

THE
Beacher[™]

Weekly Newspaper

911 Franklin Street
Michigan City, IN 46360



Volume 31, Number 3 Thursday, January 29, 2015

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US



THE
Beacher

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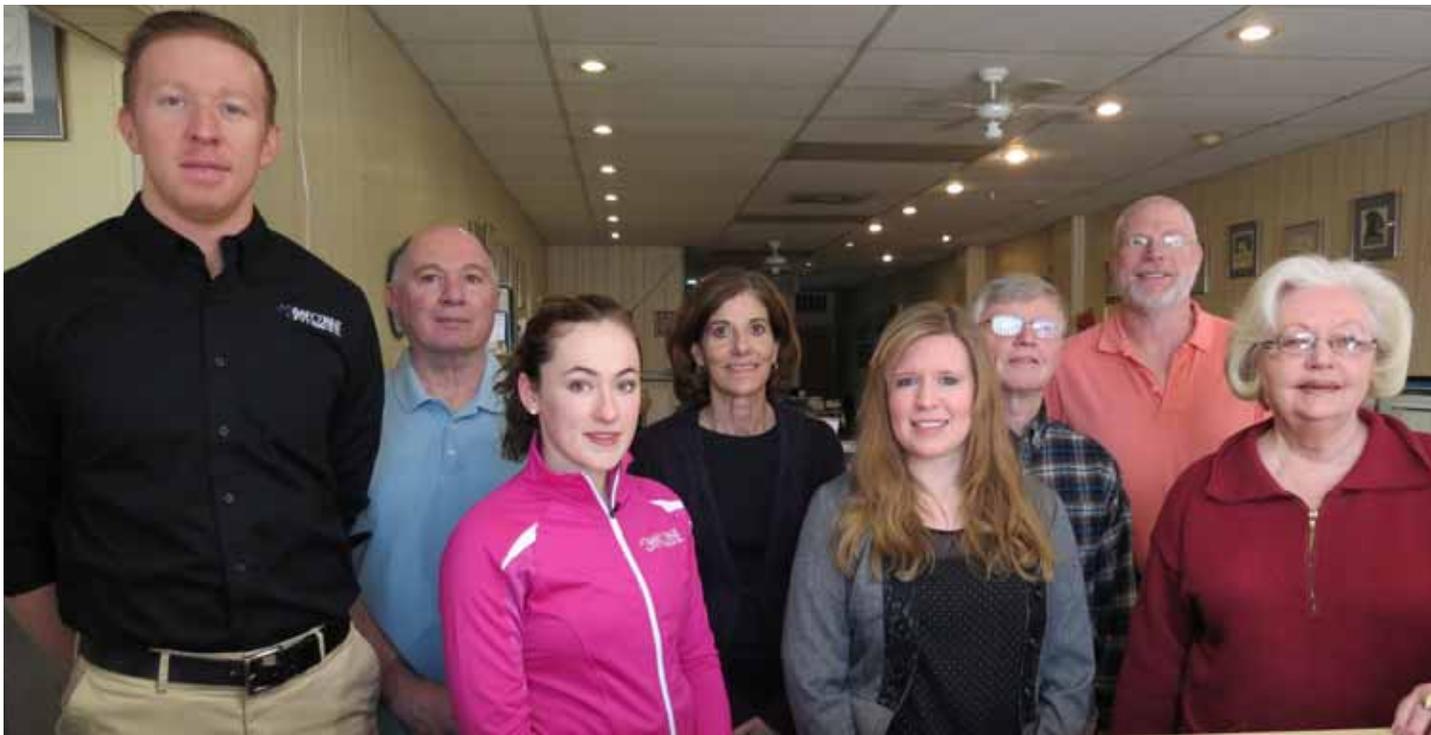


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THE BEACHER BUSINESS PRINTERS

Delivered weekly, free of charge to Birch Tree Farms, Duneland Beach, Grand Beach, Hidden Shores, Long Beach, Michiana Shores, Michiana MI and Shoreland Hills. The Beacher is also delivered to public places in Michigan City, New Buffalo, LaPorte and Sheridan Beach.

The Beacher Starts Its 30th Year

by William Halliar



Writers, columnists and photographers for The Beacher include (front row, from left) Kevin Scott, Shannon Rockstad, Kayla Weiss and Barbara Stodola. The back row is Jim LaRocco, Connie Kuzydym, William Halliar and Bob Wellinski. Not pictured are writers Sally Carpenter, Andrew Holt and Jan Van Ausdal and photographer Maureen Rice.

It is Jan. 15, 2015, 10 a.m., 911 Franklin St. Home of *The Beacher Weekly Newspapers* and Beacher Business Printers.

Gathered is an eclectic group with varied backgrounds and interests, all chattering excitedly, brimming with stories. “Scribblers,” you might call them. Writers of *The Beacher*. The occasion: a group photo, the first time everyone has been together in one place, all celebrating a milestone.

On Jan. 24, *The Beacher* began its 30th year covering the people of our area, primarily the beach communities along Lake Michigan’s shores. As Editor Drew Tallackson says, people pick up the pub-

lication each week to read what is positive in our community.

The Beacher, indeed, is more about the pulse and life and love of our beach communities than hard news. It is about our passions, our creative ideas, our art, music, writing and culinary creations — the sights, sounds and tastes of our lives. Something about this paper has touched the heart, the soul of the area for 30 years.

The Beacher is where we learn which of our neighbors won honors for their ideas, or about their work and dedication to the community. It is the place to find out what’s going on at local libraries, who is offering craft classes, where you might hear local authors speak. There are tips on preparing a special treat, where to go for a romantic dinner out, or what’s going on at the La Porte County Historical Society Museum or Westchester Township History Museum. Stories and stats about garden clubs, bowling tournaments, magic shows, programs in

Cover Photo

Staff at The Beacher include (front row, from left) Drew White, John Baines, Janet Baines, Dora Kayser, Kelly Russell, Cheryl Joppek and Becky Wirebaugh. The back row is (from left) Todd Kayser, Tommy Parker, Drew Tallackson, Randy Kayser and Tom Montgomery. Not pictured is Don Montgomery.

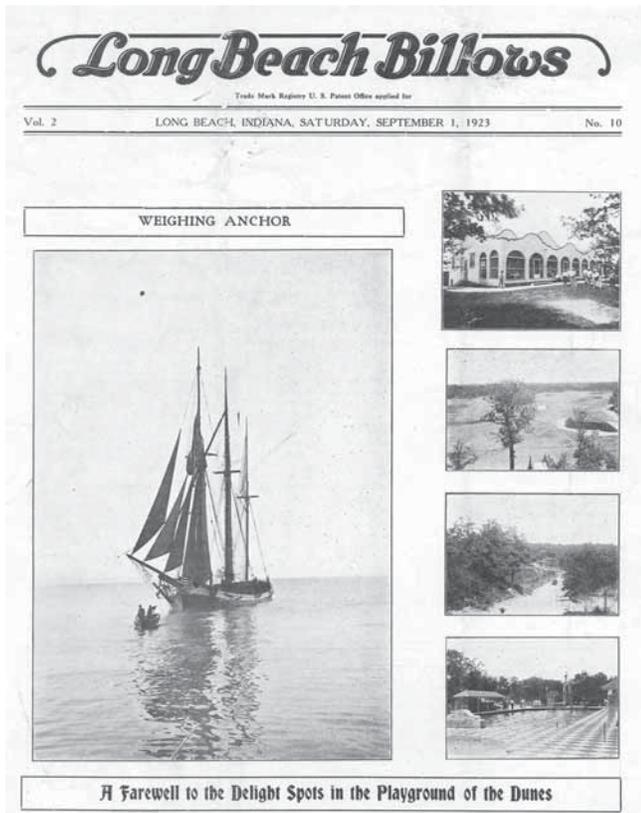
Indiana's dunes, the accomplishments of our youth.

Thirty years is an impressive milestone, one that begs us to pause for a moment and analyze how we got here, and why we remain relevant.

The Beacher is a free weekly publication supported by its advertisers. Following the lead of its founders, Jerry and Sally Montgomery, the content roughly is 50 percent articles and 50 percent advertisements. Local businesses know *The Beacher* nets results, and they enjoy working with a local, family owned business.

The newspaper is as popular as ever, and readers support local vendors found within. But the advertisements are more than a marketing tool. They tell the story of a community filled with folks interested in art, food culture and the finer aspects of life. Take a perusal of advertisers in *The Beacher*, and you get a feel for the community: Realtors, antique shops, wineries, upscale consignment boutiques and purveyors of fine food, furniture and art.

The Beacher began as a family project. The first issue was printed in the basement of the Montgomery home in Long Beach, on a used printing press. The papers were folded on the dining room table and delivered to homes in the community by family members, the very first issue through a raging snowstorm.



The idea of a community newspaper was not new. In the 1920s, *The Long Beach Billows* kept the community informed of local social events, which families had house guests and how residents dressed for certain social gatherings. Old time chit-chat.

Continued on Page 4

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30th Year Continued from Page 3

THE Long Beacher
Vol. XVIII THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1970 No. 46

Restores Grocery In Town Center

At long last Beachers will again enjoy the convenience of having a food supply shop in the Long Beach Town Center. William Maddocks is remodeling the building, formerly occupied by Romie's grocery store, at the corner of Oriole and St. Lawrence. The food shop, expected to open in mid-November will be known as "Mrs. Hunt's Pantry."

Maddocks, who purchased the property several months ago, just this week received the title. Architectural plans for remodeling of the building were immediately put into work to refurbish the property which has been vacant for two years.

Maddocks' plans include office space for his realty firm in addition to the delicatessen, a proposed bakery on the main floor and beauty shop upstairs. In addition he is contemplating enlargement of the building with construction to the north.

Mrs. Hunt, a resident of Duneland Beach, and sister to Mrs. Maddocks, will be proprietor of the shop. Stetkowski Sausage Company meats will be available along with staples and delicatessen items.

Extensive remodeling which began this week was planned by grocery store architect and includes modern coolers, food containers, shelving. Warren Kilowitz, whose father wired the original John Lloyd Wright building, is wiring the present job. Harold Paschack, whose uncle worked on construction, is locksmith.

Most noticeable improvement is the removal of the shabby which trapped debris from the street. Instead of the unsightly evergreens Maddocks' plans call for patio blocks, planting soil and a view of the original brick wall. Maddocks said he will retain the floor and theme of the attractive building which is almost a landmark. "It's about time," he said, "that a community of this size and value had a food service store in its own environs."

Duneland Beach Sets Date for Halloween

Arthur Brown, president of the Duneland Beach Association, announced Monday that officials of the Duneland Beach Club proclaimed Oct. 30 as "Trick or Treat" night.

GOLDEN KEY

GRAD'S GUARANTEE

How many times have you read lately about the cost of a college education going out of sight? Have you multiplied the projected cost times the number you want to educate? Pretty scary, isn't it.

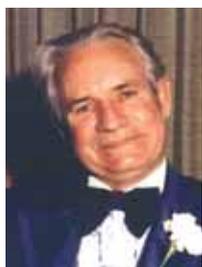
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The Billows was replaced by *The Long Beacher*, published by Harriet Patterson. As its distributions expanded beyond Long Beach, its name was changed to *The Beacher*. The last issue Harriet published was in 1979.



Jerry Montgomery

In 1984, Jerry Montgomery had the idea to revive a weekly publication. In a 2010 article about the paper's 25th anniversary, co-writers Barbara Stodola and Charlie McKelvy used a previous quote by Montgomery, who said, "Why don't we revive *The Long Beacher*? Harriet Patterson closed it down six years ago and I think it would be welcome."

On Jan. 24, 1985, *The Beacher* was reborn with the front-page headline "THE BEACHER RETURNS." The mission statement, as written by Jerry Montgomery, was: "We cherish the hope that our efforts will assist the residents to know each other better, to know their town and neighborhoods better," creating "friendlier and more cohesive communities."

By 1987, the business had grown to include Beacher Business Printers. Jerry Montgomery is quoted as saying, "I never dreamed that when we started we'd end up...with twelve people employed full time and over a dozen more part-timers on our staff. I am also glad that it is here for our sons because that's what Sally and I wanted when we started."

Sally Montgomery was a dynamo of energy. Her son, Tom, says, "She could not sit around, could not sit down." People who worked for her adored her and say Sally Montgomery WAS *The Beacher*. Sally Carpenter, the paper's retired editor, says to her, Sally was a second mother who was picky about how the paper was produced and how the advertisements were presented.

Sally also was choosy about who worked for the paper and who wrote for it, always conscious of the publication's family tradition. Paula McHugh, a former writer for the paper, says Sally Montgomery was "a wonderful lady; elegant, classy and always encouraging to the writers." She recalls having freedom in her writing assignments, and that the experience of working for the paper was great fun.



Sally Montgomery

Nurturing the traditions started by Jerry and Sally Montgomery are their sons, Don and Tom.

The business office, the printing plant and the home of *The Beacher*, itself, share the same space at 911 Franklin St. in the city's Uptown Arts District. It is a friendly, welcoming place where local folks drop by often to do business, pick up the latest copy of the paper or simply say hello.

Tallackson says "nothing beats the service of a family run, community based business."



Janet Baines is the person who typically greets guests with an enthusiastic smile as they enter the door. She has been with *The Beacher* family for about 26 years. She began her career by delivering papers. Today, she works with customers on their accounts, answers the phones, is a talented photo-journalist and has written an occasional article for the paper.

Becky Wirebaugh sits next to Janet and handles the complicated task of typesetting for *The Beacher* and the print side of the business. She grew up in the area and is a constant source of information for local history stories. She has been with the paper for 20 years.

Drew White had big shoes to fill in May 2014 when Steve Galinowski retired as sales person.

Steve held the position for 23 years. Drew works with customers to ensure their project has just the right design, colors, images and text to enhance a business or event.

Tom Montgomery is the computer whiz who does layout and designs for The Beacher and the print side of the business, and operates the website. Don Montgomery is the business manager of the entire operation. The brothers embody the spirit of their parents who began the entire operation with nothing but a dream and willingness to work hard and learn the business.

Randy and Dora Kayser are the gurus of the press room and bindery, the physical printing operation of The Beacher. They've spent many years perfecting their trade and have seen the business grow from a shop utilizing simple duplicating presses to the present press capable of running large four-color projects. Their son, Todd, helps out with the printing operation. As with all complex machines, these presses take much "looking after," and Randy Kayser can be called nothing less than a serious pressman.

Each week, the paper is assembled and collated by Tommy Parker, Cheryl Joppek and Kelly Russell, then

distributed to homes and various locations by Karen Gehr, Janet Baines, John Baines and Tommy Parker.

Key to the entire production of a weekly publication is the person who pulls all the various pieces together and gets the paper out on time. This responsibility lies squarely on the shoulders of Editor Drew Tallackson. He has been with the paper since 2013, when he took over the reins from Sally Carpenter, who was trained by Sally Montgomery. Drew not only puts all the pieces together, but also works with advertisers to make sure their copy is correct, handles the paper's facebook page and the all-important task of recruiting writers, assigning stories and encouraging all to do their best. The writers speak of his enthusiasm, professionalism and personal care and encouragement he gives to all. And the writers, Drew says, "have a clear affection for the area."

Loyal readers of The Beacher may recognize writers such as Jeanie Mebane, Maggie Beyer and Paula McHugh, who reported the history of our friends and neighbors over the years. Today, a new group continues the tradition of family friendly reporting.

Continued on Page 6



Seafood Roadshow Sale This Fri. Jan. 30, 10-6 & Sat. Jan. 31, 9-4

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Barbara Stodola is a veteran correspondent who has been writing for *The Beacher* since 2002. Hired by Sally Montgomery, she was director of the John G. Blank Center for the Arts (now Lubeznik Center for the Arts) for 15 years. She is the author of a local history book, and her columns include information on the arts, local history and travel. To date, she has written 299 articles for *The Beacher*.



Connie Kuzydym is new to *The Beacher*. She has been a longtime reader and was thrilled and excited when Tallackson asked her to join the writing staff. She brings to the table many years of writing experience in the fields of advertising and human resources. She looks forward to doing many profiles of interesting and creative people in the area.



Jim LaRocco writes a column called "What's Cooking." He is a longtime local radio personality hosting "Sports Miscellany" WIMS, 1420 AM. Jim's column often features personal recipes, each recounted with accompanying stories drawn from his youth in Michigan City. His credo is, "If it becomes work, I quit."

so you know you can expect an interesting, imaginative and fun column each week from Jim.

Kayla Weiss is a Ball State University graduate with a degree in creative writing. She began with *The Beacher* in 2014. She and Tallackson first met in 2002, when she was in middle school and a winner of a Harry Potter contest he sponsored through The News-Dispatch. Kayla describes herself as a "kick-butt writer." Ah, the enthusiasm of youth. She covers a variety of subjects and looks forward to many interesting assignments.



Sally Carpenter, although retired and living in Wisconsin, will continue to write "On the Book Shelf." She is an avid reader and longtime member of *The Beacher* family. Her continued support and fascinating reviews of her favorite "reads" are a part of what makes *The Beacher* the popular journal it is.

Veteran photojournalist Bob Wellinski joined *The Beacher* late in 2014. His great love is telling stories in pictures, for which he has won honors with the Hoosier State Press Association. He was a 34-year veteran of The Herald-Argus. We look forward to many of Bob's photos gracing *Beacher* covers.



Kevin Scott and Shannon Rockstad work at Anytime Fitness in Michigan City. Together, they write a column called "Fitness Rebellion." Their goal is to "spread the word" about the importance of physical fitness and preventative maintenance in health matters. "Be active," they say. Their column promises to encourage all of us to live lives of greater activity, vitality and energy.

Also part of *The Beacher* family are Jan Van Ausdal, who loves writing about Barker Mansion and International Friendship Gardens, and photographer Maureen Rice, who frequently contributes vibrant photos of local youth.

As for myself, I have been writing for 25 years for various publications on Chicago's East Side and in Lake County, Ind. My background is in engineering, and I have written many technical documents, including patents, design manuals and specifications, including technical illustrations and drawings. I moved to Michigan City after retirement and wrote my first article for *The Beacher* in March 2013.



Speaking for the writers, it is a privilege and honor to be associated with a publication held in such high regard by the community. I am often told by folks I encounter how much they enjoy the publication. Many people often read it cover to cover, keeping track of what is going on in their hometown with



Volume 26, Number 47 Thursday, December 3, 2010

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!



Christmas at Barker-Mason

In the chance that it Black Friday and seemingly constant rush of having presents and heading to those details that are supposed to make the holidays a bit more fun, the idea of actually having fun and enjoying the season can get lost.

That doesn't have to be the case in LaPorte County where there is plenty to see and do during the holidays. Each offers a chance for families to forget about the hustle and bustle for awhile and sit back and enjoy the delight of the season.

One of those events is the 14th Annual Engaged in Preservation Candlelight Tour in LaPorte. The tour wasn't held last year, and organizer Pam Bruminski, but is back on tap for this year.

"It wasn't this morning," she said, "We got a late start in planning and things didn't go as well as hoped."

Not on this year, she said, adding that visitors to previous tours come not only from LaPorte County and Indiana, but also from Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Ohio.

The tour is an opportunity for the public to visit and tour seven historically or architecturally significant homes and see those decorated for the holidays.

"Not only are the homes decorated, but you get to go through people's homes. There aren't a lot of tours like this," said Bruminski, "Some of our visitors tell us that they start their holiday season with the candlelight tour."

Bruminski said the homes on the tour rotate each year so that they won't be repeated for at least five years.

This year's tour is at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 and 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5. The tour features two mansions, three private homes and Trinity Lutheran Church and Carmel Chapel. The homes and mansions are the Shreve and Babler Meyer homes on Jefferson Avenue, Arthur Hill Inn on Johnson Road, the James and Karen Burtin home on Michigan Avenue, The Bunsby Mansion on Rose Street and the Scott and Tina Pierce home on 7th Street.

Wonderful Time Continued on Page 2



Mike and Lisa, Christmas with their friends



Volume 26, Number 48 Thursday, October 24, 2011

SETTING SAIL SINGING UNVEILS PLANS FOR MUSICAL'S PRE-BROADWAY DEBUT IN CHICAGO



Jeffrey Heller method on stage, played off the music, TV crews and Broadway in Chicago production, "Blues" "American" "Q" and "In the Heights," played off the music in the room over "The Last Ship" and the company.

"I only produce a show that I fell in love with," he said. "If I don't fall in love with it, I don't do it. The always working."

By Christmas 1955, it was no longer playing. Since then, the movie has grossed \$19.2 million - not counting its new exhibition showing on television or cable networks. Families everywhere make it a point to watch during the holiday season. And everyone has their favorite scene.

It might be the "Shantay" scene rampaging through the Parker's home, or Randy making it move in his moment, or Flick with his tongue stuck in the doggie, or Ralphie having it out with Holly Bush Farlan, or Ralphie selecting on how he could convince his dad he should get a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas, or most memorably, the arrival of "a major award" - the infamous leg lamp - that Ralphie and Hersey's "old man" win in a newspaper contest.



Volume 26, Number 45 Thursday, November 18, 2010

"A Christmas Story"-The Northwest Indiana Connection



Rick A. Roberts

There's more, too. The happenings in fictional Hillman, Ind. (in actuality, the story took place in Hammond where the main drag is Hickman Avenue) spring from the imagination of author and Hammond native Jan Schmitz.

It's that connection to Northwest Indiana that made the movie especially popular in the region. Erika Schmitz, director of public relations for the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority, is not only a fan of the movie, but for the past two years has worked to bring a slice of "A Christmas Story" to Northwest Indiana.

"One of my favorite movies," said Schmitz, "I have every line memorized." "Schmitz has set up a display at the Indiana Welcome Center (at the intersection of Interstate 64 and Kennedy Avenue in Hammond) called "A Christmas Story Comes Home." The exhibit is on display through Jan. 9, 2011, and includes six annotated scenes from the movie.

Continued on Page 1



The entrance to A Christmas Story Comes Home inside the I-64 Welcome Center at the Indiana Welcome Center. (Provided by the Indiana Welcome Center)

the online version, even after moving elsewhere. Tallackson looks with enthusiasm to the next 30 years of The Beacher. His approach is simple: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." That is to say, the vision Sally and Jerry Montgomery had when they began 30 years ago still holds true. Make it about people, Tallackson says, and make it positive. But the future of any enterprise depends on the next generation to carry on that tradition. So, Tallackson intends to continue the publication with a

balance of seasoned veterans and young writers. He cites the example of Purdue University-North Central student Andrew Holt and his recent article on bridging the generation gap. Social media, specifically facebook, Tallackson says, has been a terrific way to not only keep the publication fresh, but interact with readers and advertisers. From all of us at The Beacher, we look forward to watching you grow and prosper, and telling your stories in the pages of The Beacher for years to come.

Advertisement for Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage featuring Carol Wight and Laura Davis. Includes the slogan #HomeRocks and the text 'The Best Just Got Better'. Contact information for both agents is provided.

Footlight Players to Have Indiana Premiere of "Consider the Oyster"

What makes you love someone? Will your love remain if that person changes?

Footlight Theatre attempts to get to the bottom of these questions with a dose of wit during the Indiana premiere of a new play, "Consider the Oyster," which runs Feb. 6-8 and 12-15 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Footlight also is planning a Q&A session for audience members with playwright David MacGregor after the Sunday, Feb. 8, performance.

In "Consider the Oyster," third-grade teacher Gene Walsh (Jeremiah Souza) impulsively proposes marriage to the love of his life, Marisa (Brittany Bogdan), with a pretzel ring while celebrating a Detroit Lions Super Bowl victory. After she joyously accepts, he tumbles over the coffee table and breaks his leg. Doctors mend oyster shells in to help his bone heal, but it turns out life will not return to normal for anyone, including Gene's sarcastic roommate, Eliot (Kevin Mellen), and Marisa's tough-as-nails mother, Kay (Calla Holmes-Robbins). In short, just as oysters are born male and turn female over their lifetime, Gene slowly becomes Jean.

MacGregor said "Consider the Oyster" is definitely a work of fiction, which should be obvious given the idea that the Lions are, for once, Super Bowl victors. But the play has a real philosophical element to it, grounded in real events that happen to people every day.

"(It) can be something like their spouse or partner getting old, getting sick, losing a job, changing religion or gradually realizing that they are gay," MacGregor said. "And when it does happen, when the person you love goes through a major life change, do you still love that person? What was it you loved about that person in the first place?"

MacGregor is a resident artist at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., where all of his plays are first staged. Director John Avila said his cast of "Consider the Oyster" is a bit like working with a fantasy football team because they are so talented



Kevin Mellen (left) and Jeremiah Souza appear in "Consider the Oyster."

at bringing out the meaning behind the show's seemingly far-fetched plot.

"You see the story reach the conclusion that all of us have an inner being that is our core, our essential part, and the outer packaging is secondary to that," Avila said.

The show explores adult themes and contains strong language. It is for mature audiences only.

Souza, Michigan City, is known for his singing talents as the winner of the 2013 Hoosier Star competition. He is collaborating with the CEO and producer of the

American Smooth Jazz Awards and planning to record a demo in Chicago. Souza and Mellen, real-life partners, play off each other with comfort and ease as roommates in the show.

A prolific actress in the area, Chesterton resident Holmes-Robbins was last seen on the Footlight stage as Diedre in "I Hate Hamlet." Bogdan, Valparaiso, is new to Footlight, but she was last seen in Crown Point Community Theatre's production of "Hamlet."

Curtain is at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Doors open 45 minutes prior to curtain. Tickets are \$12, or \$10 on Thursdays. The Q&A session with MacGregor, free to those attending the show and the public, will be held weather permitting after the end of the Sunday, Feb. 8, show. Reservations are held until 15 minutes prior to curtain unless secured by a season gift card or prior payment in full. Reservations are recommended by calling (219) 874-4035 or at www.footlightplayers.org. A 2-for-1 coupon is available for opening night on the website, as well as a 2 for \$20 coupon available for Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

"Edwin Droid" Auditions

Auditions for Footlight's next musical, "The Mystery of Edwin Droid," are from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Feb. 15 and 16. Director Leslie Evans seeks seven men, four women and a small chorus.



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PNC Presents “Uniforms, Outfits & Accessories” Exhibit

The Purdue University-North Central Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series will feature “Uniforms, Outfits & Accessories,” Joel DeGrand’s exhibit of immersive photographs, through May.

Held in the Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 02 (the building’s lower level), the exhibit is free, open to the public and viewed by appointment only. The photos study uniforms and outfits, a part of the human experience since the Stone Age.

“Every society has a dress code that is well defined and understood by most members of that particular group,” DeGrand said in a press release. “The dress code has specific rules, which in turn signal a message given by a person’s clothing and the way it is worn. The message may indicate income, social class, religious affiliation, attitude, sexual orientation, marital status or sexual availability.

“It may be seen in the clothes worn in the Armed Services, the paramilitary, the police, security guards and the clergy,” he continued. “It can also be seen in shops, banks, post offices, airports, bars, restaurants and hotels, sports teams, clubs, schools and prisons. Sometimes, corporations use uniforms to create a brand or corporate image.”

DeGrand has a master of fine arts degree in pho-



Joel DeGrand appears with two of his works included in “Uniforms, Outfits & Accessories.”

tography from the University of Oregon and a bachelor of science degree in art education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He has been a photographer since his early childhood and taught art and photography since 1968. He has participated in numerous one-person, group exhibits and workshops in the U.S. and abroad. His work is featured in museums, corporations, private collections and publications. He has published 16 books of his photography and won many awards for his work, including a National Endowment for the Arts grant.

Contact Judy Jacobi, PNC assistant vice chancellor of marketing and campus relations, at (219) 785-5200, Ext. 5593, to schedule an appointment to view the exhibit.

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PNC to Present "Exploring Light"

The Purdue University-North Central Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series will present "Exploring Light," abstract images by Maureen Sylvia Lighthall through May.

The free exhibit is in the PNC Technology Building's first-floor north-study area. It features pieces done in watercolor, as well as acrylic, encaustic and resin on paper, canvas or mylar.

"I release these images and explore the play of light on multiple surfaces and layers, some of which I have riveted or sewn," she said in a press release. "In the real world around me, I see nature: finding bark on a tree, the trees in a larger landscape, bones and primitive cave art, found objects, stones, rock formations, close up or from a distance.



Maureen Sylvia Lighthall appears with some of her abstract works.

"Also, my art has helped me recover from the loss of my son, David. I create art in his spirit, using light and color and share my celebration of life."

Lighthall's art has appeared in juried art shows in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan and is in personal collections, as well as corporate collections of Liberty Steel, St. Joseph, Mich.; Pfizer Corp., Kalamazoo, Mich.; Irwin Union Bank and Trust, Columbus, Ind.; and Braswell Fine Art, Chicago and Paris.

Technology Building hours are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday during the school semester. Otherwise, the building is closed Sunday.

Contact Judy Jacobi, PNC assistant vice chancellor of marketing and campus relations, at (219) 785-5200, Ext. 5593, for more information.

Miss Duneland Applications

Miss Duneland Organization is accepting applications for the titles of Miss Duneland, Miss Duneland's Outstanding Teen, Miss Duneland's Outstanding Pre-Teen, Little Miss Duneland and Miss Duneland Princesses.

The pageant is March 14-15 at Queen of All Saints School, Michigan City. Contestants must live, work or attend school in Indiana. The emcee is Katie Stam Irk, Miss America 2009. She started her Miss America journey by competing in Miss Duneland, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Miss Duneland and Miss Duneland's Outstanding Teen are a preliminary to the Miss Indiana and Miss America System. Those winners compete in June for the titles of Miss Indiana and Miss Indiana's Outstanding Teen. Miss contestants must be between 17 (a senior in high school) and 24 years old. They will compete in interview, talent, evening wear, on-stage question and swimwear. Miss Teen contestants must be between 13 and 17 (a junior in high school). They will compete in interview, talent, evening wear, on-stage question and activewear.

Miss Duneland's Outstanding Pre-Teen and Little Miss Duneland are not affiliated with the Miss Indiana or Miss America System. The winners of these titles will represent Northwest Indiana and their hometown throughout the year in parades and special events. Miss Duneland Pre-Teen must be between 9 and 13 and the Little Miss Duneland between 5 and 8. They will compete in Interview, Talent, Dress Wear, On Stage Question and Activewear. Winners will perform their talent on stage Sunday, March 15, at the Miss and Teen pageant.

The Princess Program is non-competitive. The contestants will appear March 15 during the Miss Duneland and Miss Duneland Teen Pageant. They will participate in an on-stage production, answer a simple question and receive a tiara.

Applications for volunteers are available. Scholarship and operation donations, in-kind donations and silent-auction donations also are sought. Contact Executive Director Jan Mertl at (219) 878-3412 or director@missduneland.com, or visit www.missduneland.com, for applications or more information.

Michigan City Public Library

The following program is available at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.:

• **Basket Weaving at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 31.**

Margie Warner leads the class in which all materials are provided. Registration and a \$10 deposit are required. Stop by the circulation desk to see the basket and verify the cost.

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

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Cole to Headline Jazz Fest

Grammy-winning recording artist Natalie Cole will be the featured artist at Valparaiso University's 30th annual Jazz Fest.



Cole will perform at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11, in the Athletics-Recreation Center.

An accomplished R&B and jazz vocalist, and the daughter of legendary crooner Nat King Cole, Natalie Cole will perform hits from her new Latin Grammy-nominated album "Natalie Cole En Español," as well as classics such as "This Will Be" and "Unforgettable ... With Love."

Cole won the first of her nine Grammys as Best New Artist of 1975, the year she debuted with the hit "This Will Be." In 1979, she received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

For 30 years, VU's annual Jazz Fest has featured a lineup by local, regional and international jazz artists, with guest performances as well as university faculty and student ensembles and high school jazz ensembles.

Tickets for Cole's performance are available at valpo.edu/jazz-fest-tickets beginning Monday, Feb. 9. Approximately 2,000 tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and cost \$15 for VU students, or \$30 to \$75 for the general public.

Coastal Effort Seeks Board Members

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake Michigan Coastal Program seeks nominations for all 13 Coastal Advisory Board voting members.

Members represent the coastal area's various stakeholder groups and provide input to the program. Nominations are due by Feb. 27. Current board members are eligible for reappointment, with the exception of the rotating positions. All appointments are made by DNR Director Cameron Clark.

Appointments are for two years, except for the rotating positions. Terms begin with the board's April 15 meeting. The board meets every two months in Lake, Porter and La Porte counties.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/k4aq74v> to review board member duties, stakeholder categories and responsibilities before nominating someone for membership. Nominees must live or work within the coastal area. They will be contacted in mid-March regarding their status. Questions can be addressed to coastal@dnr.IN.gov

Poetry Reading

ArtsBridge will present the 6th Annual Super Bowl Poetry Reading at 2 p.m. EST Sunday, Feb. 1, at First Presbyterian Church, 475 Green Ave. on Morton Hill in Benton Harbor, Mich.

Poets of all ages are invited to listen, recite a favorite poem or read his/her original works. Past participants included George Barfield, Pearl Blaylock, Bill Brady, David Brady, Debra Davis, Sue Goens, Darlene Hawkins, Marnie Heyn, Jeanette Holton, Isabel Jackson, the Rev. Laurie Hartzell, Julie Kortidis, Linda Lobik, Gary McCormick, Maggie Mendus and the Rev. Emeritus Doug Petersen.

Admission is free, but donations are accepted. A reception follows the program. Call (269) 925-7075 or visit First Presbyterian Church in Benton Harbor on facebook.




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"For the Love of Art"

Applications are being accepted to appear in "For the Love of Art," which returns March 7 to the Northern Indiana Event Center, 21565 Executive Parkway, Elkhart.

Event producer Shireen Cline has been involved in such shows for the past seven years. Last year's show featured 47 artists displaying everything from functional and wearable art to high-end jewelry and paintings. Artists already are lined up from South Bend, Elkhart, Chicago, Fort Wayne, Northwest Indiana, Southwest Michigan and Michiana.

Visit www.elkhartfortheloveofart.com to download an application or for more information.

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Agents of "Shield"



Close to 200 Michigan City High School sophomores recently arrived at school with shields in hand, the culmination of a unit on the Middle Ages. The "shields" assignment has become an annual tradition in Lucas Snyder's world history classes. After researching their family history, the students created shields depicting their relatives' country of origin, religion and occupations, along with several elements representing themselves.

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Valentine Workshop

Buchanan Art Center, 117 W. Front St., Buchanan, Mich., will host a free "Make a Valentine for Our Troops" workshop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 31.

Sponsored each year by the family of Al and Mary Ruth White, all ages are invited to make a hand-crafted valentine that will be mailed to area veteran hospitals, or specific military personnel if an address is furnished. All materials will be supplied, and refreshments will be served.

Contact the center at (269) 697-4005 or email buchananartcenter@att.net for more information.

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La Porte Service League Play

La Porte High School will be overtaken by a band of scurvy pirates the first week of February as La Porte Service League opens its 81st production.

Thousands of schoolchildren from La Porte and Porter counties will attend the show "Pirates!," directed by Nanda Danitschek and managed by Kathy Sommer, who wrote the song "Imagine the Possibilities" to close the play on a high note.

"Pirates!" begins as two brothers, their "perfect" sister and an awfully smelly nanny happen upon a cave rumored to be visited by pirates every 100 years. When the brothers discover they have arrived the same day as the dimwitted pirates' and their malicious captain's return, chase and folly ensue.

Danitschek has performed in many Service League and La Porte Little Theatre productions. The costumes are designed by Jan Martinsen and created by League members. The elaborate sets, envisioned by Ramona Komaskinski, required hours of design and construction. An actual pirate ship, in fact, is the centerpiece of this year's action.

League members in the cast include: Miss Smedly - Ashlie Otis; Jennifer - Lisa Denger; Lee - Deb Ault; Dan the fisherboy - Sheila Saunders; Pirate Cap'n - Nanda Danitschek; Smee - Claudia Winter; Mike - Beth Mann; Ike - Julie Long; Tiny - Rosie Flitter; Smitty - Mary Ellen McCain.

The play will be presented to students at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, Feb. 2-4 and at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 5. Additional shows may be added as more classes register. Pre-school classes, home-schooled students and groups of younger children are welcome. Educational packets are created by League members Julie Pitman and Jan Yandt, which follow the state standards and are sent home with the teachers and students.

Adults can attend the dress rehearsal at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, or the closing performance at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7. The suggested donation is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children.

On Feb. 1, a Super Snack Sale will feature baked goods and snacks, while the winners of the "toy contest" will be recognized. League members also will display panels of a new banner providing a visual history of the organization.

Visit www.laporteserviceleague.com or facebook for more information.

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Students Named to Honor Choir

Lake Hills Elementary School students Kalea Collins, Arianna Woolum and Alissa Woolum have been selected for the 2015 Indiana Elementary Honor Choir.



Kalea Collins (left), Arianna Woolum and Alissa Woolum.

The students, two of whom are sisters, performed Jan. 16 in Fort Wayne at the Embassy Theater, entertaining music teachers attending the Indiana Music Educators Association annual conference. They were among only 146 elementary vocalists in the state to be chosen for the choir, and are three of the five representing Northwest Indiana.

The girls all sing soprano. They were chosen based on audition CDs that included a performance of a prepared piece and showcased their ability to sing in harmony and match various pitches.

The three will perform, along with more than 60 other Michigan City Area Schools elementary and middle school students, in the Circle the State with Song Festival at Hebron High School on Feb. 28.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are through Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:

- **“Stewardship Day — Rescuing the Fruit Trees at Good Fellow Camp” from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 31.**

Join a ranger and other fruit-tree enthusiasts to learn different ways of restoring neglected fruit trees. After an indoor education session, visitors help prune old fruit trees at the camp for the first time in more than 25 years. Wear comfortable clothes. Work gloves and equipment will be provided.

Meet at the Camp Good Fellow gravel parking lot in Chesterton.

- **A special puppet show in honor of Groundhog Day at 1 and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, during an open house at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Shows will explain where groundhogs have been and how they survive the long winter.

Also during the open house, visitors can borrow cross-country ski equipment and get skiing instruction from a park ranger or experienced volunteer between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Snacks and hot chocolate or coffee will be served inside. Hands-on exhibits featuring other national parks with African-American connections runs through March.

- **Join a ranger for a snowshoe hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31 at Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm.**

Meet a ranger at the contact station for a quick lesson on using snowshoes, then take a guided snowshoe walk. A limited number of snowshoes are available. A nature hike will be offered if there is not enough snow.

The Bailly/Chellberg parking lot is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12.

- **The free Junior Ranger Program from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and Paul H. Douglas Center.**

A variety of Junior Ranger programs exist, from a short Beachcombers Activity Page to an extensive Junior Rangers Booklet. Complete a program and earn a prize. Stop by the Visitor Center or Douglas Center to pick up a free program booklet.

- **“Park in Focus” from 1 to 3 p.m. every Saturday at the Paul H. Douglas Center.**

Park staff will host special programs focusing on park resources, hot topics in research, new environmental films or guest speakers.

- **“Kid’s Rule” from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday at the 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.

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.

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SMSO Awards Grants

As part of its mission to foster growth through music, Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra gives orchestra members the chance to compete for Professional Development Grants.

Winning grants for 2015 calendar-year projects are Mihaella Kinga Misner, who received \$2,000 for her proposal to experience the Berlin Philharmonic, and Elizabeth Jaffee, who received \$1,000 to study privately with John Bruce Yeh of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

The applications were adjudicated by pianist Mark Wait, who is dean and professor of music at the Blair School at Vanderbilt University, as well as president of the National Association of Schools of Music.

Misner completed her bachelor's degree in music and psychology at Rice University. She studied at the Eastman School of Music and CUNY-Aaron Copland School of Music, from which she obtained her master's degree in violin performance. As an avid freelancer in the New York City and Philadelphia areas, she performed regularly as principal second of the Jupiter Symphony, with whom she soloed, and with the Harrisburg Symphony. She also performed in Lincoln Center, Town Hall and Carnegie Hall. In Chicago, she has performed with the Millennium Orchestra, at Symphony Center and has recorded for Naxos with Chicago Folks Operetta.

Jaffee received her bachelor of music degree in clarinet performance from Indiana University-South Bend. She has been a member of SMSO for more than 27 years. She also plays principal clarinet with Whiting Park Festival Orchestra and is a freelance musician throughout Northwest Indiana and Southwest Michigan. She has served on the faculty at Lake Michigan College and Andrews University, as business manager of Elkhart County Symphony Orchestra and operations manager of SMSO.

Visit www.smso.org for additional information about the orchestra.

Third House Session

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce and Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce will present a free Indiana Third House Session from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 6.

Held at Purdue University-North Central's LSF Building, Room 002, legislators will discuss topics that affect the community and region.

Reservations are required by Tuesday, Feb. 3, to the La Porte chamber by calling (219) 362-3178, by email at info@lpchamber.com or online at business.lpchamber.com/events. Those interested also may call the Michigan City chamber at (219) 874-6221 or email info@mccachamber.com

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Gallery Offers Interactive, Intensive Look at Making Toboggans

by Kayla Weiss



Since it debuted in 2010, Walnut Ink Projects has aimed to become a beacon of creativity, uniting artist innovation with public interaction.

The latest example arrived over the course of two Saturdays, Jan. 10 and 17, as Co-Owner Chris Grohs led a toboggan-making workshop. The idea came about when Grohs made one as a gift for a family friend.

"It is quite an intensive process," he said. "You can make four toboggans in the same amount of time that it would take to make just one, so I figured I could hold a workshop and get some other people involved in the process."

The two-day course at the gallery, 607 Franklin St., offered a glimpse into the design, craft and function of toboggans. Beginning with different species of raw lumber, including wood that sank into the Manistee River more than 100 years ago, fine pieces were cut, ensuring everyone would have some of the historic lumber for their toboggans.

The first day, Grohs and the participants focused mainly on the art of woodbending. Here, they created the defining toboggan curves with the cut pieces of lumber. The second day consisted of assembling the pieces to make a hand-crafted toboggan each participant could take home.

"The first day is probably the most intensive with the least amount of visible result," Grohs said. "It takes so much time and energy to bend these pieces of wood to the precise degree so that every piece matches perfectly. Day 2 is when we get to the real fun – assembly!"

Grohs and Walnut Ink Projects co-owner Nichole Sheaffer hope to make the toboggan workshop an annual event. They also have plans to host at least one workshop a month throughout the year. The next one will teach guests how to make their own snowboards.

(Visit www.walnutinkprojects.com or www.facebook.com/walnutinkgallery for more information.)

Photos by Bob Wellinski



What's Cooking

by Jim LaRocco

When I was younger, adults did not allow children in the kitchen. I always wanted to learn to cook, but Mom chased me out of the kitchen, sometimes with a light swat on the backside. I would watch Dad's mother cook when I was at her house. It looked like fun to me, but I was told to get out of the kitchen there as well, that I was in the way.

Having taught myself to cook over the years, I have enjoyed it greatly, but not as much as my wife, Suzanne. When she comes home from work, she can smell what's cooking while pulling into the garage. Her meal is ready to be dished up and put on the table. Guys, forget the flowers or diamonds. The way to a woman's heart is through her stomach. Don't let anyone tell you differently.

In the LaRocco house, the kitchen is my mancave. I organize the pantry, cookware and everything associated with putting a meal on the table. Sue is the baker of the family. She makes some great brownies and my favorite German Chocolate Cake with homemade coconut and chocolate frosting. I do a pretty good job baking, but I enjoy cooking more.

(You know, it's funny. When Sue and I go to the store and people start talking about food, they look at Sue. She always replies, with a smile on her face, that she does not cook. I do. I think if you look up "spoiled" in the dictionary, Sue's picture will be right next to it.)

In our house, I do not let children play or hang around the kitchen, mostly for safety reasons. Do you see a genetic pattern here? However, much to my surprise and amazement, our grandson, Cody, and granddaughter, Giada, have asked if I would teach them to cook.



Giada tastes Jim's strawberry gelato.

Over the Christmas holiday, Giada helped make some strawberry gelato for dessert. I think she likes the tasting part the best. Cody asked me, "Goppy (his name for me since he began to talk), could you teach me to make some of your recipes?" I asked why. He replied, "Because I like good food and you make the best stuff." Flattery certainly gets you a good meal around here.

Most of my recipes are not written down. As silly as it sounds, I cook "by eye." Those of you who do so know what I mean: the Old World way. In cooking, unlike baking, you can add or delete some ingredients, something that's almost always a no-no in the baking world.

One time when Cody spent the night, he asked if I would let him help make dinner. Like I said earlier, it was a shock at first. It turned out to be a fun experience for both of us. Cody heard about my horseradish au gratin potatoes from his Goppy Shue (his name for Sue). I said that would be a good, easy recipe to start with.

First, Cody washed three large russet potatoes while I got out the mandolin slicer and put on the .075 blade. I told him to take his time and save a finger or two. He carefully sliced the potatoes.

I then had him get a 9-by-13 glass pan and showed how to properly grease it with butter. Next, I had him place two rows of sliced potatoes in the greased pan. I then helped him make a sauce out of cream and our favorite brand of bar cheese.

Cody placed a small container of bar cheese in a non-stick sauce pan and set the burner to low. When the cheese was melted, I had him add a cup of cream along with roughly a tablespoon of flour to help the mix thicken in the oven. We love cheese at



Cody shows off the horseradish au gratin potatoes.

the LaRocco house, so he added some finely grated *Parmigiano-Reggiano* into the melted cheese. He then covered the potatoes in the pan with an even coat of the melted cheese. I told him it did not have to be thick or cover every square inch of the potatoes. When he was finished, he added another two layers of potatoes on top.

It was now time for the finishing touches to his first dish. He poured the remainder of the cheese mix over the top, then placed some grated sharp cheddar on top with a dusting of *Parmigiano-Reggiano*. He topped it off with a little pepper, and it was ready to go.

One of my favorite pieces of cookware is called a *Doufee*, an enamel roaster made by a French company. I explained to Cody that a cook having the proper cookware is like a mechanic having the proper tools for the job. He shook his head in agreement, knowing his Goppy has a pantry full of the necessary cookware.



The chicken cooks in broth and carrots.

Cody rinsed the chicken inside and out before he placed it in the *Doufee* breast side up. I showed him how to pull the skin back and season the breast under the skin. It is most important to get great flavor.

The next step was to pour a box of organic chicken stock in the *Doufee* and set the burner to medium. While waiting for the broth to start boiling, he melted a half stick of butter and poured it on top of the chicken, seasoning the skin surface also, and set the oven to 400 degrees.

As the broth was coming to a boil, Cody cut some carrots to place inside the *Doufee*. I reminded him to put some broth inside the cavity of the chicken to help keep the breast moist. As broth came to a boil, he placed the lid on, with the burner turned to low.

After about 30 minutes, Cody placed the potatoes in the preheated oven. Now, we only had to wait about another 35 to 40 minutes to eat. It is hard to be patient when you start smelling the aroma of dinner slowly cooking. When the chicken was finished, we took it out of the pan to let it stand for a while.

Now, it was time to learn how to make gravy. Afterward, Cody took the potatoes out of the oven and placed them on top of the stove. It was just starting to brown, cooked to perfection.

The final part was cutting up the chicken and placing it on the platter. I mentioned to Cody that presentation is an important part of the cooking process.



Horseradish au gratin potatoes — the finished product.

It was now time to sit down and eat. He was ready!

Everything went smoothly in the kitchen, and the meal was the best one he made. All kidding aside, it was fantastic, “just like Goppy makes,” he said.

After we finished eating, as always, I cleaned the pots and pans. I asked Cody about the favorite part of his first cooking experience. His reply: “Eating, of course!”

Take the time to pass on your recipes to children and grandchildren because in so many families, recipes get lost and no one knows how to prepare the old family favorites. It was a fun experience for Cody and me, and something I highly recommend you try this winter. It’s something he wants to do again.

A future chef or food columnist in the making? Stay tuned. Until next time, enjoy.

Contact Jim LaRocco at jim@jimlarocco.com



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Stout and Chop Month

Michigan City's Shoreline Brewery again will host Stout and Chop Month in February, unveiling a different small batch stout each Thursday while raising funds for The Lustgarten Foundation, a leader in pancreatic cancer research.

The stouts will be paired with different small plates. The finale is the "Best Facial Chop" contest Saturday, Feb. 28. All contestants will be asked to donate or raise \$100 for the entry fee due the day before judging. The chops will be judged on complete chop ability, including length, fullness, style and originality. The winner receives a \$150 gift certificate from Shoreline, while the runner-up receives a \$50 gift certificate. The entry fee includes a private buffet and open craft brew party from noon to 4 p.m. Feb. 28, during which the Fifth Best Chops Trophy will be awarded. All others who would like to attend the party may do so with a \$100 donation.

The annual fundraiser has raised thousands in donations, with The Lustgarten Foundation using funds to advance medical research toward the treatment, prevention and cure of pancreatic cancer. Other ways the public can contribute to pancreatic cancer research at Shoreline Brewery is to purchase "chops" to display on the walls with personal messages written inside. Those chops can be displayed with \$1, \$2 or \$5 donations.



Brandon Parsons, the 2013 and 2014 Stout and Chop champion.

To enter the Best Chop contest, visit Shoreline and fill out an entry form by Feb. 27 with the entry fee and donations.

Call Shoreline Brewery at (219) 879-4677 or visit www.shorelinebrewery.com for more information. Visit www.lustgarten.org to learn about The Lustgarten Foundation. The brewery is located at 208 Wabash St.

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available through Westchester Public Library:

- **Friends of Westchester Public Library Book Sale for Children and Teens from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

All books cost 25 cents. Magazines for all ages will be sold at 25 cents each. Proceeds from book sales are donated to the library and help fund supplemental and special programming, such as film series, children's programs, book discussions and staff-recognition events.

- **Knitting Together at the Museum from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, in Westchester Township History Museum, located in the Brown Mansion, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

The program is free and open to the public, including those who crochet or do needlework.

- **Bits and Bytes series, "Intro to Android Class," from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, in the Serials/Automation Department at Thomas Library.**

The class is free. Visit or call the Serials Department at (219) 926-7696, Ext. 1125, to make a reservation, or visit www.wpl.lib.in.us/. Click on the Bits and Bytes link.

- **Sprinkles and Glitter Galore from 4 to 5 p.m. (young adults in grades 6-12) and 5 to 6 p.m. (adults 18 and older) Thursday, Feb. 12, at Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Make valentines or anti-valentines, decorate cupcakes and get reading recommendations. Registration is required. Stop by the reference desk at Thomas Library or call (219) 926-7696.

City Warns of Shelf Ice Dangers

The Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department is warning the public about the dangers of shelf ice.

Lightweight and with air pockets, shelf ice was pushed onto and near the beach by wind and wave action, forming an attractive shoreline with deadly, invisible holes.

That's why people are warned not to walk on shelf ice and stay clear of the lighthouse pier. A person applying even a small amount of weight on shelf ice can easily fall through and into frigid water that can kill. For anyone who falls through, hypothermia will quickly set in, and survival is unlikely. Because the ice layers constantly shift, a person may not find the hole in which he/she fell through to try and get out. Also, the lighthouse pier is ice covered, which can lead to people slipping and falling off the pier.

Anyone with questions should call parks superintendent Jeremy Kienitz at (219) 873-1506.

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Westchester Library Kids Programs

Westchester Public Library will continue several of its popular children's programs this winter.

The programs are for different ages and held at different times to meet the needs of families with young children. They are held at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton, and Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

The offerings include:

- "Play Date," unstructured playtime for newborns to 12-month-olds (siblings are welcome) and their parent or caregiver. Times are 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Hageman Library.
- "Block Party," special time for children 2 to 5 at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at Hageman Library. The program begins with a story and music, then attendees build with blocks. Materials are supplied. No registration is necessary.
- "Tickle Tales," a hands-on introduction to books and the library for children 9 months old to 2, and their parent or caregiver, at 11 a.m. Tuesdays at Hageman and 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Thomas Library. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required. Parents are asked to register at the branch where their children will attend.
- "Wiggles & Giggles," storytime for children 2-3 and their parent or caregiver at 10 a.m. Thursdays and Fridays at Thomas Library. Interaction between caretaker and child includes book sharing and singing along with Grandma Frankie.
- "Stories and Kicks for 4, 5 and 6," a storytime program at Thomas Library at 10 a.m. Tuesdays. Children join Miss Pat for stories, songs, pretending, dancing and crafts.

Call Thomas Library at (219) 926-7696 or Hageman Library at (219) 926-9080 for more information.

Pizza Wars

Last year, Northern Indiana Tourism Development Commission, along with Visit Michigan City La Porte, selected the region's top burger restaurants to battle it out for the title of northern Indiana's best burger.

After 60,000 votes were cast, the La Porte County winner was Shoreline Brewery & Restaurant, with South Bend's The View Tavern being crowned champion.

Now, NITDC will present Pizza Wars. This spring, 56 of the top locally owned pizza restaurants will go head to head to find the region's best pizza. The restaurants have yet to be selected. Details will be announced soon.

NITDC consists of seven counties: Porter, La Porte, Marshall, St Joseph, Elkhart, LaGrange and Kosciusko. Each will have eight restaurants competing to be voted best pizza in their own county. The subsequent winners will compete against each other to crown northern Indiana's best pizza.



Long Beach Women's Bowling

Jan. 20, 2015

TEAM STANDING

TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Striking Beauties	10	2
2. Gutter Golfers	9	3
3. Wrecking Balls	8	4

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE
1. Jill Mellen	185
1. Sue Luegers	185
2. Liz Lutterbach	157
3. Barb McCorkel	156
4. Tina Sonderby	155
5. Ann Klosinski	154

THREE STRIKES IN A ROW

Nancy Kubath and Jill Mellen

SPLITS

1. Ann Klosinski	5-10, 1-3-10
2. Diana Holt	5-7
3. Mary Lou McFadden	3-10
4. Nancy Kubath	3-10 (2)

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Stress Reduction Course

Patrecia Lenore will teach an eight-week Stress Reduction Course from 6:30 to 8 p.m. EST Wednesdays starting Feb. 4 at Dancing Feet Yoga, 19135 U.S. 12, New Buffalo, Mich.

The program is modeled on the successful Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Course, which has been heavily researched regarding the positive link between meditation and stress reduction. Students learn simple, mindful meditation practices, gentle yoga and stretching exercises, as well as group dialogue, inquiry and support for integrating stress-reducing exercises into daily life.

Lenore has taught MBSR for 16 years, six years of which were at Barnard College in New York City. Since moving to Northwest Indiana, she has been teaching MBSR and stress reduction courses modeled after it at Dancing Feet Yoga.

A free introductory session is from 1 to 2 p.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 31. Visit www.dancingfeetyoga.com or call (269) 469-1966 for more information.

Arctic Winter Reading Program

La Porte County Public Library and all its branches will present the Arctic Winter Reading Program on Feb. 1 through March 1.

Kindergarten through fifth-grade students will complete activities and games and attend programs. Preschool-age children and their parents can pick up an activity calendar, complete 14 activities and return them to their nearest library location. Each child will choose a book for a prize and be entered to win a grand-prize package.

Visit www.laportelibrary.org or follow the library on facebook, Instagram or Twitter @lpcpls #mylplibrary for more information.

Twelve students from La Porte County schools are among those recognized in South Bend Museum of Art's Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition 2015.

The show runs Jan. 31 through Feb. 28 in the Warner and Jerome J. Crowley Community Galleries. Students in seventh through 12th grade submitted digital images viewed by more than 50 jurors.

Local students honored are:

Michigan City High School

- Jose Haro – Honorable Mention.
- Rachael Hennessey – Gold Key.

New Prairie High School

- MacKenzie Denton – Silver Key.
- Monica Humphrey – Silver Key.
- Laney King – Gold Key.
- Quinn Morehouse – Honorable Mention.
- Meaghan Sloderbeck – Honorable Mention.

New Prairie Middle School

- Elijah Bradbury – Gold Key.
- Joel Kelley – Honorable Mention.
- Libby McLaughlin – Honorable Mention.
- Sydney Meyers – Honorable Mention.

Renaissance Academy

- Jude Nelson – Silver Key.

A "Meet Me in the Gallery" opening reception is from 5:30 to 9 p.m. EST Friday, Feb. 6, in the Warner Gallery. The awards ceremony is Sunday, Feb. 8, in Bendix Theatre at The Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St., South Bend. Junior-high school students will be honored at 1:30 p.m. and senior-high students at 2:30 p.m., both Eastern time.

Call (574) 235-9102 or visit www.southbendart.org/ for more information.

Guided Ski Tour

A guided ski tour is at 2 p.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 31, at Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.

The fee is \$5. Call (269) 927-4832 to register.

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JROTC Honors King

The Michigan City High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps honored Dr. Martin Luther King on his holiday Jan. 19.

The cadets previously studied King's "I Have a Dream Speech" during their unit on public speaking. On the holiday, they reviewed his life and the vision he provided for America.

"Our course is primarily a leadership course, not a preparation for the military course, and Dr. King was one of the most influential leaders of the 20th century," Maj. Tom McGrath, the senior Marine instructor, said. "Studying Dr. King is in keeping with our objective of providing skills that will enable cadets to lead in any career, not just the military."



Cadet 2nd Lt. Quinton Dixon discusses Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as Cadets 1st Sgt. Javier Green, Gunnery Sgt. Jalen Stockley and Staff Sgt. Cameron Greenway wait to discuss King's accomplishments.

Cadets were asked to provide their input about contributions that King made to the country.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Quinton Dixon, one of three officers in the JROTC, said King's ability to accomplish what he did nonviolently impresses him the most.

"To be able to change the thinking of an entire country and persuade our government to pass the Civil Rights Act was such a huge success," Dixon said, "and he did it without people getting hurt."

Although King did not serve in the military, his vision of equal opportunity for all individuals has been incorporated more in the military than in any other facet of American society, Master Sgt. Jeff Benak said.

"If you go anywhere on any military base — the mess hall, the barracks, the commanding general's building — you will find our military fully integrated," Benak said. "The military has shown that what really matters is the content of one's character, not the color of their skin."

Self-Defense Class

A free self-defense class is from 6 to 9 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 30, Feb. 6 and 13 at Anytime Fitness, 4112 Franklin St., Michigan City.

The Rape Aggression Defense System is taught by a certified R.A.D. instructor from Purdue University-North Central. The focus is education, awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance of assault and rape. The instructor will provide a workbook/ reference manual and hands-on training.

The R.A.D. System is dedicated to teaching women 13 and older defensive concepts and techniques against various types of assault.

Enroll by contacting Kevin Scott at Anytime Fitness at (219) 878-8400.

Gauguin Focus of Classes

Jennifer Martin will showcase Paul Gauguin as the February artist during children's classes at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Children ages 3 to 16 will paint still lifes on canvas using bold colors in the post-impressionistic style. They may start classes at any point during the school year.

Visit www.chestertonart.com to see a full list of class times and fees.



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Astrophysicist to Speak at VU

Valparaiso University's physics and astronomy department will host two free programs by noted astrophysicist Jennifer Wiseman.

"Galaxies, Stars, Planets and Life: A Bountiful Universe," is at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, at Neils Science Center 234, and "The Hubble Space Telescope: 25 Years of Discovery" at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30, in Neils Science Center 221.

In "Galaxies, Stars, Planets," Wiseman will present the latest discoveries, including planets by the thousands outside the solar system, and an expanding universe being pushed apart by a force only vaguely understood as dark energy. In "The Hubble Space Telescope," she will present an overview that includes key scientific advancements and unexpected discoveries the telescope has enabled.

Wiseman received her doctorate in astronomy from Harvard University. She is a senior astrophysicist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, where she serves as senior project scientist for the Hubble Space Telescope. She studies star-forming regions of the galaxy using radio, optical and infrared telescopes, with a particular interest in molecular cloud cores, protostars and outflows.

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

Polka Mass

A special "Polka Mass" will be celebrated from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, 1501 Washington St.

The Polish platter dinner includes Polish sausage, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, chicken and noodles, cheese *pierogis*, *golabki*, bread and butter, *paczki* and coffee.

Steve Kowalczyk will provide music, and the Polish folk-dance company Wesoly Lud will perform.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children 12 and younger.

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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. Monday, Feb. 2 and 9, March 2, 16 and 30, and April 6, 13 and 27 at Red Mill County Park. 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.

Programs 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 lineup is:

- Feb. 11 — "Oh Deer."
- March 11 — "Insect Insight."
- April 1 — "Turtle Talk."
- April 15 — "Spring Has Sprung."

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, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Call at least one week in advance to register. The schedule is:

- March 4 — "Sleep Disorders and Their Effects on Your Health" with Mindi Whittacker.
- April 1 — "Heart Disease Risk Factors — Know Your Numbers" with cardiovascular nurse navigator Nancy Blossom.
- May 6 — "Gardening" with Sacha Burns of Sun-kissed Organics.

Spa Day at the Park

The free event that highlights information, sample services and/or products is from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 14, at Red Mill's Pat Smith Hall.

The first 50 present receive a goodie bag. Vendors will present everything from aromatherapy and facials to massages and make-at-home spa treatments. Those interested in being a vendor should contact Laura Moyer at (219) 324-5855.

“Indiana Disasters” Exhibit

The La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., will host the Indiana Historical Society Traveling Exhibit “Indiana Disasters” in February.

In Indiana, extreme weather such as floods, tornadoes, blizzards and drought persist. The way humans interact with their environment also leaves them vulnerable to disasters, causing accidents such as fires, crashes, spills and explosions. Disasters of all kinds — biological, violent or bizarre events such as epidemics, bombs and squirrel migrations — are remembered in local communities.

In the exhibit, photos from various IHS collections and institutions capture Indiana catastrophes, while newspaper headlines, illustrations and survivor accounts show how Hoosiers persevere in the face of disaster.

In conjunction with the exhibit, La Porte County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz will present a display of “La Porte County Disasters.” It will include the following categories: fire, crime, flooding, tornadoes/twisters, train wrecks and snow.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Visit www.laportecountyhistory.org or call (219) 324-6767 for more information.

Montessori Nights

The charter school Renaissance Academy, 4093 W. U.S. 20, La Porte, will hold “Montessori Nights,” kindergarten roundup for those submitting applications now being accepted through February for the 2015-2016 school year.

All grades will participate in “Montessori Nights,” each held from 6 to 7 p.m., and feature students being a teacher and presenting their chosen classroom work. The schedule is:

- Kindergarten, grades seven and eight on Wednesday, Jan. 28, and Thursday, Feb. 5.
- Grades one through three on Tuesday, Jan. 27, and Wednesday, Feb. 4.
- Grades four through six on Thursday, Jan. 29, and Tuesday, Feb. 3.

Call (219) 878-8711, email info@rschool.net or visit www.rschool.net to register or for additional information.



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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

January 29 and 30 — Free talks by astrophysicist Jennifer Wiseman. "Galaxies, Stars, Planets and Life: A Bountiful Universe," 7:30 p.m. Thurs., Neils Science Center 234. "The Hubble Space Telescope: 25 Years of Discovery," 3:30 p.m. Fri., Neils Science Center 221. Info: (219) 464-6270, kristen.knoerzer@valpo.edu

January 31 — Groundhog Day puppet shows, 1 & 2:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, Lake Street north of U.S. 12 in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

January 31 — Snowshoe hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Baily Homestead/Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 & 12. Info: (219) 395-1882.

January 31 — Dunes Birding: Crash Course, 2 p.m., Nature Center auditorium @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Cost: \$10. Info: (219) 926-1390.

January 31 — Friends of Westchester Public Library Book Sale for Children and Teens, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Bertha Wood meeting room & Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

February 1 — Winter Beach Walk, 10 a.m., beach pavilion @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

February 1 — Knitting Together at the Museum, 1-5 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, located in the Brown Mansion, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

February 1 and 7 — La Porte Service League play, "Pirates!," La Porte High School. Times: 1 p.m. Feb. 1/9:30 a.m. Feb. 7. Suggested donation: \$1/adults, 50 cents/children. Info: www.laporteserviceleague.com

February 6 — Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition 2015, "Meet Me in the Gallery" opening reception, 5:30-9 p.m. EST, Warner Gallery @ South Bend Museum of Art, located in The Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St., South Bend. Info: (574) 235-9102, www.southbendart.org/

February 6-8 and 12-15 — "Consider the Oyster," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thurs.-Sat./2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$12, \$10/Thurs. Reservations: www.footlightplayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

February 7 — "Polka Mass," 5-7 p.m., St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, 1501 Washington St. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$7.50/children 12 & younger.

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

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

Through February — Indiana Historical Society



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Traveling Exhibit "Indiana Disasters," La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Museum hours: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tues.-Sat. Info: www.laportecountyhistory.org, (219) 324-6767.

Through May — "Exploring Light," abstract images by Maureen Sylvia Lighthall, Purdue University-North Central PNC Technology Building's first-floor north-study area. Free. Info: (219) 785-5200, Ext. 5593.

Through May — "Uniforms, Outfits & Accessories," Joel DeGrand's exhibit of immersive photographs, Purdue University-North Central Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 02. Free, but by appointment only. Info: (219) 785-5200, Ext. 5593.

Farther Afield:

January 30 — "Dueling Pianos," The Vineland Center, 1155 Vineland Road, St. Joseph, Mich. Buffet dinner/5:30 p.m., cocktails/6:30 p.m., show/7 p.m. All times Eastern. Tickets: \$30 (\$50 with buffet dinner). Reservations/info: (269) 982-4030, www.smso.org

January 31 — Free Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy Community Center, 13372 California Road. Info: (773) 375-1514, janna@jan-nariley.com

January 31 — Free "Make a Valentine for Our Troops" workshop, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EST, Buchanan Art Center, 117 W. Front St., Buchanan, Mich. Info: (269) 697-4005, buchananartcenter@att.net

January 31 — Anne Hills CD-release concert, 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10/general admission, \$8/students and seniors, free/children 12 and younger. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, info@boxfactoryforthearts.org, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

January 31 — Guided ski tour, 2 p.m. EST, Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Fee: \$5. Register: (269) 927-4832.

February 1 — ArtsBridge 6th Annual Super Bowl Poetry Reading, 2 p.m. EST, First Presbyterian Church, 475 Green Ave. on Morton Hill in Benton Harbor, Mich. Free/donations accepted. Info: (269) 925-7075.

February 1 — Meet-the-artists reception, Brandywine/Niles/Buchanan High School Exhibit, 1-3 p.m. EST, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Info: (269) 695-6491, www.fernwoodbotanical.org

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**THIS
WEEK
IN
HISTORY**



On January 29, 1845, “The Raven,” Edgar Allen Poe’s most famous poem, was first published in the *New York Evening News*.

On January 29, 1900, baseball’s American League was organized. It consisted of teams from Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis.

On January 29, 1954, Oprah Winfrey was born in Kosciusko, MS.

On January 29, 1958, actors Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward were married.

On January 29, 1963, the first members of the Football Hall of Fame were announced in Canton, OH. They consisted of Sammy Baugh, Bert Bell, Joe Carr, Dutch Clark, George Halas, Mel Hein, Pete Henry, Cal Hubbard, Don Hutson, Curly Lambeau, Tim Mara, George Marshall, John Blood McNally, Bronko Nagurski, Ernie Neavers, and Jim Thorpe.

On January 30, 1933, the first episode of the *Lone Ranger* was broadcast on Detroit’s radio station WXYZ.

On January 30, 1964, the U.S. launched *Ranger 6*, an unmanned spacecraft carrying television cameras. As planned, it crash-landed on the moon.

On January 30, 1981, 2 million New Yorkers turned out for a ticker-tape parade to honor the 52 Americans who had been held hostage for 15 months in Iran.

On January 31, 1835, the State of Illinois authorized the village of Chicago to establish a police force.

On January 31, 1931, Ernie Banks, the Hall of Fame infielder and power hitter for the Chicago Cubs who would become known as “Mr. Cub,” was born in Dallas.

On January 31, 1949, television’s first daytime soap opera, “These Are My Children,” was broadcast from Chicago’s NBC studios.

On January 31, 1950, President Harry Truman announced that the United States was developing a hydrogen bomb.

On January 31, 1971, astronauts Alan Shepard Jr., Edgar Mitchell and Stuart Roosa blasted off aboard *Apollo 14* on a mission to the moon.

On January 31, 1990, the McDonald Corporation opened its first fast-food restaurant in Moscow.

On February 1, 1862, Julia Ward Howe’s “Battle Hymn of the Republic” was first published in the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine.

On February 1, 1941, the United Service Organization (USO), whose purpose was to entertain United States troops, was founded.

On February 1, 1965, Martin Luther King Jr. was among 800 people arrested during civil rights demonstrations in Selma, AL.

On February 1, 1982, "Late Night With David Letterman" premiered on NBC.

On February 2, 1675, the first recorded observance of Groundhog Day took place in Germany. In the United States, the official observance takes place in Punxsutawney, PA. (At least that's what they say in Punxsutawney). There, crowds gather to wait for a groundhog to emerge from his burrow. If he sees his shadow there will be six weeks more of winter. No shadow — spring has definitely arrived.

On February 2, 1882, Irish novelist and poet James Joyce, one of the most original and controversial writers of his time, was born in Dublin.

On February 2, 1893, a cameraman at Thomas Edison's New Jersey motion picture studio took the first close-up picture in the industry's history. The picture was of comedian Fred Ott sneezing.

On February 3, 1690, Massachusetts issued America's first paper money, using it to pay soldiers fighting a war against French Quebec.

On February 3, 1809, an Act was approved in Congress creating the "Illinois Territory." Prior to this date, the present state of Illinois was included in the vast area known as the Northwest Territory.

On February 3, 1894, "America's artist" Norman Rockwell was born in New York City.

On February 3, 1959, rock 'n roll star Buddy Holly was killed in a plane crash near Clear Lake, IA. This date is referred to as the day the music died. Killed with Holly was Ritchie Valens and J.P "The Big Bopper" Richardson, as well as pilot Roger Peterson.

On February 3, 1966, the Soviet probe *Luna 9* became the first man-made object to make a soft landing on the moon.

On February 4, 1895, a rolling lift bridge over the Chicago River at Van Buren Street opened to traffic.

On February 4, 1938, the Thornton Wilder play "Our Town" opened on Broadway.

On February 4, 1957, the first portable electric typewriter, a 19-pound Smith-Corona, went on sale in Syracuse, NY.

On February 4, 1997, 67 year old pianist Liberace (born Wladziu Valentino Liberace) died at his home in Palm Springs, CA.

On February 4, 2007, the Chicago Bears lost Super Bowl XLI to the Indianapolis Colts, 29-17, in rainy Miami.

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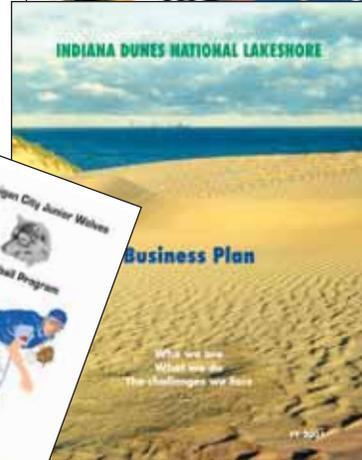
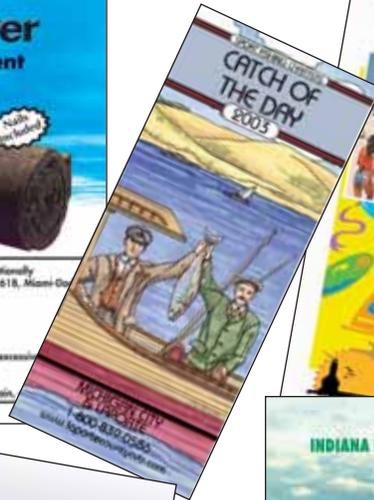
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PNC Community Engagement Honored

Purdue University-North Central has been recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for its ongoing commitment to community engagement.

The foundation announced 240 institutions received the 2015 Community Engagement Classification, an honor PNC earned in 2010 alongside 121 other institutions, bringing the total number of Community Engaged institutions to 361.

The foundation has offered the distinction since 2006. It honors institutions where teaching, learning and scholarship engage faculty, students and community in mutually beneficial and respectful collaboration. PNC was recognized for addressing community-identified needs, deepening students' civic and academic learning, enhancing community well-being and enriching the institution.

"Most of our faculty, students and staff have at some point been involved in some way," PNC Chancellor Jim Dworkin said. "Our activities range from individual volunteer events to class or group undertakings and campus-wide events."

PNC is among 15 Indiana institutions earning the Community Engagement Classification: Anderson University; Ball State University; Butler University; Indiana State University; Indiana University-Bloomington; Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne; Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis; Marian University; Purdue University-West Lafayette; Saint Mary's College; Taylor University; University of Indianapolis; University of Notre Dame and University of Southwestern Indiana.

Fernwood Botanical Garden

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

• Brandywine/Niles/Buchanan High School Exhibit from Jan. 30-March 1.

Awards go to the best in several categories and age groups. A meet-the-artists reception is from 1 to 3 p.m. EST Sunday, Feb. 1.

• Groundhog's Day Snowshoe Hike from 1 to 2:30 p.m. EST Sunday, Feb. 1.

Look for signs of winter life in the nature preserve. Take snowshoes and dress appropriately for the weather. The cost is \$10, or \$8 members.

Call (269) 695-6491 or visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org for more information.

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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered through Indiana Dunes State Park:

Saturday, Jan. 31

• 2 p.m. — Snowshoe Shuffle.

Meet a park interpreter in the Nature Center for an introduction to the mode of winter transportation, then take a short walk through the woods. A short hike will be offered if there isn't enough snow.

• 2 p.m. — Dunes Birding: Crash Course.

Join State Park Interpreter Brad Bumgardner for a three-hour introduction to birding, including: the history of ornithology; common dune birds; bird banding; and leading bird walks. Meet at the Nature Center auditorium. The cost is \$10. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-1390.

Sunday, Feb. 1

• 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.

• 10 a.m. — Winter Beach Walk.

Meet a naturalist to explore recent storm damage and possible ice-shelf formations. Visitors hike down the beach and back during the 45-minute stroll. Meet at the beach pavilion.

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

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Charming Billy by Alice McDermott (a Picador Modern Classic paperback, \$16), winner of the 1998 National Book Award

To begin with, Billy was dead.

In a Bronx cemetery on a drizzly, rainy day, mourners gathered to pay their respects, and go through the motions of a funeral service for their departed friend, Billy Lynch. Funerals, after all, are for the living, to recognize the fragility of life on Earth and support the family of the deceased.

After the service, mourners put away their large black umbrellas and followed Maeve, the widow, to a quiet restaurant tucked away on a street not far from the cemetery.

Maeve sat at the head of the table next to Dennis, Billy's cousin and best friend. Quiet conversations soon began around the table, first about the service, the priest and the weather. Then, reminiscing about Billy started.

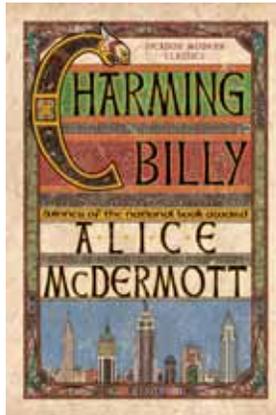
"Do you remember when...?"

"How about the time...?"

But no one saw the irony in sipping alcoholic drinks that also caused Billy's untimely death. Yes, Billy was an alcoholic. Among his Irish-American family and friends were many alcoholics and those who drank a wee too much, but Billy seemed destined to have alcohol become the defining measure of his life.

Why did alcohol ultimately destroy Billy? Was it in his DNA? Or did it start when the love of his life, Eva, returned to Ireland and died there of pneumonia? That was the story Dennis told Billy after talking to Eva's sister, a nanny for a rich Manhattan family. Years later, however, during a trip to Ireland, Billy discovered Eva was very much alive and married with children. So, did the drinking start when he thought his love was dead? Or did it escalate when he learned his best friend and cousin lied to him about her?

After the service and dinner, some gathered at Maeve's house, bringing food and quiet advice, again remembering the kind Billy, the poet Billy, the best friend anyone could ask for. Of course, the Eva situ-



ation came up, but that was many years before Maeve, who lived through Billy's troubles and stood by his side through it all. I remember such gatherings in my own Polish-American community. Neighbors and friends bring food to the house, the women gather in the kitchen, set up the table and fuss over the widow, while the men gather in the living room to smoke, drink and remember their friend. Relationships between these men and Billy are revealed through their conversations, showing a good man who couldn't control his drinking or forget the

first love of his life.

It's a fascinating portrait of a time, a community and a troubled man.

Like many of his kind, Billy tried numerous times to stop drinking. He joined Alcoholics Anonymous (many times), made promises to himself, even went to Ireland to "take the pledge," all to no avail. Many were the nights Maeve would call Dennis to help her pick Billy off the floor and get him to bed.

Over the course of the evening, the story alternates between Billy's return from World War II and the day of his funeral.

What makes this story so special is the amazing way McDermott shows an understanding of the experiences and difficulties of young men returning from war, as well as the changing lifestyles of those post-war years.

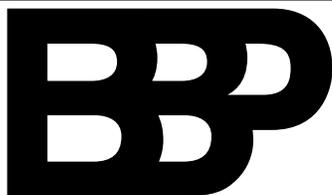
As cousin Dan Lynch says after the funeral, *"It's just that on a day like this, you find yourself looking at everything. In a new light, if you know what I mean. You want to make some sense of it all."*

Don't we all?

Elle magazine wrote: "There's no one like Alice McDermott for catching the ebullient particulars of the Irish-American sensibility...her touch is light as a feather, her perceptions purely accurate."

McDermott is the author of seven other novels, three of which were finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. She is the Richard A. Macksey Professor for Distinguished Teaching in the Humanities at Johns Hopkins University.

Till next time, happy reading!



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3601 Lake Shore Drive • Michiana Shores
\$1,250,000

3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Floor to ceiling fieldstone fireplace in the living room which was recently re-built & converted to gas. Sun room offering beautiful views. New bath in loft which sleeps as many as you please. Extra high two car garage to accommodate boat storage. Home has all the charm in the world with forever views of Lake Michigan on the hillside plus your very own private beach across the street.



3329 LaSalle Trail • Duneland Beach
\$479,000

4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. New flooring, carpeting & tile entry & hall. Sleek & modern kitchen open to dining room & into the living room. Rec room with fireplace & access to screened porch. Spacious lot, boasting of wooded privacy. Recent modern renovation while maintaining original character of mid-century architecture. Quad level design offering great space for relaxing & entertaining. Just 2.5 blocks to beach.



2139 Chastleton Drive • Long Beach
\$335,000

4 bedrooms, 2 full & 2 half baths. Hardwood floors in living room, dining room, hallway & bedrooms. Fireplace in living room. Updated kitchen. Private master bath. Finished lower level with rec room. Beautiful front view of Long Beach Country Club golf course & private rear yard with patio. Great location close to Town of Long Beach Community Center, shopping conveniences & a short walk to the beach.



601 Washington Park Blvd. • Lake Hills
\$112,000

3 bedrooms, 1 bath. Refinished hardwood floors throughout. Updated kitchen boasting beautiful wood cabinets, ceramic floor & all replaced stainless steel appliances. Newer furnace, a/c, plumbing, drywall & insulation. Full basement could be finished for additional living space. This home was completely rehabbed in 2012 & is located in a beach community within walking distance to the beach.

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Eastwood Road

24 acre wooded parcel, use your imagination. Easily access U.S. 12, but still enjoy the natural surroundings. A truly unique piece of property. All permits needed
\$94,900



210 Autumn Trail

Just Listed! Relax and retreat in the Edgewood Forest condo. Two bedrooms, two baths, heated bonus room leading to the deck. Two car garage and off street parking. Low maintenance living in a lovely secluded development.
\$205,000



Doug Waters*
GRI
Principal Broker

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