Making a Comeback

by Connie Kuzydym

Chellberg Farm is a cultural asset and Dunes Learning Center an educational jewel. They exist within Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, which is part of the National Park Service.

Why the brief lesson on who’s who?

Let’s take a quick step back to 2008, when then IDNL Superintendent Costa Dillon announced Chellberg Farm would no longer include farm animals. To understand why unpopular decisions are made at the local level, one must keep in mind these three local jewels are part of a larger picture.

According to Paul Labovitz, who succeeded Dillon as IDNL superintendent, back in 2008, Chellberg Farm’s livestock and farm animals were, for the most part, a government-run operation with some volunteer assistance. Their presence also was amid a declining budget period. When the key person who took care of the farm retired, the IDNL did not have the capacity to keep that model of farm life going. So, Dillon made the decision to remove the animals, an unpopular move with the public.

Fiscally, though, Labovitz said, “it was absolutely the right thing to do. When Labovitz arrived three years ago, he began

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hearing daily about the animals that used to be at the farm. He was open to bringing them back, but in a different way.

Enter Geof Benson, executive director of Dunes Learning Center, a residential learning facility for children. Its mission is to instill lasting curiosity and stewardship with nature through hands-on learning in the dunes.

For the past 19 years, several times a week, Dunes Learning Center staff have taught children about farm life by using Chellberg Farm and Bailly Homestead. Imagine trying to explain to children about farm life when a vital piece is missing.

“The farm just felt dead,” Benson said. “It felt like it was a shell of what it was. It wasn’t a working farm, and it didn’t give you the whole farm experience.”

The importance of having animals at the farm, for Benson, was personal as well.

“I used to bring my kids here,” he said. “We would come here on Sunday mornings and watch the chickens be fed. My kids got to be in nature, got to learn about animals, got to see it. It was a really positive experience for them.”

“Kids nowadays don’t know where food comes from and the decisions that are made about that,” Benson continued. “A lot of kids haven’t seen a real chicken or cow, let alone know what becomes of them at some point. But also the experience of the farm with real animals, it makes it a much more vital experience.”

Benson approached Labovitz, who was open to the idea and gave his approval. Benson then sought innovative partnerships, in addition to individual and group volunteers.

Thanks to his creativeness and drive, the farm animals are back at Chellberg Farm.

In the current model, IDNL hosts the animals, but is not financially or physically responsible for them. The animals live at Chellberg Farm from March 1-Nov. 1. Restrictions exist as to the type and size of animals allowed on the farm. Partially due to the barn’s size but, more importantly, being a historic farm and site, the animals need to represent what would have been at Chellberg Farm some 100 years ago.

According to Benson, the main breed of chickens the Chellbergs had, and are there now, are Barred Rock and Rhode Island Red, which for the Chellbergs did two things really well — lay eggs and taste good — whereas all other chickens do one or the other.

Last year, the chickens were the first animals to return. Before their arrival, Dunes Learning Center staff rebuilt the yard around the coop, which had been removed.

Tapping into innovative partnerships, last year’s chickens, which arrived in time for the Maple Sugar Festival, were borrowed from Scherf Farms in Michigan City. This gave their partner, Westville High School’s biology class, time to raise the chickens that are currently at the farm.

Today, the farm also has a steer and a goat on...
loan from Annette Hansen’s family and some ducks. Hansen is executive director of the Porter County chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, and her children are involved in 4-H Club. While she and her sons take care of the animals, Benson has “a small army of chicken volunteers who take care of the chickens.

“To me, it’s worth it to put in the extra effort to get the volunteers,” Benson said, “to help manage them, schedule them, cover for them.”

For this overall endeavor, Dunes Learning Center also is partnering with the National Park, Friends of Indiana Dunes, Westville High School and Porter County Community Foundation.

The payoff to these combined efforts is the experience school children receive.

“They’re not reading it in a book,” Benson said. “They are actually seeing these animals and smelling them, so that makes it very real. I think when you’re competing against a virtual world, you inherited an empty farm and ask them to pretend which animals are here, (that) is not much competition. But seeing the real thing is good competition for a virtual world.”

Labovitz and Benson emphasize the farm animals are not a petting zoo. Even though it is fun to see them, they are a food source. The goal is to connect children, and adults, so they know where their food comes from.

And Chellberg Farm, in the process, is being reinvigorated to continue this goal. The historic vegetable garden is thriving, and the fruit orchard is being replanted. The goal, according to Labovitz, is for the farm’s landscape to eventually come back and help interpret the story of a relatively small-scale working farm.

“I like how it’s going,” Labovitz said. “We learn more every day. The park is very open to maintaining and expanding the livestock operation at Chellberg, as long as it doesn’t create these long-term financial hardships for the park, because we don’t have the resources to pick up all these kind of things”

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Not only are school children benefitting from the animals’ return and the farm’s reinvigoration, but also the many people who stop by daily.

There is nothing like taking the short walk from the Chellberg Farm parking lot, stepping into the woods, then following the path that winds its way to the farm. Stepping out of the path, you are greeted by the Chellberg farmhouse, surrounded by green grass and in the distance the barns, gardens and orchard. You begin to hear the sounds of the animals. A few steps more, you smell them, then you see them. Pausing to take it all in, you begin to feel as if you have taken a step back in time. It is peaceful.

The public is free to experience Chellberg Farm, located on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter, from 7 a.m. to just past sunset daily. While the animals are in the park, the public can see them being fed at 4 p.m. Sundays.

A glance at IDNL’s calendar not only reveals such opportunities to view the farm animals, but also marks the passage of the seasons with various activities. One upcoming event, the Apple Festival on Sept. 16-17, heralds the approach of fall.

For many years, the Harvest Festival was held at Chellberg Farm, but ran its course in 2010. However, Chellberg Farm’s volunteers, foremost Angel Gochee-Goins, were astute enough to know people would continue to make the trek to the farm. So, they kept that third Saturday in September alive with smaller programs such as canning, history of sugaring and apples.

Last year, with the centennial of the U.S. Park Service and the National Lakeshore’s 50th anniversary, interest in a two-day festival resurfaced. Cliff Goins, an IDNL park ranger and special events manager, was asked to coordinate the festival. According to him, the success of the Saturday programs inspired a two-day event revolving around apples.

The Apple Festival is a three-way partnership between the National Park Service, Dunes Learning Center and Friends of Indiana Dunes.

According to Goins, the festival is twofold. One is the historical aspect, the other is sustainability. The National Park Service, as an agency, looks to preserve our resources, whether they are cultural, natural, historic or wildlife. Over the years, particularly in areas such as Chellberg Farm that are locally, but not necessarily nationally, historic, there’s an
interest in shifting from the local history to more sustainability. There are people today with no idea where their food comes from, how much cost is added to our food, how much energy is used. People have lived off the land in Northwest Indiana for thousands of years, thus sustainability is important in our daily lives. The decisions we make now may not necessarily affect us, but it certainly will impact the future.

With that in mind, a small farmer’s market and bee keeper are being incorporated into the festival, along with the planting of additional fruit trees to the existing orchard.

“We want people to know where their food comes from and how to cut down on their carbon footprint,” Goins said.

The Apple Festival offers families and friends a wonderful opportunity to spend a day outdoors, enjoying the sounds of animals bellowing at Chellberg Farm, listening to wonderful stories and music, participating in various activities...and stepping back in time, even if just for a few hours.

More About the Apple Festival

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore will present the Apple Festival from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 16-17, at Chellberg Farm.

Numerous autumn activities are planned for families. Try a tractor-pulled hayride, or use the hand-cranked apple peeler to peel an apple. Help make cider using an apple press, learn how to cook apples for applesauce and apple butter, ferment apples into vinegar, make apple pomanders and discover dozens of other uses for apples.

Children can participate in apple chucking and crafts. The old Chellberg farm toys will be out for kids to experience. The farmhouse will be open, with delicious smells of apple-based products being made.

Besides the animals, local musicians will provide continuous folk music, while the Northwest Indiana Storytellers will spin tales throughout the two-day event. Enjoy a snack or lunch at one of the many food vendors. Visitors also can watch the Disney short on Johnny Appleseed, then help with the planting of apple trees.

The Chellberg Farm parking lot is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. Call (219) 395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu for more details.
“It” is an emotional thrill ride that is as terrifying as it is unexpectedly moving.

It’d be easy to say the movie triumphs because director Andy Muschietti (“Mama”) gives Stephen King’s monstrously epic 1986 tale a spiffy polish. No, this version works because Muschietti understands that casting is key. Secure the ideal actor for the right role, and everything locks into place. King’s story, a chilling exercise in primal fear, of monsters human and supernatural, unfolds through the eyes of children, and Muschietti’s cast is like watching the next generation of standouts. The movie hits home because the characters are worth rooting for.

With “It,” King explored his two favorite themes: a nostalgia for the past, albeit one that bites back, and misfits whose oddities are the ties that bind. Many people have an enduring affection for the 1990 mini-series. Revisit it, though, and save for Tim Curry’s iconic turn as Pennywise the Clown, the TV adaptation is a chunk of early-’90s cheese.

The tweaks Muschietti and his writers apply to King’s tale are smart, specifically in splitting the story into halves. This film concentrates on the characters as children. A sequel will revisit them as adults. Rather than commence in the 1950s, the story begins in 1988 as young Georgie Denbrough (a cherubic Jackson Robert Scott) chases his paper sailboat in the rain, along a winding current in the street, when it cascades into the sewer...and into the razor-sharp clutches of Pennywise the Clown.

Anyone familiar with the story knows that all does not bode well for little Georgie. And taking over the reins as Pennywise is Bill Skarsgard – brother of Alexander (“True Blood”), son of Stellan (“Good Will Hunting”). Give the actor some credit. He’s chilling. Pennywise, a feat of imagination in terms of makeup and costume, is the personification of evil. Skarsgard taunts and teases, his words sickly sweet, their delivery escalatingly psychotic.

As more children go missing in the small town of Derry, Maine, members of “The Losers Club” quickly takes shape: children united by an evil presence only they can see. There is not one weak link in the cast. They embody King’s characters with salt and vinegar, especially scene-stealer Finn Wolfhard as foul-mouthed Richie Tozier. The “Stranger Things” actor had plenty of practice, since the breakout Netflix hit, in part, was inspired by King’s novels.

The standouts are Jaeden Lieberher — he of the vastly underrated “Midnight Special” — as Georgie’s older brother Bill, and relative newcomer Sophia Lillis as bold, yet wounded Beverly Marsh. Lieberher is a natural, a perfect conduit to draw audiences into the story. Lillis is extraordinarily empathetic: fierce, vulnerable – every boy’s first crush. There are scenes conveying the precise moments when friendships deepen that are incredibly affecting, reminiscent of “Stand By Me,” but with a tougher edge. And Muschietti beautifully captures the tone of King’s novel, the ebbs and flows of small-town life that sculpt heroes out of unlikely clay.

For sure, “It” is not for everyone. Those with a distaste for King, or horror tales in general, will be turned off. And yes, it’s scary. I jumped in my seat. Three times, to be exact.

For the curious, give the movie a chance. Slowly, but surely, “It” gets under your skin.

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John Records Landecker was feeling the love, yet in some respects, he appeared puzzled by all the attention.

On Sept. 8, in the presence of friends, colleagues and dignitaries at Barker Mansion’s gardens, the legendary radio personality was hit with several honors at once. He received Indiana’s highest distinction: the Sagamore of the Wabash. Michigan City Mayor Ron Meer proclaimed Sept. 8 as “John Records Landecker Day.” And, there was repeated mention of his forthcoming induction into the National Radio Hall of Fame on Nov. 2.

Shortly before the ceremony, orchestrated by his friend and “Tropical Oldies Radio” cohost Mike Dempsey, Landecker, 70, told The Beacher he wasn’t sure how to react when he learned a few weeks ago he would receive the Sagamore.

“Honestly, I thought, ‘I don’t deserve this,’” he said. “I thought, give it to someone who really deserves it.”

But by the ceremony’s end, Landecker was humbled into a state of gracious acceptance.

The program alternated between good-natured roast — producer/publisher Rick Kaempfer recalled the good fortune of meeting “three of John’s four wives” — and sincere admiration (State Rep. Scott Pelath described Landecker as being “part of all of us growing up.”)

Dempsey cited Pelath as crucial in persuading Gov. Eric Holcomb to have Landecker receive the Sagamore. Apparently, according to Dempsey, the process did not require too much persuading since the governor was a longtime fan.

Indeed, for those of us growing up here, how could you not know who Landecker is. WLS 890 was his “home” on and off for many years. At one point, its signal stretched across 38 states, which mean Landecker’s ratings were off the charts. Listeners devoured bits ranging from “Boogie Check” to “Americana Panorama.”

He was born and raised in Ann Arbor, Mich., yet Indiana was a key part of his upbringing, what with his grandparents operating a farm in Hopewell, located in Franklin Township in Johnson County. He’s called
Michigan City home for the past 14 or 15 years.

Kaempfer, who co-wrote “Records Truly is My Middle Name” with Landecker, described him as “a bottomless pit of ideas.”

Over time, Kaempfer continued, he learned to trust in Landecker’s latest inspirations, no matter how crazy they seemed. Like, he recalled, sending an Elvis impersonator to the homes of listeners at 6 in the morning.

“When John’s enthusiastic about something,” Kaempfer said, “he can bring everyone along for the ride.”

Before reading the proclamation declaring Sept. 8 as “John Records Landecker Day,” Meer stressed how fortunate Michigan City is to have him here.

“John has brought so much fun to our community, and I really appreciate that,” the mayor said, then directly addressing Landecker, added, “You make me laugh, and not a lot of people make me laugh.

“You were always unique, you were different, you were unorthodox...and you still are.”

The program also featured comments from Second Ward City Councilwoman Candice Silvas, and the reading of a letter from U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly, and a brief radio interview with him, by WEFM’s Ron Miller. Dempsey also worked with Michigan City Senior Center’s Tara Miller to record a retooled version of Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah.”

In thanking everyone present, Landecker noted how the Sagamore typically goes to people who’ve greatly contributed to the state of Indiana. But at that moment, he stressed, “this is really about what the state of Indiana still does for me.”
“The Zookeeper’s Wife”

As part of its fall film series, Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., will show “The Zookeeper’s Wife” at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17.

The free screening is through a collaboration with Purdue University Northwest’s Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series.

Directed by Niki Caro (“Whale Rider”), and adapted from The New York Times bestseller by Diane Ackerman, who cowrote the script, the film tells the true story of a Warsaw zookeeper and his wife who helped save hundreds of people during the German invasion of Poland in 1939.

The film is Rated PG-13. Contact Judy Jacobi, PNW assistant vice chancellor of University Art Collections & Special Programs, at (219) 785-5593 for more details.

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The sixth annual Polish Heritage Festival is just around the corner.

As calendars shift from summer to fall, apples, pumpkins and school busses becoming familiar sights, we begin to think about the festivals of autumn. The Polish Heritage Festival, celebrated at Michigan City’s famed Friendship Botanic Gardens, has become a highlight of the season. It will be celebrated from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17. As always, it is a day of music, food, fun and friendship — an old-fashioned family festival.

Each year, as soon as the final notes of the last jolly polka fade from the air, and the scent of onions and those sizzling polish sausages pass into memory, the Polish Heritage Association of Michigan City planning committee begins work on the next year’s event. While still filled with the glow of the latest success, the committee reviews all that was special, as well as those things that did not work so well, to plan an even more successful festival for next year.

The core planning group consists of as many as 16 volunteers. They meet monthly all year long to assemble all the pieces that eventually become the festival we enjoy so much. The week before the actual event sees an increase in activities at the gardens as volunteers set up tents, tables and chairs, and a sound system to complete the preparations for the overflowing throngs that will be entertained.

The festival committee is making plans to greet a larger-than-ever crowd. More parking spaces have been created, and area Boy Scouts will direct traffic to ensure all vehicles are safety parked.

The event is all about family — music, food and the spiritual traditions of the land of Polska. This year’s festival promises to be more enjoyable than ever. Volunteers have worked hard all year to make it so. Mark and Amanda Kolasa, along with Gene and Carol Tylisz, head up the festival committee, with Father Walter Rakoczy and Kathy Sadlowski organizing the Mass, and Mary Piskor and son, Michael, promoting the raffle. Janisz Duzinkiewicz hosts the cultural display booth and handles the scholarship program. Margaret Picur recruits the dance groups, while Marilyn Burns coordinates the vendors. Larry Yodlowski, Duane Perry, Dan Krsak, Jerry Sosinski, Natalie Kroening and Margaret Buchanan also contribute to the planning all year round.
As has become tradition, the day of celebration begins with a Polish/English Mass in the canopied Symphony Garden, a peaceful and particularly beautiful setting for this sharing of spiritual unity. The hymns of the faith will be led by the colorfully clad young people of Wesoly Lud, accompanied by Polonijna Orkiestra (Polish folk orchestra). The Mass will be celebrated by Rakoczy. It has been celebrated yearly at the festival by as many as 300 folks of all ages.

At noon, Wesoly Lud, dressed in colorful traditional costumes, and Polonijna Orkiestra will lead celebrants of the Mass across the new bridge over Trail Creek in a rollicking procession to a delicious meal prepared by Hammond’s Cavalier Inn. As a special treat, Rakoczy and crew will prepare Kiszka, which is served on a special grilled rye bread.

Special highlights include a presentation of the Polish Day Proclamation, the naming of the Polish Ambassador of the Year and the presentation of scholarships to winners of the yearly essay contest, “What My Polish Heritage Means to Me.”

During and after the meal, the assemblage will be treated to the music of the Polish band Ampol-Aires, which will fill every space of the gardens with its own brand of happy tunes.

Wesoly Lud and the Polish dance ensemble Lajkonik will fill the main stage with whirling colors and the enthusiastic smiles of happy youth. As in past years, the bakery goods of Bakers Dozen will be sold, and there will be many booths featuring Polish goods. A display of Polish cultural heritage can be found on the concourse, as well as a demonstration of Pysanki, or Polish egg decoration.

A raffle is always a highlight, and what would the festival be without a good Polish beer, Okocim, served ice cold in the beer garden.

Friendship Botanic Gardens is located at 2055 E. U.S. 12. Parking will be available at two locations: from the main entrance off U.S. 12 and from Liberty Trail. Admissions is $5 for adults and free for children 12 and younger. Visit www.facebook.com/PolishHeritageFestivalMC for more details.

With a big red pen — honoring the color of the Polish flag — mark your calendars today and join the annual celebration of Polish heritage. Indeed, on Sept. 17 in Michigan City, for one day at least, everyone is Polish.

(All photos that appear with this article were taken by Paul Kemiel at last year’s festival.)

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The Ninth Annual World Cultural Festival will transform Valparaiso’s Central Park Plaza into a celebration of diversity from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16.

Sponsored by The Valparaiso International Center, the free family-friendly event highlights music and dance, international art and handicrafts, ethnic cuisine and children’s activities.

Entertainment at the Porter Health Amphitheater will feature music and dance representing India, Greece, Puerto Rico, China and the U.S. Additional acts were still being added at press time.

Performers include the South Shore Dance Alliance, Hellenic Cathedral Center Dance Troupe, Mei Feng Chinese Instruments Orchestra, Wirt-Emerson Academy, the Blues Project, Silk Cedar Ensemble of Valparaiso University and traditional Indian dance groups. Christopher McQuillian’s bagpipe will open the event.

A highlight is the Parade of Nations. Attendees are encouraged to wear traditional attire and carry the flag of their birthplace or ancestral homeland.

At the William E. Urschel Pavilion, festivalgoers can buy ethnic cuisine prepared by: Meditrina Market Café (Mediterranean); Don Quijote Restaurant (Spanish); Taj Express (Indian); Jade Garden (Chinese); Roxana’s Restaurant (Afghan); and Woodfire Restaurant (Mexican).

Many non-profit organizations and educational institutions will have information booths, and a variety of international products and fair-trade items will be sold at the World Bazaar.

Visit www.valpovic.org or call (219) 464-1122 for more details.

A Greek dance troupe performs at the 2016 festival.

The Indian delegation in the 2016 Parade of Nations.
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The 33rd season of Writing Out Loud kicks off with nuclear physicist-lecturer Stanton Friedman at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

Stanton Friedman received degrees in physics from the University of Chicago. He was employed as a nuclear physicist by companies such as GE, GM, Westinghouse, TRW Systems, Aerojet General Nucleons and McDonnell Douglas.

He became interested in UFOs in 1958 and since 1967 has lectured about them at more than 600 colleges and 100 professional groups. He has published more than 90 UFO papers and appeared on hundreds of radio and TV programs, including “Larry King Live,” and many documentaries.

He is the original civilian investigator of the Roswell Incident and co-wrote “Crash at Corona: The Definitive Study of the Roswell Incident.” “TOP SECRET/MAJIC,” his controversial book about the Majestic 12 group, established in 1947 to deal with alien technology, was published in 1996 and went through six printings. An expanded new edition was published in 2005.

He is the co-author with Kathleen Marden (Betty Hill’s niece) of a 2007 book, “Captured! The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience.” “Flying Saucers and Science” was published in June 2008 and is in its third printing. “Science Was Wrong,” cowritten with Marden, was released in June 2010.

The program is followed by a reception and book signing hosted by the Friends of the Michigan City Public Library.

Programs are supported with funds by the Patrons of Writing Out Loud, Michigan City Public Library Endowment Fund and Friends of the Library, with Book Warehouse at Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets providing books for sale for each event.

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Michiana Shores, Indiana
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Long Beach, Indiana
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$499,000

3319 CALUMET TRL
Duneland Beach, Indiana
4 BEDROOMS/3 BATHS
$479,900

912 N 625 E
Westville, Indiana
4 BEDROOMS/3 BATHS
$395,000

OPEN HOUSE SAT, 9/16, 12PM - 2PM CT

10354 N 215 E
LaPorte, Indiana
4 BEDROOMS/4 BATHS
$349,900

17667 PENNY LN
New Buffalo, Michigan
3 BEDROOMS/2.5 BATHS
$329,000

6366 WYANDOT AVE
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Friends of LP Library Book Sale

The Friends of the La Porte County Public Library will hold a book sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at the main library, 904 Indiana Ave.

Funds raised support library programs, such as the Summer Reading Program and Spark Labs technology classes for all ages. This past summer, the Summer Reading Program had children logging 268,286 minutes of reading.

Along with the Sunflower Fair Book Sale, the Friends of the Library will have ongoing book sales at four branch locations: Main, Coolspring, Rolling Prairie and Kingsford Heights.

Contact La Porte County Public Library at (219) 362-6156, watch laportelibrary.org or follow social media accounts for updates.

Acorn Concert Series

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens continues its Acorn Concert Series with Carl Weathersby and The Corey Dennison Band from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16.

As one of Albert King’s former rhythm guitarists, Weathersby applies Southern sensibilities to his vocals and guitar-playing.

Weathersby also mentored and played with Dennison for 12 years, The Corey Dennison Band having formed in 2013. Opening for the show is The Ben Franklin Blues Project, which features students from Valparaiso’s Ben Franklin Middle School.

Gates open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets, which cost $15, can be purchased at tinyurl.com/yan87x5q or at the door. Tickets purchased online will be placed on a will call list at the door.

Take lawn chairs to the family friendly event. Craft beer, wine and food will be sold.

Taltree is located at 71 N. County Road 500 West, Valparaiso. Email info@taltree.org for details.

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BEVERLY SHORES, IN
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**NorthShore Health Center** free blood-pressure screenings from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter, and 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Sept. 20, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Interested patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

**Music at the Museum** from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, at Westchester Township Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

The Flashbacks will perform. Members are: Suzanne Keldsen, playing guitar, recorders and fiddle; Julietta Raby, playing fiddle, mandolin and guitar; Nancy Cairns on dulcimer and ukulele; Paul Mache playing guitar and banjo; and Marti Pizzini on autoharp, dulcimer and guitar.

**Kids Science Explorer Club** at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, at the Thomas Library Children's Department.

Duneland School Corp. teacher Kim Stahura leads the science-based program for children 6 and older. The focus this month is cars, weights and ramps to study Newton’s laws. Registration is required in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

**Duplo Club** from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at Thomas Library's Children's Department.

Geared towards preschoolers ages 2-5, registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

**Special exhibit opening, “Do the Dunes,”** from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Brown Mansion, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

The exhibit explores the transition for the Dunes as a place of survival to one of leisure and exercise. See an old bicycle, skis, snowshoes and other items while learning how survival techniques of the past turned into outdoor fun and games today.

**Intro to the Ukulele** from 3:45 to 4:15 p.m. Sept. 18, 20, 25 and 27 at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.

No experience is necessary. The hands-on introduction to the ukulele involves learning basic chords, rhythm and ukulele history. The library will provide instruments; however, those who have one can take it to class and should indicate so when registering. Space is limited, so register at the library's children’s department or call (219) 926-7696.

**Maker Mondays** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18, in the Thomas Library upstairs IT classroom.

Local software engineer Adam Johnson will lead a hands-on program, appropriate for patrons 12 and older, about Arduino circuit devices.

**Crochet Club** from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Nov. 28 at Thomas Library.

Attendees learn beginning crochet from instructor Sadie Steciuch. Children are asked to take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium-weight yarn to each session. Class size is limited, so registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

**Minecraft Meet-up** from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, 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.

**Pizza Pajama Book Club for Teens** from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, in the Thomas Library Young Adult Room.

Teens in grades 6-12 can discuss books they have read or are reading. The focus is J.R.R. Tolkien's “The Hobbit: Or, There and Back Again.” Pizza will be provided. Registration is required.

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Flower Power
Nine Hole Guest Day

The ladies of Long Beach Country Club Nine Hole League and their guests were transported back to the “Summer of Love” during the recent Flower Power Guest Day.

Thanks to event chairwoman Tommy Fitzsimmons, the ladies attended an evening cocktail party featuring “Styles of the ’60s,” a morning of golf, then a luncheon with ’60s flair.

The event winners were:

**Front Nine**
- **First Place**: Dottie Healy, Connie Sullivan, Mary Pat Reilly, Peggy Nystrom.
- **Second Place**: Carol Sullivan, Sue Hill, Carol Lyons, Kathy Graham.
- **Third Place**: Diane Rubey, Mindy McMahon, Linda Sperling, Amy O’Donoghue.

**Back Nine**
- **First Place**: Peg King, Kathleen Beeler, June Salmon, Colleen Meyer.
- **Second Place**: Nancy Thill, Catherine Kelly, Juli Cronin, Lori Osmanski.
- **Third Place**: Pat Kelley, Roxanne Warble, Kathy Kenefick, Joanne Shirk.

**Longest Drives**: Sue Hill, Emma Lowes.

**Closest to the Pin**: Connie Sullivan, Colleen Meyer.

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Northwest Indiana Green Drinks

Sacha Gee Burns will present the program “Reduce, Reuse & Recycle: What’s New?” during the Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, at Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St.

Burns is the new La Porte County Solid Waste District public-outreach coordinator and environmental educator. She also is the farm owner at Sunkissed Organics and contributes to the annual Farm Dinner Downtown La Porte.

Green Drinks meetings are sponsored by Save the Dunes and supported by 219 GreenConnect. The suggested donation is $5, or $2 for students. Call (219) 874-4076 for details.

Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Angels Among Us**, 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14.
  Ange Benz leads the discussion on inspiring stories about the presence of angels in everyday lives.

- **Duneland Stamp Club** at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14.
  The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.

- **World Play Dough Day** at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at Youth Services.
  Create something with modeling clay. Also planned is a quick demonstration on how to make dough at home.

- **Writing Out Loud**: Stanton Friedman at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, in the library meeting room.
  The 33rd season kicks off with nuclear physicist-lecturer Stanton Friedman. The program is followed by a reception and book signing hosted by Friends of the Michigan City Public Library.

- **Fall Films on DVD**, “The Zookeeper’s Wife,” at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17, in the library meeting room.
  The film, directed by Niki Caro and based on the best-selling non-fiction book by Diane Ackerman, is Rated PG-13.

- **“The Hobbit”** at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18, in the library meeting room.
  Celebrate the 80th anniversary of the publication of J.R.R. Tolkien’s “The Hobbit” with a screening of “The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey” (Rated PG-13). Light refreshments will be served. Youth 18 and younger could win a copy of the movie. They must arrive by 4 p.m. to be eligible.

- **International Talk Like a Pirate Day** at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19, in the library meeting room.
  Children 1-10 accompanied by an adult can decorate a mini treasure chest.

- **Story Time** at 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 19 and 26, and 10 a.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 20 and 27, in the library meeting room.
  Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.

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

The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, in the City Hall Mayor's Conference Room.

New PFLAG Chapter

Having achieved chapter status from the national organization, PFLAG Michigan City will serve La Porte County with monthly meetings.

PFLAG, formerly known as Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, was founded by a mother, Jeanne Manford, who wanted to support her gay son and organize the gay community in the 1970s. PFLAG in Michigan City is the result of Nancy Moldenhauer, Michigan City Human Rights commissioner, who recognized a need after the City Council, with guidance from Councilwoman Pat Boy, unanimously updated 23 ordinances to protect the rights of LGBTA individuals and veterans in October 2015.

In partnership with Carol Pozos, the group gathered mostly mothers of LGBTQA+ children they knew, members of the La Porte County LGBTQ Alliance and other community supporters to form a local chapter.

To meet national guidelines, coordinator Esther Stiles, plus all group members of the La Porte County LGBTQ Alliance, agreed to help. In addition, Jennifer Olsen offered financial and legal counsel. Official chapter status was achieved in May.

Founding board members are: Pozos (president); Aishatu Kelly (secretary); Olson (treasurer); Moldenhau, Stiles, Joseph Bunch, Julie Geyer, Sue Harrison, John Livelsberger and Martha Maust. The next project is to develop a referral list of services and support.

The first meeting was Sept. 12. ensuing meetings will be the second Tuesday of each month at Politics Art Roots Culture, 1713 Franklin St. Call (219) 561-0948 or email mcpflag@gmail.com for details.

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:

• “50 Years of Photography in the Indiana Dunes” runs through September at Glen Firme Galleries, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores. The focus is local photographer David Larson. His works, some dating to before Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was established, highlights the changing dunes landscape through the years. Larson donated the exhibit to the IDNL in 2016 as part of the park’s 50th anniversary celebration. The photographs, and accompanying storyboards, are now offered as a traveling exhibit.

• The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.

• Stewardship project to remove invasive plants from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 16, in the Cowles Bog area. The bog, one of IDNL’s most threatened natural areas, is a designated National Natural Landmark because of its natural plant diversity. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and other protective equipment will be provided. Meet at the Cowles Bog north parking lot on Mineral Springs Road, one mile north of U.S. 12 and just south of the Dunes Acres guard house.

• Playdate in the Nature Play Zone from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education. Explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create nature art and feed the resident fish, turtles, snakes, toads and frogs. Dress for the weather.

• Stargazing on Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Kemil Beach parking area. Members from Chicago Astronomical Society, Michiana Astronomical Society and Calumet Astronomical Society will attend with telescopes. Take binoculars. The Kemil Beach parking lot is located at 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton. Call the visitor center for times.

• Pinhook Bog Open House from noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays through Sept. 23. Tour the bog and talk to rangers stationed along the trail who explain the unique area filled with carnivorous plants. Arrive by 2 p.m. to allow about one hour to walk the trail and tour the bog. The bog parking lot is located at 700 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.
The American Red Cross La Porte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobiles:
- La Porte County Family YMCA, 901 Michigan Ave., La Porte, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16.
- St. John Kanty, 7012 N. County Road 600 East, Rolling Prairie, 1 to 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18.
- Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., La Porte, 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19.

Donate blood through Sept. 30 and receive a free haircut coupon from Sport Clips by email. Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org for more details.

Art Blitz

Valparaiso’s Art Barn School of Art will host the interactive festival Art Blitz! from 10 a.m. to sundown Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 16-17. Admission and parking are free. Take lawn chairs. Art Barn School of Art is located at 695 N. County Road 400 East. Visit artbarnschool.org for details.

Harbor Country Singers Concert

Harbor Country Singers will kick off closing ceremonies for Three Oaks’ summer-long sesquicentennial celebration with a concert at 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 16, on the outdoor stage at Three Oaks Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St.

HCS Director Cindy Dryden said the 45-minute program will include patriotic and traditional music, three songs by children from the local elementary school and guest performers. Attendees are encouraged to take lawn chairs.

Dryden organized the community choral group, a workshop through the center, to encourage community participation in choral music. Anyone with an interest in singing is welcome to join. The ability to read music is not required.

Also, HCH will host an exploration of Galien River County Park, led by Berrien County Parks Naturalist Kip Miller, at 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 21. Although membership is encouraged, events are open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Membership costs $20 for individuals or $30 for families.

Email harborcountryhikers@gmail.com or visit harborcountryhikers.com for more information or to request a membership form.

Harbor Country Hikers

In conjunction with the Alliance for the Great Lakes Adopt-a-Beach program, Harbor Country Hikers will hold a Beach Treasure & Trash Hike from 7 p.m. to sunset EDT Sunday, Sept. 17.

The event at Cherry Beach is led by Janet Schrader, a Chikaming Township Park Board member who will share her beach-treasure hunting secrets, as well as the history of local beaches.

Cherry Beach is located in Harbert and accessed from Red Arrow Highway by turning west on Cherry Beach Road between Lakeshore Drive and Lakewood Drive.

Also, HCH will host an exploration of Galien River County Park, led by Berrien County Parks Naturalist Kip Miller, at 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 21.

Although membership is encouraged, events are open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Membership costs $20 for individuals or $30 for families.

Email harborcountryhikers@gmail.com or visit harborcountryhikers.com for more information or to request a membership form.

Read The Beacher On Line
http://www.thebeacher.com/
La Porte Sunflower Fair

With more than 100 craft and nonprofit vendors, the Sunflower Fair returns to downtown La Porte from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16.

The event, presented by the Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce and a volunteer committee, includes food, entertainment, rides, a rib cook-off, sunflower contest and art walk.

A 5K Run and Fun Walk, which kicks off festivities from 8 to 9 a.m., benefits La Porte children through La Porte Kiwanis Club.

“It’s fascinating to see people walk in with these gigantic sunflowers,” Thaddeus Cutler, La Porte’s Downtown director, said. “They’re the theme of the fair, which really is a celebration of the beginning of fall.”

That autumn theme, and probably some sunflower touches, too, are likely to show up in a new event: the Jaycees’ scarecrow building contest.

The fair began 19 years ago as a bake sale to raise money for a local church group. Each year, something new was added until, today, it encompasses 11 city blocks in La Porte’s downtown.

Cutler credits much of the fair’s success to Phyllis Jones, who came up with the idea.

“I’m blown away by how she stuck with her vision and how it has grown,” he said, adding she still leads the fair committee.

Jones is understandably proud of the event.

“It’s been my baby and a good thing for the town,” Jones says, noting she’ll turn 90 on her next birthday. “People come back because they just enjoy it.”

Visit sunflowerfair.com for details.

Day of Mindfulness

Peacemakers’ Sangha’s 16th Day of Mindfulness is Saturday, Sept. 16, at Taleamor Park at The Peterson’s LaPrairie Farm, 2215 E. County Road 350 North.

The event, whose focus is enjoying nature, involves sitting and walking meditation, Qigong and a meal. Take lunch, water and a meditation cushion or chair.

Day of registration is at 9:30 a.m., with the event itself from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is a $15 donation. Preregistration is requested by contacting Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Lee Malizia at leemalizia@gmail.com

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La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., released its August curator’s report.

Visitors came from 20 states, 11 counties, Canada, France and Germany. A large group came from Parke County, as well as a home-schooled group.

The Sixth Annual Memorial Gardens was held Aug. 5. A painting party led by artist Dori Huber was held Aug. 12, the subject being a Ruth Johnson quilt on display in the museum lower level.

Donations included:

- La Porte High School sweater belonging to Lloyd Cumerford, Cathedral window quilt, needlepoint picture, toddler jacket, tablecloth and matching napkins, cut-glass candy dish and bottle, tapestry purse and 1927 sampler made by Irma Hanson, Cathy Fulle.
- Boy Scout items, including shirts, pants, bolo ties and a belt, Arnie Bass.
- Scrapbook on Bill Hubner, Ron Eigenmann.
- Scrapbook from “Prancer,” Hunter Alan.
- Communion set from the former Baptist Missionary Church located on Monroe Street in La Porte, Cherie Fuller.
- La Porte Hospital scrapbook and La Porte Physicians scrapbook, Barbara Backer.
- Archival information, Karen Piper.
- Items for the sale table, Cathy Fuller, James Philon, Ben Rison, Tim Harroll, Mike Peretti, Karen Piper and Susie Richter.

The summer quilt display, “A Cozy Cover-up,” will soon end and be replaced by a “Then-and-Now” photo contest exhibit that runs through November.

Run to the Center of the World

The sixth annual Run to the Center of the World 5K Run/Walk and 10K Run is Saturday, Sept. 16, with New Troy (Mich.) Community Center serving as the start and finish point.

Proceeds from the race, hosted by Friends of New Troy and SWMI Racers, benefit the community center, which receives no government funding and is supported through memberships, donations and fundraisers.

Fees for participants 15 and older are $25, or $15 for 14 and younger through race day. On-site registration and packet pickup begin at 8 a.m. EDT the day of the race. The 10K race begins at 9 a.m. EDT and the 5K at 9:15 a.m. EDT. The awards ceremony starts at 10:15 a.m. EDT. A breakfast table will provide pre- and post-race fuel.

Organizers have developed routes that are “fast and flat” for improved finish times. Results now will be available with a smartphone app.

Names and finish times of overall finishers will be engraved on bricks and permanently installed in the community center. Hand-crafted, carved wooden plaques are awarded to overall and age group winners in the 10K Run, 5K run and, for the first time this year, in the 5K Walk. Prizes also will be awarded for Best Costume, Longest Distance Traveled and Largest Team.

Visit tinyurl.com/y8eeta9r to register online. Forms also are available at the community center, 13372 California Road, or New Troy Post Office. Maps and information are available at facebook.com/RunToTheCenter, or contact Terry Hanover at (269) 426-4199 or FriendsOfNewTroy@yahoo.com

Speed Networking Event

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will present its Chamber Coffee Talk-Speed Networking at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19, at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

The event is free, and free coffee will be served. During Speed Networking, attendees speak to each other one-on-one for two minutes at a time.

The September non-profit spotlighted during the meeting is La Porte Little Theatre Club. Visit www.laportelittletheatreclub.com for details.
**Krasl Members Show**

A preview party for the members show “Honoring the Past” is from 6 to 8 p.m. EDT Friday, Sept. 15, at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, runs through Oct. 29. Members were invited to reflect on themselves, others, materials, places or time, submitting not piece not previously shown.

Related events include:

- **Coffee With the Curator** at 9 a.m. EDT Monday, Sept. 18. Curator Tami Miller leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the show, offering insight into the inspiration behind the art.

- **A members show artist talk** at 7 p.m. EDT Thursday, Oct. 5. The artists publicly share the stories, inspiration and skill required to create the works included in the show.

Also on view in the ArtLab is Carrie Rubinstein’s “Retrofit.” The Brooklyn-based artist pieces together facts from her family’s historical past with imagined details to create a full-scale domestic interior.

“Retrofit” is crafted of pen and ink on paper, handmade paper objects and filtered light.

Rubinstein also will lead a hollow construction paper workshop from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 16. The cost is $25 for members and $35 for non-members. All material are provided.

The workshop emphasizes how to manipulate heavyweight paper to produce lifelike forms that appear solid and structural, but are in fact hollow. Students may take objects no larger than a bread box, or replicate still life objects in the studio.

The workshop is appropriate for students age 10 to adult. All skill levels are invited.

Also at KAC:

- **Visiting artist workshop: hollow construction with sheet paper** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 16.

  Students 10 and older learn the technique of manipulating sheet paper to create 3-D hollow-constructed objects from artlab artist Carrie Rubenstein. They also observe the structure of everyday 3-D objects and mimic their forms in paper. The cost is $25, or $35 for members. Spots are limited.

- **Pechakucha Night at Artoberfest** at 8:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 16, at The Livery, 190 5th St., Benton Harbor, Mich.

  The culminating event at Artoberfest costs $5. It is a concise presentation format of 20 slides for 20 seconds each (a total of 6 minutes, 40 seconds), where community members share their experiences and creative works.

  *Call (269) 983-0271 or visit www.krasl.org for more details.*

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Coloma Artist Exhibit


An opening reception is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, Oct. 5. Higdon will do a demonstration from noon to 3 p.m. EDT Thursday, Nov. 9.

Born and raised in Michigan, Higdon is a graduate of the Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, Mich. Since 1978, after six years of graphic design and illustration in commercial advertising, he has focused on fine art painting. His studio is in downtown Coloma. He works in watercolors and transparent watercolors, sometimes within the same painting.

The Gallery at The Inn at Harbor Shores highlights exclusively Michigan artists in rotating exhibits located on the second floor. The art program has two components: a permanent collection displayed in guestrooms and public areas, and rotating gallery exhibitions curated by Susan Wilczak.

The Inn at Harbor Shores is located at 800 Whitwam Drive. Contact Wilczak at susan@susanwilczak.com or (269) 449-3231 for more details.

LBCC Women’s Golf Leagues

9-Hole League

Sept. 7, 2017
Event: Mystery Event

“A” Flight
Low Net: Kathy Kenefick
Low Putts: Eunie Nondorf

“B” Flight
Low Net: Jean Guerin
Low Putts: Mary O’Neil

“C” Flight
Low Net: Rima Binder/ Alison Kolb
Low Putts: Nancy Thill

“D” Flight
Low Net: Kathie Mole
Low Putts: Diane Rubey

Closest to the Pin
Mary Pat Reilly Hole 10
Kathie Mole Hole 5

Sunken Approach
Barb Hall Hole 3
Kathy Kenefick Hole 12

Longest Putts
Front — Hole 9 Eunie Nondorf
Back — Hole 16 Kathie Kenefick

Front 9 Mystery Event
Jean Guerin, Rima Binder, Diane Rubey

Back 9 Mystery Event
Sarah Blank, Jean St. Peter, Mary Pat Reilly
Aug. 31, 2017
Event: 3 Club Tourney

“A” Flight
Low Event: Sue Luegers
Low Net: Donna Hennard
Low Putts: Eunie Nondorf

“B” Flight
Low Event: June Salmon, Linda Wilson
Low Net: Mary O’Neil
Low Putts: Marge Walsh

“C” Flight
Low Event: Mary Weithers
Low Net: Babs Ward, Kathy Hanley
Low Putts: Mary Weithers

“D” Flight
Low Event: Carol Sullivan
Low Net: Alison Kolb
Low Putts: Carol Sullivan

Sunken Approach
Front — Hole 1
Eunie Nondorf

Gather at Gardena

The monthly “Gather at Gardena” is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at the park.

The family event, sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran Church, includes crafts, games and food.
**Prayer to the Blessed Virgin**
(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

**Michigan City Video Fest**

The Third Annual Michigan City Video Fest continues at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, at The Nest, 803 Franklin St.

Attendees can see four of the longer videos submitted to this year’s event, first held at Michigan City Public Library. They are:

- “Human Instincts” by Chicago filmmaker Nikola Stojkovic, about a college psychology experiment that goes terribly wrong.
- “The Turning Love Affair” by professional filmmaker Natasha Kermani, where cyborg stewardesses on an intergalactic flight become involved with murder.

The two documentaries are “The Lost Marionettes of Ralph Kipness” and “Indiana’s Last Frontier” by the makers of the “Shifting Sands” video.

“The Lost Marionettes” chronicles the chance discovery of thousands of marionettes in an abandoned house in Chicago that ultimately came to Michigan City. “Indiana’s Last Frontier” looks at the history of the lakeshore and region.

Visit www.mcvideofest.com or facebook.com/MCVideoFest for more details.

**Prairie Ethnobotany Class**

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens will present a Prairie Ethnobotany Class from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20.

Participants are asked to dress appropriately and take a water bottle to the outdoor class. The instructor is Cindy Crosby, an author and compiler and contributor to more than 20 books.

The cost is $39 for members and $45 for nonmembers. Registration is due by Sept. 16 to tinyurl.com/yan87x5q

Taltree is located at 71 N. County Road 500 West near Valparaiso. Email info@taltree.org for details.
Activities to Explore

**In the Area:**

**Sept. 14** — Drum circle with Don Wenig, 6:30 p.m., The Nest, 803 Franklin St. Free, optional donation. Info: (219) 262-5200.

**Sept. 15** — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.


**Sept. 16** — Sunflower Fair, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., downtown La Porte.

**Sept. 16** — Friends of the La Porte County Public Library book sale, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., main library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 362-6156.

**Sept. 16** — World Play Dough Day, 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Sept. 16** — “Gather at Gardena,” 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Gardena Park.

**Sept. 16** — Free family tour and workshop, 1-2:30 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Registration: (219) 874-4900.

**Sept. 16** — Harbor Country Singers concert, 1 p.m. EDT, outdoor stage @ Three Oaks Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St.

**Sept. 16** — Michigan City Video Fest, 2 p.m., The Nest, 803 Franklin St. Info: www.mcvideofest.com

**Sept. 16** — Special exhibit opening, “Do the Dunes,” 2-4 p.m., Brown Mansion, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

**Sept. 16** — Stargazing, Kemil Beach parking area, 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton. Time: (219) 395-1882.


**Sept. 17** — Writing Out Loud: Stanton Friedman, 7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Sept. 16-17** — Apple Festival, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 & 20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**Sept. 17** — Polish Heritage Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Cost: $5, children 12 & younger/free. Info:

**Sept. 17** — Fall Films on DVD, “The Zookeeper’s Wife,” 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Sept. 18** — “The Hobbit,” 3:30 p.m., Michigan
September 14, 2017

The City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**September 20 — Rosh Hashanah.**

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

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

**Saturdays** — Pinhook Bog Open House, noon-3 p.m., 700 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City. Through Sept. 23. Info: (219) 395-1882.


**In the Region**

**Sept. 15-17** — “Finishing School,” Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vis-tula St. Times (Eastern): 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15-16/3 p.m. Sept. 17. Tickets: $21/adults, $19/students & seniors 62+. Reservations: (574) 848-4116, www.elkhartcivictheatre.org

**Sept. 16** — World Cultural Festival, noon-5 p.m., Valparaiso’s Central Park Plaza. Info: (219) 464-1122, www.valpovic.org

**Sept. 16** — Acorn Concert Series, 7-10 p.m., Tal-tree Arboretum & Gardens, 71 N. County Road 500 West, Valparaiso. Tickets: $15. Advance tickets: tinyurl.com/y4nx7x5q

**Sept. 16** — Pechakucha Night @ Artoberfest, 8:30 p.m. EDT, The Livery, 190 5th St., Benton Har-bor, Mich. Cost: $5. Info: krasl.org

**Sept. 16-17** — Art Blitz!, 10 a.m.-sundown, Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Free. Info: artharnschool.org

**Sept. 17** — Harbor Country Hikers Beach Treasure & Trash Hike, 7 p.m. EDT, Cherry Beach, Har-bert, Mich. Info: harborcountryhikers.com

**Support Groups**

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

**Mondays, Fridays** — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan St. Anthony Health, 301 W. Homer St., 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: https://oa.org, (219) 879-0300.

**Wednesdays** — Alzheimer’s/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers, 2 p.m., third Wednesday of each month, Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Info: (888) 303-0180.

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

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On September 14, 1741, George Fredrick Handel, having worked without interruption for 23 days, finished his composition of “The Messiah.”

On September 14, 1752, Great Britain, along with her American colonies, adopted the Gregorian calendar.

On September 14, 1814, at the bombardment of Fort McHenry (in the War of 1812), Baltimore lawyer Francis Scott Key wrote the words to “The Star Spangled Banner.”

On September 14, 1901, President William McKinley died in Buffalo of gunshot wounds inflicted eight days earlier. Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

On September 14, 1959, a Soviet space probe, Luna-2, became the first vehicle to land on the moon.

On September 14, 1972, “The Waltons” premiered on CBS.

On September 15, 1940, during World War II, the tide turned in the “Battle of Britain” as Royal Air Force planes inflicted heavy losses on the German Luftwaffe.

On September 15, 1949, “The Lone Ranger” premiered on ABC television.

On September 15, 1956, Gemini 2, after a record 3-day space flight, splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean.

On September 15, 1981, the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved the nomination of Sandra Day O’Connor to be the first woman to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court.

On September 16, 1620, after two previous false starts — 74 men and 28 women — along with a small crew, set sail from Plymouth, England, aboard HMS Mayflower. Originally designed as a wine ship, it reached Provincetown, Mass., on Dec. 26, 1620.

On September 16, 1908, General Motors first filed papers of incorporation.

On September 16, 1919, the American Legion was incorporated by an act of Congress.

On September 16, 1926, airmail pilot Charles Lindbergh, short of fuel, and unable to land at Maywood Airport, parachuted to safety near Ottawa, Ill.

On September 16, 1966, the Metropolitan Opera opened its season in the new opera house at New York’s Lincoln Center. The audience saw the premiere of Samuel Barber’s “Anthony and Cleopatra.”

On September 16, 1972, “The Bob Newhart Show” premiered on CBS.
On September 17, 1796, President George Washington, in his farewell address, said: “Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world...Harmony, and a liberal intercourse with all nations, are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest.”

On September 17, 1862, in the Civil War battle of “Antietam,” Confederate General Robert E. Lee’s troops were defeated by General George McClelland’s Union Army.

On September 17, 1920, the American Professional Football Association — precursor of the National Football League — was formed in Canton, Ohio.

On September 17, 1939, the Harry James Orchestra and Frank Sinatra recorded “All or Nothing at All” for Columbia Records.

On September 17, 1972, “M*A*S*H” premiered on CBS.

On September 18, 1769, The Boston Gazette reported the first piano made in this country was a spinet, with a three-to-four-octave range, manufactured by one John Harris.

On September 18, 1851, The New York Times, founded by George Jones and Henry Raymond, went on sale for 2 cents a copy.

On September 18, 1927, the Columbia Phonograph Broadcasting System (later called CBS), debuted with a network of 16 radio stations.

On September 18, 1940, “You Can’t Go Home Again” by Thomas Wolfe was first published.

On September 19, 1881, President James A. Garfield died from wounds inflicted by an assassin’s bullet.

On September 19, 1906, Mark Twain said there were “only two forces that can carry light to all the corners of the globe...the sun in the heavens and The Associated Press down here.”

On September 19, 1928, Americans were introduced to Mickey Mouse when Walt Disney’s “Steamboat Willie” opened at New York’s Colony Theater.

On September 19, 1970, “The Mary Tyler Moore Show” debuted on CBS.

On September 20, 1797, the United States frigate Constitution “Old Ironsides” was launched at the Boston Navy Yard.

On September 20, 1963, President John F. Kennedy went before the United Nations to propose a joint U.S.-Soviet expedition to the moon.

On September 20, 1973, in a tennis match that was ballyhooed as the “Battle of the Sexes,” Billy Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs before a huge crowd, as well as a national television audience, in Houston’s Astrodome.

On September 20, 1995, AT&T Corp. announced it was splitting into three companies.
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Down a Dark Road by Linda Castillo (hardcover, $26.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

“Be careful in your search for the truth, Kate Burkholder. You may not like what you find.”

Kate Burkholder is police chief of the small town of Painters Mill, Ohio. The area is pretty much equally divided between the Amish community and everyone else — all called Englischers by the Amish.

Kate holds a unique position. Before becoming the top cop in Painters Mill, she grew up Amish, but left that community as a teen and has returned. Her ability to speak Deitsch has helped on many occasions, as the Amish look suspiciously on the Englischer law enforcement.

The story opens with a horrendous murder. A man sneaks into the house of Naomi and Joseph King, an Amish family, and kills Naomi. Where is Joseph?

Of the five King children, only the youngest child, Sadie, wakes up and sees a man with a gun. She tells the police it wasn’t her father, but who would believe a 3-year-old, no matter how precocious?

Fast forward two years, and Chief Burkholder gets a courtesy call from the state prison telling her Joseph King has escaped. He was sentenced for murder of his wife, even though he swore he didn’t do it. Problem with King’s credibility is that he has been a troublemaker for years: DUIs, drugs, domestic disputes and more.

Kate only remembers the teenage King she fell in love with at 14, when their families lived next door to each other. The Kings moved to another town after he and Naomi married, but now with Naomi dead and Joseph in jail, the children are adopted by Naomi’s sister and brother-in-law, Rebecca and Daniel Beachy, back in Painters Mill.

Kate thinks it’s a long shot, but what if King wants to see his children? He just might make it back to Painters Mill, no matter how unlikely that sounds. She takes up a position close to the Beachy property one night and sees a strange car in the dirt road leading to the house. As she gets out to investigate, King jumps out of the bushes and takes her hostage. Rookie mistake, Kate! Now what?

King swears to Kate he didn’t kill Naomi and wants her to look into the case for him. Something about him makes her want to believe his story. Or is this just residual feelings left over from a teenage crush?

King lets her go, and all the cops from surrounding counties are there to chastise her for going on the property alone and not calling for backup. She quickly becomes persona non grata. After she leaves, she hears a call on the police radio that shots were fired and King was killed. Kate beats herself up for not handling the situation better and decides to pursue his case to see if he was telling the truth.

Problems begin several days later when the town council puts her on desk duty because of a compromising photo of her and King appearing in the newspaper right after his death. Will that stop Kate? Of course not...but someone might try.

Little does Kate know what danger all this kicking up the dust of the past two years will cause. Also, conflicting stories about Joseph and Naomi will be told by Amish and town folks. One thing for sure is that files are missing on Naomi’s murder.

Run off the road one night by a pickup truck, Kate begins to realize the danger she is in, but why? Following her instinctive nose, she digs up dirt on Joseph and Naomi she expected to find, and some interesting facts she didn’t.

Kate’s a strong-willed woman with inherent instincts and isn’t afraid to face the truth about her long-ago friend, no matter the outcome of her investigation... an outcome no one will see coming.

A number of things have made the Kate Burkholder series garner rave reviews from fans old and new: Castillo always comes up with great storylines. Her knowledge and honest description of the Amish community and countryside make for an interesting location, and Kate is a brilliant character: strong-willed, but with a sense of justice and fairmindedness.

A great end-of-summer read. I highly recommend any and all of the Kate Burkholder books, which don’t have to be read in order. Each is a standalone story.

Kirkus Reviews (starred review): “Castillo weaves the particularities of the Amish mindset into a complex mystery that will leave you crying with pity or seething with rage.”

Castillo is The New York Times bestselling author of eight other Kate Burkholder novels. Her Sworn to Silence was made into a Lifetime Original Movie. She is the recipient of numerous awards and nominations. She lives in Texas, and her website is www.lindacastillo.com

Till next time, happy reading!
1965 N Country Lane | Michigan City | $289,000

Majestic pine trees frame this beautiful and serene corner lot of 1.28 acres with apple, peach, pear, plum & grapes! Cozy up in front of the hearth fireplace. Basement features huge rec. room and bonus room that is perfect for an office. Beautiful Ridgeview subdivision!

214 Lake Hills Road | Michigan City | $265,000

Easy walk to the beach, can be purchased completely furnished! Living room with stone fireplace & French doors to the rear deck. Hardwood floors throughout main level. Gorgeous kitchen has stainless steel appliances. 2 car attached garage. An absolute must see!

322 Lake Hills Road | Michigan City | $190,000

Updated & Affordable in a beach community! Single level home is move-in ready. Kitchen boats new cabinetry, counter tops & stainless steel appliances. Both baths have new vanities, fixtures & ceramic tile. New flooring, windows, HVAC & Hot Water Heater!

209 Pokagon Drive | Michiana Shores | $349,950

NESTLED IN MICHIANA SHORES! Charming ranch is perfect for full-time residence or a weekend escape. Open concept living/dining. Spacious kitchen. Step out to the back deck from the sliding glass doors. Close to the beach, parks & Stop 50 Pizzeria!

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3307 Calumet Trail, Duneland Beach • $439,900
Living is easy in this generously proportioned 2-story residence on a double lot in desirable Duneland Beach. The floorplan encompasses four spacious bedrooms with plenty of storage, three bathrooms and a kitchen that flows to the eating area. The master bedroom is complete with walk-in closet and master bath. Large living room and rec room on main floor. Wonderful screened-in porch overlooks expansive yard and deck with above-ground pool. Perfect for a year-round family or as a summer retreat, this home is a 4-minute walk to the beach!

2707 Belle Plaine Trail, Long Beach • $495,000
Classic Mediterranean-style Long Beach home. Built in 1927, this historic gem has retained its original charm. Four bedrooms, 2 baths on two levels of living space. Golf course views, enclosed porch and more than 3/4 of an acre make this a magnificent retreat from the real world.

1026 Lake Shore Drive, Sheridan Beach • $675,000
The Crooked Cottage is a cozy 100-year-old hideaway with everything you need for your enjoyment. An original Sheridan Beach home from 1915, it is as authentic as it gets. This 6-bedroom home also has great rental potential for large family gatherings. Swimsuit not included

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