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Leading Chicago Women in the Blues

Editor's note — Through our partnership with iRock Jazz, this week's two-part installment of Art + Times, written by Steen Burke, focuses on the first Ship and Shore Blues Festival in New Buffalo.



The members of the Chicago Women in Blues are (from right): Donna Herula, Peaches Straten, Holle Tree Maxwell, Shirley King, Liz Manderville, Dia Madden, Joan Gand and Tracee Adams.

It was only supposed to be a one-time show.

Responding to the absence of female artists at Chicago's blues festival back in 2011, Joan Gand and her husband, Gary, knew people were upset, so they chose to do something about it.

Art+Times

The end result gave birth to Chicago Women in the Blues. From there emerged a band that features some of the best female blues artists of the Chicago area: Blues Hall of Fame inductees Holle Thee Maxwell and Liz Manderville; Shirley King (daughter of B.B. King); Chicago Blues Challenge winner and guitarist/vocalist Donna Herula; Delmark record-

ing artist Demetria Taylor; international favorite Peaches Staten; Southside legend Tracee Adams; Ramblin Rose; Dia Madden; Keisha Dixon-Nelson (granddaughter of Willie Dixon); Vanessa Davis; Mz. Peachez; and Shirley Johnson. The band members often include T.K. "The Tequila Kid" on saxophone, Sherri Weathersby on bass, Gary Gand on guitar, Blake Wollerman on blues harmonica and Tony Dale on drums.

With the first Ship and Shore Blues Festival on the horizon, Art+Times spoke with Gand about her personal music style, her influences and the motivation behind creating the Chicago Women in the Blues band.

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Women in the Blues Continued from Page 1

A+T: How difficult is it as a female blues musician to really find her place in the genre?

Joan Gand: What is great about the blues as opposed to, I would say, rock 'n' roll, the blues and jazz both have a strong tradition of female vocalists. From back in the days of Bessie Smith, going forward to Koko Taylor and going forward now to Shemekia Copeland, there is a strong tradition in the blues of the strong female blues singer. Not so much of a tradition in instrumentalists, but blues music is very accepting of someone that's got the talent and got the sound. So, if you've got it, then you can make your way into the blues.

A+T: Did you find in your career any difficulty with ethnicity in the blues?

JG: Yes. It's a challenge because ethnicity enters into every situation. Every employment situation, social situation, but what tends to happen with musicians is that musicians judge by hearing. And they may initially judge by seeing, which is why "The Voice" contest created the idea of listening to the singers without being able to see them. Because if a musician hears good music and soulful playing from the heart, they don't care if you are pink or blue, they will accept you.

A+T: What do you think needs to happen in the blues genre to get more young people interested in the music and to keep the blues alive?

JG: That's another really good question because everybody is asking that question. 'What's going to happen to the blues?' 'How do we keep the blues alive?' And Chicago Women in the Blues was also created to keep the women's blues tradition alive. And the women's blues tradition is special in that the per-

sonality and the stories that are told on the stage, and the stories that are communicated, are different than what the men do. Women get away with a lot more than men in terms of what they talk about. And it's a wonderful tradition. It is really the best way to preserve it and spread the word and keep it out there.

The second thing is that local blues jams are fantastic for discovering new talent and nurturing new talent. Every town should have a blues jam at a local club where young people can come and get up there and sing and play and learn what it's about.

A&T: How would you describe Chicago blues compared to other types of blues? What's the difference?

JG: I would say it's the shuffle. There is a rhythm called the shuffle, which was created in Chicago. There are different variations of it in different places, but the Chicago shuffle is central to the blues. And that's that beat that makes you want to move and dance, and it's like no other beat. When you hear it, you know the sound and you just say 'yeah!' That's the blues! I'm not going to be sad. I'm going to be happy and start dancing!

A+T: How would you define the style of blues you play?

JG: I'm a keyboardist, and my personal style really harkens back to Ray Charles — if I had to say one name, it would be Ray Charles — and Ray Charles was versatile, and he also implemented various keyboard instruments, which I love all of the sounds that he got. So I kind of started there, and I also feel a strong kinship to piano players from the early days and jazz organist. So Jimmy Smith also was a huge influence on me, and Charles Irwin a lesser-known jazz organist from Chicago, who is my all-time favorite.

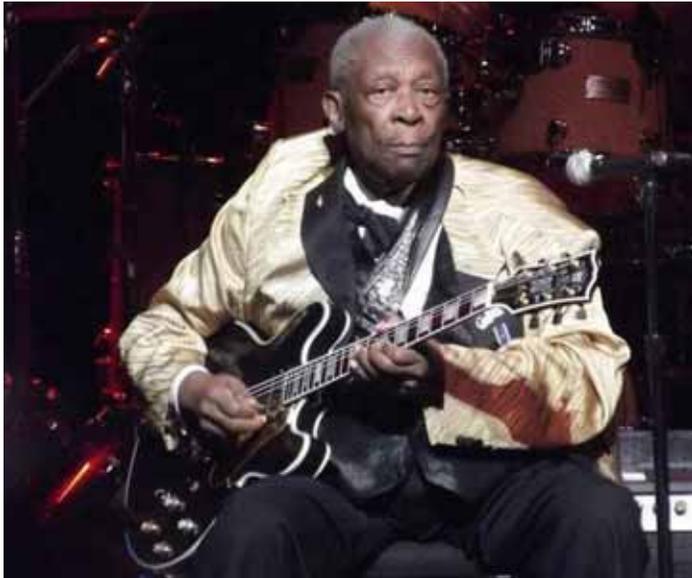
A+T: The Chicago Women in the Blues has



Joan Gand began playing the piano at age 5.

a lot of strong personalities within it. How do you balance that out as a band leader?

JG: It is a challenge, and actually I really enjoy it because the women do have very strong personalities, and a lot of people say that I am the only one who could ever get them to work together, sing together and be happy about it. So I consider that to be a compliment, and I think that I am a good diplomat.



Chicago Women in Blues will pay tribute to the late B.B. King during the Ship and Shore Blues Festival.

A+T: How did you decide who was going to be in the Chicago Women in the Blues band?

JG: When we first got the idea, we kind of made a list of everyone that we knew, had heard personally or had heard about. Then, with the help of You Tube videos, and going to see them live, we sort of auditioned them quietly without them knowing it and got it down to a core group of people. And then, we invited people, and as they became available, they joined the show.

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Shirley King, daughter of B.B. King, was unable to be part of the band's inaugural year, but has become a regular ever since.

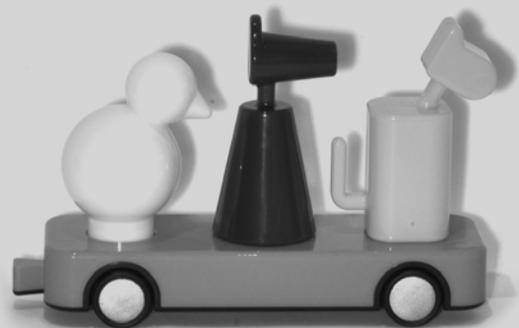
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Women in the Blues Continued from Page 3

For example, Shirley King was not available the first year we did it. She was visiting her father, B.B. King. And it was his birthday that week and there was a big birthday celebration, so she was not going to be in Chicago. But the following year, when I contacted her, she was happy to join the show, and she has become a regular ever since.

A&T: With the Chicago Women in Blues, how do you incorporate tributes to legends who have passed like Big Time Sarah into your set while maintaining your own individual identities?



Guitarist/vocalist Donna Herula is a Chicago Blues Challenge winner.



Liz Mandeville is a Blues Hall of Fame inductee.



Karisa Wilson kicks off the event Friday with two free performances.



The group's first show paid tribute to the late Koko Taylor.

JG: Basically, when we first started the first year, which was right after Koko Taylor had passed away — she had died in 2009, but it felt like it was still a fresh wound — so we started out dedicating that show to Koko Taylor and really doing all Koko Taylor songs. Every artist, and it was enough of them, worked at least one or two of her songs in their set of the show. So we've always featured a tribute to someone each year. This year, it is going to be B.B. King because that is such a great loss. And even though the women can't be B.B. King, they can play and sing his songs and do a tribute to his music.

A+T: Will there be a tribute this year to Big Time Sarah (Streeter)?

JG: We will also include some mention and some tribute to Big Time Sarah. We will be able to both in this show coming up.

(Joan Gand will perform with the Chicago Women in the Blues during Ship and Shore Blues Festival at 6 and 9 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 8, in Lions Beachfront Park in New Buffalo.)

More About Ship and Shore Blues Festival

While the Ship and Shore Festival is not new to the area, this year proves to be a new start as blues music takes center stage and featuring talented regional and national blues artists.

"The Ship and Shore Blues Festival is the first of its kind in New Buffalo," John Moultrie, the festival's artistic director, said. "We have legendary Hall of Famers and Grammy Award-winning artists headlining the main stage in Lions Beachfront Park."



Hank Mowery is part of Saturday's festivities.

The festival kickoff on Friday, Aug. 7, is at Frankie's Other Place, 16036 Red Arrow Highway, Union Pier, Mich., with Karisa Wilson lending her soulful fusion of blues, folk and jazz to free performances at 8 and 10 p.m. EDT.

The lineup Saturday, Aug. 8, runs from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. EDT. Entry is \$10 for ages 21 and older, \$5 for ages 15-20 and free for youth 14 and younger. Tickets will be available at Lions Beachfront Park at 11 a.m. EDT Saturday. No outside food or drinks

are allowed.

Saturday's entertainment includes:

- Precious Taylor, Koko Taylor's niece, will pay tribute to her aunt.
- Hank Mowery and The Chicago Rhythm and Blues Kings.

The event also will feature premium wines, craft beers, food trucks and local food vendors. Moultrie said he and his crew have gone to great lengths to provide a well-rounded affair for all ages. That explains the presence of interactive activities such as a Game Truck, Harley Davidson JUMP start, Musical Instrument Petting Zoo and Curious Kids Discovery Zone, where children can sing, dance, get their face painted and engage in arts and crafts.

Visit www.shipandshorebluesfestival.com for additional information.



Precious Taylor, Koko Taylor's niece (pictured here with her band), will pay tribute to her late aunt.



A Musical Instrument Petting Zoo will let children experience music firsthand.



Kids can have their faces painted at the Curious Kids Discovery Zone.



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What's Planned for First Friday

Michigan City Mainstreet Association will host the First Fridays Art Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. Aug. 7 in Michigan City's Uptown Arts District.

Scheduled to participate are:

• **Franklin Art District Artists — 722 Franklin St.**

FADA is a group of artists that creates paintings, photography, jewelry, driftwood art, mosaics and graphic design. They include: Beach Based Designs, Cheryl Solberg, Studio 2; Beach Bum Jewels, Linda Mickevicius and Jamie Kessler, Studio 3; April Lynn Photography, April Dillingham, Studio 4; Julie Kaplan, Studio 5; Robert Stanley, Studio 6; Whispered Photography, Rhonda Mullen, Studio 9; Welcome to Carol World, Carol Estes, Studio 9; Brabant Lenting, Studio 11; David Okeley, Studio 15A; and Henry Schultz Photography, Studio 20.

• **Walnut Ink Projects, 607 Franklin St.**

"Beyond the Label" sheds light on a few refined beer-label artists, also exploring what they concoct when they aren't creating brew labels.

• **Bee-ing Creative 4 You, 526 Franklin St.**

Blanch Murrin, a member of the Indiana Gourd Society and American Gourd Society, will display hand-cut and wood-burned gourd lamp shades, bowls, bird houses, thunder gourds, handmade jewelry and Art Deco purses.



ANKO's "Houses," part of the new Southern Shore Art Association exhibit.

• **Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St.**

"Spaces We Call Home: The Art of House and Garden," features multi-

media artwork, from interior room settings and outdoor gardens to facades, windows and doors.

• **Old Lighthouse Museum, 100 Heisman Harbor Road.**

On display are works by Marsha Stonerook, born and raised in Michigan City, who creates in oil, acrylic and watercolor to paint portraits, scenery and pets.

• **First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.**

On display are works by Marlene Woodfield, a fabric artist who has exhibited widely in Michigan City and La Porte. Also, art quilts will be displayed in the narthex, while alpaca yarns and roving will be available from Gold Medallion Ranch. Dan Moser and Ah Tu will perform outside at Seventh and Pine streets.

• **Sacred Dunes Alternative Health, 225 W. Fifth St.**

The latest addition to Uptown Arts District will highlight work by Barbara Balis, who offers a study of nature in the various parts of the world she has traveled.

• **Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.**

Current exhibits include Lora Fosberg's "Everything Looks Perfect From Far Away" in the Hynman Gallery, Andrea Peterson's "Rooted" in the Brincka/Cross and North View galleries and works by Area Artists Association members ("Color Energy & Movement") in the NIPSCO Education Room. Heather Augustyn, author of "Ska: An Oral History," will speak about reggae at 6 p.m. A free beer tasting from Burn 'Em Brewing is planned.

• **The Framing Station, 912 Franklin St.**

On display are new works of the beach and paintings of oranges by Dana Dabagia, as well as many other artists.

• **Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.**

On display are works by Lee Ann Davies, a local photographer who focuses on the beauty of North-west Indiana.

• **Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, 717 Franklin St.**

In the spotlight is Jason Wonnell, a 2016 Master of Fine Arts candidate in printmaking at Indiana University-Bloomington. He plans to create a 4x8 mixed-media on plywood using a variety of mediums, including spray painted stencils, wheat-pasted silkscreens and woodcut relief, which will be collaged on-site.

Entertainment includes:

• **Maxine's, 521 Franklin St.** — The rockabilly trio DeLilah DeWylde and the Lost Boys.

• **Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.** — The Michigan City Video Fest.

Visit www.uptownartsdistrict.org for additional information.



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Hidden Gems, Female Composers in Spotlight During Chamber Music Fest

by Andrew Tallackson

Every musician has one or two pieces he/she believes are hidden masterworks, repertoire of creative genius that somehow never found an audience.

Nic Orbovich has his share. Take, for instance, Anton Arensky's piano quintet. A student of Tchaikovsky's, as well as being Rachmaninoff's teacher, his music honors the romantic style of those two composers. And yet, his work is rarely performed in the United States.

Now, it will be — in Michigan City, no less — as Michigan City Chamber Music Festival kicks off its 14th season of 10 free events Aug. 8-16. The theme, "Hidden Gems and Beloved Treasures," will emphasize works lost or forgotten, as well as pieces treasured by chamber music lovers.

The event also can boast of another first: a tribute to female composers. While pieces by women have been performed in the past, never has an entire night been dedicated to their talents, and featuring a world premiere by Grammy winner Libby Larsen, who helped create what is now known as the American Composers Forum. Her piece, "Ferlinghetti," inspired by the works of American poet, painter and activist Lawrence Ferlinghetti, is only debuting in eight sites across the world, New York being one of them. Orbovich calls Larsen one of the world's top five living composers.

"I heard a rehearsal recording (of 'Ferlinghetti'), and it's a masterwork," Orbovich said. "It's an absolutely stunning piece."

New this year is another concert, "Crossing Over," which features chamber music with a contemporary twist: pieces strongly influenced by the pop genre. Concertgoers will be treated to works by Billy Joel, Nirvana, Van Halen, Metallica, James Brown and Iggy Azalea.

Chamber music + Nirvana? To some, it may ap-



pear the festival has gone off the deep end. Not so, say Orbovich and his wife, Sunny Gardner-Orbovich, who co-founded the annual event and serves as its educational director.

"Somehow," Nic said, "you can take a style of composition and use it in a serious piece. This is more representative, in fact, of what we do: bringing great music to Michigan City."

Gardner-Orbovich agreed.

"This brings everything to a new level, where you are treated to a new vision

of the original piece," she said.

Giving much of the "Crossing Over" program its edge will be violist Rudolf Haken, whose "Michigan City Mashup" will zip through riffs, heavy metal and pop.

"These are all arrangements I made for six-string electric viola," he said, "so they won't sound exactly like the originals, of course, but will hopefully capture the spirit of the music."

Haken has been with the festival since its inception, and this year, he joins a slate of musicians that includes: Wesley Baldwin, cello; Melisa Barrick Baldwin, soprano; Robert Auler, piano; Jasmin Arakawa, piano; Zofia Glashauser, violin; Gabriel Schläffer, viola; David Peshlakai, cello; Kimberly Jones, soprano; Jennifer Muniz, piano; Trevor O'Riordan, clarinet; Kurt Civilette, French horn; Eric Varner, bassoon; Ed Randles, double bass; and Petar Jankovic, guitar.



Violist Rudolf Haken.



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Musicians come from all over the country to perform during the festival.

The pianists, by the way, will perform on a Steinway grand piano from Steinway U.S.A., donated for the festival's run by Shirk's Piano in Mishawaka.

Haken says tributes to female composers, in general, are long overdue.

"It's a shame that women were prevented from developing careers as composers for so many centuries, and it's refreshing that this situation is finally being remedied," he said. "The Rebecca Clarke sonata is one of the most-performed pieces in the entire viola canon, and Libby Larsen's 'Feringhetti' is a wonderful new addition to chamber music repertoire."

Larsen's piece is one reason among many as to why Haken returns each summer to perform in Michigan City.

"For me, it's the festival's great atmosphere of friendship and passion for chamber music, as well as its devoted, enthusiastic audience base," he said. "After all these years, the musicians at the festival have become some of my most treasured friends, and the audiences have been consistently supportive and receptive to new ideas."

□

First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St., is the setting for each concert. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. except for the final show on Aug. 16, which is at 3 p.m. The schedule is:

Saturday, Aug. 8

"Opening Night — You Go Girl!"

A night dedicated to female composers and featuring the world premiere by Libby Larsen, as well as a piano trio by Clara Schumann and "Piano Trio No. 2" by Camille Chaminade.

Monday, Aug. 10

"...as the songwriter wrote..."

Some of history's greatest songwriters will be featured, including Gabriel Faure, Michael White and George Crumb.

Wednesday, Aug. 12

"Hidden Gems"

The concert showcases works by well-known composers, including Paul Hindemith, Rebecca Clarke, Erich Korngold and Gabriel Faure.

Friday, Aug. 14

"Crossing Over"

Solo and chamber repertoire strongly influenced by blues, tango, rock, Motown and pop, including Haken's "Michigan City Mashup."

Sunday, Aug. 16

"Surprise!"

The season closes with Harold A. Smith Youth Chamber Competition winners and Arensky's great Piano Quintet.

Other Events

Noon Thursday, Aug. 13

"Open Rehearsal" at Urban Soles, 624 Franklin St. The annual event gives audience members the chance to witness the artists at practice.

4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16

"Play-In Picnic" at Arturo's Baked Goods & More, 2613 E. U.S. 12.

The informal, familial concert features area adult amateur musicians performing with chamber festival instrumentalists in an outdoor setting. Take a lawn chair, blanket or sit on the deck.

Children's Concerts

6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11,

at First Presbyterian — "Girl Power!"

The concert celebrates the contribution of female composers and musicians in an educational concert for all ages.

"KinderConcert" at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, at First Presbyterian.

Gardner-Orbovich will offer an interactive musical evening that features Haken's "The Animals Which Escaped From the Zoo," which he composed when he was 10.

"Concert for Children by Children!"

at noon Saturday, Aug. 15, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

Celebrating the Michigan City Children's Choir 10th anniversary, the concert features songs performed by Children's Choral Institute singers, who will be accompanied by festival musicians.

Visit www.mccmf.org for more information.



Audiences, which number at 200 to 250 per show, always respond enthusiastically to the performers.

Latest Footlight Season Kicks Off With “The Odd Couple”

Neil Simon’s classic comedy, “The Odd Couple,” opens Footlight Theatre’s 66th season with a dynamic cast of regional talent.

Jeremiah Souza, the Hoosier Star 2013 winner, takes the stage as fastidious Felix Unger opposite his real-life partner, Kevin Mellen, as slob roommate Oscar Madison. These two appeared together last February in Footlight’s “Consider the Oyster,” an Indiana premiere that wowed audiences with its combination of comedy and poignant storyline.

“It helps when you already have that roommate chemistry,” Souza said of the pair’s work onstage. “Some of this dialogue, I can even hear us saying to each other at home!”

Another addition to the cast is Amy Crane, Marquette High School theater and music director, as Gwendolyn Pigeon. Being onstage with her husband, Andrew Crane (Vinnie), is rare for the two as they usually are found running shows behind the scenes at Marquette.

“We don’t really have scenes together in this show,” Amy Crane said, “so I get to sit back and en-



Kevin Mellen (left) and Jeremiah Souza

joy watching him work.”

Rounding out the cast are Hillary Havlin, David Mikolajczyk, Ken Siegfried and Jacob West.

“The Odd Couple” is one of director Laura Meyer’s favorite plays. She said this is her third and favorite time being at the helm.

“This has been a very devoted cast from the very beginning. They work well together and still have a lot of fun,” she said. “It’s a challenge because each of the male roles are very different, but it’s shaping up to be a very funny show with lots of zingy one-liners.”

Performances are Aug. 7-9 and 13-16 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$12 (two for \$20 with a printed website coupon) and \$10 for children 12 and younger. 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 by prior payment in full. Contact (219) 874-4035 or visit footlightplayers.org for reservations or more information.

Auditions

Footlight Theatre will have open auditions for its upcoming musical-comedy, “Once Upon a Mattress,” from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Aug. 9-10, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Director Bobby Komendera seeks a large cast of adults and children to fill singing and non-singing roles.

Show dates are Oct. 2-4, 9-11 and 16-18. The musical was written as an adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, “The Princess and

the Pea.” No onstage experience is necessary. Footlight welcomes newcomers and experienced actors and actresses. Auditionees are asked to take a prepared song from the show or any other that showcases his/her vocal talent. Actors also will be asked to read cuttings from the script with others onstage.

Call the theater at (219) 874-4035 or director Bobby Komendera at (219) 879-5840 for more information.

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Sat. the 22nd - Intro to Qi Gong 10am - 12 w/ Dave Conner
Sun. the 24th - Intro to HOOP dance w/ Tomie Butler

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“Turn of the Screw” Concludes Canterbury Season

Canterbury Summer Theatre brings its 47th season to a close with the classic thriller “Turn of the Screw” on Aug. 6-8 at Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St.

Based on the provocative novella of suspense, horror and repressed sexuality by Henry James, this adaptation by Jeffrey Hatcher gives the famous story yet another turn of its own.

A young governess journeys to a lonely English manor to care for two recently orphaned children, but she is not their first governess. Her predecessor, Miss Jessel, drowned herself when she became pregnant by the sadistic valet, Peter Quint, who also was found dead amid mysterious circumstances.

Now, the new governess has begun to see specters of Quint and Jessel haunting the children, and she must find a way to stop the fiends. However, one frightening question tortures the would-be heroine: Are the ghosts real, or are they the product of her own fevered imagination?

Canterbury Artistic Director Ray Scott Crawford helms the show.

“Part of the fun of this show is that we are never quite sure if this is a ‘ghost’ story or a ‘personal demon’ story,” he said. “Do the ghosts exist, or are they simply the personification of a young woman’s inner sexual turbulence? Either way, the effect is the same, and the results can be horrifying.”

The show is produced in association with Bossier Parish Community College, where Crawford is dean of Communication and Performing Arts, as well as



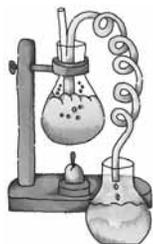
Jesse Kortus and Madeline Hiers star in “Turn of the Screw.”

director of theatre. Recommended for audiences of high school age and older, it is being performed in Shreveport, then travels to Michigan City to conclude the 2015 Canterbury season.

The production stars Madeline Hiers and Jesse Kortus. David White is the scenic designer, with Rona Leber as costume designer, Keith Bruce as lighting designer and Jonathon Offutt designing props. The stage manager and assistant stage managers are Lari Leber and Connor Snow.

Performances are at 2 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and 6:30 p.m. Saturday. There is no Wednesday matinee. Tickets are \$15 on Thursday and \$16 on Friday and Saturday. Call (219) 874-4269 or email info@festivalplayersguild.org for tickets.

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Ceremonies in Michigan City, Chicago Remember Eastland Tragedy



Photos by Bob Wellinski

Michigan City

by Kayla Weiss

Marking the 100th anniversary of the Eastland tragedy, a sizeable crowd gathered July 25 to help commemorate the dedication of the new Eastland memorial by the Old Lighthouse Museum.

Originally intended as a passenger ship used for tours, the SS Eastland and four other Great Lakes passenger steamers were acquired to take Western Electric Co. employees to a picnic in Michigan City on July 24, 1915. Unfortunately, the ship never made it. While still tied to a dock in the Chicago River, the Eastland rolled over. Of the 2,572 people on board, 844 passengers and crew perished.

The dedication ceremony began with Tony Levendowski, Cecilia Brinckman and Irene Levendowski Meador laying a wreath in Trail Creek in honor of their aunt, Anna Kubiak, who died at 17 on the Eastland.

“I want to thank the Historical Society, because all we had was a story

and a picture buried in a box, and this memorial and dedication has brought it to life for us,” Brinckman said. “It is truly a wonderful thing to be able to honor all of those who lost their lives in the tragic Eastland accident. I am so thankful and so blessed to be a part of this day, for my family and all the others who lost someone.”

For the better part of a year, the Historical Society has had plans for a memorial in Michigan City. Erected on the pathway leading to the Old Lighthouse Museum, it consists of 844 links that create a chain leading up to the museum’s front doors. Each link represents one of the lives lost in the Eastland tragedy. The Historical Society has plans to expand the memorial, creating a path that will lead to a small garden area with benches for patrons to sit on and enjoy the scenery.

“These are the things that bind us together as a group, as a community – these moments and events, happy and sad alike. They make us stronger, just like the links on this memorial,” State Rep. Scott Pelath said. “Not only do these links represent each life lost – not only do they represent our past – but they symbolize our future and how we are bringing things into fruition together.”



Tony Levendowski, Cecilia Brinckman and Irene Levendowski Meador lay a wreath in Trail Creek in honor of their aunt, Anna Kubiak.





Surviving relatives of those who perished during the Eastland tragedy surround the memorial on the Clark Street Bridge.

Chicago

by William Halliar

July 24, 2015.

1 p.m.

The brilliant rays of a late July sun sparkled from the Chicago River's murky waters as hundreds gathered near the Clark Street Bridge. Men and women, and a scattering of children, gathered to remember the events that occurred at that same location in a different era so long ago.

On a similar morning, 100 years earlier, thousands of people struggled in the chilly water, terrified by the situation in which they found themselves as the mighty Eastland, "Speed Queen of the Great Lakes," rolled, leaving 844 people to drown within an arm's length of the shore.

Ted Wachholz, Eastland Disaster Historical Society president and founder, organized the 100th anniversary memorial service. He was joined by members of the U.S. Coast Guard, and Chicago police and fire departments. Chicago Alderman Ed Burke,

known for his insight into matters of Chicago history, set the tone for the occasion by sharing a short history of that July morning in 1915. Many who had gathered shared stories with each other about relatives who lost their lives, or who struggled through the events of the day to survive, raise families and live full lives after the disaster.

The spirits of those long gone could be felt all around as a moment of silence was observed. Three boats hovered off shore: a fireboat, police boat and Coast Guard craft, all keeping vigil as wreaths were placed in the water to commemorate the event.

Thus was remembered the greatest disaster in Great Lakes Maritime history, a day of such great sorrow in Chicago, it has hardly been spoken of since, as the heartbeat of the modern Loop continued unnoticed all around by so many of the passing throng.

Photos by William Halliar



Chicago's ceremony begins on July 24 on the Clark Street Bridge.

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The Ball Jar Memory Project

Ball Jars — you'll find at least one in nearly every home. In kitchens, pantries and basements, they've been part of American life for more than 100 years.

The Ball Jar Memory Project is a public art project connecting them with the history of Indiana's Dunes and nearby communities.



“What people sometimes forget is that, for years, Ball Jars were made with sand mined from the Indiana Dunes,” says Nichole Sheaffer of Michigan City’s Walnut Ink Gallery. “That’s the kind of story The Ball Jar Memory Project is about.”

Sand from Hoosier Slide, once the largest sand dune on the Lake Michigan coast, was carted away to help make Ball Jars. Now, that story serves as the Ball Jar Memory Project’s inspiration.

People of all ages are invited to repurpose Ball Jars and use them to hold some object or memento they feel represents the Dunes. It might be something found outdoors, or a personal keepsake. It could be new or very old.

Then, all the jars will be assembled in the form of an art installation to be exhibited at Walnut Ink and, later, in other locations throughout the region.

The project is a collaboration between Walnut Ink, located in Michigan City’s Uptown Arts District, and Save the Dunes, one of Indiana’s oldest environmental organizations dedicated to preserving, protecting and restoring the Indiana dunes and all natural resources in Northwest Indiana’s Lake Michigan watershed.

People bringing jars to be included in the installation are asked to pay a \$5 fee, which will help pay for the cost of creating a display structure for the work, with the remainder to be donated to Save the Dunes. Sponsors are being sought to help cover the costs for participating elementary school students.

All jars and the treasures they contain can be brought to Walnut Ink Gallery, 607 Franklin St., which will have volunteers at First Friday Art Walk to receive the jars, financial contributions and discuss the project. Visit walnutinkgallery.com for more information.



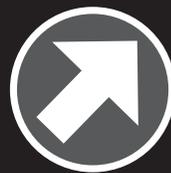
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Cyclists Circle Lake Michigan

Cyclists arrived in Michigan City from Chicago on July 26 as part of a trip to circle Lake Michigan's waterfront over the course of 15 days, raking in 1,000 miles in support of Recovery on Water.

The Chicagoland-based non-profit offers breast cancer survivors the chance to interact and gain support from their fellow survivors by rowing. The program is rooted in research that shows how exercise can reduce cancer recurrence by as much as 50 percent.

Their new opportunity, Bike4ROW, is a celebration of the lives of breast-cancer survivors that seeks to provide a home for ROW's members and Chicago's South Branch community.

When ROW Executive Director Jenn Gibbons started Bike4ROW in 2014, she imagined a healthy and fun way to contribute to a great cause. More than \$50,000 was raised in 2014, with hopes to raise more in 2015.



Cyclists participating in Bike4ROW stopped for a bite to eat at Bridges in Michigan City.

Cyclists are participating anywhere from one day of the excursion to all 15 days, and major stops include Michigan City, South Haven, Muskegon, Boyne City, Cleveland, Wis., and Milwaukee before returning to Chicago. The cyclists can be spotted in their black Bike4ROW bike jerseys and decorated support van along various roads, as well as Olson Memorial Park

Through a partnership with the Chicago Park District, funds raised through

Bike4ROW will secure a permanent home in a new boathouse on the south branch of the Chicago River for programs such as Lincoln Park Boat Club, Recovery On Water, University of Chicago Crew, Ignatius Chicago Crew and Chicago Training Center. The new boathouse will improve the therapeutic potential of this exercise-oriented team in the hopes of aiding their breast cancer.

Visit www.bike4row.org for more information.



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Lyric in the Gardens

A rich cultural legacy continues when Lyric Opera of Chicago returns to present its popular "Lyric in the Gardens" concert from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9, at International Friendship Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12.

Performers will present a preview of the 2015-2016 season, including: mezzo-soprano Janet Mensen Reynolds, soprano Rose Guccione, tenor Kenneth Donovan, baritone Kevin Keys, pianist Robbie Ellis and Gary Alexander, who serves as narrator.



All proceeds aid the continued restoration and maintenance of Friendship Gardens. Tickets are available at the Welcome Cabin, which is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Non-member regular seating costs \$30. Premium seating for non-members is \$40. Members receive a \$5 discount on regular and premium seating. Space is limited.

Call (219) 878-9885 or visit www.friendshipgardens.org for more information.

U.S. 12 Heritage Sale

It's been aptly called "Michigan's Longest Garage Sale."

Each year, as part of the U.S. 12 Heritage Sale, individuals clean out their attics and stake out their front yards along the U.S. 12 corridor stretching more than 180 miles, from New Buffalo to Detroit. Shoppers find everything from antiques, furniture, dishware, fresh garden produce, homemade jams and jellies to live entertainment.

The New Buffalo Business Association is encouraging Whittaker Street business and residents (north and south) to also be included. Those locations will be posted at www.us12heritagetrail.org/garage_sale. The NBBA will post flags and banners around New Buffalo signaling the start of the sales for the weekend.

For individual vendors, the NBBA will have many spots available for rent. Fees are \$10 per day for a 10x10 space. To register, visit www.us12heritagetrail.org or www.facebook.com/events/828410900599547. Registered sales will be placed on an online interactive map and the page listing all sales. Email events@newbuffalo.org or call (312) 965-9114 for more information on getting involved.

The booth for The Region of Three Oaks Museum is at Three Oaks Elementary School, 100 Oak St. just off U.S. 12, rain or shine. Anyone who wants to donate items to sell — no clothes will be accepted — can drop them off at the school between 6 and 9 p.m. EDT Thursday or 8 a.m. to noon EDT Friday. Items not sold can be picked up Sunday afternoon.

Anyone wanting to contribute items may call Julie Sittig at (269) 756-3547 or juliesittigr@vanzine.org. Vendor space is available at \$10 for a table/space, with additional tables and space costing \$20.

The Annunciation Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church will participate from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 8, and 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT Sunday, Aug. 9. The church will sell furniture, carpets, clothing, household items, decorative items, bicycles, books and collectibles. All proceeds go to the church for its community service programs.

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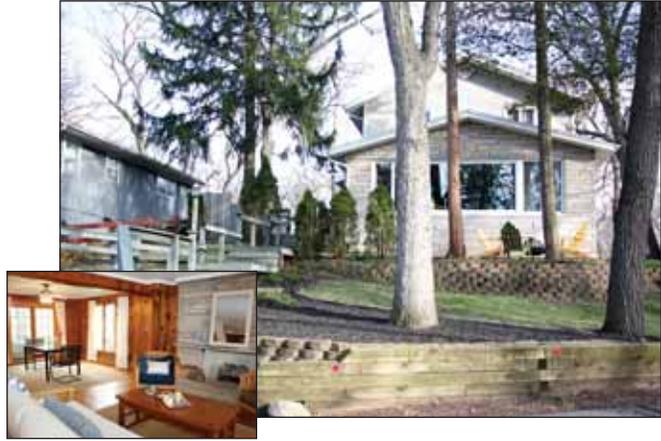


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A Sigh of Relief

First the data from GNIAR for my "Indiana Lakefront" search from the steel mill to the Michigan line. Data are from Jan. 1, through June 30 of each year.

Yr	Units	Med Price	Coffey Curve	Total \$Vol
10	35	\$279k	100-399k	\$12.1 M
12	38	\$268k	120-499 700-1,700k	\$15.3 M
13	62	\$337k	180-499k	\$23.5 M
14	59	\$295k	160-499k	\$23.1 M
15	72	\$295k	100-749k	\$27.3 M

Notes: k=000 M=000,000. 2012 had a bimodal curve; two center points.

Lest we all forget, the 2013-14 winter did not give up until late March. I think that explains the slight dip from 2013 to 2014.

The past three years have been much better than the period from 2010-2012. That 2010-2012 period is where I put the bottom of the market. The median sale price has moved a bit toward the positive, but not as dramatically as the number of sales. Prices are not soaring yet, but they are up positively from the bottom times.

The Coffey Curve shows what I have come to expect in slow times: some high end sales in the face of a very slow market in general. You can see this in 2012. No idea why this happens. Just know that it does.

The wide spread of the Coffey Curve for 2015 indicates that both the low and high ends increased this past year. A good sign in my mind.

The most dramatic comparisons are: the number of sales is up over 200% from 2010 to 2015; and the \$Volume is up 225%. We are pretty much back in the normal to positive range.

Thank Goodness.

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August 12

"Hidden Gems" (great romantic music)

August 14

"Crossing Over" (rock, Motown, hip/pop influence)

August 16 - 3:00 p.m.

"Surprise Ending" (exciting finishes)

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August 13, 6 p.m. *"KinderConcert!"*

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Torchbearer Nominations

The La Porte County Bicentennial Committee is accepting torchbearer nominations from the public.

Participants will carry the torch through La Porte County on Oct. 8, 2016. Nominations recognize Hoosiers who demonstrate public service, excellence in their profession, acts of heroism or volunteer service to their neighborhood, community, region or state.

The nomination form is available at tinyurl.com/oun7qkc. Paper applications can be picked up at:

- La Porte County Public Library locations.
- La Porte County Office of Economic Development.
- La Porte County Visitors Convention Bureau.
- La Porte County Historical Society Museum.
- La Porte Park and Recreation Department.

The nomination period ends Dec. 31. The La Porte County Bicentennial Committee will appoint up to 30 official torchbearers from the nominations received.

Developed by the Indiana Office of Tourism Development, the relay is patterned after the Olympic Torch Relay. The route will travel through Rolling Prairie, La Porte and Michigan City, ending at the Michigan City Marina.

Nominees must be a current or former Indiana resident, or be nominated in honor of a current or former resident. Hoosiers may be nominated posthumously, and a substitute torchbearer can be submitted to carry the torch on behalf of the nominee. Nominees can be any age (although minors will be subject to additional youth torchbearer requirements). A nominee must possess the physical adaptive ability to carry the torch a minimum of a quarter mile. Accommodations will be made for torchbearers with disabilities. The complete list of torchbearer criteria is on the online nomination page.

The relay will start Sept. 9, 2016, in Corydon, Indiana's first state capital, and culminate with a celebration Oct. 15, 2016, at the statehouse in Indianapolis. It will touch each of Indiana's 92 counties during the 2,300-mile journey.

Volunteer county coordinators are organizing torch relay activities in their respective counties. Additional volunteers will be needed to assist with the preparation and execution of relay-related activities. Hoosiers interested in volunteering can sign up at the website.

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Footlight Announces Award Winners

Footlight Players honored winners from its 65th season, as selected by viewers, during the ninth annual awards banquet Saturday, July 25.

The winners are:

- Best Lead Actor — Robert Komendera, "Oliver."
- Best Lead Actress — Alicia Ebaugh, "Oliver."
- Best Featured Actress — Amy O'Brien, "Lend Me a Tenor."
- Best Featured Actor — Noel Carlson, "The Mystery of Edwin Drod."
- Best Newcomer — Jeremiah Souza, "Consider the Oyster."
- Best Director — Laura Meyer, "Oliver."
- Best Musical Director — Alexis Bratsakis, "The Mystery of Edwin Drod."
- Best Choreographer — Mary Kay Steele and Karen Arden, "The Mystery of Edwin Drod."
- Best Costume Design — Bonnie Quigley, Monique Fredline and Sharon Kienitz, "Lend Me a Tenor."
- Best Lighting Design — Anthony Holt, "Lend Me a Tenor."
- Best Set Design — Ken Siegfried and Bobby Komendera, "Oliver."
- Best Sound Design — Alice Dickey, "Lend Me a Tenor."
- Best Hair Design — Ollie Pozos, "Anne of Green Gables."

Laura Meyer was selected to join Footlight's Hall of Fame for 2015. Footlight president Robert Komendera selected vice president John Avila for the 2015 President's Award, praising Avila's dedication to working in all aspects of the theater.

"In the three years he has been involved, he has given us unconditional friendship and touched our lives in many ways," Komendera said.



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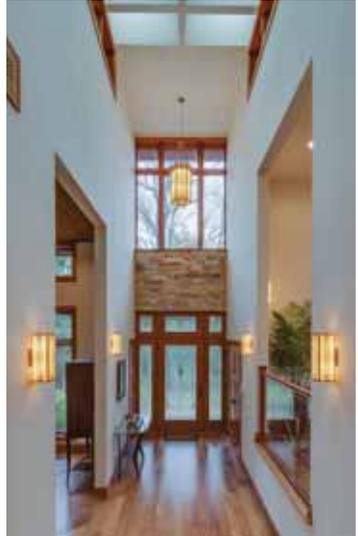
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Third Annual GLOW: Art after Dark

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens will present the third annual "GLOW: Art after Dark," which features glow-in-the-dark art, glow performances and interactive exhibits, from 8 to 10:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 13-15.

The event includes family-friendly activities such as night hikes and glow-in-the-dark crafts. Guests can enjoy one night, two nights or all three, with each night offering a different experience. On Thursday, glow-in-the-dark hula hoopers will perform. On Friday, the GLOW 5K trail run and walk returns. On Saturday night, fire performers and a fireworks display are planned.

Admission is \$10 (13 and older), \$8 (55 and older), \$5 (5- to 12-year-olds) and free (4 and younger). The Taltree member discount is \$5 (13 and older), \$2 (5- to 12-year-olds) and free (4 and younger). Three-night passes are available. Night hikes are an additional \$3. GLOW 5K run and walk registration is \$20 and includes access to all Friday night GLOW activities.

All proceeds benefit Taltree's education, restoration and conservation initiatives. Visit Taltree.org or call (219) 462-0025 for tickets or more information. Taltree is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso.

Summer Art Camp

The Episcopal Church of the Mediator will present a Summer Art Camp highlighting music, drama, art and dance for youth in kindergarten through 12th grade Monday through Thursday, Aug. 17-20.

The free camp is held from 12:30 to 4 p.m. EDT each day. Register by Monday, Aug. 10, by calling (269) 469-1441 or at mediatorharbert.com/art camp. Donations will be accepted for art supplies.

The church is located at 14280 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert, Mich.

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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Knitting Club for All Ages at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Aug. 5, 12, 19 and 26.**

Take size 9 straight knitting needles, worsted yarn and tape measure (optional). Contact Joanne Hale at joeyAB1971@yahoo.com or (219) 814-4398 for more information.

• **Back to School Craft at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 6.**

Stop by Youth Services and design a backpack. All materials are provided.

• **Michigan City Video Fest on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 7-8.**

Videos by local filmmakers, including John Hancock and Don Varda, will be showcased at 5 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday. In keeping with First Friday, Aug. 7 will feature short videos so viewers can enter and leave as they wish. Aug. 8 will feature longer videos, mainly about life along and in Lake Michigan, including Sky Schultz's "Common Miracles" and "Lake Michigan in a Dugout" by Amy Lukas and Mary Catterlin. Visit www.mcvideofest.com for more information.

• **Professor Oops! at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 8.**

Professor Oops! is a gentle jester who delivers important ideas about ecology, psychology, art, creativity and science with wit and whimsy.

• **Travels with Sonia: "Cruising South America: Wild Patagonia" at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10.**

Sonia Lawrentz returns with a photographic presentation of her travels.

• **Movie Showing: "Into the Woods" at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11.**

The Oscar-nominated movie is rated PG. Light refreshments will be served. Those present who are 18 and younger have a chance to win a DVD of the movie.

• **Marble Roller Coasters at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12.**

Build a roller coaster with pipe foam, then race marbles through loops and turns. The 45-minute program is aimed at children 6 and older.

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

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AgriSculpture to Debut at Michigan City Farmers Market

by Barbara Stodola

Yet another blending of art, commerce and civic improvement will be celebrated in Michigan City's Uptown Arts District when three cleverly farm-themed sculptures will be unveiled at the Farmers Market at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 8.

The project, aptly dubbed "AgriSculpture," brings work crafted of old farm implements by sculptors John Habela (Chesterton), Mike Grucza (Chicago) and Richard Kiebdaj (Michigan City). Sponsored by the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission and several arts agencies, the sculptures have additional funding from Wintrust, a local financial company headed by Mike Johnstone.

Chris Grohs, Michigan City Mainstreet Association president and Walnut Ink Gallery owner, credited Don Babcock, NIPSCO director of economic development, with initiating the project. Babcock will preside at the opening event.

The sculptural installation, Grohs said, is being dedicated to Gerald "Jerry" Peters (1942-2012), who operated Festival Players Guild, which presents Canterbury Summer Theatre at Mainstreet Theatre, and "worked tirelessly on behalf of the farmers market."

All three sculptors bring a sense of fun to their interpretation of the farming theme. They speak with nostalgia of the farms and steel mills that influenced their work.

Kiebdaj has playfully titled his piece "Isle of Caprine" — caprine being, he says, a variety of goat — and the isle being a romantic resort in the Bay of Naples. His sculpture depicts one goat up in a tree, another goat gazing upward — wishfully? — and it comes with a story. He wanted to do a vertical piece, he thought of a tree and a friend joked, "Goats in a tree?" This triggered a memory of Kiebdaj's daughter training goats as a 4-H Club project, and noting "when baby goats find their legs, they can spring 6 feet in the air" — the goat in a tree thus becoming an amusing possibility.

"Isle of Caprine" is made of plows, a tiller and threshers, implements he says were supplied by Babcock. Kiebdaj, himself, is a

city boy, though he did summer farm work to help pay for college.

Kiebdaj's fanciful, multi-colored sculpture is already known to local audiences: "Two to Tango" at the Ninth Street entrance to the Uptown Arts District, "Chrysalis" at Purdue University-North Central and "Owl and Pussycat" at Charles Wescott Park (Michigan Boulevard and U.S. 12).

Habela has been assembling sculpture from old farm equipment for five or six years, using junkyard finds and "stuff people give me." He has a degree in English and German literature from Indiana University-Northwest, previously taught at Purdue University-Calumet and brings his literary interests and word plays to bear on his creations.

"Amerikan Gothik" is the title of his AgriSculpture piece — an ethnic (ethnik?) parody of the famous Grant Wood painting at The Art Institute of Chicago. Explaining the usage of its components, he says, "The pitchfork has 12 tines, and the female head is a farming disk that had a slight feminine aspect, almost flowery. I'm not sure what the body component is called, but I think it was used to scrape grasses before



Richard Kiebdaj (from left), John Habela and Mike Grucza will have their works displayed at the farmers market.

tilling. The legs are hay bale lifting tines used in barns to pile up bales."

Habela was born in Germany — interestingly, so was Kiebdaj — and came to this country as a child. His father obtained work as a pipefitter at the Gary steel mills but, ironically, died of a heart attack while skiing in Colorado. In his early 20s, Habela visited Ger-

many and Poland — the countries of his heritage — and was greatly influenced by folk art and the beautiful farmlands. Some of his sculpture, smaller bronze pieces from his "Family of Man" series, can be seen at Blue Gallery in Three Oaks, Mich.

Grucza moved to Chicago from Cleveland in 1979. He speaks of "the beautiful shapes, strength and function of farm implements," tracing these interests to his grandparents' farm in Pennsylvania and to an apprenticeship with Carl Floyd, an arborist and landscape designer in Ohio. Grucza studied at the Cleveland Institute of Art and did graduate work at the University of Iowa.

Grucza's AgriSculpture piece, 13 feet tall, is titled "Tower of the Winds" and incorporates plows and an auger. It drew inspiration from a speech Daniel Webster delivered in Boston in 1840, and

found by the sculptor to be perfectly expressive of this project: "When tillage begins, other arts follow."

Other Grucza creations currently on display show the sense of humor he brings to his work. "Odalisque," a popular piece at PNC, is a large puffed-sleeve dress with a ladder up the back that viewers can climb to get their photos taken "wearing the dress." Its art-historical title refers to a female slave in a harem, generally portrayed nude. Grucza has two other pieces in Michigan City: "Flip Flop" in front of Horizon Bank and "Alter Ego" at Seventh and Franklin streets, both providing visual games of inside-out and upside-down.

The high artistic quality of the new sculptures is owed, in part, to the co-sponsorship by Lubeznik Center for the Arts and Michigan City Public Arts Committee, which have brought in other outdoor sculptures to the community. Two of the new pieces will be placed in the Farmers Market lot, on the southeast corner of Eighth and Washington streets, and another in the lot recently acquired and paved by the city, on the northeast corner.

Coordinating the work of these various participants has been the responsibility of the AgriSculpture steering committee — consisting of Grohs, artist Nichole Sheffer and Lubeznik Center Curator CarolAnn Brown, who decided to honor the late Peters for his years of civic contributions.

The farmers market was started in 1993 by Beverly Endsley, then vice president controller of Lighthouse Place and Mainstreet Association president. It had, she recalls, three goals: help local growers, bring fresh produce to the public and attract people into the downtown "main street" community.

Now a fourth goal is being achieved: to demonstrate the relationship between fine art and everyday life.



"Amerikan Gothik," inspired by Grant Wood's famous painting, was fabricated by John Habela for the AgriSculpture project.



Chris Grohs credits Don Babcock (pictured here), NIPSCO director of economic development, with initiating the AgriSculpture project.



Chicagoan Mike Grucza is shown by his 13-foot-tall sculpture "Tower of the Winds," made from recycled farm machinery.

Couch to 5K, and Why You CAN Do it



Editor's Note — "The Fitness Rebellion," written by staff at Michigan City's Anytime Fitness, appears every other week in The Beacher. This column was written by Manager Kevin Scott.

The first step is always the hardest.

In this case, I am talking about the first step to a healthier life. If you are thinking about starting on that path this summer, what better way than getting outside to walk or run?

Obvious statement of the year: Running always has been part of the fitness industry. Not so obvious statement (not of the year, though): Running is something newer to the fundraising industry.

Just about every weekend, you can find several 5Ks going on in any area benefiting a number of different causes. From big organizations such as the American Cancer Society, to the Prostate Cancer Foundation, to local organizations looking for a fun, healthy way to raise money, all the way to a local family recently beset with tragedy.

Runs are great ways to bring people together for several common causes. Fundraising, charity, health, challenges — you name it. There are countless reasons why these are taking over your streets on the weekend. However, getting out there can be uneasy for a lot of people who are just getting into it. I will be the first to tell you that taking that first step will be the most rewarding thing you do. Once you arrive at any of these events, the P.M.A. is contagious! Before you go and grab your hand sanitizer and Google PMA, I'm talking about Positive Mental Attitude. Runs and races are great places to surround yourself with like-minded people brought together by, once again, either a cause or to stay healthy and active.

Just like anything new, don't jump in blind. Go in with some tips that will help you get started on the right foot. Preparation-wise, make sure you give yourself about four to six weeks leading up to the event to practice for it. Set out to find a spot in your neighborhood, hit the treadmill at your gym or head out to the track at the local school. Your current fitness level will determine how you should train. If you are just starting off, start with walking at an easy pace for 10 minutes, progress to a moderate pace for another five minutes. Then, for your last five minutes, do one minute hard, one minute moderate until you hit 20 minutes. You should repeat this three times a week. As it gets easier, increase the time you are at a hard and moderate pace, and slowly remove yourself from walking. This progression should pick up each week throughout the four-to six-week program.

Now, let's shift from the long-term preparation to physically get ready for the event to the short term preparation of your body to withstand the event. First, make sure you have good shoes that are meant for running or walking. Next, make sure you are well-nourished the morning of the event by eating a good, healthy, but not heavy breakfast. Next, make sure to stay hydrated before, during and after the race. There is a reason that the Gatorades, waters and bananas are all right at the finish line! Grab one of each and stay moving to avoid cramping. Once you get to the race, take it all in. The crowd. The atmosphere. The vendors. The PMA! Moving beyond the race itself, make sure to stretch that night and keep up with water consumption.

So my advice to take a step in the direction towards a healthier lifestyle is to find a 5K, 8K, 10K or any type of run that either supports a cause that you believe in, or find one that a group of friends are able to attend together. Once you start looking, you will notice you can find events of EVERY kind. From the Ditka Dash that gives out Mike Ditka shirts and moustache, to a small, local 5K walk/run to benefit something in your area, to the Tough Mudders and Spartan Races, all the Ironmans and beyond. The world is your playground.

Get out there, practice, prepare and take on a run.

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La Porte County Parks



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

Stroller, Baby and You

Aimed at toddlers and preschoolers, programs include music, dance, storytelling and a hike (weather permitting).

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Mondays, Aug. 17 and 31 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call at least one week in advance to register.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

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

- Aug. 5 — Sensory Sensations.
- Aug. 19 — Water Everywhere.

Summer Day Camp – Tuesday Treasures

Camp, aimed at youth 6-13, is from 9 a.m. to noon at Luhr County Park. The cost is \$8 per person/per program. Each session includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. Pre-registration and payment are required one week before each program. The schedule is:

- Aug. 11 — Science Seekers.

Senior Lifestyles

Join the free 55+ Club, a social club designed for adults 55 and older to learn and explore various types of nature. Free coffee is served to participants.

The group meets from 9 to 10 a.m. at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Call at least one week in advance to register. The schedule is:

- Aug. 5 — “Benefits of Eating Clean.”

Pet Fest in the Park

The free annual event, co-sponsored by La Porte County Small Animal Shelter, is held rain or shine from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 15, at Luhr County Park.

Vendors will have stations along the trail. Also planned are demonstrations, a costume contest, obedience tips, adopt a new pet and animal photography. Pets can take a dip in the pool, run an agility course, play fetch and receive a treat. All animals must be on a leash, with “oops” bags provided.

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

- **Learn to Kayak from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursdays through Sept. 3.**

Kayak and safety equipment will be provided. Meet at the Kemil Beach parking lot, 27 N. East State Park Road.

- **First Friday Night Hike and Beach Campfire from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Enjoy the beach with a campfire, s'mores, stories and a sunset. Visitors can hike a 2.5-mile trail (round trip) or meet the ranger at Lake Street.

- **Mount Baldy Guided Hike from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Fridays through Sept. 4.**

While Mount Baldy remains closed to unrestricted public access, visitors can join a ranger for a special guided hike along a trail on the dune's western edge found to be free of holes. The program begins at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. Reservations are required by calling (219) 395-1882.

- **Campground Program from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, at Dunewood Campground.**

Learn about the diversity of park resources found on the Dunes Scavenger Hunt. The campground is at Broadway and U.S. 12 in Beverly Shores.

- **Junior Wildland Firefighter Program from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 8, at West Beach Contact Station.**

Meet the park's fire crew and learn about their jobs and equipment. Afterward, children receive a Junior Wildland Firefighter activity book and Junior Wildland Firefighter patch. West Beach is 1/4 mile north of U.S. 12 on County Line Road in Portage. There is a \$6 per vehicle entrance charge until 6:30 p.m.

- **Beginning Birding Hike from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, at Great Marsh Trail.**

The trail parking lot is on Broadway just north of the Beverly Shores train station.

- **Pinhook Bog Open House from noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays through Sept. 12.**

Take a self-guided tour of the bog and talk to rangers stationed along the trail. Arrive by 2 p.m. to allow about one hour to walk the trail and tour the bog. The parking lot is located at 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City.

- **Campfire on the Beach from 8 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, at Kemil Beach parking lot.**

Watch the sunset on the beach, then join a ranger around the campfire to toast marshmallows while en-



West Beach will serve as the site for two events in the coming week.

joying stories and songs. The Kemil Beach parking lot is at 27 N. East State Park Road.

- **Family Fishing Time from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Aug. 9, at Marquette Park Lagoon.**

Learn basic fishing skills and drop a line in Marquette Park Lagoon, located in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Equipment will be provided, or take your own. Children 18 and younger do not need a fishing license.

- **Bike Ride with a Ranger from 9 to 11 a.m. Sundays through Sept. 6.**

Join a ranger for a bike ride starting at the campground and travel along the Calumet Bike Trail. Meet at the Dunewood Campground.

- **"Kid's Rule" from 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Join a ranger in the Visitor Center's activity room for stories and activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

- **Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm Open House from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays through Sept. 6.**

Tour the Chellberg Farmhouse and Bailly Homestead to learn about the lives of early Duneland farm families. The parking lot is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.

- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Sundays through Aug. 23.**

Take an afternoon ranger-led stroll through Miller Woods. The hike's length can vary from a 1/2 mile to three miles if hiking to Lake Michigan. Call (219) 395-1821 for details of the week's hike.

- **Perseids Meteor Shower from 8 to 10 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11, at West Beach.**

Join fellow skywatchers as they count the meteors from the annual meteor shower. A telescope will be pointed toward one of the visible planets. Take a blanket/chair.

- **Nature Tots from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Aug. 12, at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

Take 2- to 5-year-olds to join a ranger who reads nature books and teaches about nature.

- **Central Beach Sunset Hike at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Sept. 2.**

Enjoy a sunset stroll with a ranger and learn about the threats faced by the dunes. Meet at the Central Beach parking lot.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is on Lake Street north of U.S. 12 in the Miller Beach neighborhood of Gary. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

Auditions for "Painting Churches"

Festival Players Guild will have auditions for Tina Howe's "Painting Churches" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9, and 6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 10-11, at Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St.

The Pulitzer Prize finalist for drama introduces Gardner and Fanny Church, who are moving to their summer cottage on Cape Cod. Gardner, once a famous poet, now slips in and out of senility as Fanny valiantly tries to keep them both afloat. They have asked their daughter to help them move. She agrees, for she wants as well to paint their portrait. She is on the verge of artistic celebrity herself and hopes, by painting her parents, to come to terms with them and they with her.

Directed by Kathleen Harsy, the production calls for one male performer from 50 to 75 years old and two female performers, the first also 50 to 75, the second from 25 to 35. Performances are Oct. 9-10 and 16-17.

No prepared readings are necessary. Head shots and resumes are welcomed, but not required. Call (219) 874-4269 for more information.

The Tenors Three

The Tenors Three will present a concert at 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 8, at Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.

The trio — Matthew Daniel, Bruce Johnson and Robert Dure — has been performing for 20 years. Their concerts feature every genre, including Broadway, sacred, folk, opera, Irish, British Isles, spirituals, traditional American and pop.

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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

Thursday, Aug. 6

- **9:30 a.m. — Beach Yoga.**

Bleu Lotus Yoga will offer the program every Thursday this summer. Registration is required and includes a \$10 fee. Classes are canceled in case of inclement weather. Visit www.bleulotusyoga.com to register.

- **3 p.m. — Scales and Tales.**

Meet at the Nature Center to view reptiles up close, and hear the stories behind them, during the 45-minute program.

Friday, Aug. 7

- **9:30 a.m. — Beach Yoga.**

Bleu Lotus Yoga will offer the program every Friday this summer. Registration is required and includes a \$10 fee. Classes are canceled in case of inclement weather. Visit www.bleulotusyoga.com to register.

- **3 p.m. — Scatology!**

Meet at the Nature Center for tips on turds, data on dung and facts on feces. Prizes are awarded.

- **6:30 p.m. — Sunset Beach Yoga.**

Bleu Lotus Yoga will offer a chance to stretch on the dunes beach. Registration is required and includes a \$10 fee. Classes are canceled in case of inclement weather. Visit www.bleulotusyoga.com to register.

- **7 p.m. — National Smore's Day Fun.**

Celebrate National Smores Day early by learning about the history of, and camping culture of, the beloved treat. Guests then can sample different variations and play marshmallow games. Children 12 and younger must be accompanied by a parent. Meet at the Wilson Shelter.

Saturday, Aug. 8

- **9 a.m. — Hummingbird Banding Demonstrations.**

Meet at the Nature Center for the program with hummingbird bander Allen Chartier.

- **1 p.m. — One Hummer of a Bird.**

Meet at the Nature Center as Chartier discusses attracting and feeding hummers, as well as his current research.

- **4 p.m. — Star Crafts.**

Meet at the Nature Center for a daytime look at the summer night sky. Guests will make a craft that helps learn more about the nighttime sky.

- **8:30 p.m. to dawn — Ninth Annual Perseid Meteor Stargaze and Snoring on the Sand.**

The next few nights mark the peak of the Perseid Meteor show. Up to 50 to 100 shooting stars an hour can be seen. Planned are special constellation talks and deep sky viewing through the park telescope. Take a lawn chair or blanket and meet at the Beach Pavilion. No tents are allowed. All beach camping is under the stars only and must be within the main swimming beach.

Sunday, Aug. 9

- **8:30 a.m. — Informal church service at the campground shelter.**

- **9 a.m. — Beach Yoga.**

Registration is required and includes a \$10 fee. Classes are canceled in case of inclement weather. Visit www.bleulotusyoga.com to register.

- **10 a.m. — Feed the Birds.**

Join a naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding. Get close views of chickadees, cardinals and woodpeckers.

- **3 p.m. — Naturalist Beach Break.**

Watch for the naturalist with animals of the dunes near the beach.

Monday, Aug. 10

- **10 a.m. — Feed the Birds.**

Join a naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding. Get close views of chickadees, cardinals and woodpeckers.

- **3 p.m. — Mudbug Plunge.**

Meet at the Beach Pavilion to explore how crawfish, crayfish or mudbugs can gauge stream quality. Prepare for creek walking.

Tuesday, Aug. 11

- **3 p.m. — Tree ID Spree.**

Participate in a talk and short walk exploring the science of tree ID, as well as the uses trees have.

Wednesday, Aug. 12

- **10 a.m. — Bird Banding Demonstrations.**

Meet at the Nature Center to get a close look at birds of the Indiana Dunes.

- **3 p.m. — 100 Years of Indiana State Parks.**

Meet at the Nature Center auditorium for the 50-minute documentary produced in 2009 by PBS.

Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 for more information.



A past view of the Perseid Meteor shower from Indiana Dunes State Park.

New Shakespeare Parody

The Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival will present Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor's new comedy, "William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged)," through Aug. 30 at DeBartolo Performing Arts Center's Philbin Studio Theatre.

Produced in association with Shakespeare Napa Valley, the show offers fast-paced hijinks as three comedians discover what appears to be Shakespeare's first manuscript, a masterwork containing familiar characters and all the Bard's best dramatic devices. Peppered with parodies of the playwright's greatest moments and pop-culture references, theatergoers can see the play before its world premiere at the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Martin and Tichenor's irreverent abridgments have been performed on five continents, at the White House, the Kennedy Center and as part of China's Wuzhen International Theater Festival.

Tickets range from \$10 to \$30. Visit <http://shakespeare.nd.edu/tickets/> for more information, including show times.

"Dirty Girl" at Dunes Summer Theatre

New American Folk Theatre will partner with Dunes Arts Foundation to produce the original musical "Dirty Girl" on Aug. 7-16 at Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores.

Directed by Anthony Whitaker, with choreography by Jamal Howard, the musical-comedy one-act retells the Cinderella story in a fictional Georgia trailer park in 1987. It follows Jennifer, a girl who wishes she could attend her high school prom. Her fairy god-cousin through marriage appears and answers her wish with the 1980s prom of her dreams, where she faces off with the popular jock, the nerd and the cheerleaders.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Call (219) 879-7509 or visit dunesartsfoundation.com for tickets or more information.

Diamond Dig Fundraiser

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will host a Diamond Dig fundraiser from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, during the Taste of La Porte at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

Guests can participate for \$10. Three different prizes are available, including a half-carat diamond, recliner and guitar. Each prize will have a winner. Only a limited number of tickets are being sold. To win, participants must be present at 8 p.m. when the drawing is held.

The Taste of La Porte runs from 3 to 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and may be purchased at the Chamber, 803 Washington St., La Porte, or contact the Chamber at info@lpchamber.com or (219) 362-3178.

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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

- **Chesterton Chess Club meets from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

All ages and skill levels are welcome. Meet at the tables by the reference desk. Chess boards and game pieces are provided.

- **Summer Concert Series/Family Film Series on Friday, Aug. 7, at the Thomas Centennial Park Bandstand in downtown Chesterton.**

South Shore Brass Band performs at 7 p.m., followed by "Monsters University" at about 8 p.m. If it rains, both events move to the Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

- **History Discussion Group at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

The group will look at post-World War II Arab-Israeli relations.

- **Westchester Public Library Comic Con 2015 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Library Service Center.**

Planned are visiting artists, authors, lectures, costume contests, a comic-themed trivia contest with prizes, superhero story walk and booths.

- **Exhibit reception: "Celebrating 125 Years of Chesterton High School" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

The display includes photos, a jacket, cheerleader uniform, albums and many other items. Visitors can help the museum identify the people, events and dates of many CHS photos.

- **The Messier The Better: Summer Wrapup Party at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11, outside Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Children will sing songs, make crafts and enjoy ice cream. Registration is necessary and can be done in person or by calling (219) 926-9080.

- **Minute to Win It from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12, at Hageman Library.**

Young people ages 8-12 can vie for prizes. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-9080.

- **Mad About Mysteries at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12, and Saturday, Aug. 15, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Angel Goins will discuss J.T. Ellison.

Notre Dame Festival

Notre Dame Catholic School, 1000 Moore Road, will host its Festival and Back to School Night immediately after the 4 p.m. Mass in the Grass on Saturday, Aug. 8.

Students can meet teachers, see his/her classroom and check out the used uniform sale. Food, games, a photo booth, entertainment, live music and silent auction are planned.

United Way Day of Caring

The Purdue University-North Central Alumni Association is seeking volunteers for an alumni team participating in the United Way Day of Caring on Friday, Aug. 21.

The event will unite teams representing businesses, municipalities, churches and civic groups to volunteer on a variety of projects that will benefit local nonprofit agencies.

A PNC alumni team has registered to work from 9 a.m. to noon on the "All Hands on Deck" project at the Valparaiso Family YMCA. Volunteers will clean the pool area, pool deck, walls and stainless steel accessories. Volunteers should wear shoes, socks and clothes they do not mind ruining. They also should note it is warm on the pool deck.

Contact PNC Alumni Coordinator Erika Jones at (219) 785-5274 or ejones00@pnc.edu if interested.

PNC alumni are welcome to assemble additional teams to help at other Day of Caring events. A full list is available at www.nwivolunteer.org/

When registering through that site, include all teammate names, emails and preferred shirt sizes. Free T-shirts will be given to volunteers, but sizes cannot be guaranteed.



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

- St. Peter Church, 1101 Michigan Ave., La Porte, 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6.
 - First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, La Porte, noon to 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10.
 - Culver's Michigan City, 3967 Frontage Road North, Michigan City, noon to 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10.
 - Northwest Athletic Club, 301 W. Kieffer Road, Michigan City, 4 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10.
 - Michiana Hematology Oncology, 1668 S. U.S. 421, Westville, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11.
- Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org for more information.*



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Catholic Charities Golf Outing

The Catholic Charities annual golf outing is Monday, Aug. 25, at Briar Ridge Country Club, with registration at 8 a.m., followed at 9 a.m. by a four-person scramble.

The outing aids Catholic Charities, including its family counseling, emergency assistance, financial literacy, a foster grandparent program, children's vision screening and pregnancy and adoption services. The agency covers Lake, Porter, La Porte and Starke counties.

The price per golfer is \$150 and includes green fees, range balls, club handling, a golf cart, breakfast, lunch and prizes. Sponsorships are available in categories ranging from \$150 to \$10,000. Options for prize donations or monetary contributions are available.

Checks can be made payable to Catholic Charities and mailed to Catholic Charities, 940 Broadway, Gary, IN, 46402. Briar Ridge Country Club is located at 123 Country Club Drive, Schererville. Call (219) 886-3549 for more information.

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Deep River Grinders

The Deep River Grinders will participate in a Shriners Benefit Game at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9, at Deep River County Park.

The teams play baseball according to the original rules of 1858, where the striker is out if the ball is caught on the fly or on one bound, fair or foul. There are no called strikes, and a foul ball does not count as a strike. The rover/shortstop may play anywhere on the field.

A child gets a chance at bat during a Deep River Grinders event.

The game is free. Families can take lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Games are played on Grind-er Field across the river from the Grist Mill.

Deep River County Park is located at 9410 Old Lincoln Highway, Hobart.

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PNC Enrollment Day

Purdue University-North Central invites prospective students to an Enrollment Day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12.

The event is open to those who want to register for the fall 2015/spring 2016 semesters. They 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 can meet with an academic advisor to discuss a plan of study and register for courses.

A sign-in table is 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. Further information may be obtained by contacting Janice Whisler at jwhisler@pnc.edu or (219) 785-5415.

Saturday's Child Anniversary Show

Mary Flower and Randy Handley will present "Saturday's Child 50th Anniversary Show" from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, at Brando's, 212 Lincoln St., Porter.

Saturday's Child was a folk-singing coffeehouse in northern Indiana 50 years ago, with artists and musicians David and Betty Sander hosting concerts from 1965 to 1975. Daughters Sidney, Stuart and Shaw have organized the event to honor their late mother.

Flower and Handley, who met at "The Child," will perform together for the first time in 40 years. Flower, an award-winning picker, singer/songwriter and teacher, continues to perform at folk festivals and concert stages domestically and abroad. Handley has performed thousands of gigs, from Bloomington, Ind., to Houston, from Denver to Seattle.

Tickets are \$15 at the door.

Vineyard Concert

Round Barn Winery, 10983 Hills Road, Baroda Mich., will host The Black Lillies as part of a Vineyard Concert from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 8.

Rolling Stone selected The Black Lillies as one of 2014's "Ten Artists You Need To Know." The lead singer of the Americana/roots-rock band, Cruz Contreras, is from Bridgman, Mich.

The opening band is Lawrence Peters Outfit at 2 p.m. EDT.

The cost is a \$5 suggested entry. Lawn chairs are encouraged; however, outside food and beverage are not permitted. Call (800) 716-9463 or visit www.roundbarnwinery.com for more information.



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Free Guided Walks

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host free guided nature walks at Cressmoor Prairie and Gordon & Faith Greiner Nature Preserves in Hobart on Sunday, Aug. 9.

The walks are part of a series of events planned to increase awareness of the group's first Capital Campaign, "Take a Walk with Shirley."

Walks are at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. at each preserve. Event details, including directions to the preserves, may be found at www.heinzetrust.org/campaign or by calling (219) 242-8558. RSVPs are not required.



Cressmoor Prairie.

Cressmoor Prairie is a 41-acre dedicated state nature preserve in Hobart. One of the rarest ecosystems in the state, the black-soil prairie there is a high-quality landscape, despite a history of agriculture and grazing. It harbors rare species of plants and five threatened species of insects. The preserve is at its most impressive from late summer to early fall when prairie grasses are high and the diversity of wildflowers and butterflies is at its peak.



Gordon & Faith Greiner Nature Preserves.

Also in Hobart, Gordon and Faith Greiner Nature Preserve is a 73-acre nature preserve characterized by a transitional landscape that ranges from black oak savanna to wet prairie to swamp. The southern portion formerly was used for agriculture and is being restored to prairie. Fens – wetlands fed year-round by groundwater – occur in the north end and support a rich plant community that includes several sedges, wildflowers and rare plants.

The organization aims to raise \$3.5 million to protect important habitats and ecosystems across Northwest Indiana. Call (219) 242-8558, email info@heinzetrust.org or visit www.facebook.com/heinzetrust for more information.

Diabetes PATH Workshop

New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St., will host Diabetes PATH (Personal Action Towards Health) classes from 1 to 3:30 p.m. EDT Thursdays, Aug. 13-Sept. 17.

Diabetes PATH is a six week-program that teaches practical skills for living a healthy life with diabetes. It focuses on self-care, learning new coping strategies and sharing personal experiences with other group members.

The chronic disease self-management program was developed and tested by Stanford University. It is designed to be part of an individual's current medical treatment.

The workshop is free, but donations are accepted. Family members, friends or caregivers are encouraged to attend. Class sizes are limited, and pre-registration is required. Call Julie at (269) 982-7759 or Tracy at (800) 442-2803 at the Area Agency on Aging for more information and to register.

Sarett Nature Center

The following programs are available through Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.:

- **Learn about the center's turtles at 3 p.m. EDT Thursday, Aug. 6.**

Admission is \$3 for adults.

- **Celebrate the Monarch Butterfly from 2 to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 8.**

Learn about monarchs, look for monarch caterpillars and enjoy butterfly face painting. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

- **Kayak the Dowagiac River at 1 p.m. EDT Sunday, Aug. 9.**

Take a hat, drinking water, snacks and shoes that can get wet. The \$20 fee includes all equipment and transportation. Pre-registration is required.

Call (269) 927-4832 to register for each program.

Gallery Reception for Silvano Assensi

Courtyard Gallery, 813 E. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich., will host a reception with artist Silvano Assensi from noon to 5 p.m. EDT Saturday Aug. 8.

Guests can view his recent Italian paintings of Mediterranean villages, flower gardens and villas.

Email gallery@courtyardfineart.com or call (800) 291-9287 for more information.

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Community Leadership Program

A few spots remain for the 32nd Leadership La Porte County Adult Leadership Program, which kicks off with a two-day retreat Sept. 18-19.

The program focuses on educating participants on all aspects of La Porte County while enhancing personal leadership skills and networking with current leaders throughout La Porte County. The goal is to provide the information, resources and tools to help participants become knowledgeable, well-informed and motivated community leaders, and to become more actively involved in La Porte County.

After the retreat, participants meet one day each month through May. Each session emphasizes a specific community issue and skill, including education, criminal justice, economic development, quality of life, decision-making, collaboration and teamwork. Community activities and team projects emphasizing the effects of group dynamics also are part of the experience.

Interested participants are encouraged to submit applications. The tuition is \$900 and covers all materials, meals, class locations and trips. Tuition may be paid by the participant, an employer, a sponsoring organization or individual, by credit card or installments. Partial scholarships may be available.

Information and class applications for the 2015-2016 Adult Leadership Program are available by calling the Leadership office at (219) 325-8223, by email at info@leadershiplaportecounty.com or at www.leadershiplaportecounty.com.

Habitat ReStore Expands Hours

La Porte County Habitat for Humanity expanded its ReStore hours starting Wednesday, Aug. 5.

Most significant is an extra shopping day, Wednesday. Under the new schedule, the store will operate from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

The ReStore, located at 10th and Huron streets, features new and gently used items donated by individuals and businesses. Among the best sellers are large and small appliances, building materials, furniture and household items. It also carries its own brand of recycled paint and paint accessories.

Store sales aid Habitat's mission to build affordable, decent housing for low- to moderate-income families. Call (219) 814-4985 for more information.

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Kids Nature Program

Birds are the focus of this month's Kids Nature Play in the Garden at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.



A youngster holds a craft made during Kids Nature Play in the Garden.

Children 10 and younger are invited to the new series, which continues at 9 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 6. The hour-long program, led by Indiana Master Naturalist Cookie Ferguson, will encourage youth to explore the garden just as Catherine Barker may have done as a young girl.

Activities are planned in the outdoor garden and include a story, snack time and an art project themed around birds.

A \$2 fee per child applies. Each accompanying adult is free. Registration is not necessary. The program will move indoors if it rains.

Taltree Master Naturalist Program

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens will host a Fall Indiana Master Naturalist program, a hands-on learning experience and volunteer service opportunity that focuses on Northwest Indiana's native landscape and wildlife.

The course includes sessions on botany, zoology, geology, water ecology and wildlife conservation taught by area experts.

The 10-week course begins Thursday, Aug. 20, and runs through Thursday, Oct. 22. Classes, open to adults 18 and older, are from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursdays. The cost is \$100. Participants should dress for the outdoors, whether rain or shine. Visit tinyurl.com/najkh9v for a printable application or call (219) 462-0025.

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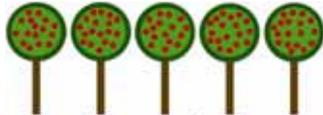
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**Activities to Explore****In the Local Area:**

Aug. 5-6 — Arts in the Park, 7 p.m., La Porte's Fox Park. Aug. 5: La Porte City Band/Aug. 6: PT Cruisers.

Aug. 6 — Kids Nature Play in the Garden, 9 a.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$2.

Aug. 6-8 — "Turn of the Screw," Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Times: 2 p.m. Thur., 8 p.m. Fri., 6:30 p.m. Sat. Tickets: \$15/Thur., \$16/Fri. & Sat. Reservations: info@festivalplayersguild.org, (219) 874-4269.

Aug. 6-10 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Irrational Man." Rated R. Times: 6:15 p.m. Thur.-Mon. *Also:* "Love & Mercy." Rated PG-13. Times: 9 p.m. Thur.-Mon. & 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. *Also:* English National Opera: On Screen, "Peter Grimes." Not rated. Time: 7 p.m. Wed. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

Aug. 7 — First Fridays Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Uptown Arts District (downtown Michigan City). Info: www.uptownartsdistrict.org

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

Aug. 7 — "Saturday's Child 50th Anniversary Show," 7:30-10 p.m., Brando's, 212 Lincoln St., Porter. Cost: \$15.

Aug. 7-8 — Michigan City Video Fest, Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 7-9 and 13-16 — "The Odd Couple," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$12 (two for \$20 with printed website coupon)/\$10 for children 12 & younger. Reservations: footlightplayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

Aug. 7-16 — New American Folk Theatre, "Dirty Girl," Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 8 p.m. Reservations: (219) 879-7509, dunesartsfoundation.com

Aug. 8 — Michigan City Mainstreet Association Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Eighth and Washington streets, through Oct. 31. AgriSculpture dedication: 10:30 a.m. Info: www.michigancityfarmers-market.com

Aug. 8 — Professor Oops!, 10:30 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 8 — Taste of La Porte, 3-9 p.m., La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Tickets: \$10. Advance tickets: @ Chamber, 803 Washington St., La Porte, info@lpchamber.com, (219) 362-3178.

Aug. 8 — Beginning Birding Hike, 9-10:30 a.m., Great Marsh Trail, Broadway just north of Beverly Shores train station. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Aug. 8 — Ninth Annual Perseid Meteor Stargaze, 8:30 p.m.-dawn, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East. Info: (219) 926-1390.

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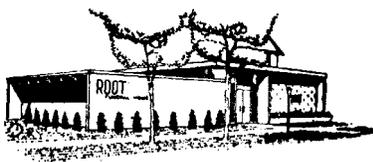
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Aug. 8 — Music in the Park, David Lahm and Jennifer French, 6:30 p.m. EDT, Dewey Cannon Park, Three Oaks, Mich. Free; donations accepted.

Aug. 9 — “Lyric in the Gardens” concert, 4-6 p.m., International Friendship Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Ticket information: (219) 878-9885, www.friendshipgardens.org

Aug. 10 — Travels with Sonia: “Cruising South America: Wild Patagonia,” 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 11 — Movie Showing: “Into the Woods,” 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 11 — Emmett O’Hanlon of Celtic Thunder, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Cost: Tickets: \$30-\$50. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

Aug. 11 — Perseids Meteor Shower, 8-10 p.m., West Beach, 1/4 mile north of U.S. 12 on County Line Road in Portage. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 12 — Roosevelt organ concert series, Carey Scheck, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church (the former First Congregational Church), 531 Washington St. Free. Info: (269) 469-0051.

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

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

Saturdays through Sept. 12 — Pinhook Bog Open House, noon-3 p.m., 700 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Farther Afield:

Aug. 8 — The Tenors Three, 4 p.m. EDT, Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Free-will offering: \$20.

Aug. 8 — Vineyard Concert, The Black Lillies, 4:30-6:30 p.m. EDT, Round Barn Winery, 10983 Hills Road, Baroda Mich. Cost: \$5 suggested entry. Info: (800) 716-9463, www.roundbarnwinery.com

Aug. 8 — Ed Bagatini Quintet, 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@boxfactory-forthearts.org, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Aug. 9 — Kayak the Dowagiac River, 1 p.m. EDT. Meet @ Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Cost: \$20. Registration: (269) 927-4832.

Aug. 9 — Deep River Grinders Shriners Benefit Game, 2 p.m., Deep River County Park, 9410 Old Lincoln Highway, Hobart.

Aug. 11 — Staged Readings by Elkhart Civic Theatre’s Second Stage, Greg Pierce’s “Slowgirl,” 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Old General Store, 110 E. Vistula St., Bristol, Ind. Tickets: \$10. Reservations: (574) 848-4116.



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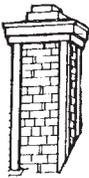
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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



On August 6, 1887, 11 present and former Cook County Commissioners were convicted of conspiracy to defraud the county in the awarding of contracts.

On August 6, 1890, the New York State Prison at Auburn was the setting for the nation's first death sentence in an electric chair.

On August 6, 1926, New York's Gertrude Ederle became the first American woman to swim the English Channel. She accomplished the feat in 14-1/2 hours.

On August 6, 1945, the *Enola Gay*, an American B29 bomber, dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. An estimated 80,000 people were killed outright.

On August 6, 1986, William Schroeder, the longest living patient with an artificial heart, died in a Louisville hospital.

On August 6, 1998, legendary sportscaster and announcer and Hall of Fame member Jack Brickhouse died in Chicago. He was 82.

On August 6, 2003, actor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" that he would run as a replacement candidate for California governor.

On August 7, 1782, George Washington created the Order of the Purple Heart, a decoration to recognize exceptional merit in the actions of enlisted men and non-commissioned officers.

On August 7, 1789, Congress authorized the establishment of a War Department.

On August 7, 1794, the western Pennsylvania "Whiskey Rebellion," a protest against the tax on whiskey, resulted in President George Washington calling out the army.

On August 7, 1882, the famous feud between the Hatfields of West Virginia and the McCoys of Eastern Kentucky broke out. Hundreds would be killed or wounded before the struggle finally ended.

On August 7, 1947, the balsa wood raft *Kon-Tiki* reached Polynesia after carrying six men 4,300 miles across the Pacific.

On August 7, 1974, French stuntman Philippe Petit waked a tightrope strung between the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City.

On August 8, 1876, Thomas Edison received a patent for his mimeograph.

On August 8, 1963, near London, bandits robbed a train of \$7 million, the biggest train robbery in history.

On August 8, 1978, the United States launched *Pioneer Venus II*, which carried scientific probes to study the atmosphere of Venus.

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

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

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

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

On August 10, 1790, the *U.S.S. Columbia*, under the command of Robert Gray, completed a voyage around the world; the first by a ship flying the American flag.

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

On August 10, 1988, Adela Rogers St. Johns, one of journalism's avowed "sob sisters," whose 60-years of reporting included such major stories as the Leopold-Loeb murder trial, as well as the Lindberg kidnapping, died at the age of 94.

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

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

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

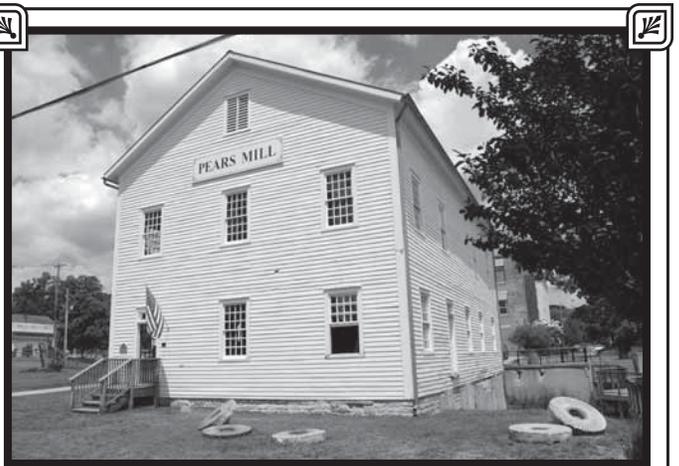
On August 11, 1992, the Mall of America, the biggest U.S. shopping mall, opened in Bloomington, Minn.

On August 11, 1994, movie actor Peter Cushing, who was best known for horror film roles (such as Baron Frankenstein) died, in London, at 81.

On August 12, 1658, the first police force in America was established in Nieuwe Amsterdam (now New York City).

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

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



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4BR/3BA, 2-car garage. \$1,600/mo add + utilities
\$1,600/mo. Call/text Cari @ Merrion @ 219-898-5412.

SUMMER BEACHFRONT RENTAL. Stop 30. 5/BR, 3.5/BA, 2-Car Garage + Additional Parking. 30 x 30 family room on lower level. Two decks + patio. Kick back and relax! Call/text Cari @ Merrion Realty @ 219-898-5412 for rental availability and pricing.

Summer home for rent with fireplace and large deck. 5BR, 3BA, one block from the beach. Stop 31. Call (773) 550-8878.

Long Beach fall/winter rental, 5BR/3BA, furnished, two fireplaces, 165 ft. to lake, \$975 per month+utilities. C/A, heat. Call Tom at (708) 606-4614.

Long Beach Stop 31 3 BR/4BA home with lake views and steps from beach. \$1,800 a week. Avail July-Aug. (773) 718-5546.

Fall rental near lake in Michiana Shores. Full furnished 2BR/1BA, fireplace, heat, A/C. \$750 + utilities. (219) 229-4806.

FOR RENT: 306 Sunset, Michiana Shores. 3BR/3BA, three blocks to the lake. \$1,500/mo. Call (219) 872-8345.

AVAILABLE AUGUST 2015 - MAY 2016. Furnished 3 BR, 3 BA, 2-car garage. Sheridan Beach. \$1,000/mo + utilities. Text/Call Cari @ Merrion Realty (219) 898-5412.

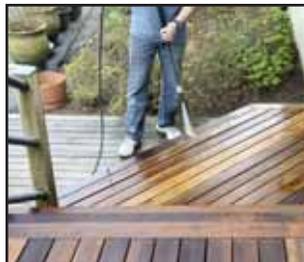
Stop 33: Beautifully updated 4BR/2BA, close to beach. August/September dates available, including weekly and weekend stays. Call (773) 977-9080

2015 dates still available: Long Beach Stop 16. 3 BR/2.5 BA, on the beach. Aug. 15, 22, 29 and Labor Day weekend. \$2,400/week. Call (630) 363-3176.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

VACANT LAND FOR SALE: Two 50x100 lots on Maplewood Drive in Shoreland Hills, a pleasant 2-block walk from Stop 33 beach. A great opportunity to build 1 large or 2 smaller homes in a very desirable neighborhood. Priced to sell by owner at \$89,500 per lot. Contact Bob N. at (312) 726-2699 if interested.

*****Built '09 single family contemporary style 2-story*****
3,000 SF on 0.5 acres in upscale Long Beach community, 1.5 mile walk to Lake Mich. 4BR/3.5 BA, incl. 450 SF finished bsmt. Hardwood flooring, white kitchen cabinetry w/SS built-in appliances, granite countertops, Kohler/Grohe fixtures, 2 HVACs, 1/2 way upstairs master suite w/74" whirlpool tub tiled w exclusive Indian slate tiles, individ. walk-in closets. 2 car gar. Wood windows, professionally landscaped. Visit: www.ForSaleByOwner.com, Listing 24040844. Call (269) 426-0034. \$475,000. 2403 Shorewood Drive, LB, IN 46360.



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9-Hole League

July 30, 2015

Event: *Beat the Pro*



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June Salmon
Donna Hennard
Joan Carey
Kathy Kenefick
Peg King
Carol Excell

Front 9

Sarah Blank
Tina Sonderby
Marge Walsh
Jean Guerin
Mary Weithers
Linda Wilson

Birdies

Carol Excell	Hole 12
Mary Weithers	Hole 6

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

A Cold Day in Paradise by **Steve Hamilton** (*oversize paperback, \$14.99 in bookstores and on-line; also available as an eBook*)

Mystery novels--I devour them by the handful! While there are so many mystery writers out there and so many different kinds of mysteries, I now tend to look for the award winners first...unless a cover catches my eye first.

In this case, A Cold Day in Paradise won the Edgar Award for Best First Novel and Edgar Award for Best Novel. Quite an achievement, as Hamilton's only the second person to have the double award bestowed on him. So, here goes...

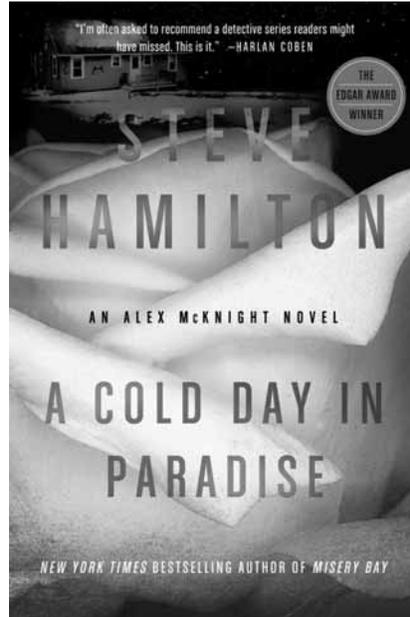
"There's a bullet in my chest, less than a centimeter from my heart. I don't think about it much anymore. It's just a part of me now...And even though that bullet has been warming inside my body for fourteen years, on a night like this when it is dark enough and the wind is blowing, that bullet feels as cold as the night itself."

Wow. That caught my attention right off the bat. Why is he still alive? And how did he get shot?

This is Hamilton's first book about Alex McKnight, former Detroit policeman-turned private investigator in the upper peninsula of Michigan. Alex had been on the Detroit Police Department eight years when he and his partner were shot by a deranged man. On Halloween, no less. Trick or treat. Alex's partner was killed and he was shot three times. Only one bullet, lodged by his heart, was inoperable. Alex lived, took retirement at 3/4 pay and moved to the U.P. where his father built several cabins that were rented out to hunters and snowmobilers. A quiet and safe place, right? Maybe. And just maybe, Alex will find his past won't let him rest.

Making friends at the local watering hole in Paradise, Mich., Alex meets Lane Uttley, local attorney. He talks Alex into taking a job as private investigator for him since he is unhappy with his current investigator, cop wannabe Leon Prudell. Alex grudgingly accepts. He also grudgingly accepts a gun from Uttley, which he doesn't really want and immediately puts away in a drawer.

I love books written in the first person. Isn't it fun getting inside someone's head and rummaging around his thoughts? Especially someone as complex as Alex McKnight, who certainly has gone through horrendous, life-changing events.



It doesn't take long for things to heat up for Alex. Late one night, he's jolted awake by a call from Edwin Fulton, rich man and compulsive gambler about town who found his bookie dead in a motel room. Yes, he was into the bookie for boo koo bucks, but he sure didn't kill him. The murder scene is described in sordid detail, and a call to the local police soon has both men on the hot spot. Do the police believe their story? Not really.

Now, we come to the bizarre part...

The man who shot Alex and killed his partner, known only as Rose, has been in jail for the past 14 years. Or has he? After this murder, Alex finds something on the step of his cabin: *"It was a rose. A single blood*

red rose." Could this psycho somehow have escaped from prison? Another bookie is murdered, and this time Alex gets a note from Rose. Freaky, right?

The psychological implications of all this are many. Alex begins to relive his shooting, and for the first time since leaving the force, he carries a gun. This aspect of the story is what makes it an award winner. I felt his fear, I felt the hair on my arms stand up and I began to understand how the past could become all consuming. Alex feels if he wants to keep his sanity, he will have to solve the two murders and find out the truth about Rose.

Have I forgotten anything? Of course! Isn't there always a woman involved? In this case, it's the wife of Edwin Fulton, a beautiful woman used to getting her way, and she wants Alex. Of course, as mother used to say, it takes two to tango, and Alex is a willing partner in the affair. But now, her husband is calling Alex his best friend, and Alex must distance himself from Sylvia Fulton.

Paradise? Hardly.

So what's the rest of the story? This is all you're getting from me, except that this is one helluva read, and I look forward to reading more of Alex McKnight.

From *The Los Angeles Times*: "Hamilton's compelling, vigorous prose doesn't allow the option of taking a break."

From *The New York Times*: "Steve Hamilton writes the kind of stories that manly men and tough-minded women can't resist."

Hamilton attended the University of Michigan, where he won the prestigious Hopwood Award for writing. He now lives in Cottekill, N.Y.

Till next time, happy reading!



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3836 Michiana Drive

Michiana Village • \$569,000

5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. Completely remodeled, new hardwood floors, two master suites, gourmet kitchen, two fireplaces, rec room, sun room. Separate gazebo w/bath in back yard.



434 Maplewood Drive

Shoreland Hills • \$410,000

3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Cathedral ceiling & fireplace in living/dining room. Lower level with rec room & room currently used as 4th bedroom with bath. Screen porch & garage.



111 Beachwalk Lane

Beachwalk • \$329,900

2 bedrooms plus large loft, 2 baths. Dramatic 19ft cathedral ceiling with skylights in the bright open floor plan. Screen porch, back deck & parking in back. Steps to the beach.



229 Washington Park Blvd.

Michigan City • \$259,000

3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Multi-level home with an open concept. Brick fireplace open to living room, walls of windows & bar area. Beautiful condition. Easy walk to the beach.



222 Lady Lane

Birch Tree Farms • \$199,000

5 bedrooms, 3 baths. Living room with brick fireplace. Huge master bedroom with private bath. Full basement, 2-car attached garage, situated on great corner lot.

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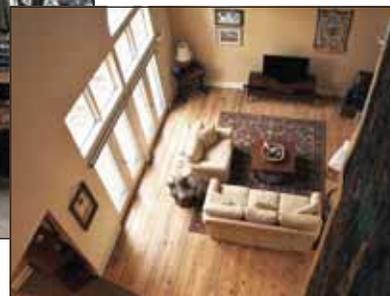
1403 Lake Shore Drive, Long Beach

Three levels of living space, access to wonderful beach, shady rear yard. Four bedrooms and three baths can accommodate a crowd. Two balconies are perfect for enjoying the lake views and colorful sunsets. Main floor living area includes kitchen, dining area, living room and family room. Bedrooms are on the upper level for privacy and perfect napping conditions. Lower level currently houses a second family room with bunk beds for additional sleeping areas, 3/4 baths and a studio. **\$429,000**



3737 Michiana Drive

If you are looking for a unique home, this is the place for you. This house is the perfect getaway with total privacy. Once you are in the house, it feels like you are in the middle of the woods with your own private driveway, but yet it is just 600' to the clear water and singing sands. This hidden treasure has 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms, huge living room with open ceiling, fireplace and wood floor made from the trees cleared from the property. Open concept dining room and kitchen. Enjoy the 13' x 30' deck. **\$629,000**



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