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Volume 30, Number 48 Thursday, December 4, 2014

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# INNOVATION AT ITS FINEST

At One Time, Haskell & Barker Co. was Indiana's Largest Manufacturing Plant

by William Halliar

*Editor's note — Our series continues exploring the history behind key locations along Michigan City's North End.*



The Haskell-Barker Company paint shop.

Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets is resplendently festooned in holiday finery as countless shoppers seek the perfect gifts at bargains price. The stores, decorated in tinsel and lights, welcome visitors to sample their wares and carry home armloads of brightly wrapped packages.

The same ground upon which these shoppers so merrily traverse was home to Indiana's largest manufacturing plant 100 years ago, the birthplace of many innovative ideas and the genesis for the first assembly line. Where clothing stores exist to-

day, furnaces and carpenter shops and forges and anvils dominated the landscape.

The clang of hammers, and the hiss and flare of molten steel, are all but forgotten, but this was once the place where freight cars that would carry goods and tons of raw materials to all corners of the nation were invented, engineered and manufactured.

All but the memory of this creativity and industrial activity was wiped clean by a devastating fire July 13, 1973, which left all but a few buildings and skeletal girders to attest to any history written here.

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 e-mail: News/Articles - drew@thebeacher.com  
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## INNOVATION

Continued from Page 1

The story of this place begins with merchant and businessman John Barker, who was born in Andover, Mass., on Dec. 14, 1814. It was said he was known for his common sense and for an ambition driven by what one biographer called his “Puritan” work ethic. The youngest child of 11, John was the son of a well-to-do New England farmer of some political and social prominence.

As with many in that age, Barker had little formal education, but was apparently stubbornly bent on becoming a success in business. At 18, he left home and entered an apprenticeship in a local store for three years. Here, he learned the rudiments of the retail business. As it seemed the buying and selling of goods was where fortunes could be made, he studied the dry goods business and gained a clerk’s position in several stores, working his way west from Massachusetts, across Ohio and finally settling in Michigan City in 1836. With each new position, he gained business acumen, skill, wealth and influence.



John Barker

Arriving in Michigan City in 1836, Barker formed a partnership with his cousin, Jacob Carter, and together they opened a general store that contained articles needed in the pioneering community. It was also in Michigan City that he chose to raise his family. To Barker and his wife, Cordelia, was born a son, John H., who would eventually become heir to his father’s business.

By the early 1840s, Michigan City was emerging as a bustling port city. Lumber and other goods were brought here by wagon, where ships could be loaded for ports in the Midwest, even eventual shipment to European ports.

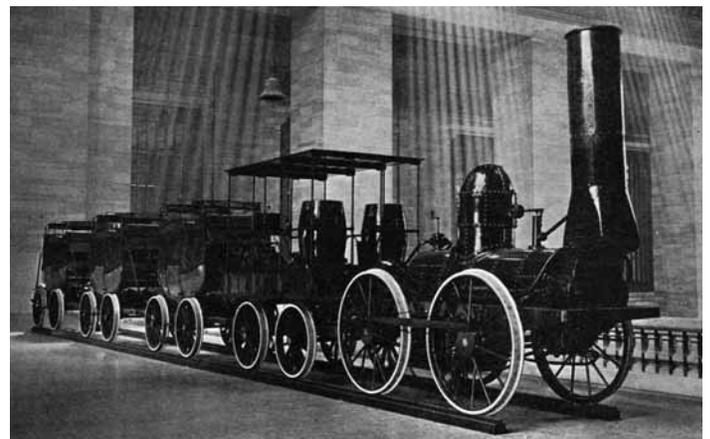
At that time, the only way for farmers to transport their grain to market was to load it in a wagon and haul it over land to be sold to the proprietors of grain elevators who would, in turn, load the grain on ships for sale around the world.

In 1854, John Barker sold his interest in the general store and built a grain elevator and pier for storing and shipping grain. But a new age of opportunity had dawned, and it would soon turn Michigan City from a fledgling pioneer village into a world-class city of commerce, with John Barker becoming a very rich man.

The high pressure steam engine was developed beginning in the mid-1700s and was first applied to powered transport in the form of a steamboat built in 1788 by John Fitch, which he operated on the Delaware River.

Of course, rivers do not always run in the direction in which one would like to travel, and manmade waterways or canals are very expensive to build, so it was not long before a high-pressure steam engine was applied to a wheeled vehicle designed for ground transport.

Steam wagons built to traverse unimproved dirt and gravel roads proved impossible, so in 1804 Richard Trevithick, an English engineer, built an engine to run on the railways that were designed for horse-drawn carts...and history was made.



Early Mohawk & Hudson Train.

The first railroad to be established in the United States was in Massachusetts: the Mohawk and Hudson in 1826. The Galena & Chicago Union Railroad Co. came to the shores of Lake Michigan in 1848. Independent railroad companies began to spring up all across the eastern half of the United States.

Towns vied for the honor and necessity of having a railroad terminal in their community. In fact, villages that were not included along the newly constructed rail routes soon withered and died from lack of commerce.

When in May of 1849 the Michigan Central entered New Buffalo, Mich., from the east, the last gap in the rail link between the East Coast of the United States and the Mississippi River became the connection between New Buffalo and Chicago.

In 1850, the Michigan Southern had laid its tracks to Michigan City through New Buffalo, followed in 1852 by the Michigan Central Railroad, which later that year completed tracks from Michigan City to link with the Illinois Central Line at Kensington, Ill. Thus, the entire eastern half of the United States was interconnected by ribbons of steel rail, magic carpets to whisk passengers and goods across the country.

The East/West rail connection was complete, and goods could now be shipped from all over the Great Lakes to the ports at Chicago or Michigan City and on to other inland destinations. The railroad was new king of commerce, and men sought to make their fortunes with the iron horse and steel rail.

Michigan City was an important hub of commerce when in 1852 Messrs. Sherman, Frederick, Aldridge and Haskell travelled from Ogdensburg, N.Y., to establish a manufacturing plant to build railroad freight cars. In 1855, Barker, seeing a unique business opportunity, purchased a third interest in the company. In 1858, after buying out the other partners, the business was incorporated under the name Haskell & Barker Car Co.



The oldest picture of Haskell & Barker's original plant, a late 1880s wood print of the view near Fourth and Wabash streets.

The car company started with a few rudimentary buildings in 1852, where a small number of workers experimented with and built wooden freight cars for a burgeoning rail industry. The company grew, its roots tied to the growth of Michigan City, itself. By 1907, the Haskell and Barker Co. was the largest manufacturing plant in Indiana. In fact, by 1957, the plant at Michigan City, which spread across 109 acres, was proclaimed to be the largest freight car building plant in the world.

Continued on Page 4



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## INNOVATION

Continued from Page 3

In 1883, after Barker retired, his son, John H., whose home still stands as a historic landmark on the town's North End, took over the reins and became general manager of the plant. He died in 1910 after a long career and great love of freight car building and community service...but the Barker legacy continued.

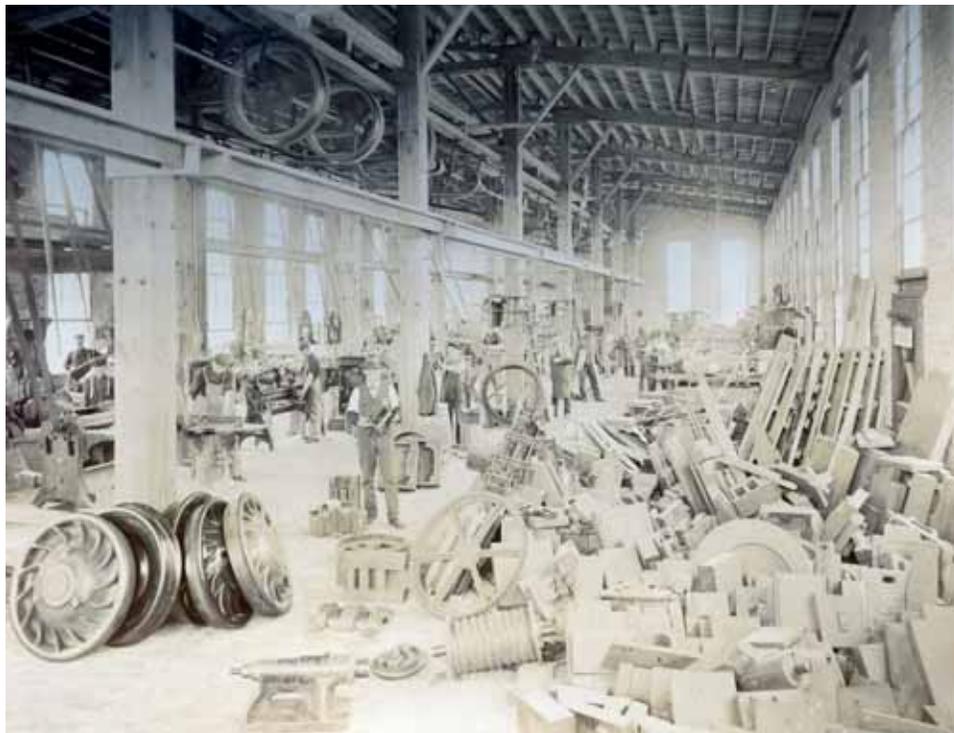


HON. JOHN H. BARKER.  
President Haskell & Barker Car Company.

In the early years, the Haskell & Barker plant at Michigan City produced reapers and threshing machines, in addition to freight cars and passenger cars. In 1873, under John H. Barker's direction, the company discontinued all other but the freight car business, although during World War II the plant built 2,401

troop sleepers for the U.S. military.

Engineers at the Haskell & Barker plant were a creative lot, quick to experiment with new technologies for car building and manufacturing procedures.



A July 1907 photo of the pattern shop.

As early as 1889, assembly lines using prefabricated assemblies were being used at the plant, predating Detroit by many years. It has been said Henry Ford visited the plant at Michigan City to study such assembly procedures.

In 1922, Pullman acquired the car works for a \$15 million cost. By that time, the plant included 34 manufacturing buildings covering 116 acres.

The innovations at the Michigan City plant continued. In 1930, lightweight materials were beginning to be used in passenger cars. In 1931, Haskell & Barker turned out five lightweight hopper cars for the Chicago Greats Western Railroad and in 1935 built the first lightweight box car. This box car, being 20 percent lighter, allowed for much more freight to be carried using the same effort. Many more cars could be pulled by the engines, allowing for greater train length and fuel efficiency.

In 1937, an experimental fleet of 200 box cars was built for three railroads. These cars were forged of new high tensile and low alloy steel, and were ultra lightweight, while at the same time very strong. These led to the development of Pullman Standard's famous PS-1 box car in 1947.



Pullman Standard celebrates its 100,000th PS-1 box car in 1957.

The PS-1 box car is legendary in railroad history and was designed and built right here in Michigan City. It was known as the first entirely standardized box car. The sides, ends, roofs and underframes were made as sub assemblies and all brought together at the final assembly process on the line. The PS-1 played an important role in the need for box cars following World War II because it could be produced so rapidly, and it was a lightweight and reliable design. Literally tens of thousands of these cars have been built since 1947.

After the success of the PS-1, the company designed and built the PS-2 covered hopper car, the PS-3 open top hopper, the PS-4 flat car and PS-5 gondola, all standardized and designed to be built on an assembly line.



A 1963 aerial photo of the Pullman plant.

In 1970, Pullman Standard closed its operation at Michigan City after 118 years of manufacturing in that location. It had more modern facilities in Bessemer, Ala., and Butler, Pa.

In 1971, the property was purchase by Nate and Henry Winski. Two

day at about 3:30 p.m.

The old dried wood around the red hot bolt began to smolder, and little by little, the wood took to flame. No one noticed until smoke was seen at about 11 p.m., coming from the southwest cor-

manufacturing companies, Poloron and Bobko, were using a 51-acre tract of it for storage. Most of the old manufacturing buildings were still intact. The plan was that the historic site would be redeveloped for a new purpose.

On July 13, 1973, a crew was cutting bolts to remove a structural member with a torch. Apparently, one of the red hot cutbolts fell from the ceiling and landed high up in the old wooden structure and was not noticed by the workers, who knocked off for the

### Special Thanks

Mike Fleming provided The Beacher with these archival photos of Haskell and Barker Co.

Continued on Page 6



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ner of Building No. 44, which lay along Eight Street.

The old buildings were brick and, by this time, old dry wood. The fire quickly spread throughout the entire complex. A contemporary account states that flaming pieces of debris lifted high into the air and fell on to the roofs of houses and into yards of the houses that were to the north and east of the Pullman complex. Fire departments from surrounding communities were called in to fight the blaze.

People clad in nightgowns and all manner of nightware came out to watch the fire, which colored the sky with brilliant shades of red and orange, until about 2 a.m., when it was all but burned out. Only two buildings remained intact: the office building and machine shop.

The charred remains were cleared and the open and vacant land found a new life in the commerce of Michigan City. Until a few years ago, the office building was called The Works and contained shops and the George Pullman Café., home of one memorable cheeseburger. These buildings have now followed the rest of the old historic complex and been



An aerial view taken in 1990 of Lighthouse Place.

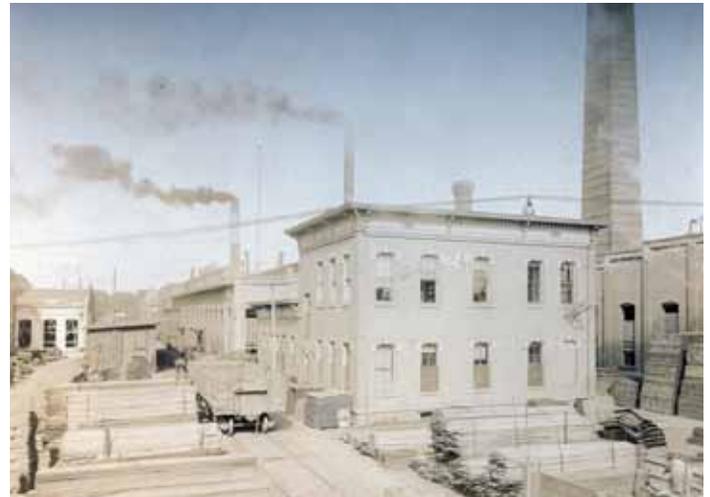
demolished. Now, all that remains of those buildings is a grassy lot and the memories of the old timers who worked there or lived near.

Today, as folks visit our community and enjoy the amenities of Lighthouse Place, little do they suspect what has happened on this very plot of ground, and how history was changed and created here.

*(An upcoming story by William Halliar will focus more in-depth on the Barker family and its legacy in Michigan City.)*



A view of the machine shop in 1907.



The main office as seen in 1907.



The shipping track in 1907.



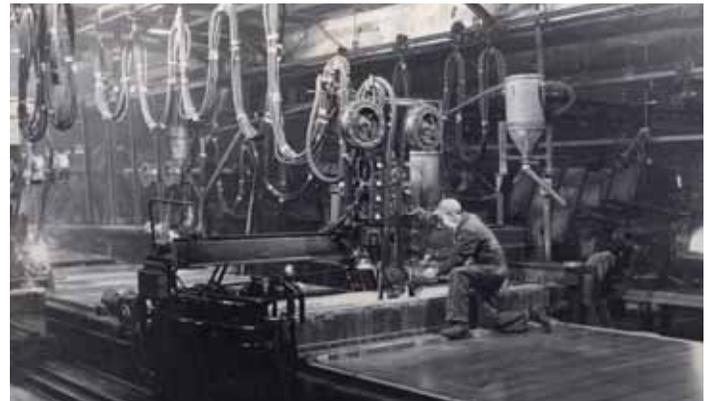
A worker in the truck shop in 1907.



A 1940s photo that shows Pullman Standard workers making troop carriers, or Pullman cars



John Barker (right) speaks to his company vice president.



The company's welding shop.

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## “Anne of Green Gables”

Footlight Players will bring to life the red-headed, tart-tongued orphan Anne Shirley with “Anne of Green Gables” on Dec. 5-7 and 11-14 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The play, adapted by Sylvia Ashby, highlights key pieces of the classic story by Lucy Maud Montgomery. As it opens, 12-year-old Anne Shirley (Molly Dashiell, Valparaiso) clutches all her “worldly goods and chattels” in a beat-up suitcase and waits for a ride to her new home – the first place she may really belong. Shy, quiet bachelor Matthew Cuthbert (Ken Siegfried, Michigan City) arrives to find what will soon be termed “a fine kettle of fish” by his starchy sister, Marilla (Deb Dashiell). Instead of the boy they asked for from the orphanage, it’s clearly a girl who waits for him at the train station. Throughout the play, Anne finds her place in the world and in the Cuthberts’ hearts.

This tale of a new family has been a favorite for many years with the Dashiells, who have four members of their family in the production. Another of Deb’s daughters, Lily, portrays Ruby Gillis, and her son, Jordan, plays Charlie Sloane.

The family connections don’t stop there.

In making his directorial debut with “Anne of Green Gables,” Eric Helmken is following in the

footsteps of his late father, Ed Helmken, who was president of Footlight Players for eight years and inducted into the theater’s Hall of Fame.



Molly Dashiell (left), Ken Siegfried and Deb Dashiell star in “Anne of Green Gables.”

Also starring in the show are Aaron Collings, Brandon Dudley, Kristina Heuck, Bobbi Lauritsen, David Mikolajczyk, Julia Miller, Colin Nittner, Stacy Osborn, Katarzyna Wanner and Sarah Wermuth.

Tickets to “Anne of Green Gables” are \$12 for adults and \$10 for Thursday shows and children 12 and younger. Times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Doors open 45 minutes prior to curtain. Reservations will be held until 15 minutes prior to curtain unless secured by a season gift card or prior payment in full. Reservations are recommended by calling (219) 874-4035 or at [www.footlightplayers.org](http://www.footlightplayers.org). A

2-for-1 coupon is available for opening night on the website.

Footlight also will host a one-man retelling of “A Christmas Carol” by Grant Fitch, a professional storyteller and award-winning regional actor, at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. In 90 minutes, he plays all the characters theatergoers are familiar with, and some new ones — more than 30 in all. Tickets are \$10.

Footlight will collect non-perishable foods for a local food pantry during both productions.

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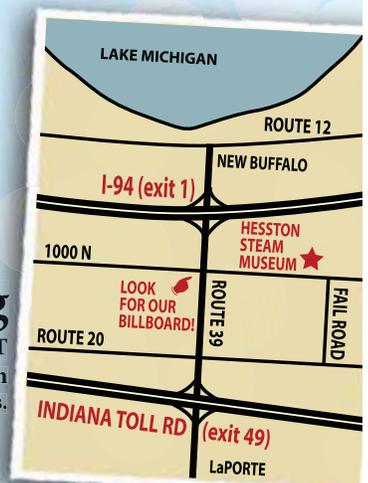


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[www.hesston.org](http://www.hesston.org)

Museum Campus opens at 11:30 trains run 12:00 - 5:00 CDT  
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Doc's Soda Fountain opens at 8:00 for breakfast. See website for details.  
Look for the billboard at CR 1000 North and IN-39  
GPS: 1201 East 1000 North LaPorte, IN 46350 Hesston Steam Museum



## First Friday

Uptown Arts District will present its monthly First Friday art walk from 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 5.

Participating businesses and local attractions are:

- Old Lighthouse Museum, 1 Washington Park — New lantern tower, Jan Hoepfner's photography.
- Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. — Artist Stephanie Carnell, and music by Earl Miller and Sandy Gleim.
- Darling, 418 Franklin Square — Jewelry Artist Julie Biehl.
- Revive Consignments & Revive HIM, 523 Franklin St. — Artist Natalie Korda.
- Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square — Outdoor holiday music.
- Walnut Ink Projects, 607 Franklin St. — "Screen Play" exhibit by various artists.
- Beach Bum Jewels, 621 Franklin St. — The Artists of Beach Bum Jewels.
- Urban Soles Inc., 624 Franklin St. — Artist Patrick Skoff.
- Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St. — "Gift of Art: Art Under \$200."
- A Dove's Tale, 829 Franklin St. — Artists Cyndie McKinney and Brandi Acuri.
- Luxe Boutique, 904 Franklin St. — Photographer Jamie Kessler.
- The Framing Station, 912 Franklin St. — Various regional artists.
- The Closet by Franklin Vintage, 1011 Franklin St. — Works by Julia Nielsen.
- First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. — Sixth Annual Madrigal Dinner. Also held Saturday, Dec. 6. Call (219) 872-7200 for more information and advance tickets.
- The Uptown Center, 907 Franklin St. — Uptown Arts 4th Annual Christmas Bazaar from 2 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults and free for children 12 and younger. Proceeds benefit Michigan City Mainstreet Association and United Way. Entertainment includes:
  - Maxine's Restaurant, 521 Franklin St. — Pete Castronova and his trio.
  - Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St. — First Friday Open Stage with Michael Stupar. Performer signup is at 7:30 p.m., with performances at 8 p.m. Admission is \$2 for performers and \$3 for audience members.
  - The Pickle & Turnip, 827 Franklin St. — Peter Nye with guests Dan Moser and Doug Nelson from 7 to 10 p.m.

Contact Diane Wilczewski, Michigan City Mainstreet Association executive director, at [michigancitymainstreet@hotmail.com](mailto:michigancitymainstreet@hotmail.com) or (219) 561-6991 for more information.

Last month I wrote about higher lake levels than we have had for several years. Then, two storms hit from the north and several days of wind followed.

My guesstimate is that we lost somewhere between 60 and 100 feet of beach measuring from the water's edge before the storms to the water's edge after the storms.

This is the time to take note for future development. Here are my questions.

1. Where there are no seawalls and the bluffs are less than 25' high, where was the erosion greatest and where was it the least? Caveat: The direction of the waves and wind may be the most important variable. But I want to get a sense of which beaches are most vulnerable and which least vulnerable to storms.
2. Where there are seawalls, which kind of seawall survived the best? Steel piling? Rubble (stones less than 1,000 pounds)? Rip Rap (stones from 1,000 to 3,000 pounds)? Boulders (stones weighing 10,000 pounds or more)?
3. Do low bluffs (rising 20 feet or less above the water level) with vegetation erode faster or slower than higher bluffs?
4. Does the erosion expose clay sections in the bluffs, and do the clay seams accelerate erosion or retard it?
5. My favorite question is: How quickly does the accretion (sand coming back to restore the beach) begin?
6. How long are the cycles between lowest and highest levels? The last low cycle occurred in 1964-65. The high cycle last occurred in 1986-87. The question is whether these cycles have any regularity and how long is a cycle between highest and lowest.

The answers to these questions during this time of erosion will help us understand how we need to protect whatever we build on Lake Michigan in the future. Pray for ice!

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# Repurposed and Reinvigorated

## Classes Highlight Phenomenon Relatively New to U.S. — Chalk Paint

by William Halliar

The handwritten sign on a shelf overhead read “Love is why we are here.”

The gathering, a mixture of curious and passionate souls, came to explore a world of colors and textures, of wood and metal, of objects found, repurposed and reinvented for new purposes.

The love here was expressed though paint, brushes and wax, the finished product a treat for the eye and touch.

The group was gathered early on a Sunday morning to study and practice the techniques of rehabilitating old furniture with Chalk Paint.

The venue for the class was blais rustic chic, 1 Oak St. in Three Oaks Mich., which has a repurposed tale of its own. This 116-year-old immaculate brick and stone building at once was a proud rail terminal of the Michigan Central Line. It later became a clothing store, bicycle shop and finally the home of blais rustic Chic, which distributes Annie Sloan’s Chalk Paint.

Some folks look at an old chest of drawers — dented, worn and lopsided — as a piece of junk, or a weathered window frame, cracked mason jar or dented and rusted watering can as candidates for the Dumpster. Others imagine the possibility of what could be. One man’s junk, indeed, can be another’s treasure.



Participants in the class work on painted furniture projects.

The mother-and-daughter team of Vicki and Jen Kerr regularly teach classes to demonstrate how even a person with average talent can turn a recycled shelf or bucket into “rustic art,” a colorful addition to any room décor.

Several years ago, Vicki and Jen were enduring a rough spot in their lives, a family crisis that made them pull together and decide they had to find some outlet for their creative spirits and emotions. It was then that Vicki ran across a reference to Chalk Paint, and the two claim this introduction was a life-changing experience.

Chalk Paint was developed by Annie Sloan, an artist, writer and musician who lives and works in Oxford, England. It can be claimed that Sloan is a major influence in the painted furniture revolution that has, for the last several years, been so popular in crafting and art communities worldwide.

Sloan has been a recognized painter for more than 40 years. In 2000, she developed her own line of paint formulated especially for painting furniture and other decorative arts for the home.

The paint is called “chalk” because after it is dry, it has a flat matte finish that can be turned to a soft subtle sheen when a finished coat of specially

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Jen (left) and Vicki Kerr

developed soy based, food-safe wax is applied. This paint is easy for even a novice to use, and can be applied with very little prep work such as sanding and priming. It can be used on wood, metal, glass, plastic and concrete, indoors or outdoors and it has very little odor. All of this makes it perfect for the armature furniture painter.

Chalk Paint was popular in

Europe for many years and was not introduced to the United States until four years ago.

The paint now is manufactured and distributed in America, and classes are taught by artists specifically trained in the various techniques of paint application. The paint is water soluble, food safe and can be applied to a large variety of surfaces for indoor or outdoor use. It can be applied smooth, textured, washed, distressed or cracked depending on the taste of the furniture refinisher.

Vicki and Jen are "Stockists," a British term that means they are the sole distributors and teachers of the art in the area. Their classes are just plain fun, filled with colors, textures, laughter, passion, ideas and creativity.

Classes are three hours long and demonstrate several of the techniques needed to turn out a first-



Examples of the Chalk Paint color palette.



rate piece of painted furniture on the first attempt. Each person leaves with a piece of classic, rustic chic art of their own creation.

Visit [www.blaisdesign.com](http://www.blaisdesign.com) or call (219) 851-0900 for more information.

Jen Kerr shows how the Chalk Paint process works.

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## Candy Cane Express

Santa's Candy Cane Express will run Dec. 6-7 and 13-14 at Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, La Porte.

Visitors can ride the Candy Cane Express in open or enclosed railroad coaches on a 2 1/2-mile railway line through the woods and past lakes and farm fields. Meanwhile, Santa waits for children in a vintage 1900s caboose.

Doc's Soda Fountain will be open for breakfast at 8 a.m., with Spire of La Porte also serving meals. Children can greet Santa when he arrives at 11:30 a.m. Santa will remain on the museum grounds to meet with children. Trains start running at noon and continue through 5 p.m.

To support the U.S. Marine Corps, visitors can bring a new unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots drive and receive a free train ride. Train fare is \$5 for adults, while children 3-12 cost \$3. Children 3 and younger are free.

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## “On Your Marks” Theater Festival

Festival Players Guild will present its second “On Your Marks... A 24-Hour Theatre Festival” at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St., Michigan City.

Borrowing a concept believed to have originated at Scotland's Festival Fringe, the event features performances of seven new one-act plays all conceived and written 24 hours before the curtain goes up.

On Friday evening, seven playwrights gather at Michigan City's Lakeshore Coffee and Gifts, having all night to each compose a 10- to 15-minute one-act play that is Christmas-themed and family friendly. The scripts must be turned in by no later than 6 a.m. Saturday. At 8 a.m., directors arrive, with each assigned one of the plays, and have one hour to conceptualize a production. At 9 a.m., the actors arrive and rehearsal begins. Taking only short breaks for lunch and dinner, rehearsal continues all day until the shows are presented for an audience.

Call (219) 874-4269 for more information or to reserve tickets.

## “Snow White & Magnificent 7 Dwarfs”

La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St., will present a British “panto” twist on a classic tale with “Snow White and the Magnificent Seven Dwarfs,” directed by Doug Campbell and Bonnie Quigley, on Dec. 5-7 and 12-14.

Featuring a band, line dancing and a country & western setting, the play involves British pantomime, a popular form of theater, usually presented at Christmas, that incorporates song, dance, slapstick, in-jokes, audience participation and mild innuendo. Storylines and scripts typically make no reference to Christmas and are almost always based on traditional children's stories.

The characters include Snow White (Katy Gartland), Sheriff Vince Charming (Bryan Redeagle), Widow Blackhart (Mary Kay Steele), Silly Billy the Kid (Jack Saunders), Nanny Oakley (Noel Carlson), Tornado the horse and a cast of cowboys.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5, 6 and 12 and 2 p.m. Dec. 7, 13 and 14. Tickets are \$12. Call (219) 362-5113 or visit [www.laportelittletheatreclub.com](http://www.laportelittletheatreclub.com) for reservations.

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**“Gift of Art”**

Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St., will present “Gift of Art” — original artworks under \$200 — in December, with an opening reception during the Uptown Arts District First Friday art walk, which is from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5.



Rhonda Mullen’s “Bridge at Aberdeen.”



Dana Dabagia’s oil piece “Pepper and Tomatoes.”

SSAA members, all of whom will be present during the reception, will display works from traditional to contemporary and in all media. The show runs through Sunday, Dec. 28.

Also, a special collection of artist-designed or embellished holiday ornaments will be available for purchase Saturday, Dec. 13. Artist members are donating the ornaments to raise

funds for the gallery. A demonstration will showcase how to turn a Christmas card into an ornament.

Visit [www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com](http://www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com) for more information.

**First Friday @ Lubeznik Center**

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., has many events planned as part of Uptown Arts District’s monthly First Friday art walk from 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 5.

Earl Miller and Sandy Gleim, members of the La Porte-based band Trouble Blind, will perform classic and modern rock/pop, country and originals.

The Holiday Artisan Market will feature winter wearables, fine arts and crafts, jewelry and toys.

Planned in the NIPSCO Art Education Studios is the opening of “Inspired: Inspire,” a show featuring works by Michigan City Area Schools art teachers: Holly Beadles, Sue Cleveland, Rita Cochran, Jean Everspaugh, Thomas Friend, Karrie Harbart, Sandra Kedo, Sherry Loving, Lynn Mitchels, Kelly Tokoly-Rothermel, Susanne Vigen and Cheri Whitler.

Also opening is Area Artists Association member Stephanie Carnell’s “Captured Dreams,” an exhibit of intaglio prints.

Other exhibits at the center include “Comics & Code” (Hyndman Gallery) and “It’s Not Just Your Sunday Comic Strip” (Brincka/Cross and Northview galleries).

Visit [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org) or call (219) 874-4900 for more information.

**VU Christmas Concerts**

Valparaiso University’s Christmas concerts return with two performances the first weekend in December in the Chapel of the Resurrection.

Continuing a 90-year tradition, the concert, “A Carol Festival,” features more than 200 student performers in the chorale, men’s and women’s choirs, Chamber Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra.

This year’s program includes selections from Rimsky-Korakov’s “The Snow Maiden” and Buxtehude’s “In Dulci Jubilo,” along with traditional favorites such as “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.”

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, and 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and non-VU students. Contact the University Box Office at (219) 464-5162 for tickets or more information.

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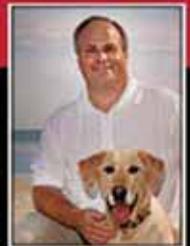
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**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!****HolidayPopsLaPorte.org****“One City, One Sound”**

Festive music will fill the air as more than 1,000 vocalists and instrumentalists kick off the holiday season during Michigan City Area Schools’ “One City, One Sound” concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, in Michigan City High School’s gymnasium, 8466 Pabs Road.

Admission is free; however, those who attend are encouraged to take a canned good/non-perishable food item for The Salvation Army. Monetary donations to The Salvation Army also will be accepted.



This year’s program will feature:

- 463 voices in a chorus of sixth-graders from all eight Michigan City elementary schools.
- 207 voices in a chorus of students from Barker and Krueger middle schools.
- 117 voices in the Michigan City High School Treble Chorale and “City Singers.”
- 4 handbell players in the Michigan City High School “City Ringers.”
- 163 instrumentalists in a seventh- and eighth-grade band.
- 102 instrumentalists from the MCHS Cadet, Concert and Symphonic Bands.

Each group will perform individually, and the opening and closing numbers will involve all bands and choruses in “It’s the Holiday Season” and “Christmas Finale.” Other numbers will include “Themes from the Nutcracker Suite,” “Polar Express Medley” and “Under Winter Moon.” Music teachers from throughout MCAS will lead their groups. The combined numbers will be directed by MCHS Choral Director Michelle Howisen and Band Director Quincy Ford.

The concert will be broadcast live on Channel 98 educational TV and stream live on the MCAS website at EducateMC.net. It also will air live on Michigan City radio stations WEFM (95.9 FM) and WIMS (AM 1420).

Pabs Road in the area of MCHS will be closed to westbound traffic prior to the concert, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. All traffic departing the school will be routed east on Pabs to Johnson Road.

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## Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available through Westchester Public Library:

• **Eskimo Kids Night at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, in the Children's Department at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Attendees learn how blubber works to keep Arctic animals warm in freezing water, then make an Eskimo Kid craft. Local author Ron Brechner will read a selection of his new book, "Eskimo Kids: Alone in the Arctic." Books will be available for purchase and signing. The program ends with a showing of the movie "Alpha and Omega 2: A Howl-iday Adventure." No registration is necessary.

• **"Sail Around the World" during two programs Saturday, Dec. 6.**

The first is for children at 11 a.m. in the Children's Department at Thomas Library. Adults are invited to the 2 p.m. program in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library. No registration is necessary.

A mini boat-building competition is before and after the children's program. Participants measure how many pennies it takes to sink their boats. For the adult program, Dave Rearick will discuss how on June 14, 2014, he completed a solo circumnavigation of the globe in his sailboat, "Bodacious Dream."

• **"Knitting Together at the Museum" from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at Westchester Township History Museum, which is in the Brown Mansion, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

The program is free. Those who crochet or do needlework are welcome.

• **Free Sunday Matinee, "The Hundred-Foot Journey," at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave.**

Popcorn will be available. The movie is rated PG.

• **"Preparing for the Affordable Care Act" with licensed ACA Navigator Maysha Carlson, who will lead two drop-in programs, both free, in the Thomas Library computer classroom.**

"Navigating the Affordable Care Act" is from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, with a repeat program from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9,

No registration is necessary. There is no need to attend all three hours of the session.

• **Elves' Wrapping Paper Workshop from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, in the Children's Department at Thomas Library.**

Attendees create their own designs for wrapping paper using paint and rollers. Children 7 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Materials will be provided.

• **"Knitting an Infinity Scarf with Your Arms" from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at Thomas Library.**

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## What's Cooking

by Jim LaRocco

This time of year makes me think back to my two favorite Christmas gifts from 1956 and 1957.

I was a young lad of 6 when my parents gave me a gift I still have today: a set of Tonka fire trucks. My father surprised me with these three great trucks: a hook and ladder that elevated and extended, an ambulance and a pumper truck with a small hydrant you hooked up to the hose and actually shot water.

I played with these toys for quite a few years. I even pushed the ambulance down the hill in front of our house on Manhattan Street just to see how far it could roll.

There was a firefighter who lived behind our house, George Block. He saw me use a magnifying glass to set a small pile of leaves on fire. Why would they give me a fire truck and not let me put out fires? Well, I got into a little trouble for that. At the time, no one knew, especially me, that I would become a Michigan City firefighter in 1976 and retire in 2013. I still have those Tonka trucks in the original box.



Christmas 1956 — a set of Tonka trucks.

The next year, my parent gave me a Lionel train set. They purchased some furniture from Polk Brothers on Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago, and as an incentive to buy furniture got the Lionel train set. It came with a blue and yellow Santa Fe F-3 diesel engine, Whirlpool box car, a flat car with a pipe load, a gondola with containers, a flatcar with a boat and a caboose.

My parents spent a lot of time in the basement the week before Christmas 1957, and for some odd reason, I was not allowed to take the laundry down to the laundry room. Our house had what they called a Michigan basement, and the entrance was outside. The basement was partly finished, and the other side had a walled area filled with a sand crawlspace with an opening for access.

As a curious 7-year-old, I heard my parents talking downstairs, as well as some pounding, sawing



Christmas 1957 — a Lionel train set.

and other noises coming from the basement. I would put my ear to the floor and try to find out what was going on. I finally did. I heard a train running around a track, and I pounded on the living room floor and asked my parents if my train was finished yet. My father yelled back, "Mind your business. There is no train down here."

Christmas Eve, I was taken downstairs and shown the fruits of my father's labor. There was a 4-by-8 sheet of plywood, painted green with track, switches, even trestles. The Lionel train had Magna-traction and would not fall off the trestles. The layout looked great and was so much fun. My father was proud of himself, tickled that he made me so happy. I still have the train today. It still sparks the way it did back then. It has a place of honor in our train room.

For those readers my age, you remember going to see Santa in his house on Franklin Street. Christmas Eve present opening could not take place until Santa arrived at our house. As the typical impatient young man on Christmas Eve, I would pace back and forth to the front door and look to see if Santa was there. My parents told me to sit and relax, that he would soon arrive, but I couldn't.

Finally, on what seemed like my 1,000th trip to the window, I see Santa getting out of a blue 1950 Studebaker sedan. It occurred to me that the vehicle looked exactly like the one that belonged to Mike Pytinia, longtime groundskeeper at Ames Field. I asked my parents what Santa was doing driving Mr. Pytinia's car. They told me the reindeer probably were resting and Santa just borrowed the car.

I was always amazed that Santa knew my name and lots of other things about me. Wow! This guy knew it all, too. I would sit on his lap, and he would ask me if I was a good boy, and I replied that yes, I was. My parents nodded in agreement.

Santa had one of the best helpers in Mike Pytinia. He spent his Christmas Eves and Christmas Days visiting children all over Michigan City. The street alongside Ames Field is named in his honor.

After Santa left, we opened our presents: my parents, Joe and Mary, my brothers, Bob, Joe, Mike

and David, and the lone girl, my sister, Mary Ann.

Every year, I think back to those two great Christmases when I received the Tonka trucks and Lionel train. With the passage of time, and of my parents as well, I know now it was not easy to raise six kids on my father's salary, but we did alright. We had plenty of food, clothes and love to go around.

I had a great set of parents, and I remain extremely proud of both of them. In fact, let me relate one more story.

My mother liked to bake Christmas cookies. She would start the first week in November and line some New Era Potato Chip cans with aluminum foil, "hide" the cookies in them and store them in the attic. The attic stairway was behind a door in our dining room. Little did our mother know she was not very good at hiding cookies.

My mother offered Christmas guests coffee and cookies. She was in for a big surprise when she went upstairs to get some cookies. Almost all of the cans were empty. You should have heard the shriek.

Maybe you did.

She came flying down the steps, yelling at us kids, "What happened to the cookies?" We all looked at one another, and what could we say? "We have no idea," we replied, trying to cover our behinds. My mother should have known she could not hide cookies from five growing boys and an "innocent" daughter. That was the last time my mother made Christmas cookies.

Remember those who are no longer here to celebrate the season. Take time to share memories of Christmases past with your children and grandchildren. Just don't let them see where you hide the cookies.

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Until next time, enjoy.

Contact Jim at [jim@jimlarocco.com](mailto:jim@jimlarocco.com)

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# THE FEAST

Story and photos by Maureen Rice

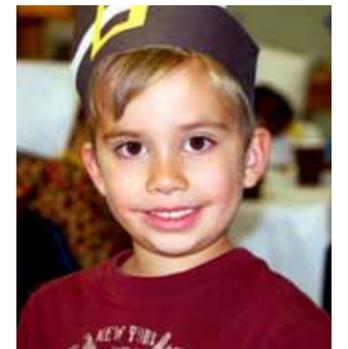


Notre Dame Catholic School's pre-kindergarten class celebrated Thanksgiving early with an annual/traditional meal, also known as "The Feast."

Pre-K teacher Kate Bobillo and the Blue Birds (older Pre-K students) prepared the meal with help from a few volunteers. The menu included stuffing, potatoes, corn bread muffins, cranberry relish, pudding, popcorn and

butter. The best part was the butter, which was made right before the meal was served by the "Blue Birds" shaking heavy cream.

Three Native American visitors joined "The Feast." The roles were played by the Rev. Keith McClellan, Principal Donovan Garletts and Mr. Al. Everyone had a great time learning about Thanksgiving.



## JROTC Earns Awards at Event

The Michigan City High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps conducted a military skills competition Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Elston building.

Nine schools from Indiana and Illinois competed in military drill, academics, physical fitness, marksmanship and personnel inspection. Michigan City earned awards in seven of the nine drill categories, as well as finishing first in marksmanship and third in the personnel inspection.

The competition was judged by midshipmen from the Purdue University Navy/Marine Corps ROTC in West Lafayette, Ind.

Michigan City earned first-place finishes in "A" Color Guard and First Year Squad. Those units were commanded by Cadet 2nd Lt. Quinton Dixon and Cadet Cpl. Pauline Lutton, respectively. The Wolves took second in Armed Platoon, commanded by Cadet Capt. Alex Wyman, and third places in Unarmed Platoon, Unarmed Exhibition, Armed Squad and Unarmed Squad. Wyman also is captain of the Marksmanship Team.

Michigan City will split its team for its next drill meets on Dec. 13. The advanced cadets will compete at the Purdue University Meet in West Lafayette, and first-year cadets will travel to Indianapolis to participate in the Pike High School first year meet.

## "Out of the Box Playfest"

Performances of "Out of the Box Playfest" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. EST Friday and Saturday, Dec. 5 and 6, at The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

Six plays were selected by a panel of judges from 32 submitted in a playwriting competition held earlier this year. Each winning playwright receives a \$50 award. Tickets at the door cost \$10 for general admission and \$8 for students and seniors.

The plays include: "20/20 Hindsight" by Anne Brandt and Judi Thompson, Benton Harbor; "There's an App for That" by Gary Cook, Stevensville; "Next Door" by Debra Davis, St. Joseph; "Things That Go Bump" by Greg Ladewski, Benton Harbor; "Twinkle Little Star" by Michael La Tour, Berrien Springs; and "A Gift of the Snow-globe" by Sherry C. Miller, Coloma.



Chase Samuelson (standing) and Kraig Kirkdorfer are among the cast members of "Out of the Box Playfest."

Cast members, selected at October auditions, include Beth DeCoursey, Jerry Sirk, Chase Samuelson, Christa Dolejsi, Jim Yates, Kalina Dolejsi, Kraig Kirkdorfer, Katrina Harmon, Sherry Saenz, Rebecca Maxey, Barbara Simpson, Julie Dokter and Cory Wetterlin. Joann Schma McMahan is directing the performances.

Judges Linda LaRocque, Phil Sturdevant and Kevin Wurz will score the plays. A "Best Play Overall" will be awarded to the winning playwright. A special audience choice award will be presented at Friday and Saturday performances.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$8 for students and seniors and free for children 12 and younger. Prepaid reservations also can be made by calling the box office at (269) 983-3688. Visit [www.boxfactoryforthearts.org](http://www.boxfactoryforthearts.org) for more information.



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The Michigan City Chamber Music Festival is proud to present Zofia Glashauser's and Nic Orbovich's popular violin duo, "Fiddlers Two," as they present a free concert on Saturday, December 13, 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. 9th St., Michigan City, IN. They will be joined by pianist Jennifer Muniz.

The program will include the "Sonata in C Minor" by Ludwig van Beethoven, the "Sonata for Violin and Piano" by Cesar Franck, plus violin duo arrangements of "La Folia" by Archaangelo Corelli, "Meditation" from "Thais" by Jules Massenet, and Nic's own world premiere arrangement of the exciting "Gypsy Czardas," "Hejre Kati" by Jenő Hubay, plus more!



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Psy.D.HSP

Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Jerry Montgomery, LCSW

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

219-879-8580 ph

219-229-3254 cell

[anewfocus@hotmail.com](mailto:anewfocus@hotmail.com)

## New Buffalo Library

The Friends of New Buffalo Library will host several programs in December through its Community Forum at the library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Programs are free and in the Pokagon Community Room. The schedule (all times Eastern) is:

• **“A Gift List for Gardeners”** by Master Gardeners Tina Sonderby and Rima Binder from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3.

Attendees can take lunch.

• **The story of Titanic with a Southwest Michigan twist** at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

Robert Myers, Berrien County Historical Association curator, will focus on the role of Dowagiac native Sen. William Alden Smith, who chaired the U.S. Senate inquiry into the ship’s disastrous maiden voyage.

Also part of Myers’ program is the ship’s passenger list, which included Michigan families bound for the area and a Lebanese family immigrating to Dowagiac.

• **The “Holiday Harmonies” sing-along** from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14.

Words will be provided to accompany The School of American Music musicians. Planned are a kids percussion segment, karaoke favorites and featured performances by local teens. Refreshments are planned.

Call (269) 469-2933, follow the Facebook link at [www.newbuffalo.michlibrary.org](http://www.newbuffalo.michlibrary.org) or email [new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com](mailto:new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com) for more information.

## Chamber Member Holiday Party

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will host its Chamber Member Holiday Party from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, in the Chamber Depot, 803 Washington St., La Porte.

Hors d’oeuvres and refreshments will be served. The party is free for Chamber members. Reservations are encouraged by calling (219) 362-3178.

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## “Sights and Sounds of Christmas”

ArtsBridge will present “Sights and Sounds of Christmas” at 5 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 7, at First Presbyterian Church, 475 Green Ave. on Morton Hill in Benton Harbor, Mich.



Lake Effect Winds

The program will feature Lake Effect Winds woodwind quintet, pianist/vocalist David Brock, vocalists Jolita Burton and Stephen Jones and an art show by Morton Montessori Elementary students.



David Brock

Dinner will be served after the program, with \$10 suggested donations benefitting the church building’s renovation fund.

Call (269) 925-7075 or visit First Presbyterian in Benton Harbor on facebook for more information.

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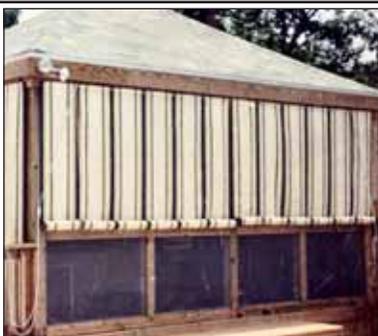
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## Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Holiday Magic Show with Steven Kellogg at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.**

The audience-participation show is appropriate for families.

• **Free Gentle Flow Yoga at 12:15 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.**

Certified yoga instructor Lauralee Sikorski emphasizes deep breathing and releasing stress. Wear comfortable attire, and come on an empty stomach. Take a mat because extras are limited.

• **Understanding Your Dreams at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.**

Learn techniques on how to remember and understand dreams with experienced dream therapist Terese Fabbri.

• **Art à la Carte: Fun Foam Gingerbread Man at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10.**

All materials are provided. The craft project is appropriate for children 2-8 and accompanied by an adult.

• **Christmas Angels Among Us at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10.**

Ange Benz leads the program. Donations to The Salvation Army will be accepted.

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

## Group Photography Exhibit

An opening reception for the group photography exhibit "Winter Focus" is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. EST Friday, Dec. 5, at The Inn at Harbor Shores, 800 Whitwam Drive, St. Joseph, Mich.

This is the third exhibit for the gallery, which is in its inaugural year. The theme is the spirit of winter. The featured artists are:

- Jan Nelson, who was born and raised in St Joseph. She received her degree in photography from the Center for Southwest Photographic Studies at Daytona State, Daytona Beach, Fla. Her work in the exhibit includes close-up botanical features reminiscent of snowflakes.
- Richard Hellyer, who lives in Sawyer, Mich. Primarily a commercial photographer, his focus in the show is landscape in winter.
- Robert E. Lee, who lives in Grand Rapids, Mich. He describes himself as a photojournalist art photographer, capturing life in real time.
- Brett Maniscalco, who lives in New Buffalo and shoots mostly local scenes in black and white and color.

Contact Susan Wilczak at [susan@susanwilczak.com](mailto:susan@susanwilczak.com) for more information.

## “Spirit of Christmas”

Starting Saturday, Dec. 6, Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., will open its doors to present “Spirit of Christmas,” its annual display of 11 rooms on three floors decorated for Christmas.

The idea for the theme came from Cecelia Zubler, who served as the mansion’s executive director for more than 23 years until her passing Nov. 24.

The decorating process began Nov. 4. Michigan City High School National Honor Society members helped set up Christmas trees, while employees Ann Jankowski and Sarah Moon, together with Mary Kintzele’s son, Adam Kintzele, helped with the rest of the decorations.

This year, the mansion has expanded upon its decorations in the garden. New Gardener Donna Allen has added trees, lights, snowmen, deer and a sleigh.

Antique ornaments owned by the Barkers are used throughout the mansion, as well as a 110-year-old Feather Tree in the Drawing Room. Mary Kintzele estimates decorating Barker Mansion for Christmas began around 1972 with a small display. Today, the holiday season is its busiest time. Several mannequins also enhance the Christmas decorations throughout the mansion.

The decorations remain on display at Barker Mansion until Jan. 15, a date often celebrated as the day the wise men visited the baby Jesus.

Self-guided holiday tours begin Saturday, Dec. 6, and run through Sunday, Dec. 21. Times are noon to 3 p.m. weekdays and noon to 4 p.m. weekends. From Monday, Dec. 22, to Thursday, Jan. 15, the mansion will follow its normal winter schedule of guided tours at 10 and 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. weekdays and noon and 2 p.m. weekends. On Saturday, Dec. 20, Barker Mansion will stay open until 8 p.m. for a special Christmas at Night ambience with candles. The mansion is closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 3 to 18 and free for children 3 and younger.

Call (219) 873-1520 for more information.

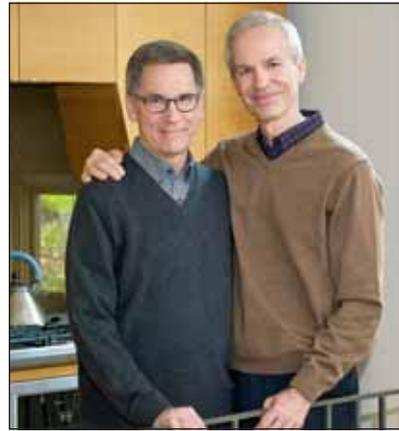
## Save the Dunes Open House

Save the Dunes will have its annual meeting and holiday open house Friday, Dec. 5, at the Save the Dunes office, 444 Barker Road.

The meeting is from 4 to 6 p.m., followed by the open house from 6 to 9 p.m. The meeting will focus on 2014 priorities and successes, goals for 2015 and beyond and the voting in of board members. The open house will include finger food and beverages, while the recipient of the 2014 Paul H. Douglas Award will be announced.

RSVP to [heather@savedunes.org](mailto:heather@savedunes.org) or call (219) 879-3564, Ext. 121.

## Marriage Announcement



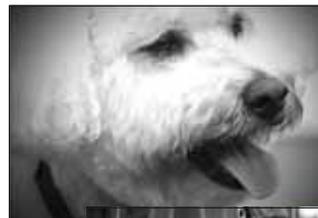
Lawrence Alan Zimmer (Larry) and Thaddeus John Perzanowski (Ted), “married” for 28 years, had their union recognized by the State of Indiana in a short ceremony in their home on November 1st, their anniversary. Attorney and friend, Steven A. Hale, appointed a judge for the day, officiated. A small group of friends were in attendance and helped to celebrate the occasion afterwards.

Mr. Zimmer (right) is the owner of NPLH, Inc., a residential design firm in Chicago and Michigan City and has been in practice for 35 years. He graduated from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and received a Bachelor of Science degree in architectural studies.

Mr. Perzanowski is the owner of talk to ted, inc., an alternative counseling and psychotherapy practice in Michigan City and Chicago and has been in practice for 36 years. Ted is a member of the Board of Directors at Dunebrook, a child abuse prevention agency serving Michigan City, La Porte, and surrounding counties.

Originally from Skokie and Chicago, respectively, Larry and Ted moved to Michigan City full time in 2003. They met in 1986 at a conference they were both attending at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

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## MCAS Aids Salvation Army

Michigan City Area Schools again will support The Salvation Army this holiday season with a district-wide drive for nonperishable food items.

The public can drop off canned goods or other items for the drive at any school, at the MCAS Administration Building, 408 S. Carroll Ave., or at the Plant Planning or Transportation offices near Ames Field and Joy Elementary School, where a "stuff a bus" will be parked out front.



Michigan City Area Schools Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins serves as chair of this year's Salvation Army Christmas Campaign.

Canned goods and donations also will be collected at this year's "One City One Sound" concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, at Michigan City High School.

In other efforts, MCHS National Honor Society is coordinating the annual "Operation Bookworm," inviting the community to donate new books for children and teens at any of the locations mentioned here.

The food drive and Operation Bookworm run through Friday, Dec. 12.

## Santa Plans Museum Visit

Santa will arrive to speak with children in his big red chair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

Parents should take cameras. Cookies and punch will be served in the meeting room. Santa's chair will be near this year's holiday theme, "Santa's Special Trees." An entire grove of trees devoted to La Porte County history will be on display. Some collections on the trees include: local campaign buttons, antique hair combs and industrial advertising.

A popular Christmas tradition remains the Giese Church in the museum's lower level. Both it and "Santa's Special Trees" can be viewed through mid-January.

Call (219) 324-6767 or visit [www.laportecounty-history.org](http://www.laportecounty-history.org) for additional information.

## Lunch With the League

Ken Layton will speak at Lunch With the League at noon Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Lindo's Restaurant, 3940 Franklin St., Michigan City.

Layton has spent 46 years in public service, retiring in 2012. He joined the La Porte County Sheriff's Office in 1968 and was elected twice as sheriff, serving from 1987 to 1995. In 1997, he was elected La Porte County auditor and served two terms. He then was elected to La Porte County treasurer, then as commissioner in 2009. Although retired from office, he still works as a consultant for La Porte County government.

Reservations are not required for the League of Women Voters of La Porte County program. Attendees buy lunch from the menu. Call Sue Webster at (219) 874-6809 or visit [www.lwvlaporte.org](http://www.lwvlaporte.org) for more information.

## "Giggle & Mingle Toy Drive"

Round Barn Winery Distillery & Brewery, 10983 Hills Road, Baroda, Mich., will have its annual "Giggle & Mingle Toy Drive with Santa" from 1 to 4 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 6.

Partnering with the New Buffalo chapter of Toys for Tots, Round Barn owners and staff ask that guests donate a new, unwrapped toy (or \$5 suggested donation for Toys for Tots), which allows a child to meet Santa. Adults are encouraged to take cameras. Children's activities include making ornaments and decorating holiday cookies.

For those who can't attend, Toys for Tots will have an additional donation bin at the Round Barn Union Pier Tasting Room in December.

For adults, product lines will be available for sampling. Visit [www.roundbarnwinery.com](http://www.roundbarnwinery.com) for additional information.

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### Festival of Holiday Lights

The 24th annual Festival of Holiday Lights is Saturday, Dec. 6, in Washington Park and Michigan City Senior Center.

The Festival of Lights Parade is from 3:30 to 4 p.m. along Parker Parkway. It kicks off in the main parking lot promptly and leads marchers, floats and VIPs past the Senior Center and into Fedder's Alley. Parade applications are available at [www.mcsummerfest.org](http://www.mcsummerfest.org) or by calling (219) 873-1506.

Horse and wagon rides are from 4 to 6 p.m. in front of the Senior Center. The rides are free; however, monetary and non-perishable food donations are requested on behalf of The Salvation Army.

Free hot chocolate and cookies are available from 4 to 6 p.m., as is "Pictures with Zoo Mascots" where, inside the Senior Center, characters will be available for photos for a small fee.

The official lighting of the Festival of Holiday Lights is at 4:30 p.m. Nearly 30 acres of decorations, 40 displays, two miles of extension cords and millions of bulbs are on display through early Jan. 11. Park entrance is free during this time, but donations are welcome.

Due to the Franklin Street bridge closure, use the following detour: Eastbound on U.S. 12, turn left onto Center Street (just over the bridge by Blue Chip Casino), follow Center Street (which turns into Krueger Avenue) to Lake Shore Drive. Turn left onto Lake Shore Drive, then turn right into Washington Park.

Contact the Michigan City Park Department at (219) 873-1506 for more information.

### Student/Faculty Exhibit

An opening reception for the 2014 South Bend Museum of Art Student/Faculty Exhibit is from 6 to 9 p.m. EST Friday, Dec. 5, in the Jerome J. Crowley Community Gallery.

The show features work created in the museum's studio program within the past year. Open to all SBMA students from youth to adult, it includes 100 works of art featuring a variety of mediums, including painting, drawing, ceramics, jewelry and fibers.

The exhibit runs through Jan. 11. SBMA is located in The Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St. Email [info@southbendart.org](mailto:info@southbendart.org), call (574) 235-9102 or visit [www.southbendart.org](http://www.southbendart.org) for more information.



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### Healthy Competition for a Cause



La Lumiere School held a food drive to assist Catholic Charities, with students filling a bus with food. The drive set girls against boys to see who collected the most. The girls won, with the boys loading the bus. Pictured are (from left): Patrick Smith, Muncie; Christian Carlsen, Denmark; Kazuya Homma, Japan; and James Ford, Chicago. Students now will collect items for a Christmas gift drive for underprivileged children.



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- Mom \_\_\_\_\_
- Sister \_\_\_\_\_
- Jane from work \_\_\_\_\_
- YOU! YOU! YOU! \_\_\_\_\_

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## Chesterton Art Center Honors Mullin



Art After Dark Gala Coordinator Rita Berg honors John Mullin as he receives the Patron Award.

John Mullin received this year's Patron Award for his years of service to Chesterton Art Center during the Sixth Annual Art After Dark Gala on Nov. 7 at Sand Creek Country Club.

Mullin has been president of the center for more than 20 years. He helps maintain the building, has taught many classes over the years, donates his signage talent to the Art Fair and fills in wherever needed. He also is an artist and is featured in a solo watercolor exhibit, "Big Sur," at the center.

The Art After Dark Gala is an annual fundraiser for the center held the first Friday in November. All money raised assists with the center's art-education programs.

## Screen Printing Exhibit

Walnut Ink Projects, 607 Franklin St., will have an opening reception for "Screen Play," a group exhibit exploring screen printing, from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5.

The exhibit, unveiled during the Uptown Arts District First Friday event, will highlight two- and three-dimensional works by Jay Ryan, Dan Mac-Adam, Nichole Renee Sheaffer, Michael Bill Smith, Scott Marvel, Esau McGhee, Landon Perkins, Fatherless, Madeline Bartley, Tommy Borst and Chris Grohs. It follows along the lines of Ryan's last solo effort at Walnut Ink, "Screened In: Curiosities, Rarities and B-Sides," with artists incorporating screen printing in one form or another into their works. Screen printing is a process often associated with repetition, large editions, craft or commercial production work.

The show runs through Jan. 31. Call (219) 229-5613 or visit [www.walnutinkprojects.com](http://www.walnutinkprojects.com) for more information.

## PNC Enrollment Day

Purdue University-North Central will host Enrollment Day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, for current and prospective students to register for 2015 spring, summer and fall semesters.

Students can fill out an application, get admitted, take an assessment test (if needed) and receive financial-aid information. Official transcripts must be submitted to be evaluated for admission. Students then meet with an academic advisor to discuss his/her plan of study and register for courses.

A sign-in table will be at the north entrance of the Technology Building near the lounge adjacent to Room 157.

No registration is required, and students will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis. Family members are welcome.

Contact Janice Whisler at [jwhisler@pnc.edu](mailto:jwhisler@pnc.edu) or (219) 785-5415 for more information.

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## Fernwood Botanical Garden

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

• **“Grown Up Greens” from 6 to 9 p.m. EST Friday, Dec. 5.**

Create holiday greens while enjoying seasonal cocktails, music and a “festive” sweater contest. Make one large or two small wreaths as time permits. The cost is \$50, or \$40 for members.

• **Living Ornaments from 1 to 2:30 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 7.**

The cost is \$30, or \$24 for members. The fee includes materials to create three ornaments. Register by Dec. 5.

Call (269) 695-6491 or visit [www.fernwoodbotanical.org](http://www.fernwoodbotanical.org) for more information and to confirm the status of classes.

## “A Night in Bethlehem”

First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St., will present “A Night in Bethlehem” from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

As part of the program aimed at families, visitors can taste candy, make an old-fashioned pretzel, try calligraphy, design a Christmas ornament and watch a potter at her wheel.

Call the church at (219) 879-4501 for additional information.

## Swanson Center Open House

Swanson Center will have an open house from 2:30 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, at its new Michigan City offices, 7224 W. County Road 400 North.

The event will include a tour and refreshments.

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## Women in Leadership Events

Women in Leadership of La Porte County will sponsor two events in December.

A “Cookies and Canvas” event is from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Portofino Grill, 3233 N. Indiana 39, La Porte. Take children or grandchildren to help create a holiday painting. There is no age limit, and the cost is \$30 per child.

A holiday lunch, also at Portofino, is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9. The cost is \$17 for members and \$22 for non-members.

Make RSVP at [www.women-in-leadership.com/](http://www.women-in-leadership.com/)

## Thaddeus C. Gallery Celebration

Thaddeus C. Gallery, 822 Lincolnway, La Porte, will celebrate its 10 anniversary with “Foot Long,” its Fourth Biennial Small Works Exhibit.

An opening reception is from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5. The show, which runs through Jan. 10, includes artists Harry Ahn, Lee Bauman, Laura Cutler, Thaddeus C., Dawn Diamantopoulos, Dave Hay, Gregg Hertzlieb, Amanda Jozaitis, Deborah Landry, Alan Larkin, Valerie Taglieri, Melissa Washburn and Fotios Zemenides.

Call (219) 326-8626 or visit [www.thaddeusc.com](http://www.thaddeusc.com) for more information.

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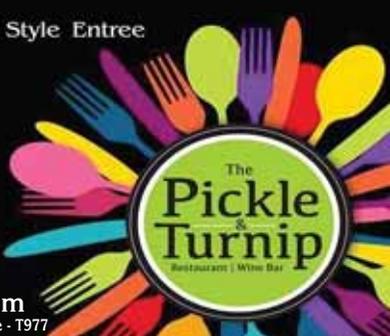
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## October R.O.S.E. Winner

Laci Hilterbrand, manager of Little Caesars in La Porte, was named Visit Michigan City La Porte's October Recognition of Service Excellence winner.



The nominating customer wrote, "She has helped us year after year with our Farm Bureau sponsored Agriculture In The Classroom project, furnishing the pizzas we need to serve students at Kingsford Heights Elementary School. She is very professional in the way she handles our requests, and we would have great difficulty in accomplishing our goal were it not for her assistance."

"She has worked there 14 years and has managed the store for the past 11 years and tells us she takes pride in making the experience of her customers enjoyable. She says she makes sure her employees do the same. We are a regular customer, living only 15 blocks from the store, and we can confirm her methods are working very effectively. Every time we go in, we are treated in an upbeat friendly manner."

Hilterbrand said, "I love this company, and I really enjoy serving our customers. As manager, I try to hire young people with different personalities, then watch them become friends as they work together to become a team."

Hilterbrand received a framed certificate and a rose corsage with a \$100 bill folded inside. She will be invited to the annual R.O.S.E. luncheon in the spring, where she will be considered for additional awards and be nominated for Indiana's annual Hoosier Hospitality Award.

## Mobile Health Unit

The Mobile Health Unit of IU Health La Porte and Starke hospitals will offer free blood pressure and diabetes screenings.

The schedule is:

- 9:30 to 11 a.m. Dec. 8 — Kroger, 55 Pine Lake Ave., La Porte.
- 10 to 11:30 a.m. Dec. 9 — Al's East, 702 E. Lincolnway, La Porte.
- 10 to 11:30 a.m. Dec. 11 — Al's, 3535 Franklin St., Michigan City.
- 10 to 11:30 a.m. Dec. 16 — Goodwill, 1509 E. Lincolnway, La Porte.

Visit [iuhealth.org/laporte/foundation](http://iuhealth.org/laporte/foundation) or call (219) 326-2471 for more information.

## Writing Retreat Workshop

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will host a Writing Retreat Workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

The workshop will use the Amherst Writers and Artists method, which encourages creative risks. All writing is done during the retreat, with prompts provided and positive feedback if the writer chooses to share.

The cost is \$50, or \$45 for LCA members. Participants need a notebook and pen. Snacks will be provided. Register online at [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org) or call (219) 874-4900.

## Purdue Extension Open House

A Purdue Extension open house is from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, at Purdue Extension La Porte County Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, Suite A.

Purdue Extension is celebrating 100 years of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act, which officially created the national Cooperative Extension System.

The open house will feature holiday refreshments, including hors d'oeuvres and a special birthday cake. Door prizes, educational displays and some Extension history are planned.

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## VU Julefest and TubaChristmas

Valparaiso University's annual Julefest and TubaChristmas is Sunday, Dec. 7, in the Chapel of the Resurrection.

Julefest begins at 1 p.m. and features the Valparaiso Community/University Band, which includes about 100 Northwest Indiana musicians.

TubaChristmas begins at 3:15 p.m. and features low brass players from throughout the Midwest. Last year, the event involved 68 performers representing a variety of age groups.

Both events are free and open to the public. There is a \$10 registration fee to participate in TubaChristmas. Contact Aimee Tomasek at [aimee.tomasek@valpo.edu](mailto:aimee.tomasek@valpo.edu) or (219) 465-7819 for registration information.

## Family Day at SBMA

Family Day at South Bend Museum of Art will present "Western Wonderland" from noon to 4 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 7.

Visiting artist Jason Cytacki will help children explore the "myth" of the West. Inspired by current exhibits, including "Window on the West," the workshop will include cardboard and paper to create whimsical dioramas.

SBMA is located in The Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St. Email [info@southbendart.org](mailto:info@southbendart.org), call (574) 235-9102 or visit [www.southbendart.org](http://www.southbendart.org) for more information.

## VU Annual Tree Lighting

Valparaiso University's fifth annual Tree Lighting ceremony is from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4.

Community members can take pictures with Santa or with friends in the photo booth, enjoy caroling and refreshments and watch as the tree is lit at 6 p.m. and fireworks burst over campus.

The Jingle Jog, a 1-, 2- or 3-mile fun run, is at 5 p.m. Participants are asked to take a toy or non-perishable food item as their registration fee, with all donations benefitting local families.

Contact Kristen Knoerzer at (219) 464-6270 or [kristen.knoerzer@valpo.edu](mailto:kristen.knoerzer@valpo.edu) for more information.

## Live Owl Program

Indiana Dunes State Park will celebrate owls with the program "Night Hunters" at 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

The program is free after paying the park entrance fee of \$5 per in-state vehicle or \$10 per out-of-state vehicle. The park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East in Chesterton.

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

## Supporting the Library



Michigan City Exchange Club recently made a donation to Friends of the Michigan City Public Library. Friends member Barb Holdcraft (left) and Library Public Relations Director Robin Kohn accept the donation from Exchange Club members Patrick Dougherty and Ken Kozlowski (rear).

## Sarett Nature Center

Explore Michigan through a trip to the Holland area at 9 a.m. EST Wednesday, Dec. 3, starting at Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.

Dress for short hikes. The trip will include an on-your-own lunch stop. The cost is \$20.

Call (269) 927-4832 to register.



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## Activities to Explore

### In the Local Area:

**December 4** — “One City, One Sound” concert, 7 p.m., Michigan City High School’s gymnasium, 8466 Pahl Road. Admission: Free. Canned good/non-perishable food item, or monetary donation, for The Salvation Army requested.

**December 4** — “Better-For-You Baking” seminar, 5 p.m., Purdue University-North Central Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 144. Tickets: \$15. Available @ door or [www.pnc.edu/gel](http://www.pnc.edu/gel)

**December 5** — Opening reception, “Gift of Art,” 5-8 p.m., Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St. Info: [www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com](http://www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com)

**December 5** — Music by Earl Miller & Sandy Gleim, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org), (219) 874-4900.

**December 5** — Purdue University-North Central Alpha Mu Pi English Club book club discussion, “The Help,” 1 p.m., Library-Student Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02.

**December 5** — Opening reception, “Screen Play,” 5-8 p.m., Walnut Ink Projects, 607 Franklin St. Info: (219) 229-5613, [www.walnutinkprojects.com](http://www.walnutinkprojects.com)

**December 5** — Save the Dunes annual meeting/ holiday open house, Save the Dunes office, 444 Barker Road. Meeting/4-6 p.m., open house/6-9 p.m. Reservations: [heather@savedunes.org](mailto:heather@savedunes.org), (219) 879-3564, Ext. 121.

**December 5-7, 12-14** — “Snow White and the Magnificent Seven Dwarfs,” La Porte Little Theatre, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5, 6, 12/2 p.m. Dec. 7, 13, 14. Tickets: \$12. Reservations: (219) 362-5113.

**December 5** — Opening reception, 2014 South Bend Museum of Art Student/Faculty Exhibit, 6-9 p.m. EST, SBMA in The Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St. Info: [info@southbendart.org](mailto:info@southbendart.org), (574) 235-9102, [www.southbendart.org](http://www.southbendart.org)

**December 5-6** — Sixth Annual Madrigal Dinner, First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Times: Seating with fanfare/6 p.m., festivities/6:30 p.m. Advance tickets: \$35/\$240 for table of 8. Reservations: (219) 872-7200.

**December 5-7, 11-14** — “Anne of Green Gables,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Tickets: \$12/dults, \$10/Thursday shows & children 12 and younger. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thurs.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, [www.footlightplayers.org](http://www.footlightplayers.org)

**December 6** — “On Your Marks... A 24-Hour Theatre Festival,” 7:30 p.m., Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St., Michigan City. Info/tickets: (219) 874-4269.

**December 6** — Holiday Magic Show with Steven Kellogg, 2:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**December 6** — The story of Titanic with a Southwest Michigan twist, 1 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Public Library, 33. N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

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**December 6, 13 and 20** — Taltree Holiday Express, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso. Cost: \$15 for child & adult. Info: Taltree.org, (219) 462-0025.

**December 6-7** — Valparaiso University Christmas concerts, Chapel of the Resurrection. Times: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6/5 p.m. Dec. 7. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/seniors & non-VU students. Reservations: (219) 464-5162.

**December 6-7, 13-14** — Santa's Candy Cane Express, noon-5 p.m., Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, La Porte. Train fare: \$5/adults, \$3/children 3-12; free/children 3 and younger. Info: www.hesston.org, (219) 778-2783.

**December 7** — "A Christmas Carol" with Grant Fitch, 6:30 p.m., Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Tickets: \$10. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org

**December 7** — Annual Toys for Tots "Teddy Bear Tea" benefit, 1 p.m. EST, Marina Grand Resort, 600 W. Water St., New Buffalo, Mich. Cost: \$10 with unwrapped toy donation. Info: (269) 469-9900.

**December 9** — Lunch With the League, noon, Lindo's Restaurant, 3940 Franklin St., Michigan City. Info: (219) 874-6809, www.lwvlaporte.org

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

**Wednesdays** — Al-Anon meetings, 7-8 p.m., Long Beach Old School Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. Info: (219) 716-2690.

#### **Farther Afield:**

**December 4** — George Krasl Memorial Concert, Joshua Scheid and Jason Gresl, 7 p.m. EST, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Cost: Free-will offering. Info: www.krasl.org

**December 5** — Opening reception, group photography exhibit "Winter Focus," 5:30-7:30 p.m. EST, The Inn at Harbor Shores, 800 Whitwam Drive, St. Joseph, Mich. Info: susan@susanwilczak.com

**December 5-6** — "Out of the Box" Play Fest Performances, 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10/general admission, \$8/students and seniors, free/children 12 and younger. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, info@boxfactoryforthearts.org, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

**December 5-7** — "Winterlude: Café Noel," Elkhart Civic Theatre at Bristol Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times: 7:30 p.m. EST Dec. 5-6/3 p.m. Dec. 7. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$8/students & seniors 62 and older. Reservations: www.elkhartcivictheatre.org, (574) 848-4116.

**December 6** — The Polish Women's Alliance District 3 Christmas Wigilia Mea, Carmelite Banquet Hall, 1628 Ridge Road, Munster. Doors open @ noon, dinner @ 1 p.m. Cost: \$35/adults, \$17.50/children 5 to 11. Reservations: (219) 218-4420.

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WEEK  
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HISTORY**



**On December 4, 1783**, George Washington retired as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.

**On December 4, 1875**, New York's William "Boss" Tweed, the former leader of Tammany Hall, escaped from prison while serving a sentence for swindling. He was later captured in Spain.

**On December 4, 1933**, Tobacco Road, a dramatization of Erskine Caldwell's novel, opened on Broadway. The play ran for 3,182 consecutive performances.

**On December 4, 1965**, *Gemini 7* was launched with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James Lovell aboard.

**On December 4, 1996**, the *Mars Pathfinder* lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, and began its 310-million mile odyssey to explore the red planet.

**On December 5, 1848**, the 1849 Gold Rush was triggered when President James Polk confirmed that gold had been discovered in California.

**On December 5, 1901**, Walt Disney, who pioneered animated cartoons, was born in Chicago.

**On December 5, 1933**, at exactly 3:32 Mountain Time, national Prohibition came to an end as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution. Eight states had voted to remain "dry," but the "Nobel Experiment," that went into effect in 1920, was now a part of history.

**On December 5, 2004**, Edna Clapper, whose craft scrap-book magazine, "Pack-O-Fun," which she started in 1951, and is now the oldest craft magazine in existence, died, in Merritt Island, FL, at 86.

**On December 6, 1847**, Abraham Lincoln took his seat in Congress as a representative from Illinois.

**On December 6, 1898**, photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt, whose images for *Life* magazine helped define American photojournalism, was born in what is now Tczew, Poland.

**On December 6, 1923**, Calvin Coolidge's address to a joint session of Congress marked the first time a president's speech was broadcast over the airways.

**On December 6, 1933**, liquor stores, bars and restaurants in America were jammed as, for the first time in 13 years, one could legally get drunk.

**On December 6, 1972**, *Apollo 17*, America's last mission to the moon, blasted off from Cape Canaveral.

**On December 6, 2002**, actress Winona Ryder was sentenced to community service for stealing more than \$5,500 worth of merchandise from a Saks Fifth Avenue store in Beverly Hills.

**On December 7, 1941**, Japanese warplanes at-

tacked American and British territories and possessions in the Pacific, including the home base of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

**On December 7, 1944**, the United States announced that all six of the Japanese aircraft carriers that took part in the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor had been sunk.

**On December 7, 2004**, Jerry Scoggins, who warbled "The Ballad of Jed Clampett" in the television series and motion picture "The Beverly Hillbillies," died, in Los Angeles, at 93.

**On December 8, 1925**, singer, dancer and actor Sammy Davis Jr. was born in New York.

**On December 8, 1980**, John Lennon, one of the original "Beatles," was shot and killed outside his New York apartment building.

**On December 8, 2003**, Congress approved a bill to stem the unwanted junk emails known as "spam."

**On December 9, 1608**, English poet John Milton, who in 1667 wrote one of the world's greatest epics, Paradise Lost, was born in London.

**On December 9, 1793**, Noah Webster published *The American Minerva*, New York's first daily newspaper.

**On December 9, 1854**, *Charge of the Light Brigade*, Alfred Lord Tennyson's most famous poem, was published in England.

**On December 9, 1884**, Chicago's Levant Richardson received a patent for ball-bearing roller skates.

**On December 9, 1907**, the first Christmas Seals were placed on sale in the post office at Wilmington, DE. The proceeds (as they are now) were devoted to the campaign against tuberculosis.

**On December 9, 1972**, *Life Magazine*, after 35-years of publishing, announced it was folding.

**On December 10, 1520**, Martin Luther publicly burned the papal edict which demanded that he recant or face excommunication from the Roman Catholic Church.

**On December 10, 1917**, in an area outside the Nebraska city of Omaha, Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town.

**On December 10, 1931**, Jane Addams became the first American woman to become (co-recipient) of the Nobel Peace Prize.

**On December 10, 1948**, Chicago's Meigs Field was officially opened.

**On December 10, 1950**, Ralph Bunche became the first black American to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

**On December 10, 1965**, the Grateful Dead played their first concert at Fillmore Auditorium in San Francisco.

**On December 10, 2003**, a divided Supreme Court upheld the broadest restrictions on campaign donations in nearly 30 years.

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## Shakespeare Company Auditions

Open auditions and interviews for the 2015 Notre Dame Shakespeare Professional Co. production of "The Winter's Tale" and Young Company production of "Love's Labor's Lost" are by appointment only from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 6, at Notre Dame's DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

The festival is seeking three male and three female actors for "The Winter's Tale," directed by Drew Frasher, and 20 male and female actors and technicians 18 and older for "Love's Labor's Lost," directed by West Hyler. Special preference is given to actors with experience in Shakespeare and musical instrument proficiency.

Actors should prepare one classical monologue under two minutes in length. Shakespeare is preferred, but it is more important to have a piece those auditioning know well. Actors who sing and/or play musical instruments should prepare a song of not more than 32 bars. No accompaniment or instruments will be provided. Email NDSFAuditions@nd.edu or call (574) 631-2636 to arrange an audition.

Technicians and designers should submit a portfolio and resume to NDSFAuditions@nd.edu. Follow-up interviews will be scheduled to discuss previous work and objectives.

The Young Company is a paid professional theater training program for college and university students and recent graduates, all who train and perform alongside internationally renowned professional actors, directors and designers. The Professional Company includes actors, artists, directors, designers and technicians who create live performances at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

## Parents Without Partners

Val-Porte-City 193 Parents Without Partners will host a Christmas potluck at 6:30 p.m., then a dance from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m., on Saturday, Dec. 6, at American Legion Skwiat Post 451, 121 Skwiat Legion Ave., Michigan City.

The event is open to the public. Dave of Loco Motion will provide music. Admission is \$8. Proceeds are used for activities for the children and grandchildren of members.

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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**Gray Mountain** by John Grisham  
(hardcover, \$28.95 retail in bookstores and online)

*USA Today* calls John Grisham “a legal literary legend.” And with no reservation from me. His thrillers have amazed and entertained readers for years, not to mention the ones that became big hits for Hollywood. Now, he embraces a new and different kind of hero, taking her from the wild streets of Manhattan to the wild backwoods of the Appalachian mountains — coal country.

But first, we must start at the beginning.

*“The horror was in the waiting — the unknown, the insomnia, the ulcers. Co-workers ignored each other and hid behind locked doors...The partners, the big boys, appeared shell-shocked and wanted no contact with their underlings. They might soon be ordered to slaughter them.”*

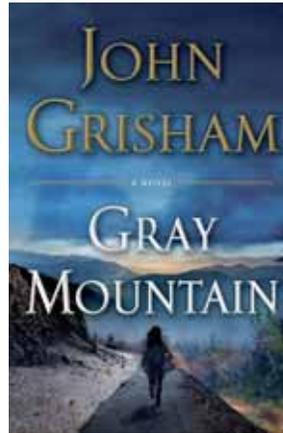
It was 2008 and 10 days after Lehman Brothers went kerplunk. Samantha Kofler was a lawyer at Scully & Pershing, the biggest law firm in New York City. Would she lose her job? The answer came sooner than she expected: She and others in the firm would be put “on furlough,” meaning she would get no pay, but retain a health package if she takes an internship with a nonprofit (list to be provided) for a year, after which she might or might not be reinstated at S&P. What a deal! Right?

Samantha is a city girl, born and bred. She loves the streets of Manhattan, but realizes finding another job, what with all the other out-of-work lawyers, is impossible. So, she looks over the list of nonprofits and starts sending emails. One rejection turns to nine, until finally the only one left on her list is Mountain Legal Aid Clinic in Brady, Va. — population 2,200. Since she is licensed in New York and Virginia, she makes a phone call to manager Mattie Wyatt and gets an interview the next day.

It’s a nice drive through the Virginia countryside, that is until red lights come flying up behind Samantha and a big burly guy in a sheriff’s uniform steps out of an unmarked car and says she was speeding. The day goes from bad to worse as, besides not being able to spell Prius and demeaning her for driving a foreign car, he says he’s taking her to jail.

By this point, the story had my full attention. What was going to happen to Samantha?

Suffice it to say, she came out of the situation unscathed—don’t want to spoil it for you, but the whole situation looked pretty dicey for awhile there! She makes it to the legal-aid clinic and meets with Mat-



tie. There’s only three lawyers in the office: Mattie, her nephew, Donovan Gray, and Annette Brevard. Mattie says she doesn’t have time to waste on picking an intern, and calls her back the next day offering her the internship. What the heck—Samantha figures if she doesn’t like it after several months, she can always leave. The following week, Samantha returns to Mountain Legal Aid Clinic with absolutely no idea of what’s in store for her.

Having worked in commercial real estate at S&P, and never having entered a courtroom, Samantha is ill-prepared for

the people and cases that enter the legal-aid office. Her first-day orientation consists of taking notes as Mattie interviews Lady Purvis, whose husband is in jail for speeding and unable to pay the \$175 fine, which snowballed due to questionable county tactics, and now he is in big trouble.

Mattie explained: *“They are poor people, Samantha, at the bottom of the pile, and down here the laws are different.”*

And that’s just the sad beginning of cases of drug abuse, spousal abuse, all the way to black lung disease and fighting the coal companies. Donovan has his own law office and just helps out Mattie when she needs him. His targets are the big coal companies that have been strip mining the surrounding mountains, leaving devastation, muck and bad water in its wake, not to mention the dreaded black lung disease that miners have suffered for decades.

As Samantha gets more involved with various families and their problems, helps them find housing and jobs, even goes to their funerals, she realizes she just can’t up and leave Mattie. When she files her first lawsuit, she feels a sense of satisfaction as a lawyer she never felt before. However, as Donovan unintentionally drags her into his biggest fight of all, Samantha finds herself followed, threatened and scared.

Grisham takes the reader all around the Appalachian areas of Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky, describing the land with an understanding of its importance and its misuse by the big coal companies. It’s an exciting read, but more importantly, it’s a human nature story — the good, the bad and the ugly are exposed in a scenario you won’t soon forget.

*Christian Science Monitor* wrote: “John Grisham makes a powerful closing argument against Big Coal, but the message never obscures a satisfying, old-fashioned, good guy-bad guy legal thriller.”

You’ll never be disappointed by a John Grisham story.

Till next time, happy reading!



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**2742 Floral Trail • Long Beach**  
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**2302 Larchmont • Long Beach**  
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2 bedrooms plus loft, 2 baths. New items include furnace, A/C, roof, windows, flooring, cabinets, bath & paint inside/outside. Tree top deck off of master bedroom. Stone & brick driveway, minimal yard maintenance, golf cart parking & garage. Multi-location advantage - close to beach, country club pool, park, tennis courts & community center. Enjoy the unique open style of this move in ready, one of a kind lake getaway.

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