMS/1 BATH  
\$329,000



9891 GREENWOOD AVE  
Union Pier, Michigan  
2 BEDROOMS/1.5 BATHS  
\$320,000



6752 E 50 N  
Mill Creek, Indiana  
3 BEDROOMS/2 BATHS  
\$319,000



18485 DUNECREST DR, #27  
New Buffalo, Michigan  
3 BEDROOMS/2 BATHS  
\$299,000



520 W MICHIGAN  
New Buffalo, Michigan  
3 BEDROOMS/2 BATHS  
\$240,000



132 PHILIP LN  
Valparaiso, Indiana  
3 BEDROOMS/2 BATHS  
\$210,000



56 WASHINGTON ST  
Westville, Indiana  
2 BEDROOMS/1 BATH  
\$125,000



13152 W WILSON RD  
New Buffalo, Michigan  
2 BEDROOMS/1 BATH  
\$85,000



0 E ROCKEY WEED RD  
Berrien Springs, Michigan  
5 ACRES/LAKESHORE SCHOOL  
\$65,000

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# Happy Easter

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3777 LAKE SHORE DR.  
New Buffalo, Indiana  
5 Bedrooms, 4 Baths  
\$2,499,000

Just Listed



16240 STONES THROW LN.  
Union Pier, Michigan  
4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths  
\$665,000

Just Listed

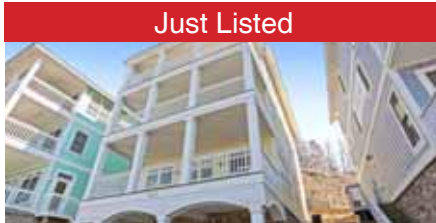


827 E. LAKE FRONT DR.  
Beverly Shores, Indiana  
4 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths  
\$1,750,000



2928 BELLE PLAINE TRL.  
Long Beach, Indiana  
3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths  
\$374,900

Just Listed



1855 LAKE SHORE DR.  
Michigan City, Indiana  
5 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths  
\$815,000



LOT 49 LAKE SHORE DR.  
Michigan City, Indiana  
\$175,000

New Price



106 MONTANA AVE.  
Beverly Shores, Indiana  
3 Bedrooms, 2.75 Baths  
\$548,000

New Price



3322 MARQUETTE TRL.  
Michigan City, Indiana  
4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths  
\$559,000

Bed & Breakfast



10522 WEST 50 NORTH DR.  
Michigan City, Indiana  
5 Bedrooms, 4.2 Baths  
\$749,000



3121 LAKE SHORE DR.  
Michigan City, Indiana  
5 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths  
\$2,150,000




3415 LAKE SHORE DR.  
Michigan City, Indiana  
9 Bedrooms, 12 Baths  
\$3,950,000

Whisper Dunes

8 WHISPER DUNES DR.  
Michigan City, Indiana  
Vacant Land  
\$245,000



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- 13,950 SF

### WILD ROSE DRIVE, MICHIGAN CITY

\$45,000

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- 3 lots; city sewer & water

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## Deep Tissue LASER Therapy Workshop-APRIL 3 and APRIL 5

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Dear NW Indiana Neighbor,

This workshop is for you if you have been suffering from pain and you're:

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- Someone who has "tried everything else"
- Wanting to avoid surgery or painful injections
- Just wanting to get back to normal and enjoy life again

Whether it's back pain or sciatica, or neck pain...or any of the following conditions...

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Bulging Disc	Frozen Shoulder	Plantar Fasciitis	Fractures

...Deep Tissue LASER Therapy offers a natural safe non-invasive powerful solution.

*"Having had severe low back pain for many years, my family doctor had my back X-rayed. It showed severe arthritis. I had actually blamed it on a medication I had taken for years thinking it had caused my low back pain, but no...it was due to my 84-year old body developing arthritis. He said I should go to physical therapy, which I have done for many months. My pain had come down only from a 10 to a 7. I was still in tears with the pain and I had decided to QUIT. Arlan Alburo from OBTS then contacted me regarding a new 'light-type' of therapy that he had acquired. Having had now 5 treatments of this 'new' LASER treatment, I really do feel healed!! It's wonderful not to be in pain as I rise from a seated position or walk or work around my kitchen!!" S.K. of Valparaiso*

### Here's what you need to do...

**Call my office now at 386-4488 in Valparaiso; 213-9009 in Crown Point or 380-0809 in La Porte** and secure your spot for my Deep Tissue LASER Therapy Workshop...

- **LA PORTE** office **Tuesday April 3rd at 6:00 PM** located at 1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B (across Route 2 from Walmart).
- **VALPARAISO** office **Thursday April 5th at 6:00 PM** located at 3125 Calumet Ave. Suite 8 (next to the YMCA).

This workshop is FREE but I am only taking 20 attendees at each location due to space constraints.



Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC

Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

**P.S. Call my office now at 386-4488 in Valparaiso or 380-0809 in La Porte** and secure your spot for my Deep Tissue Laser Therapy Workshop.

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JOIN NOW AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY DUES UNTIL APRIL 1ST.

**For Further Information Please Call (219) 872-8624**



## “Power of the Purse”

Women United’s annual “Power of the Purse” dinner and auction of new and gently used purses, held March 15 at Pottawattomie Country Club, raised nearly \$10,000 for collective-impact projects in LaPorte County.

This year’s efforts topped last year by more than \$1,300. Supporters donated 160 new and gently used purses for the silent and live auctions. Seven local, male celebrities modeled the live-auction purses for guests:



Women United President Angie Nelson Deutch (left), LaPorte Mayor Mark Krentz and United Way of LaPorte County Executive Director Kris Pate.

- LaPorte Circuit Judge Thomas Alevizos.
- Marty Corley, Michigan City Police Department master patrolman and Michigan City Area Schools board member.
- Jeff Deutch, decorated Army veteran and local volunteer.
- LaPorte County Prosecutor John Espar.
- John Lake, Indiana deputy attorney general in the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.
- Andy Hynek, LaPorte County Drug Task Force

commander.

- LaPorte Mayor Mark Krentz.

Ric Federighi of WIMS AM 1420 was the celebrity emcee.

The models also competed to increase the bidding for their items and win bragging rights for collecting the highest donation of the night.

The live auction raised nearly \$1,500, with Krentz earning the top bid – \$375 for a Michael Kors bag with wristlet and wallet valued at \$550 – from Ke-



Lisa Pierzakowski, Women United and “Power of the Purse” committee member, and Marty Corley, United Way of LaPorte County board member and purse model.

sha Pate, owner of Ahsek Media and longtime United Way of LaPorte County communications sponsor.

In addition to the silent and live auctions, a 50/50 ticket raffle raised an additional \$200 when City Councilwoman Patricia Boy donated her winnings back to Women United.

Women United is a United Way of LaPorte County women’s initiative. Contact Kris Pate at (219) 210-3534 or [kris@unitedwaylpc.org](mailto:kris@unitedwaylpc.org) for details, or visit [unitedwaylpc.org/womenunited](http://unitedwaylpc.org/womenunited)

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## American Red Cross

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

- St. John’s United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 3.
- Midwest Eye Consultants, 2317 Franklin St., 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 4.

*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.*



Janet Tucker receives the World Clown Association's Lifetime Achievement Award on March 16..

## Michiana Clowns Member Honored

Janet "Jelly Bean" Tucker has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the World Clown Association.

Tucker, a Michiana Clowns member and past president, as well as a Calumet Clowns member, received the award March 16 at the WCA convention in Bloomington, Minn. She was honored by 240 clowns from 14 countries, including a large contingent of former Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus clowns.

Tucker, of Hammond, has been an active WCA member since 1984. She was its first woman president, serving 1990-1991. She co-chaired the first overseas WCA convention, held jointly with Clowns International, at Bognor Regis England in 1991. She also co-chaired the 1993 convention in Merrillville, the 1994 convention in Scotland and the 2003 convention in Albuquerque, N.M.

She has served multiple times on the WCA Executive Committee. She was the first WCA clown ministry director and was Midwest regional director, alleys director and WCA vice president (twice). She now is serving her fourth year as WCA publications chair, producing the current *Clowning Around* magazine. For eight years, she was webmaster for the WCA. She chaired and/or served for many years of WCA bylaw and handbook committees, co-writing the original WCA bylaws, Bo-Dino scholarship Handbook and convention handbook. She was WCA "Clown of the Year" for 2002.

For more than 30 years Tucker has been a member of two WCA Alleys: Michiana Clowns and Calumet Clowns, which she created from classes at the regional Purdue University campuses. She is the "founding mother" of Michiana Clowns — now in its 33rd year — serving as its first president, with three additional yearly terms as president.

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## World Creativity & Innovation Week

The Center for Creative Solutions will celebrate World Creativity and Innovation Week 2018 with a kickoff event at 8 a.m. Friday, April 13, at the A.K. Smith Career Center, 317 Detroit St.

The theme is "Create, Connect, Celebrate!"

The keynote speaker is Blair Milo, former LaPorte mayor and Indiana's secretary of career connections and talent. The office:

- Coordinates efforts to identify and meet state employment needs.
- Works with business, industry, trade groups and public officials to determine current and future employment needs.
- Helps colleges and universities connect Hoosier graduates with Indiana employment.



The center will present the Tej Ram Gupta scholarships to three A.K. Smith students in conjunction with Dr. Rakish and Bina Gupta and the B.R. Foundation of Michigan City. The awards are named after Bina Gupta's father.

The center also will present the CREO! to an individual or organization that promotes an innovative culture in Northwest Indiana. Throughout the week, other youth will be honored in poetry, song writing and art contests. Most events are free and open to the public.

Friday's breakfast is open to the public. The suggested donation is \$10. Call (219) 861-0955, email [creativity52@comcast.net](mailto:creativity52@comcast.net) or visit [centerforcreativesolutions.com](http://centerforcreativesolutions.com) for details.

The center is located at 410 Franklin Square.

## Churchill Program at Barker Mansion

Michael Sheldon, Pulitzer Prize winner and *New York Times* bestseller, will discuss his latest book, *Young Titan: The Making of Winston Churchill*, on Saturday, April 7, at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.

Sheldon received his doctorate in English from Indiana University and is an English professor at Indiana State University. He has been a features writer for *The London Daily Telegraph*, served as a fiction critic for *The Baltimore Sun* and written for *The Washington Post* and *The Times of London*.

His book on Churchill has garnered widespread praise, and his free program is supported through an Indiana Humanities grant. The mansion was one of 20 Indiana non-profits awarded the opportunity to host a recipient of the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award.

In addition to Sheldon's talk, mansion staff have planned other programming. The schedule is:

- 3 to 3:45 p.m. — self-guided tours of the mansion, with a reduced fee of \$3 per person.
- 4 to 6 p.m. — *Young Titan: The Making of Winston Churchill* with Sheldon. The talk is free, and soft drinks will be sold.
- 6:15 to 7 p.m. — "From Opposite Shores: Young Titan and Midwest Millionaire." The cost is \$10. Heritage Interpreter Jackie Perkins will explore the correlation between one of Britain's most notable prime ministers and one of the American Midwest's wealthiest industrialists. Churchill and John Barker may have lived shores apart, but comparisons can be gained by looking at their failures and successes within their personal and public lives.

Guest can attend one, or all, of the programs. Reservations are not necessary for the self-guided tour nor Sheldon's talk. Space is limited for the tour with Perkins. Visit Eventbrite or call the mansion at (219) 873-1520, Ext. 5, to reserve a space.



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Small Enough To Know You..."

## NRA Basic Handgun Class

Michigan City Rifle Club, 4801 E. U.S. 20, will host an eight-hour NRA Basic Handgun Shooting Course at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 21.

The class includes instruction in firing handguns. The \$175 fee includes light refreshments and lunch. Class size is limited, and preregistration with deposit is required. Students need to provide firearms and 200 rounds of ammunition.

Email [swenson600@comcast.net](mailto:swenson600@comcast.net) or call (219) 879-8400, Ext. 1, for more details.

## ArtBash 2018

"When the Lights Glow Down," Lubeznik Center for the Arts' ArtBash 2018 fundraiser, is at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 23, at Blue Chip Casino's Stardust Event Center.

All proceeds directly support LCA efforts. Admissions and donations to the event support academically-enhanced art classes and field trips for local youth, and contemporary arts exhibits.

The emcee is Michigan City native Mary Ann Bergerson Ahern, NBC 5 News Chicago political reporter. Attendees can bid on items and experiences in the silent auction, while a DJ will play '60s dance music.



Ahern

Last year's event sold out with a record crowd. LCA is offering special pricing through June 8. Individual tickets are \$150 and tables of 10 cost \$1,500. Starting June 9, prices increase to \$165 for individual tickets and \$1,650 for tables. Purchase online at lubeznikcenter.org or call (219) 874-4900.

## "The Big Sell" Competition

Purdue University Northwest invites aspiring entrepreneurs to enter its annual competition, "The Big Sell."

Started in 2011, it offers would-be business owners and product developers the chance to pitch their ideas to a panel of judges and the public while vying for \$13,000 in prize money. The first-place prize is \$7,500, with \$3,500 going to second place and \$2,000 to third place.

To enter the contest, individuals or teams must submit a two-minute video to [www.pnw.edu/ThePNWBigSell](http://www.pnw.edu/ThePNWBigSell) by Sunday, April 1. The top 12 submissions will detail their business ideas live to a panel of three judges via a six-minute presentation at an event from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 28, at the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex.

Serving as judges are: Kathy Gibson, founder of APLnextEd; John Guidos, founder of Turbo Appeal; and Robert Johnson III, founder of CIMCOR.

NIPSCO and PNW's College of Business and College of Technology are the sponsors.

## Harbor Country Book Club

Harbor Country Book Club will discuss Margaret Atwood's "Alias Grace" at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, March 29, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The April selection is R.J. Palacio's "Wonder."



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## Easter Egg Hunt @ Gardens

Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, will host a free Easter egg hunt at 11 a.m. Sunday, April 1.



The Easter egg hunt will be divided into age-based arenas.

Children through age 12 and their families can walk the trails and explore the gardens while searching for thousands of eggs. Held rain or shine, the hunt ends when all eggs have been found. Children should take a basket to collect their eggs. The arenas will be divided into two areas: one for children through age 3 and another for ages 4-12.

Families can take pictures with the Easter Bunny before or after the hunt. Children also can check out phases 1 and 2 of the ArcelorMittal Children's Garden, a newly installed arena for interactive nature-based play experiences.

Call (219) 878-9885 or email [info@friendshipgardens.org](mailto:info@friendshipgardens.org) for details.

## Footlight Players Youth Workshop

Footlight Players will offer a free workshop for youth ages 10-17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday, June 11-21, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.



The workshop instructors are (from left) Laura Meyer, Lee Meyer, Emma Blanchard and Robert Komendera

**I n s t r u c t o r s**  
Emma Blanchard, Robert Komendera, Laura Meyer and Lee Meyer will focus on auditions, stage presence, vocal and dance training and character development. The sessions end with a dress rehearsal June 22 and a

two-day run of an original musical-comedy, "The Death and Good Times of Julius Caesar: A Tragic Farce," at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 23, and 2 p.m. Sunday, June 24.

The workshop is limited to 30, so early registration is recommended. The cutoff for applications is June 1. Visit [www.FootlightPlayers.org](http://www.FootlightPlayers.org) to download one, or call (219) 874-4035 to request an application be sent by mail.

## Chesterton Art Center

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

• **Dick Church will offer a six-week Beginning/Intermediate Watercolor Class starting from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, March 30.**

Church will lead students through watercolor techniques applicable to first-time painters or the mildly experienced. The cost is \$95, with members receiving a \$20 discount. Supplies are not included. Church will discuss supplies with beginners to start the class.

• **A new six-week session of Monday Night Ceramics starts from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 2.**

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

Instructor Tom Cernius will perform short demonstrations while assisting students individually to improve throwing skills. Hand-building and sculpture are encouraged. Students can try their hand at 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, April 4.**

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

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

• **George Kassal, Long Beach, will teach a three-week Cell Phone Photography Class starting from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 11.**

The purpose is to help students take better pictures using a smartphone, regardless of the make or model. Students learn how to achieve clear and properly exposed photos, and how to best use editing apps and photo-sharing services, like Instagram.

The class is designed for beginners and those with some experience. The cost is \$65, with members receiving a \$20 discount.



Call (219) 926-4711 for details.

**Classifieds do the trick! Call 879-0088**

## NB Library Community Forum

The story behind the long-ago Golfmore Hotel marks the next Community Forum program at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 3, at the New Buffalo Public Library Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St.

Between 1923 and 1939, the hotel in Michiana Shores/Grand Beach was second only to Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel in size, appearance and amenities. Stories include its role as a training camp for boxers George Carpentier, Tommy Gibbons and James "Cinderella Man" Braddock. Tom Suhs, who has spent much of his life researching the hotel, and what little remains of the structure, tells its story through photographs, period postcards, newspaper ads, articles and brochures.

Upcoming programs, all free and starting at 6:30 p.m. EDT, include: "The Yin and Yang of Taosim," Monday, April 16; "The House of David," Tuesday, April 24; "A Spring Hootenanny," Thursday, May 3; and "Backyard Birds," Tuesday, June 5.

The series is underwritten in part by The Pokagon Fund. Call the library at (269) 469-2933, follow the Facebook link at [newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org](http://newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org) or email [new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com](mailto:new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com) for details.

## Volunteer Expo

Non-profits seeking volunteers can participate in Leadership LaPorte County's second "Volunteer Expo" from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

The event raises awareness of volunteer opportunities for youth and adults in the community. The general public is invited.

Examples of non-profit needs include board positions, committee members, event helpers or general volunteers. Booth space fee costs \$30. Organizations should have specific information about volunteer opportunities, including age restrictions, requirements and task descriptions.

The expo is sponsored by the Greater La Porte Economic Development Corp. Additional corporate sponsors are sought. The \$250 sponsor fee includes name mention in all event materials, as well as a sponsor table at the event.

Contact Leadership LaPorte County at (219) 325-8223 or [info@leadershiplaportecounty.com](mailto:info@leadershiplaportecounty.com) for a registration form or more information. Additional details are available at [www.leadershiplaportecounty.com](http://www.leadershiplaportecounty.com)

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## Cultural Exchange

Michigan City High School welcomed six students from Zama Sogo High School in Japan for 10 days earlier this month.



Zama Sogo High School student Teru Sato and Michigan City High School Japanese student Zack Parker speak at the farewell celebration.

The two high schools have had a "sister school" relationship for several years, and Zama Sogo students visit Michigan City and Chesterton each year, staying with host families.

At a March 19 farewell dinner, the MCHS student hosts (Kiara Stansil, Zack Parker, Lauren Werner, Liz LaFollette, Reese Attar and Kendyl Adney) gave farewell speeches in Japanese. The Zama Sogo students gave speeches in English. After many photos, hugs, tears, line dancing and laughter, the students said goodbye to their new friends.

MCHS now is hosting eight students from a high school in Pfaffenhofen, Germany: another longtime partnership of the MCHS Foreign Language Department. The German students will stay with host families in Michigan City until April 11.



## Long Beach Women's Bowling

March 20, 2018

### TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Diagonal Divas	29	15
2. Blind Side	26	18
3. Queen Pins/Bitchin Bowlers	25	19

### HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Linda Neulieb	172
2. Mary Lou McFadden	170
3. Peggy King	166
4. Cindy Beck	165
5. Dottie Brinckman	162
6. Kathy Osborne	155
7. Tammy Nelmar	151
8. Lenore Hadaway (series)	425

### SPLITS

1. Nancy Kubath	5-7
2. Lenore Hadaway	5-10
3. Kathy Osborne	5-7
4. Kris Cook	4-5

### STRIKES

Four Strikes	Ellie Parkerson
Three Strikes	Ann Bogart



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

## JROTC Community Involvement

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps conducted numerous community service activities in March.

Among those were helping set up and take down tables and chairs for the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus.

March 10 was an exceptionally busy day as cadets supported the Indiana High School Athletic Association's Regional Boys Basketball tournament at MCHS. Cadets directed thousands of Northwest Indiana fans to park their vehicles safely and orderly for the morning doubleheader and night championship game. The MCHS Color Guard presented during The National Anthem in the morning and evening. That same day, the cadets led the Michigan City St. Patrick's Day parade. That evening, they provided the Color Guard for the Disabled Americans Veterans' Americanism program.

Cadets also supported the MCHS Parent/Teacher conferences, the Wolfpack roundup for incoming freshman and cleanup of a vacant lot in the city.

"We were also notified that we were selected to compete in the Marine Corps National Drill Competition, so our drill team has been kicking it into high gear in preparation for that event," the senior Marine instructor, Maj. Tom McGrath, said.

The Marine Corps National Competition is April 21 in Gray, Tenn. The trip is conducted at no cost to cadets nor Michigan City Area Schools. Transportation and lodging are funded by the Marine Corps. The MCJROTC Booster Club is providing meals. Michigan City is one of 16 schools out of 250 nationally selected, and the only school from the Midwest.

## Oak Wilt Disease Program

A free program to help homeowners, arborists and tree services identify and prevent the spread of oak wilt is from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, March 31, at Three Oaks Township Public Library, 3 N. Elm St.

Oak Wilt, a fungal disease affecting oak trees, is moving through Michigan at an alarming rate. While the disease impacts all oaks, the red oak family is the most susceptible, often dying within 30 days of becoming infected.

The program is hosted by the non-profit ReLeaf Michigan, Berrien Conservation District, Three Oaks Parks and Recreation Board and the SW X SW Corner CISMA. Plant pathologist Dr. David Roberts, from Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, will provide an overview of the disease and outline its biggest concerns. Free handouts will be available.

Reservations are not required, but suggested to ensure enough handouts are available. Contact Nancy Carpenter at (269) 471-9111, Ext. 3, or [nancy.carpenter@macd.org](mailto:nancy.carpenter@macd.org) for details.

## Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:



A scene from Pixar's "Coco."

• **Children's Movie: "Coco" at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 31, at Thomas Branch Children's Department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

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

• **Adult Coloring Program from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

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

• **Children's Crochet Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays through April 24 in the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children in grades 3 and older learn beginning crochet from instructor Sadie Steciuch. They should take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium weight yarn. Call (219) 926-7696 to register.

• **Minecraft Meet-up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 4 and 18, 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.

• **Chesterton Writing Group at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 4, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The group is open to adult writers – fiction or nonfiction — of all levels, whether published or unpublished. Attendees share their work and learn about publishing.

### • **Holiday closings.**

Both library branches, Westchester Township History Museum, The Baugher Center and the Westchester Township Trustee's office will close on Good Friday, March 30, and Easter Sunday, April 1. The library and museum will be open regular hours Saturday, March 31. All sites resume regular hours Monday, April 2.

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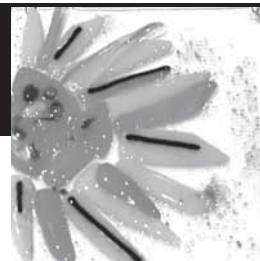
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## Pet Rescue Benefit

ABRA Inc. Rescue Angels will host a benefit, "Roarin' 20s Rescue Gala," from 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 7, at Avalon Manor, 3550 U.S. 30, Merrillville.

The cost is \$75 per person, with all proceeds benefiting dogs and cats in need of rescue. No tickets are sold at the door. They must be purchased by March 31 at [abra.ticketleap.com](http://abra.ticketleap.com)

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## Eight Prescribed Fires Planned

The National Park Service is planning eight prescribed fires at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Approximately 1,200 acres are expected to be burned. Fire is used as a tool for the park's long-term restoration and hazard fuel-reduction efforts.

In Gary, 133 acres are planned in three sections, while multiple units will be burned within the park's West Beach. Two units will be burned in conjunction with Ogden Dunes.

A 551-acre burn is planned in the Cowles Bog area between Mineral Springs Road and Waverly Road, north from the Calumet Trail to the south edge of Dune Acres. Sections of Dune Acres property will be burned in conjunction with NPS properties.

The most easterly burn is 285 acres in Beverly Shores, between East State Park Road and Broadway, north of Beverly Drive to Lakefront Drive.

The prescribed fire program is conducted by trained and experienced NPS fire personnel. Smoke dispersal is a primary concern, and park staff do everything possible to limit smoke in the area. However, smoke drifting in and around park lands and roadways is possible. Before burning, a designated set of conditions must exist, including ideal air temperature, wind speed and direction, and relative humidity. Weather conditions will be monitored to ensure the fire is completed safely.

## Photo of the Week Contest

### Help Us Capture Life Along the Beach!

Snap a high-resolution photo of a friend or family member, place, event...even the beautiful scenery. Include the day, time and location of the photo.

Submit the photo to The Beacher by 5 p.m. each Wednesday. We'll contact you by 5 p.m. Thursday if the photo is chosen to appear on our facebook page by noon Friday.



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Email high-resolution photos to [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)

## Children's Art Classes

Jennifer Martin will host children's art classes in April at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

The goal is to introduce children to various artists, their styles and techniques, with projects reflecting what they are learning. Classes meet weekly, and are open to all ages and skill levels. Several mediums will be used, including drawing, painting, papier mache, mosaic, sculpture and collage.

Each month, a different artist is featured. April is Edward Hopper (1882-1967), who was known for realistic oil paintings, specifically scenes from urban and rural settings of modern America. Students will create projects based on his notable style.

The schedule is:

- Monday, 1-2 p.m., preschool, 4- to 5-year-olds.
- Monday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (beginner), 5- to 8-year-olds.
- Tuesday, 1-2 p.m., preschool, 3- to 4-year-olds.
- Tuesday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (intermediate), 6- to 9-year-olds.
- Wednesday, 11 a.m.-noon, preschool 4- to 5-year-olds.
- Wednesday, 1-2:30 p.m., homeschool, 8- to 15-year-olds.
- Wednesday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (intermediate), 6- to 9-year-olds.
- Thursday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (advanced), 8- to 12-year-olds.
- Thursday, 5:15-6:45 p.m., after school (advanced painting), 10- to 16-year-olds.

Tuition is \$90 per month for after-school and home-school students (the member rate is \$70), and \$75 for preschool students (the member rate is \$55). Supplies and a snack are included. Students must be registered before the start of each month.

Call (219) 926-4711 or visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) for more details.

## Lend a Hand Day

LaPorte County Extension Homemakers will host Lend a Hand Day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 4, at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds Community Building, 2581 W. Indiana 2, LaPorte.



A volunteer at last fall's Lend a Hand Day works on a quilt top.

Volunteers will assemble quilts, bags, backpacks, lap robes, wheelchair totes, birthday bags, hats and other items that local service organizations will donate to LaPorte County residents.

Anyone who can sew, cut, stitch, tie, sort, iron, knit, crochet, pack, stack and carry is welcome. Donations of fabrics, notions, thread, yarn and supplies are needed. If possible, take a sewing machine, or use one provided.

Those interested can come for an hour, or the entire day. A light meal will be provided at noon and 6 p.m. Contact the La Porte County Purdue Cooperative Extension Office at (219) 324-9407 or email [mwolff@purdue.edu](mailto:mwolff@purdue.edu) for details.

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## Activities to Explore

### In the Area:

**March 29** — Harbor Country Book Club, Margaret Atwood's "Alias Grace," 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

### **March 30 — GOOD FRIDAY, PASSOVER.**

**March 30-April 4** — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Phantom Thread." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon., 2:30 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: [vickerstheatre.com](http://vickerstheatre.com)

**March 31** — "6 Essential Steps for Planning Your Next Ecological Restoration," 9 a.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Free. Info: [www.acorntheater.com](http://www.acorntheater.com), (269) 756-3879.

**March 31** — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Tryon Farm, 1500 Tryon Road, Michigan City. Info: [harborcountryhikers.com](http://harborcountryhikers.com)

**March 31** — Children's Movie: "Coco," 10:30 a.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

### **April 1 — EASTER,**

**April 1** — Opening day, Washington Park Zoo, 115 Lake Shore Drive. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: [www.washingtonparkzoo.com](http://www.washingtonparkzoo.com), (219) 873-1510.

**April 1** — Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park opens. Hours: 1-4 p.m. Tue.-Sun. Info: [www.oldlighthousemuseum.org](http://www.oldlighthousemuseum.org)

**April 1** — Easter egg hunt, 11 a.m.-noon, Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Info: [friendshipgardens.org](http://friendshipgardens.org)

**April 2** — Spring Break Movie: "Coco," 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**April 3** — Improv Playhouse Presents "The Ugly Duckling," 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**April 3** — Adult Coloring Program, 6-7:30 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

**April 3** — Community Forum, Golfmore Hotel, 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Public Library Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St. Free. Info: (269) 469-2933, [newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org](http://newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org)

**April 4** — Hedgehog Hannah, 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Through April 29** — Photography exhibit, "David Larson: 50 Years of Photography in the Indiana Dunes," Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

**Through May** — "Up Up and Away!: A Look at Aerial Photography from La Porte County!," La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportecountyhistory.org](http://www.laportecountyhistory.org), (219) 324-6767.

**Want your event listed here?**

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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 details.*

### Nature's Tiny Tots

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

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. April 2, 16 and 30 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. 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 schedule is:

- April 11 — When It Rains It Pours.
- April 25 — Fantastic Fish.

### 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:

- April 4 — "The Art of Aging: Treatment Options," Licensed Esthetician Stacy Bernhardt.
- May 2 — "Recycling, Composting, Soil Health," Sacha Gee-Burns of LaPorte County Solid Waste District.

### Family Fishing Night

The free, all-ages special event is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 12, at Luhr County Park.

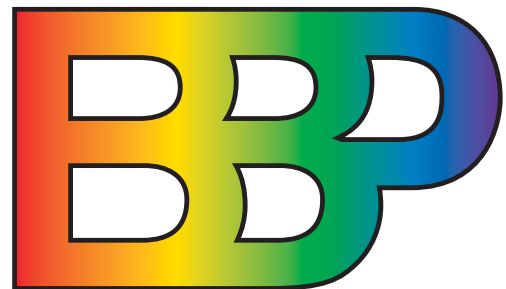
A limited number of poles and bait are available. No fishing licenses are required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

A minimum of 10 and a maximum of 40 people are required. Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance.

### 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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## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



**On March 29, 1812**, the first White House wedding took place when Lucy Payne Washington, sister-in-law of President James Madison, married Supreme Court Justice Thomas Todd.

**On March 29, 1848**, mighty Niagara Falls stopped falling when an ice jam on Lake Erie blocked the flow of water to the Niagara River. It was 30 hours before the ice broke, and the falls were once more the delight of honeymooners.

**On March 29, 1882**, the Knights of Columbus organization was chartered in Connecticut.

**On March 29, 1932**, vaudeville comedian Jack Benny made his radio debut with these words, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is Jack Benny. There will be a slight pause while you say, 'Jack who?'"

**On March 29, 1962**, Jack Paar hosted NBC's "Tonight" show for the final time.

**On March 30, 1675**, Father Jacques Marquette, along with his party, left their cabin on the south branch of the Chicago River, having spent the winter there.

**On March 30, 1853**, Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh was born in Zundert.

**On March 30, 1982**, the space shuttle Columbia completed its third mission. The flight was extended for one day because of a sandstorm at its New Mexico landing site.

**On March 30, 1992**, the Cubs acquired Sammy Sosa in a trade with the White Sox for George Bell.

**On March 31, 1831**, Jonathan Bailey was appointed by President Andrew Jackson to serve as Chicago's first postmaster.

**On March 31, 1880**, Wabash, Ind., became the first town to be completely illuminated by electricity.

**On March 31, 1889**, the Eiffel Tower was officially opened in Paris.

**On March 31, 1918**, Daylight Savings Time went into effect in the United States.

**On March 31, 1931**, Knute Rockne, Notre Dame's legendary football coach, was killed when his plane crashed in Kansas.

**On April 1, 1789**, the United States House of Representatives held its first full meeting in New York City and elected Frederick Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania as the first Speaker of the House.

**On April 1, 1853**, Cincinnati became the first U.S. city to pay its firefighters a regular salary.

**On April 1, 1872**, the Chicago Public Library was created.

**On April 1, 1963**, the daytime soap opera “General Hospital” premiered on ABC-TV.

**On April 2, 1513**, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon landed in Florida.

**On April 2, 1792**, the United States Mint was authorized to produce one-cent copper coins. There were four original designs struck: the chain cent, the wreathed cent, the flowing hair cent, and the liberty cent.

**On April 2, 1932**, as a ransom for his infant kidnapped son, Charles Lindberg turned over \$50,000 to an unidentified man.

**On April 2, 1956**, the long running soap operas, “As The World Turns,” and “The Edge of Night” premiered on CBS-TV.

**On April 3, 1783**, Washington Irving, American author, historian and diplomat, was born in New York City. Irving, who created such well known characters as Rip Van Winkle and Ichabod Crane, was the first American writer to gain fame abroad.

**On April 3, 1848**, the Chicago Board of Trade held its first official session.

**On April 3, 1860**, the legendary “Pony Express” began service between St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif., a distance of 1,966 miles. The service would last for only about 18 months, being replaced by the transcontinental telegraph.

**On April 3, 1882**, American outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Mo. He was killed by Robert Ford, a member of James’ own gang who was seeking to claim reward money. James was 36.

**On April 3, 1968**, less than 24 hours before he was assassinated, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “mountaintop” speech to a rally of striking sanitation workers.

**On April 4, 1818**, Congress decreed the U.S. flag should consist of 13 red and white stripes and 20 stars, and that a new star should be added for each new state that was admitted to the Union.

**On April 4, 1832**, Cook County’s first financial statement showed taxes on real and personal property totaled \$148.29.

**On April 4, 1841**, one month after taking the oath of office, President William Henry Harrison died of pneumonia, achieving the dubious distinction of becoming the first chief executive to die while in office.

**On April 4, 1864**, Abraham Lincoln said, “I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me.”

**On April 4, 1969**, CBS canceled “The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour” because of political humor.

**On April 4, 1989**, Richard M. Daley, following in the footsteps of his famous father, was elected mayor of Chicago. He won a two-year term to complete the term of the late Harold Washington.

# NEWSletters



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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah** (hard-cover, \$28.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

*"Were you ever out in the Great Alone, when the moon was awful clear,*

*And the icy mountains hemmed you in with a silence you most could hear;"*

Those are the words of poet Robert Service from his famous piece, The Shooting of Dan McGrew. He's talking about Alaska, of course. And as you read this amazing story, you will come to understand...

Lenora (Leni) Allbright, although only 13 years old in 1974, has moved around the states more times than she can count. It's partly because her dad, Ernt, was drafted and sent to Vietnam, so Leni and her mom had little money and moved from place to place. He was captured and is now home after spending six years as a POW. What happened to him there? He won't talk about it, but it's obvious it messed with his head — badly. He has screaming nightmares, can't hold down a job, drinks too much and has no control over his temper, which he frequently takes out on his wife, Cora.

Ernt's best friend in the army, Bud, made it back home in a body bag. He told his father his land and cabin in Alaska were to be given to Ernt if he died. Ernt considers this the perfect answer to his problems — a new start in a place far away from the civilization he came to hate.

Alaska — they call it the final frontier for a good reason. It will make or break you. A place more than any other that is a siren's song promising your heart's desire. Many have tried to tame her and either left broken and disillusioned, or died on the land. Ernt has no idea what he is getting into...

The Allbrights pack up an old VW bus, and the three of them headed out to the far north. Like most first-timers not knowing anything about living off the land, they don't bring enough money, supplies or common sense. They are what the locals call "cheechakos" — tenderfeet. The cabin is livable — after a major cleanup — and then they head into Kaney, the small town close by. It is mostly old-timers who've lived there for years, even generations, but not many tourists. Leni's school is a one-room building with six other students, and only one her age — Matthew Walker.

The Allbrights receive help and needed advice from the likes of Large Marge, a big black woman who was a Washington, D.C., prosecutor, before heading north and now runs the small general store.

"Next door" to the Allbrights is the Harlan clan, who come around and show how to build a smoke shed and a place to store meat and vegetables for the long winter ahead. It is a compound of extended family headed by their patriarch, "Mad Earl."

Ernt seems in his element. Cora and Leni have

never seen him so happy...until that first winter when the sun rises at 10 a.m. and sets by 3 p.m. His mood swings return with a vengeance...and, as usual, Cora pays the price for her undying love. Hannah's description of winter in Alaska made me feel I was there — I was actually shivering — but was that because of the howling wind, or the howling of Ernt's inner turmoil?

No matter what, Cora stands by Ernt, talking softly when he is deeply depressed, hiding the bruises when he doesn't want to listen to her.

Matthew Walker lives down the road. He and Leni find common ground almost immediately. Their bond grows stronger as the months and years pass. Ernt, however, comes to hate Matthew's father. Maybe because he is successful

and has money, or maybe because he convinces himself he is always flirting with Cora.

As Jean-Jacques Rousseau said, "*Nature never deceives us; it is always we who deceive ourselves.*" No truer words were spoken. Cora always believes in her love for Ernt; she fervently believes he will become the man she knew before he went to war.

At its core, this story is not just beautifully written, it's also the solid characters and the description of Alaska itself. Hannah mentally places you there — its wild and beautiful scenery, its changing seasons, and the diverse wildlife. But besides the beauty, there is the brutality of the land — how it will conquer you if you're not on guard. Alaska is a place that makes the rules you either follow or fail.

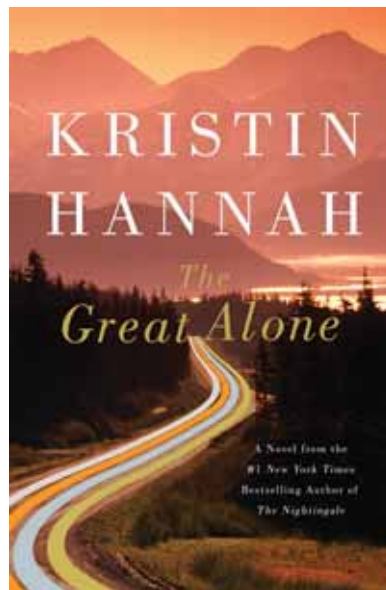
Can love prevail in such a place? Will there be any winners? Maybe, maybe not. And who will lose? Not Alaska.

*Kirkus* (starred review): "There are many great things about this book...A tour de force."

*Real Simple*: "This epic atmospheric novel examines humans' will to endure the unthinkable."

Hannah, a former lawyer turned writer, is the *New York Times* bestselling author of more than 20 novels. She lives in the Pacific Northwest.

Till next time, happy reading and Happy Easter!



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