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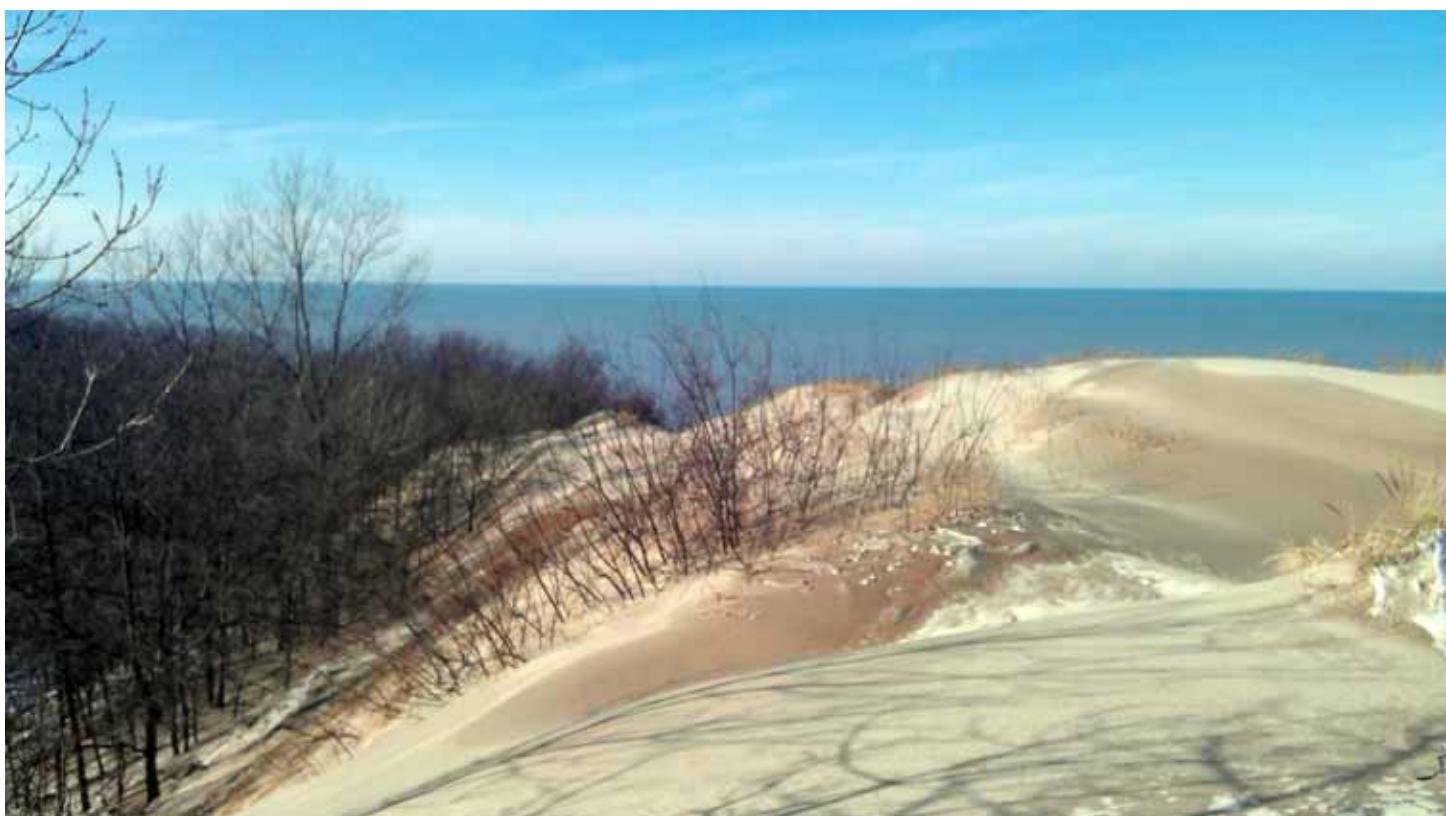
911 Franklin Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360



Volume 31, Number 8 Thursday, March 5, 2015

## The Mysteries of Mount Baldy

by William Halliar



A view from the top of Mount Baldy.

What's up with Mount Baldy, our favorite dune on the lakefront?

Anyone driving past the entrance on U.S. 12 can't help but notice a sign announcing the area around the dune is still closed. With summer coming, we wonder if we will be able to climb the slippery slopes to stand on its summit anytime soon.

Our landmark dune made national news in 2013 when 6-year-old Nathan Woessner fell into a hole in the dune and was the subject of a desperate 3 1/2 hour rescue effort that, thankfully, saved his life.

In December 2014, an article in *Smithsonian Magazine* brought worldwide attention to the incident. It described the efforts of Erin Argyilan, a geoscientist at Indiana University-Northwest, Todd

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A sign at the U.S. 12 entrance to Mount Baldy warns visitors the area is closed.

**THE  
*Beacher***

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**It's Time  
To Spring Ahead**  
Sunday, March 8th

## Mount Baldy

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Indiana University-Northwest geoscientist Erin Argilan.

Thompson, Indiana Geological Survey assistant director for research, and staff through Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to discover the mystery of the hole that swallowed the boy.

A meeting next week, which is open to the public, aims to shed more light on Mount Baldy, the research being done in many ways a pioneering study in the lifecycle of a dune.

We may not think much about it, since we live lives far removed from nature, but so much of who and what we are is related to the sand beneath our feet. Our homes are built on the shifting sands piled high ages ago by the power of northwest winds.

Grains of sand can be rough, sharp, oddly shaped or smooth and almost round, as if tumbled over time by wind and waves.

The composition of sand can vary depending on indigenous rock formations, from the black volcanic

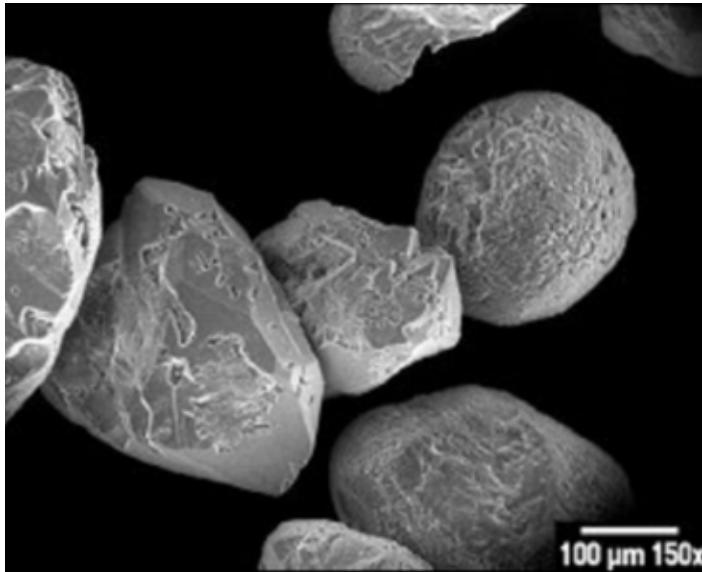
sand of Hawaii to the white sands — composed of shell and coral — of the Florida coasts. The most common material found in our area is silica (Silicon dioxide) in the form of quartz.

Consider how close we are to the sands of Mount Baldy. Traces of silica (sand) — the building block of our favorite dune — are found in every organ in our body. Recent studies have suggested that silica may play a role in preventing Alzheimer's disease and reduce the risk of stroke and heart attack in some people (see [www.whatissilica.com](http://www.whatissilica.com)). Thus, this ubiquitous element is a real and essential part of all of us. The average human body consists of 7 grams of the element. It is no wonder we feel such an affinity for the sands of our lakefront dune.

The grains of sand on the beach at Washington Park and the slopes of Mount Baldy have been made round by the almost constant movement of waves and winds that blows over their surface. This gives them a special property: The sand "sings" when a person walks over it.



Todd Thompson, Indiana Geological Survey assistant director for research.



Sand particles under an electron microscope.

Curiously, this phenomenon is not completely understood by science. It is thought that quartz sand will sing if the grains are well rounded and spherical in shape, and move against each other as we walk across them.

What we can easily observe of Mount Baldy, that is its exterior surface, has been of interest to scientists for many years, especially the fact that this "living dune" seems to be changing shape and moving southward, away from the lake at a rather rapid pace. Comparing older photos to more recent photos demonstrates the movement of the dune over time.

The December 2014 *Smithsonian* article quotes Zoran Kilibarda, one of Argyilan's colleagues at IUN, as discovering that between 1938 and 2007, the dune had moved nearly 440 feet inland. Over the years, it has swallowed trails, staircases, fences and a stand of black oak trees that once stood 60 to 80 feet tall along the lakeshore. Old-timers even claim some wooden structures were swallowed by the dune in its gradual march inland.

In 2011, Argyilan, with funding from the park service, began a study of the dune's sandy slopes. The purpose was to monitor the movement of sand on Mount Baldy. Project leaders gathered data that was used to build a layered map containing sediment distribution by particle size, wind direction, velocity and elevations.

Thirty four points, determined by Global Positioning System coordinates, were set on a grid across the face of the dune and measurements taken at regular intervals to create a 3-D map of the exterior of the dune.

Then, on July 12, 2013, 6-year-old Nathan disappeared into a hole in the dune, something that was not believed to be possible, and the whole focus of the study changed. Argyilan was on the dune face that day, taking exterior measurements, and was shocked. What occurred to her was that from all

Continued on Page 4

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# Mount Baldy

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Teams survey Mount Baldy using Ground Penetrating Radar.

she'd studied and everything she knew about geology, this could not happen. Her first thought was that "her science had led her astray."

The National Lakeshore closed the dune to the public, and a joint study between Indiana Geological Survey, co-led by Thompson, Argyilan and Bruce Rowe from the National Lakeshore, was launched. This new study would map the interior of the dune using 3-D technology.

According to Thompson, "There are three ways to look inside the dune: dig a hole, push a tube deep into the sand and pull out a core for study or image the inside with Ground Penetrating Radar."

While the team used GPS to study the outside shape of the dune, the interior was to be studied using a separate grid and employing GPR. With the aid of Agostin Perez Maldonado, the National Park surveyor and coordinator of Geographic Information System, a benchmark was established and a grid set up across the face of the dune from which its interior was measured and studied to a depth of more than 100 feet. More than 20 cores have been extracted for study.

So far, the GPR has turned up 66 "anomalies," or irregularities, in the sand. Each was closely studied by Argyilan using a handheld spade and brush to dig into the dune and discover the source.

The collected data will allow cartographers from Indiana Geological Survey to build a 3-D image, or map, of the interior of the dune as it is today, and to perhaps begin to understand a little about the history of the dune.

Already, through Thompson's efforts, the shape of an older dune beneath the present shape of Mount Baldy has been identified and some of the interior

anomalies, possible holes, seem to align with it.

So far, Argyilan has discovered that the overall shape of Mount Baldy is changing: The north face is getting flatter. Even as she and her team are roving the slopes, taking measurements of the exterior, more holes are being discovered in its surface.

This dune has been walked over and explored for more than 100 years. What has changed recently that these holes are now, suddenly, occurring?



Trees buried along the slopes of Mount Baldy.

Argilan is working on a hypothesis that it is the buried oak trees that cause the holes. As the trees decay from the inside, the outside bark is left intact forming voids or holes in the sand.

The question that comes up now is, if the trees are the cause of the holes, and they have been buried there for many years, what is causing the trees to create increasing numbers of holes now?



An example of the Ground Penetrating Radar used at Mount Baldy.

Is there fungus within the tree bark that causes the sand to hold the shape of a hole? Does temperature within the dune play a role? Does the moisture content of the sand have any effect, or is it that the depth of the dune sand, over the buried trees, is decreasing as the face of the dune flattens?

Argyilan speaks of the buried trees within the dune, "where 20 feet or so of sand cover the trees now, at one time 60 or 80 feet covered them." It is possible that today, it is not just the branches that have protruded from the dune for years that are causing holes, but also the trunks of the trees, thus creating larger, potentially more dangerous, holes.

Since the *Smithsonian* article was published, Argyilan has been hearing from many outside sources about holes occurring in other parts of the world.

Could the holes found on the face of Mount Baldy be related to "Devil's Stovepipes" that have long

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## IF YOU GO

Erin Argyilan, along with Charlie Morris from Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, will address the progress being made on Mount Baldy from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at Barker House, 444 Barker Road, Michigan City. Reservations are requested. Email a response to [heather@savedunes.org](mailto:heather@savedunes.org) or call (219) 879-3564.

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# Mount Baldy

Continued from Page 5



An undated photo of visitors at Mount Baldy that appeared in a Chicago newspaper's travel section.  
Photo courtesy of Mike Fleming

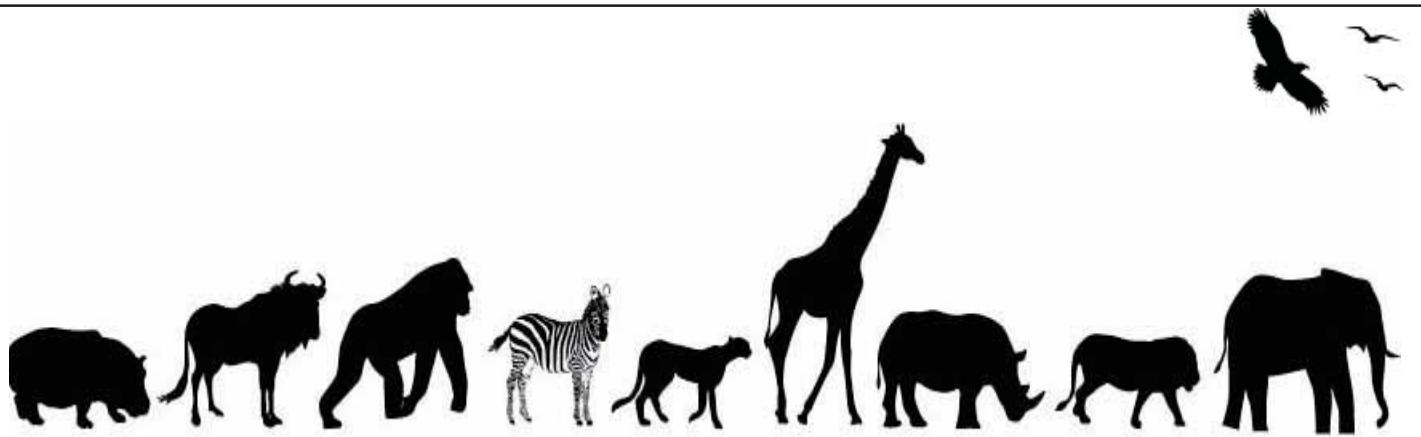
been observed, but never thoroughly studied, in dunes found in Oregon? These holes are thought to be the result of the decay of buried trees.

"Since the study began," Argyilan says, "I have changed my views on how such a structure should be managed." The original thought was that the dune, as it erodes and flattens, should be "nourished," that is, sand being placed on the beach side to replenish sand blowing away over time. The problem here is that rather than rebuilding the dune, the sand blew over the top and ended up in the parking lot.

Argyilan's view now is that the dune should be allowed to age and weather naturally without outside interference and the application of additional sand.

The next part of the study will try to discover why holes form and stay open in the dune. Since the 3-D mapping has begun, some hidden holes have been discovered buried in the sand, holes that are covered with sand and hidden from the surface so that a person walking over them could fall in. Argyilan says this scenario is "terrifying." Scientists working on the slopes now work in teams and carry a radio wherever they go.

Argyilan loves the study of the dunes, and it is her quest to understand the mysteries of Mount Baldy. Thus far, there are no definitive findings for a public that demands answers. Argyilan stresses that science is a "learning process." The National Lakeshore is overseeing management of the project and will decide how best to keep both the dune and the public safe as more details of the story of Mount Baldy are uncovered.



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### Who is Val Pudlo?

1. Name: Val Pudlo aka My Pal Val
2. Birthday: February 9
3. Birthplace: Michigan City (born and reared)
4. Occupation: Realtor |Dream Maker
5. Marital Status: Happy – Married 23 years to Van Pudlo
6. Children: 3 kids, 8 grandchildren, 1 cat and 1 dog
7. The Last Good Movie I saw: Gravity – in 3D – Awesome!
8. Favorite Movie Candy: Twizzlers
9. I stay home to watch: Blacklist
10. Favorite meal: Stuffed grape leaves and tabouleh
11. Prized Possession: My dog, Lucy
12. Personal Heroes: Jesus Christ
13. I'd give anything to meet: Benedict Cumberbatch
14. My fantasy is: To Live in Hawaii
15. Most humbling experience: Selling a \$25,000 home to a gentleman who cried at closing because he never thought he would own a home!
16. The words that describe me best: Friendly, Outgoing, My Pal Val
17. Why I Chose Merrion: Merrion and Associates Realtors has a reputation for honesty, integrity and is community based.



Val is looking forward to serving your real estate needs, give her a call directly at 219-873-6301 or send her an email @ [mypalval@merrionrealty.com](mailto:mypalval@merrionrealty.com).

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## What's Planned for First Friday

Uptown Arts District will host the monthly First Friday art walk from 5 to 8 p.m. March 6 in downtown Michigan City.

Participating businesses and attractions are:

- **dh2w Inc., 813 Franklin St.**

Roger Potratz will offer pieces handcrafted from masonry chisel nails and other materials.

- **Encore Consignment Boutique, 815 Franklin St.**

Camille Isis Germain will present photography that focuses on portraiture, urban capture and landscapes.

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

Art and performances by Michigan City High School students are planned. Refreshments will be served. In addition, a family movie night starts at 7 p.m. in the church's theater room. Call the church office at (219) 872-7200 for more information.

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

Eight or more members of Area Artists Association will display their works.



Für Sermon.

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

Chicago-based musicians Für Sermon will perform an eccentric mix of coffee shop acoustic classics with an electric push in the Hyndman Gallery.

Für Sermon includes Shelbi Albert and Jake Lashenik, who combined their passion for exploring electronic music and acoustic into one genre. The performance begins at 5:30 p.m., with a 30-minute break between sets.

The opening reception for "Pipelines & Borderlines" is in the NIPSCO Education Studios. It follows in the tradition of Mexican political printmaking by focusing on the Tar Sands in Alberta, Canada, and the BP Refinery in Whiting, Ind.

- **Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park.**

Learn about the Eastland disaster of 1915, and the proposed memorial this summer. Also, view photography by Jan Hoeppner, who captures the

lakefront in all seasons.

- **Revive Consignments, 523 Franklin St.**

Mara Wible up-cycles frames and fibers, recreating them into woven displays of art.



Rhonda Mullen's "The Woman Within" at Southern Shore Art Association.

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

Debuting is "Herself: The Female in Image and Form," the third annual exhibit with the "female as subject" theme and held in support of Women's History Month.

*Chicago Tribune* cited the first exhibit in 2013, "Fifty Shades of Female," as its "Pick of the Week." SSAA members and guest artists from the region — male and female — will exhibit paintings in diverse media, sculpture and photography, in addition to hand-sculpted and painted fantasy dolls.

The First Friday reception will feature a wine and refreshments bar and hors d'oeuvres. Guests also can learn more about a free figure drawing workshop featuring a live model from the Dunes Art Foundation on March 15.

- **Urban Soles Inc., 624 Franklin St.**

Violet, Hazel and Lucy of Dunegurls Glass will return with wearable art.

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

Experience "Red Tape," a performance-based installation that involves "the physical and psychological elements that 'red tape' inflicts upon the action and attempted movement of idea exchange and social evolution within a society."

*Entertainment includes:*

- **Maxine's Restaurant, 521 Franklin St.**

Classic rock band Mario and the Music Makers will perform from 8 to 11 p.m.

- **First Friday Open Stage at Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St.**

Performer signup is at 7:30 p.m., with performances at 8 p.m. The featured artist is Ah Tu. Admission is \$2 for performers and \$3 for audience members.

- **The Pickle & Turnip, 827 Franklin St.**

Live entertainment by Chicago-based musician Peter Nye, who performs contemporary bluegrass.

## Westchester Public Library

*The following programs are available through Westchester Public Library:*

- **Significant Battles in American History, the Battle of Little Bighorn, from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, and 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 7, in the Bertha Wood room at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

History buff and American war enthusiast Thomas Murphy will present the program.

- **Teen Library Council meets from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 5, at the Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Teens in grades 6-12 can recommend library programs, books and more for Teen Services.

- **Chesterton Writing Group meets from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursdays, March 5 and 19, at Thomas Library.**

Published and unpublished writers working in fiction and non-fiction are invited to share their work, learn more about publishing and find support and inspiration from fellow writers. Contact group moderator Stefan Barkow at Stefan.barkow@gmail.com for more information.

- **Chesterton Chess Club meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, March 5 and 19, at Thomas Library.**

Open to all ages and skill levels, players should meet at the tables by the reference desk.

- **Friday Night at the Movies, "Tinkerbell and the Legend of the NeverBeast," at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 6, at Thomas Library.**

Meet in the Children's Department. Come dressed as a fairy or neverbeast and have a picture taken in the magical golden mirror. Popcorn will be served.

- **Costa Rica presentation by local biologist Joy Marburger from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at Thomas Library.**

Marburger will discuss the culture, agriculture and nature found there.

- **Downton Day at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Fans can discuss Season 5 of the popular PBS series. Scones and tea will be served.

- **Sunday Matinee, the Oscar-winning "Birdman," at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 8, at the Library Service Center.**

The movie is rated R. Popcorn will be available.

- **Bifocal Bookies, Renee Rosen's "What the Lady Wants," at 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

The group meets the second Tuesday of each month. Light refreshments will be served. Copies of the book are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Have a story idea for The Beacher?  
Email [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)**

## Zillow Talk: New Rules for Real Estate

Zillow, that incredible real estate portal that attracts over 50 million viewers to its site every month, has come out with a book (released January 2015). It is the first in a series that will help us all deal with the "New Rules for Real Estate." Some of the book is just so much hot air, but Chapter 15, "How to Determine Your Asking Price," contains some great information supported by their data. My quotes are from pages 133 to 138 from the book published by Grand Central Publishing, New York.

"(S)ome sellers purposely overprice. They assume... they will net some extra cash... It almost always backfires."

"The data tells us that when a listing is overpriced, it tends to sell for less than its estimated value. In fact, the more a home is overpriced, and the larger the price cut it needs to sell, the bigger the impact on the final sale price." It results in "a 4% spread between homes that are priced correctly and those that are overpriced." i.e. overpriced homes sell for 4% less than right priced homes. In our area that is about \$13,000 less.

And the right priced homes sell faster. "107 days" for houses that sell with no price reductions." "220 days to sell houses where the list price was cut 10% to get an offer."

"The data clearly shows that it's hard for some homeowners to come to grips with their property's diminished value, especially when faced with the prospect of selling for a loss. But the data also clearly shows that the best course of action for sellers is to price their homes as close to fair market value as possible, in order to avoid price cuts that end up slicing their profits. That's the best way to ensure that the price will always be right."

I have been speaking of real estate marketing today in terms of not being eliminated at the portal search level by too high a list price. Zillow adds data to show that you will also sell for less and take a much longer time to sell if you do not price your home "as close to fair market value as possible."

**Dan Coffey**

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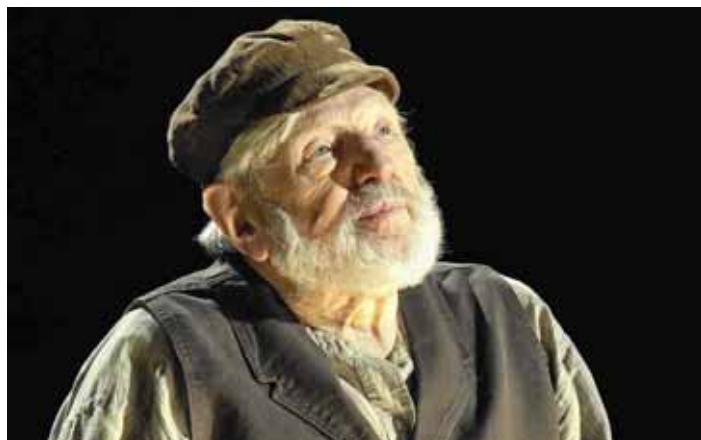
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## PNC, Partners to Present Jewish Film Festival

Purdue University-North Central Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series, in conjunction with Michigan City Public Library and the Irving Levin Jewish Cultural Fund of Sinai Temple, will present a Jewish Film Festival from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 8, at the library, 100 E. Fourth St.

Free and open to the public, refreshments will be served during a coffee klatch and cake break.

The first film is "Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem" (2014, unrated). Narrated by Alan Alda, it presents portraits of two noted icons: Sholom Aleichem and Theodore Bikel, bringing together Bikel's storytelling and masterful performances with Aleichem's life and work.



"Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem."

Aleichem is considered a pioneer of modern Jewish literature and champion of the Yiddish language. He created dozens of characters: Tevye the Milkman, Motl the Cantor's Son and Menachem Mendl "shtetl Jews," who became windows into pre-war Eastern European Jewish life, real and imagined.

Now 90, Bikel's career spans more than 150 screen roles, plus stage and musical productions.



"Room 514."

He played Tevye the Milkman in "Fiddler on the Roof" by and large more than 2,000 times. The second film is "Room 514" (2012, unrated, Hebrew with English subtitles). Described as "a tense and ambitious drama" by The Jerusalem Post, it tells the story of a female Israeli soldier ordered to interrogate an elite Israeli officer who allegedly abused a Palestinian family. Because she has a lower rank and is a woman, she is not taken seriously by the man she is questioning in Room 514. Those around her urge her to drop the case. It is too political, too complex and too notorious. But she digs in, seeking justice for the victims. The Jerusalem Post wrote, "Many in the audience abroad will come away with more respect for Israel when they realize how seriously Israelis grapple with issues here, and it will give them a new understanding of how complicated the situation actually is."

PNC's Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series features events throughout the year. A schedule can be found at [www.pnc.edu](http://www.pnc.edu). Contact Judy Jacobson, PNC assistant vice chancellor of marketing and campus Relations, at (219) 785-5200, Ext. 5593, for more information.



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## Cooking with Thor & Local Chefs

Twelve teams, two cooking challenges and the taste buds of local fourth-graders. Who will win?

The community is invited to find out during the first Cooking with Thor & Local Chefs competition, a free event set for 2 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 8, at La Porte High School's cafeteria, 602 F St.

Thor Thordarson, IU Health La Porte Hospital president and CEO, and other local business leaders are pairing up with mentor chefs from local eateries to form the cooking challenge. The goal is to create healthy, child-approved meals and snacks. Fourth-graders in the Li'l FISH Club program will be the taste-testing judges. Dishes also will be judged based on budget, uniqueness and nutritional value by La Porte Mayor Blair Milo, La Porte Community School Corp. Superintendent Mark Francesconi, IU Health Registered Dietitian Traci Norvell-Allen and IU Health Medical Director of Population Health Stacey Leva.

Also, Wellness Outreach of IU Health La Porte Hospital will host healthy activities for families and children 5 and older. Giveaways and snacks will be available.

Registration is required by visiting [youngerlife.org](#). A limit of 700 attendees can be accommodated.

The program is presented by the La Porte Hospital Foundation and IU Health La Porte Hospital, with all food and supplies provided by Al's Supermarkets. Local mentor chefs are: Don Dotson, Brentwood Tavern; Terri Faulkenburg, IU Health La Porte Hospital Café 1007; Brad Hindsley, Rachel Murphy and Sarah Sass, Spire Farm to Fork Cuisine; Cheryl Plummer, Ivy Tech; and Frank Torres, Mucho Mas.

Call the La Porte Hospital Foundation at (219) 326-2471 for more information.



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NEW ARRIVALS!

## The Ranting Llamas

Get ready for a night of impromptu fun when the Purdue University-North Central student improv club The Ranting Llamas performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 6, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The show is rated PG-13. Comedy situations are made up on the spot. The audience often is asked for suggestions the actors use as a springboard for a scene. A simple word, action or idea can be the basis of a skit performed by one member of the group or the entire ensemble, concepts such as throwing snowballs, riding a bus, walking a dog or staying awake in class.

The cast includes: Drew Holt, Rachel Rogers and Jane Davis-Bey of Michigan City; Cortney McIntosh, Haley Jackson, Robert Simpson and CieAna Marsh of La Porte; Nate Werner, Union Mills; Devon Hogan, Bridget Dudley and Erik Sturgeon of Chesterton; Kevin Paceley, Alex Strohmeyer and Jimmy Wells of Valparaiso; Josh Hubinger of Kouts; and Travis Ziegler of Hebron.

Admission is \$10 at the door. Half of the sales will be donated to a La Porte girl's fundraiser to buy wigs for children who lost their hair due to chemotherapy. Call (219) 874-4035 for more information or to make reservations.

## Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following programs are offered through Indiana Dunes State Park:*

### Saturday, March 7

#### National Aldo Leopold Weekend

- 10 a.m. — A Sand County Hike.

Meet at the Nature Center to explore the forest and wetlands, investigating things Leopold would have noticed had he been hiking on this date.

- 2 p.m. — The Green Fire Movie!

To celebrate Leopold's work as an ecologist, meet in the Nature Center Auditorium to view a new documentary about him, and how his work influenced today's environmental movement.

### Sunday, March 8

#### • 10 a.m. — Spring Skunk Search.

Meet at the Nature Center for a 45-minute stroll into dune wetlands for a peak at the first wildflower of the year: skunk cabbage.

- 2 p.m. — The Spring Awakening.

Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium for a look at how state park animals are surviving the winter. Live animals will be present.

*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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## Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available through Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:

- The annual Maple Sugar Time from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 7-8 and 14-15, at Chellberg Farm.

Take a self-guided tour to learn how maple tree sap has been used for hundreds of years. Park staff will be at each stop to help visitors see how American Indians first boiled maple sap into sugar, and how later settlers used large iron kettles to make the sap into syrup. Then, stand in the warm steam of the sugar shack, where sap is still boiled down the way the Chellbergs did it back in the 1930s.

Try drilling a tap hole or using an old-fashioned yolk to carry heavy sap buckets. Try free samples of pure maple syrup and compare it to "artificially flavored" syrup.

Admission is free. Chellberg Farm is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20.

- The new Nature Tot's program from 10 a.m. to noon the second Wednesday of each month at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

Children 2-4 will learn about nature through a ranger-led storytime, crafts and outdoor play.

- Douglas Center Open House from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Saturday at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

Explore the center and view interactive exhibits, a park video and live animal room. If there is enough snow, visitors can borrow cross-country skis or snowshoes to explore the Miller Woods Trail just outside the center. Warm up inside with a snack and hot chocolate or coffee.

Through March, hands-on exhibits feature other national parks with African-American connections, complete with an indoor scavenger hunt for prizes.

- The free Junior Ranger Program from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily at the 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.

- "Kid's Rule" from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday at the 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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## First Friday through March

Please join us for a great evening of art from 5 to 8 p.m. on March 6

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-- submitted by the  
LaPorte County  
Convention and  
Visitors Bureau

The Michigan City Public Art Committee was established by the Michigan City Common Council ordinance in 2011 and is aimed at integrating works of art into public life on city property. Michigan City has had art in public spaces for years, both in the parks, on private property seen by the public and in other settings. In the past few years, there has been a greater interest in public art with ad hoc organizations and groups, but eventually resulting in the creation of the MAC.

An early committee decision was to request council funding to hire a consultant to help develop a master plan for public art, to provide a framework of policies and procedures that guide the acquisition of art with a plan for the whole city. The master plan establishes priorities for acquiring art, identifying appropriate locations for same, and addresses funding mechanisms. It defines the relationship between placement of art and the city's goals and objectives.

One of the first items completed for the plan was the development of the following mission statement: *"The Michigan City Public Art Committee was formed to enrich the community through public art. Its purpose is to create an identity that celebrates Michigan City's unique historical, cultural, and natural resources."*

The first project was a dedication on Oct. 18, 2011, to publicly acknowledge the support of community businesses, organizations and individuals that made possible the artwork placed in the Charles R. Westcott Gateway Park at Michigan Boulevard and U.S. 12. Plans were announced for future public art in Westcott Park that includes permanent pieces, and some that will change periodically to feature artwork from La Porte County children and adults. The committee recognized Horizon Bank, a major stakeholder in the Charles Westcott public art project and the sole supporter of a six-paneled community art kiosk that features rotating exhibitions of regional children's art. The first exhibit was the Gyotaku fish prints created by Lake Hills Elementary School students. The prints then were auctioned off, the proceeds enabling MAC to feature children's artwork in future public displays.

Sculptfusion debuted in June 2013. It was a year-long exhibit of eight works of sculpture that contributed to the beautification of Michigan City and highlighted the vitality of the Uptown Arts District, Washington Park and other high-visibility locations

near Lake Michigan. In 2014, the original sculptures were continued for a second year, one was removed and five were added, bringing the total to 13. In 2013, the storm drain project was funded in the Uptown Arts District. MAC also partially funded the Steamroller Printmaking project.

In 2012, MAC established a scholarship fund to assist Michigan City children in taking art instruction. Visual art classes or individual art instruction for qualified children between 5 and 18 is funded. Each year, more than \$2,000 in scholarships has been available. Applicants must show financial need and take instruction from an art provider within city limits.

All of these projects were funded by the generosity of the Michigan City Common Council and the 2014 donation of \$16,000 from the Mayor's Ball.

MAC firmly believes that art in public spaces is a visible symbol of the standards, values and aspirations of the community. At its best, the citizens feel a closer connection than they would without it, and its existence becomes a part of the environment. When most successful, it becomes a unifying element that ties together the streetscape, architecture and natural elements of the community, inviting visitors to stay longer.

MAC meets at 3 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month in the Mayor's Conference Room at Michigan City City Hall. Members appointed by city council include one representative from the following organizations: Lubeznik Center for the Arts; an engineer/architect; city council; Purdue University-North Central; La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau; Michigan City Park Department; and Michigan City Public Library. Two members come from the arts community and two at-large members of the community who have demonstrated knowledge of public art, education or community affairs.

Contact Jane Daley at (219) 872-5055 or [jane@michigancitylaporte.com](mailto:jane@michigancitylaporte.com) for more information.



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## December R.O.S.E. Winner



Matthew Dillard appears with his R.O.S.E. certificate.

Matthew Dillard, manager of Michigan City's Radio Shack, was named Visit Michigan City La Porte's December Recognition of Service Excellence winner.

This is what the customer wrote about the exceptional service received: *"He is an OUTSTANDING example of what great customer service should be about. He is always available to help answer questions and always goes above and beyond the call of duty, often staying over, or coming in on a day off to help with a problem / issue.*

*I've been dealing with him in this store for years and just have to let everyone know how much I appreciate him, and what he has done for me. His employees love him, too! It's such a pleasure doing business with a business that cares about their customers! Kudos to him and his team for a job WELL DONE!*

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

## Basketball Bus Trip

The Purdue University-North Central Alumni Association will host a basketball bus trip March 7 to West Lafayette to see the Purdue Boilermakers take on the Fighting Illini.

The bus will leave PNC at 10 a.m. After arriving in West Lafayette, alumni and guests will have lunch in the Dauch Alumni Center Atrium, then head to the University Bookstore before the game.

The cost is \$30 for the bus and ticket combo and \$25 for the ticket only. Alcoholic beverages are permitted on the bus, but no glass containers are allowed. Tickets are available at [tinyurl.com/l6utl29](http://tinyurl.com/l6utl29) or by contacting Alumni Coordinator Erika Jones at (219) 785-5274 or [alumni@pnc.edu](mailto:alumni@pnc.edu)

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## Lady Blazers in All-Star Game



Six Lady Blazer basketball team members at Marquette High School have been selected to play in the third annual Indiana vs. Ohio All-Star Game on April 4 in Kingstown, Ind. They are: freshmen McKenzie Marovich (Chesterton), Lauren McConnell (Porter), Stacey Barron (Porter) and Michaela Jennings (Chesterton), sophomore Hannah Nolan (Valparaiso) and senior D'Aria Kincaid (La Porte).

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## Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Free Gentle Flow Yoga at 12:15 p.m. Saturday, March 7.**

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

- **St. Patrick's Day Celebration Magic: Kalita! at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 7.**

Magician Matt Kalita will present his annual show in conjunction with the Michigan City St. Patrick's Day Parade.

- **Understanding Your Dreams at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 7.**

Experienced dream therapist Terese Fabbri shares techniques on how to remember and understand dreams.

- **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Mondays, March 9 and 23.**

The foreign-policy discussion program, now in its 17th season, will focus on Sectarianism in the Middle East and India Changes Course. Reading material is available at the circulation desk.

- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays, March 11, 18 and 25.**

Children birth to age 5 accompanied by an adult/guardian can participate in stories, songs and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.

- **Knitting Club for All Ages at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 11, 18 and 25.**

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

- **Craft à la Carte at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12.**

Make a St. Patrick's Day craft. All materials are provided. The program is designed for children 4-10. The child must be present to receive supplies.

- **Duneland Stamp Club at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 12.**

New members are invited.

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

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## Lilly Scholarship Finalists

Unity Foundation of La Porte County has announced 11 local high-school seniors as La Porte County finalists for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship.

Two students from La Porte County will be selected as 2015 Lilly Endowment Community Scholars, receiving a full-tuition scholarship to pursue a baccalaureate degree at any accredited public or private Indiana college or university, and an annual \$900 book stipend.

The finalists and their respective schools are:

- La Crosse High School: Justin Kiel.
- La Porte High School: Christine Ake, Jamie Austin, Austin Bohlin, Julia Jongkind, Joseph Tomal.
- Marquette High School: Rebecca Yaw.
- Michigan City High School: Olivia Glowacki.
- New Prairie High School: Annabelle Papai and



Justin Kiel



Christine Ake



Jamie Austin



Austin Bohlin



Julia Jongkind



Joseph Tomal



Rebecca Yaw



Olivia Glowacki



Annabelle Papai



Larissa Whitaker



Abigail Gibbs

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## Movie BuFFs Create Their Own Oscar Bash

by Bob Wellinski

What started out as two friends watching the Academy Awards together has become an all-out Oscar bash. Nearly 10 years ago, movie buffs Val Askew and Judy Williams got together to watch the awards at Judy's home. Each year, the two would invite more people, eventually outgrowing Judy's, then Val's, homes. Three years ago, the party moved to New Carlisle's Lynn Williams Union Hall to accommodate the large group, where it again was held Sunday, Feb. 22, for the annual awards show.

What was once a simple event has now become that one time of year where the ladies get dressed up when they visit. Arriving dressed in fashions ranging from evening gowns, to blue jeans and sweatshirts, to even a dinner dress over blue jeans, guests were greeted by paparazzi as they walked the red carpet. As the Oscar pre-party was playing on the screen, nearly 20 ladies were busy visiting and eating, taking a break from time to time to check out and comment on some of the fashions walking Hollywood's red carpet.

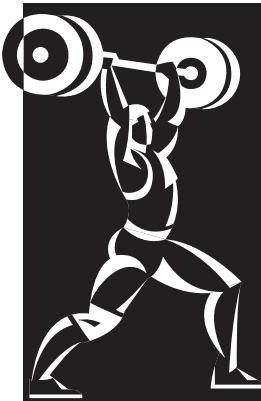
Val Askew, one of the party's founding members, cannot remember a time when she didn't watch the Oscars.

"It's like the Super Bowl to me," she said.

The event's Hollywood theme included the red carpet, lifesized cardboard cutouts of celebrities like Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley, and tables topped with miniature Oscars. Banquet tables were filled with food supplied by each guest.

Shannon Alexander, Goshen, treated the group by singing three Oscar-winning songs, including "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" from "The Wizard of Oz" and "My Heart Will Go On" from "Titanic." Guests then acted out a famous movie line while the others guessed the movie. Other contests including the best dressed and the person selecting the most correct Oscar winners.





## Your Most Valuable Possession

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

In life, any important possessions we have purchased, we made with careful consideration. A car, a house, a computer, a boat. Consumers know that upon buying such things, you have moved past the process of purchasing to ownership. A car requires constant maintenance, a house requires constant upkeep, a computer requires constant updating and protection, a boat requires constant upkeep.

Out of all your possessions, what is the most valuable one to you? Your answer should be your body.

A quick history lesson. Following the devastating effects of the 1348 bubonic plague, or Black Death, matters of public health quickly came to the forefront. Since then, each health issue the country has faced has helped establish our system of health care and government. In 1872, the American Public Health Association was founded, which brought structured national focus to issues facing the country. Needless to say, health issues are nothing new.

So let's bring the discussion back to this century. Chronic diseases and conditions, such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and obesity, are among the most common and pricey of all health problems. The common denominator: they are all preventable. As of 2012, one in four adults has two or more chronic health conditions. This number foreshadows the

statistic that seven out of 10 deaths were attributed to chronic diseases. More than one-third of adults are defined as obese, and nearly one in five children ages 2-19 were considered obese.

These numbers forecast a scary future for ourselves, our kids and any future generations. Public health triumphs of the last couple hundred years, such as the eradication of smallpox, clean water and improved information about sanitary concerns, have helped increase the life expectancy by 30 years. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a 2012 study showed the average life expectancy now is 78.8. However, statistics are showing that for the first time in history, the next generation will not live longer than their parents.

We have reached the point in the year that most people who have committed themselves to a healthier lifestyle as their New Year's resolution have started to fall away from their goals. If you have read our columns, among other things, we have discussed preventative maintenance, the importance of working with a trainer and staying away from cleanses: all things that are important in keeping your body, your most priceless possession, running efficiently. Get back on track to improving your overall well-being. Watch what you are putting into your body by tracking your food. Set small goals to start exercising. Sign up for a 5K so you are connected to training and preparing yourself for a goal.

Back to the analogy of preventative maintenance. If you were in a rush and needed to fill your car up with gas, you wouldn't fill it up with the nearest thing around just to fill up your gas gauge. So why fill up your body with things like pop and fast food that you know have negative effects on your most priceless possession?

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## JROTC Earns Multiple Awards



Cadets appear with their trophies and medals earned at the Pike High School Military Drill Competition.

The Michigan City High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps competed in the Feb. 21 Pike High School Navy JROTC military drill competition in Indianapolis.

The Wolves placed in every event they entered, earning a first place for Unarmed Platoon, second place for Armed Platoon, third place for Personnel Inspection and fourth place for Color Guard.

Cadet Capt. Cody Joseph commanded the Unarmed Platoon and Personnel Inspection. Cadet Capt. Alex Wyman commanded the Armed Platoon, and Cadet Lt. Quinton Dixon commanded the Color Guard. In the individual drill competition, cadets Lance Cpl. Austin Lee, Gunnery Sgt. Thalyea Del Real, Wyman, Sgt. Pauline Lutton and 1st Sgt. Hayley Feidner finished second, fourth, fifth, sixth

and seventh, respectively, out of 150 cadets.

Maj. Tom McGrath, the Senior Marine instructor, had high praise for the cadets.

"This was our sixth drill meet, and our cadets have demonstrated that they come to perform well at every meet," he said. "We still have work to do to be the overall winner for our next drill competition at Romeoville, Ill., on March 21."

The cadets will have a busy March. In addition to the Romeoville meet, they will march in the Michigan City St. Patrick's Day Parade and do a Color Guard for a convention at Blue Chip Casino on March 7. The cadets will support the Boys Regional Basketball Tournament by providing parking guides, security and Color Guards for the semi-finals and finals. Instructors will hold a drill clinic March 28.

### **“Angel Street”**

“Angel Street,” the Broadway hit first produced on the West End under the title “Gaslight” and filmed twice, begins a two-weekend run starting Friday, March 6, at La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St., La Porte.

Directed by Davelle DeMarco, “Angel Street” tells the story of the Manningshams, who live on Angel Street in 19th-century London. As the curtain rises, all appears the essence of Victorian tranquility, yet it becomes apparent Mr. Manningham (Aram Arden), a suave, handsome man, is slowly driving his gentle, devoted wife Bella (Lisa Babigian) to the brink of insanity, his insinuating kindness masking sinister motives.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 6-7 and 13-14, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 8 and 15. All tickets are \$12. Call (219) 362-5113 for reservations.

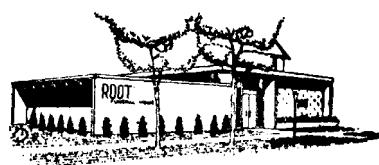
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## Mitch Markovitz Exhibit

The Village Gallery in Valparaiso will host a solo exhibit by illustrator and fine artist Mitch Markovitz through April 9.

Markovitz is best known for the "Just Around the Corner" series of South Shore Railroad posters depicting life in Northwest Indiana. His works depict the region's lakeshore, beaches, industry and local neighborhoods with the look and feel of yesteryear.

Born in 1950, Markovitz was raised and educated on Chicago's South Side. His father was a commercial illustrator and art teacher, his mother an interior designer. Growing up in a neighborhood intersected with railroads, trains and railroading became his obsession.



Mitch Markovitz relaxes by one of his works.

Though Markovitz continued his education at Chicago's American Academy of Art, The Chicago Academy of Fine Art and the University of Wisconsin, his childhood dream to become a train conductor drove his decision to join the Chicago and North Western Railway. His two passions came together in 1982 when he was promoted to advertising director and chief illustrator for the South Shore Railroad, where he worked for the next 17 years. He also was the first painter to exhibit his fine art work at the New York City Transit Museum.

The Village Gallery is located at Pines Village Retirement Communities, located at 3303 Pines Village Circle off Calumet Avenue just north of Cumberland Crossing. The free gallery is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (219) 465-1591 for more information.

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## Maple Sugar Time at Gardens

International Friendship Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, will present its annual Maple Sugar Time from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 8.

The free event was rescheduled due to bad weather. At the cabin, visitors can have a treat and cup of tea sweetened with maple syrup. Volunteer Jude Rakowski collected and chopped wood all year to fuel the fires under the kettles of sap. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup.

Rakowski taps red maples on the edge of the 60-acre woods that surround the garden area at Friendship Gardens.

"It's not as good as sugar maple," she said, "but it still makes a nice syrup."

The kettles are boiled near the Native American garden she tends. She and other volunteers lay out a nature trail that visitors can take to the sugaring area. The self-guided trail is an easy 3/10 of a mile hike, with a booklet available to Garden visitors describing numbered points of interest.

Call the Friendship Gardens office at (219) 878-9885 for more information and to check for cancellation in case of bad weather.

## Bad First Sentence Contest

Westchester Public Library will host its annual "Bulwer Lytton Fiction Contest," a tongue-in-cheek event that encourages applicants to produce a deliberately bad first sentence to a fictional novel.

Compete for a prize in the following categories: horror, romance, western, sci-fi, action and adventure, mystery, prose, general and grand prize (best overall).

Each entry must be original and unpublished. Entries are limited to a single sentence and not to exceed 50 to 60 words. There is no limit on the number of entries. Visit [www.bulwer-lytton.com](http://www.bulwer-lytton.com) for examples.

Applications can be found at [www.wpl.lib.in.us](http://www.wpl.lib.in.us), as well as the Thomas Library Reference Department and Hageman Library. Entries can be submitted online or dropped off at the library. The contest runs March 1 through April 1, with winners announced April 6.

Visit or call the Thomas reference department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton, (219) 926-7696, or Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter, (219) 926-9080, for more information.

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## La Lumiere Competes in State Finals



Angela Feikes-Mofield



Grace Dybing



Hannah Fogel



Lenik Zaranski



Lydia Costello

For the sixth consecutive year, La Lumiere School's Academic Decathlon team competed in state finals held at Purdue University.

Students compete in three divisions determined by grade-point average: Honors, Scholastic and Varsity. The topic of this year's event was "New Alternatives in Energy: Ingenuity and Innovation." Students competed in 10 events, with objective tests in seven areas (art, economics, language and literature, mathematics, music, science and social science), as well as speech, interview and essay.

Lydia Costello, Chesterton, competed in the Honors Division and placed second in Speech, third in Mathematics and third in Economics. Grace Dybing, La Porte, competed in the Honors Division



Mary Keiley

and placed first in Art, first in Music and third in Science. Hannah Fogel, Manteno, Ill., competed in the Honors Division and placed second in Art, second in Essay and third in Social Science.

Mary Keiley, Rolling Prairie, competed in the Varsity Division and placed third in Language and Literature. Angela Feikes-Mofield, La Porte, competed in the Scholastic Division and placed first in Music, second in Art and third in Social Science.

Lenik Zaranski, Chesterton, competed in the Varsity Division and placed first in Science, second in Social Science and third in Mathematics. Emily Smith, Indianapolis, and Walker Wroblewski, Michigan City, also competed with the team. Olivia Dybing, La Porte, and Camryn Roberts, New Carlisle, served as alternates.

## Tourism Bureau Spotlights Artist

Visit Michigan City La Porte will feature work by artist Julia Holmaas on March 6 through May 4, with a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 4.

Holmaas created her first oil paintings at 10. Her inspiration came from Saturday morning art classes, as well as her parents. She received a degree in general biology, with a focus on botany. Afterward, she was employed with the National Park Service, starting in Carlsbad Canyons, then the Grand Canyon and back to Washington, D.C., where she was raised. She traveled the country for 17 years as exhibit planner, her headquarters at the time at Harpers Ferry, W.Va. She was employed until her retirement as Chief of Interpretation at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

She began painting in watercolor in 1992 while working as an exhibit curator at the NPS Design Center in Harpers Ferry.

Painting in watercolor and oil, she has won numerous awards for her work. She is a member of Area Artists Association, Chesterton Art Center and Southern Shore Art Association. She is active in Duneland Plein Air Painters and teaches beginning watercolor at The Art Barn School of Art and seminars for Michigan City Art League.

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**Zofia Glashauer, violin**

Sunday, March 15, 2015, 3:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth Street  
Free admission!



Violinist and MCCMF co-founder Nic Orbovich is presenting a free recital which will feature two of his longtime friends and colleagues (and MCCMF audience favorites!) Robert Auler and Zofia Glashauer.

The program will chart the history and development of the French school of violin playing, and promises to be enlightening, educational and fun! Works by Jean Marie LeClaire, Eugene Ysaye and exciting works by Gabriel Pierne and Henri Vieuxtemps, of which Nic has recently discovered, will be performed. Plus, some surprising R&B stylings from "Robbie"!

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

## Monday Night Ceramics

New sessions of Monday Night Ceramics are available, complete with new instructor Joel Pisowicz, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

The class will highlight basic pottery making methods, with students learning to create wheel-thrown or hand-built pottery that serves a specific function. Pisowicz also will introduce some history and provide exposure to international contemporary pottery. The goal is for each participant to leave with a better understanding of ceramics: the history and the actual process.

Pisowicz was raised in Porter and made his first pots at Chesterton High School, from which he graduated in 2010. He has been serious about making pottery for the past three years, and has finished his training in the Ceramics Bachelor of Fine Arts program at Indiana University-Bloomington.

Classes meet from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$135, with members receiving a \$25 discount. Students can buy 25 pounds of clay for \$25. All other supplies are included. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 to register.

## Humane Society Spring Fling

Michiana Humane Society's 17th Annual Spring Fling is Saturday, March 21, at Pottawattomie Country Club, 1900 Springland Ave., Michigan City.

This year's event has a safari theme, with guests digging for diamonds in the cocktail hour at 5 p.m., and later bidding on items during a live auction. Auction items range from a week vacation in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, to an artist's retreat in the mountains above Mexico City.

A cash bar is planned. Tickets are \$80 per person. Tables of eight may be reserved. Reservations are required by March 11 by calling (219) 872-4499 or at [www.michianahumanesociety.org](http://www.michianahumanesociety.org)

## St. Patrick's Day Parade

The annual St. Patrick's Day parade is at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 7, through Michigan City's Uptown Arts District.

Lineup starts at 11:45 a.m. at 10th and Franklin streets. The "Fun in Michiana Show" will broadcast live from 9 a.m. to noon at Ryan's Irish Pub at Fourth and Franklin streets.

Call Johnny Stimley at (219) 872-0361 for additional information.

## Maple Sugar Madness

Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich., will host Maple Sugar Madness at 1 or 3 p.m. EDT Sunday, March 8.

The cost is \$5 for adults. Call (269) 927-4832 for more information.

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## Indiana Master Naturalist Program

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso, will host a 10-week spring Indiana Master Naturalist program starting Thursday, March 12.

The hands-on learning experience and volunteer service opportunity teaches students about Northwest Indiana's native landscape and local wildlife. The course includes sessions on botany, zoology, geology, water ecology and wildlife conservation taught by area experts. Students also perform 30 hours of community service to earn their certificate.

The course runs through May 14. Classes are held Thursday mornings. The cost is \$100, with classes open to adults 18 and older. Participants should dress for the outdoors. Visit Taltree.org to print out an application or call (219) 462-0025.

The Indiana Master Naturalist program is sponsored by the Resource Conservation & Development Councils, Indiana Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service and Indiana Department of Natural Resources.



The American Red Cross La Porte County Chapter will sponsor a bloodmobile from noon to 6 p.m. Monday, March 9, at First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, La Porte.

Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 for more information.

## Michiana Resources Fundraiser

Michiana Resources, 4315 E. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, will host the first part of its semi-annual fundraiser, Trivia Fest, on Friday, March 13.

Held in the Michiana Resources gym, the cost is \$10 per player, with teams encouraged to register. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the contest at 7 p.m. A cash bar and limited food menu will be available.

Call (219) 874-4288 to register a team or for more information.



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## Levenfeld Back With Forum

Purdue University-North Central Sinai Forum welcomes Wendy Levenfeld, who returns as executive director for the Forum's 62nd season.

Levenfeld has been affiliated with the Forum for more than 20 years and served 17 years as executive director. Her job, she said, is to "do whatever is necessary to bring speakers of note to Northwest Indiana."



Over the years, Levenfeld stepped in to do whatever tasks needed to be done. She was responsible for fund-raising, writing grant proposals, negotiating contracts, selecting and overseeing the venue preparation, ticketing, scheduling the programs, dealing with speakers, agents and gatekeepers, writing or supervising all print materials, coordinating all book signings, dinners and receptions, emceeing the event, speaking wherever and whenever possible to service clubs and other groups about upcoming seasons and acting as chauffeur and tour guide, if necessary, once the speaker was in town.

The end result was a speakers series that included some of the most noted names in the country.

The Sinai Forum, originally known as the Sunday Evening Forum Series, was inspired by Michigan City residents Milton and Sylvia Bankoff, who envisioned bringing some of the top minds, opinion leaders and news makers to Michigan City to present important issues of the day in a town hall setting. The first season launched in 1954 and hasn't missed a year since.

Forum speakers have included Nobel Prize recipients, former heads of state, Pulitzer Prize winners, scientists, nationally recognized media personalities and famous performing artists.

Levenfeld played an instrumental role in bringing the Forum under PNC's stewardship in 2006.

The 2015-2016 season opens in September.

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## MCHS Competes at Regional Event



The Michigan City High School Science Olympiad team competed at Indiana University-Northwest's 14th annual Science Olympiad Regional tournament. The school competed in 23 events and against 14 other high school teams. Pictured are (front row, from left) Katie St. Germaine, Claire Werner, Christine Duers, Heather Kizer and Ruth Serrano. The back row is (from left) Rishi Verma, Grant Wozniak, Kristen Palmer, Ryan Solano, Austin Samys and Robert Gray. Not pictured is Robert Day.

## Lunch With the League

The League of Women Voters of La Porte County will hold Lunch With the League at noon Tuesday, March 10, at Mama Rosa's Family Restaurant, 402 W. U.S. 20, Michigan City.

La Porte County Treasurer Nancy Hawkins will discuss her responsibilities of collecting property, local income and other taxes, delinquent tax collection, the sale of real property to pay delinquent taxes, investment of tax funds and distribution of tax funds.

The program is free. Attendees order lunch from the menu. Contact Deborah Chubb at (219) 929-8787 or deborahchubb@live.com

## La Porte Jaycees Bowling Bash

The La Porte Jaycees will host the Seventh Annual Bowling Bash on Sunday, March 8, at Casey's Lanes, 610 Colfax Ave., La Porte.

Registration is at 1 p.m. and bowling at 2 p.m. The cost is \$60 per team of four. The event, which will have a March Madness theme, features three rounds of 9-pin, no-tap bowling. Cash prizes will be awarded for first-, second- and third-place teams, as well as the group with the most team spirit. Raffles are planned.

Call (219) 608-4155 or visit [www.facebook.com/LaPorteJaycees](http://www.facebook.com/LaPorteJaycees) for more information or to register a team.

## CALL THE BEACHER WITH YOUR NEWS!

Friday at Noon is the deadline for the following week's issue. (219) 879-0088



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## Activities to Explore

### In the Local Area:

**March 5-7** — Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, "Romeo and Juliet," 7 p.m. EST, Notre Dame's Philbin Studio Theatre. Tickets: \$20/adults, \$15/Notre Dame faculty & staff, \$10/students. Info: (574) 631-2800, [shakespeare.nd.edu](http://shakespeare.nd.edu)

**March 6** — Uptown Arts District First Friday art walk, 5-8 p.m., downtown Michigan City.

**March 6** — Chicago-based musicians Für Sermon, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Free.

**March 6** — Opening reception, "Herself: The Female in Image and Form," 5-8 p.m., Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St.

**March 6** — Art/performances by Michigan City High School students, 5-8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Family movie @ 7 p.m. Info: (219) 872-7200.

**March 6** — The Ranting Llamas, 7:30-9 p.m., Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Admission: \$10 @ door. Info/reservations: (219) 874-4035.

**March 6-8 and 13-15** — "Angel Street," La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St., La Porte. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri. & Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$12. Reservations: (219) 362-5113.

**March 6-9** — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Now showing: "Two Days, One Night." Rated PG-13. In French with English subtitles. Times: 6:15 p.m. Fri.-Mon. Also: the Oscar-winning "Citizen Four." Rated R. Times: 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Also: Oscar-nominated short films. Animation shorts: 9 p.m. Sat. Live action shorts: 9 p.m. Fri. All times Eastern. Info: [vickerstheatre.com](http://vickerstheatre.com)

**March 7** — Book signing/program, Matt Werner's "Season of Upsets," 1 and 3 p.m., La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte. Info: (219) 324-6767.

**March 7** — Parents Without Partners, Val-Porte-City Chapter 193, singles dance, 7:30 p.m., American Legion Skwiat Post 451, 121 Skwiat Legion Ave. Cost: \$8. Info: (269) 498-4062.

**March 7** — Annual St. Patrick's Day parade, 1 p.m., Michigan City's Uptown Arts District. Info: (219) 872-0361.

**March 7** — Free Gentle Flow Yoga, 12:15 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**March 7** — St. Patrick's Day Celebration Magic: Kalita!, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**March 7** — The Green Fire Movie!, 2 p.m., Nature Center Auditorium @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East (north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**March 7** — Downton Day, 2 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

**March 7-8 and 14-15** — Maple Sugar Time, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 & 20. Free. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**March 8** — Annual Maple Sugar Time, noon-3 p.m., International Friendship Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Free. Info: (219) 878-9885.

**March 8** — Jewish Film Festival, 1:30-4:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Free. Info: (219) 785-5200, Ext. 5593.

**March 8** — La Porte Jaycees Seventh Annual Bowling Bash, Casey's Lanes, 610 Colfax Ave., La Porte. Registration/1 p.m., bowling/2 p.m. Cost: \$60 per team of four. Registration: (219) 608-4155, [www.facebook.com/LaPorte.Jaycees](http://www.facebook.com/LaPorte.Jaycees)

**March 8** — Cooking with Thor & Local Chefs competition, 2-4:30 p.m., La Porte High School's cafeteria, 602 F St. Free. Registration/information: [youngerlife.org](http://youngerlife.org), (219) 326-2471.

**March 8** — Spring Skunk Search, 10 a.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East (north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**March 8** — Sunday Matinee, "Birdman," 1:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**March 10** — League of Women Voters of La Porte County Lunch With the League, noon, Mama Rosa's Family Restaurant, 402 W. U.S. 20, Michigan City. Info: (219) 929-8787, [deborahchubb@live.com](mailto:deborahchubb@live.com)

**March 10** — Bifocal Bookies, Renee Rosen's "What the Lady Wants," 1 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

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

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

#### Farther Afield:

**March 5** — Free gallery talks/film showing ("Joan Mitchell: Portrait of an Abstract Expressionist Painter"), 12:15 p.m. EST, The Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Info: [www.MidwestMuseum.US](http://www.MidwestMuseum.US), (574) 293-6660.

**March 6-8** — Genesius Guild, "Fiddler on the Roof," First United Methodist Church of Hammond Fellowship Hall, 6635 Hohman Ave. Times: 8 p.m. Fri./Sat, 3 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15, \$13/ students or seniors (62+). Available at door, or call (877) 724-7715.

**March 6-21** — "Nunsense," Elkhart Civic Theatre at Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times: 7:30 p.m. March 6-7, 13-14 and 20-21, 3 p.m. March 15. All times Eastern. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$15/students & seniors 62+. Reservations: (574) 848-4116, [www.elkhartcivictheatre.org](http://www.elkhartcivictheatre.org)

**March 7** — Deep Fried Pickle Project, 7 p.m. EST, 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](mailto:info@boxfactoryforthearts.org), [www.boxfactoryforthearts.org](http://www.boxfactoryforthearts.org)

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## PNC "Prove It" Seminar

Purdue University-North Central will offer a non-credit seminar open to high school and college students, as well as anyone wishing to quickly improve their writing.

"Prove It: Forming Evidence-Based Arguments," hosted by the Office of Graduate and Extended Learning, Department of English and Modern Languages and the PNC Writing Center, is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 19. The registration fee, which includes all materials and a pizza dinner, is \$25. The registration deadline is 4 p.m. Thursday, March 12.

The hands-on session, taught by Steven Vivian, published author and PNC Writing Center director, will include a lecture, and plenty of discussion and practice. It will teach participants how to write better argumentative essays. Special attention will be given to evaluating evidence.

Visit [tinyurl.com/pqbn46n](http://tinyurl.com/pqbn46n) or contact Cassandra Boehlke, coordinator of Graduate and Extended Learning, at (219) 785-5200, Ext. 5748, or [cboehlke@pnc.edu](mailto:cboehlke@pnc.edu) for more information or to register. People with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact (219) 785-5748.

## LaLu Science Olympiad Team

The La Lumiere Science team competed Feb. 14 in Indiana Science Olympiad's Goshen Regional.

The Lakers finished fourth out of 13 teams to earn a trip to the March 21 state finals at Indiana University-Bloomington

The following students earned medals:

### First Place

- Dynamic Planet — Oceanography: Janice Baek and Peter Zhang.
- Wright Stuff – Airplanes: Andy Hang, Eric Zhou.

### Second Place

- Cell Biology: Megan Gillen and Noah Schuster.
- Experimental Design: Emily Beach, Maggie Chen and Rowena Quinn.
- Geologic Mapping: Maggie Chen, Sean Russell.
- It's About Time: Ian Miner and Michael Wu.
- Scrambler: Shivani Patel and Michael Wu.
- Wright Stuff: Lee Li and Ian Miner.

### Third Place

- Forensics: Megan Gillen and Shivani Patel.

### Fourth Place

- Entomology: Noah Schuster and Max Zaccone.
- Protein Modeling: Megan Gillen, Shivani Patel and Noah Schuster.
- Scrambler: Zorba Chen and Eric Zhou.

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## MCHS Places at Japanese Olympiad

Michigan City High School teams finished second and third at the 2015 Japanese Olympiad of Indiana on Feb. 21 at Purdue University.

Level 3 students (students in their third year of studying Japanese) took second place in their division. Team members included Jennifer Banda, Sarah Lynch and Zach Weis.

The Level 4 team achieved third place. Members included Rachael Hennessy, Allen Murray and Steven Siegmund. A second Level 4 team (Becca LaFollette, Preston Mahaffey and Joanna Warnke) missed the final by one question and finished fourth in state.

At Level 2, where all team members made their competition debut, Dylan Kennedy and Andrew Werner-Boklund formed one level 2 team and placed seventh in state, while the team of Shelly Enriquez and Eryn Sitar missed the final by a mere two questions and placed fifth.

The Japanese Olympiad of Indiana is a day-long academic tournament for high school students. This year's event featured more than 100 students from 11 high schools across Indiana, including Carroll, Penn, Elkhart Memorial, Chesterton, Connersville, Michigan City, Valparaiso, Muncie Central, Bloomington North, North Central and Highland.

In the Olympiad, there are separate competitions for Level 2, 3 and 4 students, depending on how many years of Japanese the students have studied. They compete in a playoff against all other schools at the same level, with only the top three scoring teams advancing to the final. The competition is judged by Japanese professors, who are native speakers, from Indiana University, Ball State, Purdue, DePauw and Earlham College.

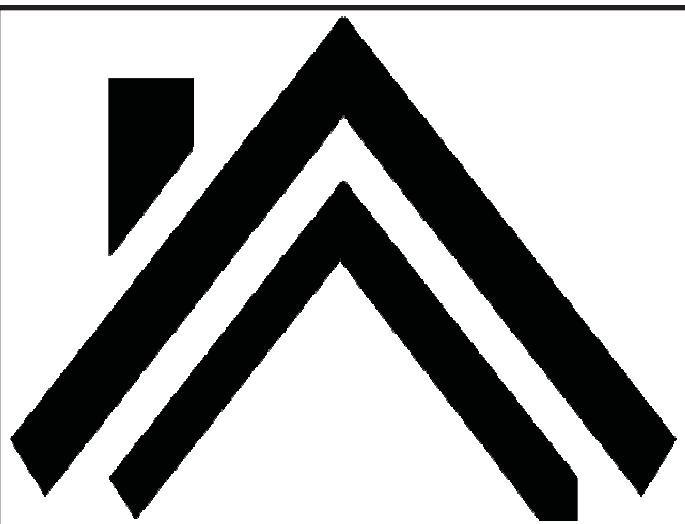
During the event, competitors and spectators learned about and enjoyed various aspects of Japanese culture, notably performances of traditional Japanese dance, sparring and practice by Purdue's Kendo Club, and a traditional tea ceremony.

## Basic Handgun Shooting Course

Michigan City Rifle Club, 4801 W. U.S. 20, will host an eight-hour National Rifle Association Basic Handgun Shooting Course at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 14.

The course introduces students to the knowledge, skills and attitude to safely own and use a handgun. Fees range from \$175 to \$125, depending on if participants take a handgun and ammunition or use club equipment. The fee includes light refreshments and lunch. Class size is limited, and preregistration with deposit is required.

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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

I am so excited about this week's books, my toes are tingling! Such storytelling, such feeling for the fears, foibles and fun of living I have rarely encountered. Do I gush? Most assuredly! That both of these amazing books crossed my desk at the same time is serendipity at its finest. Take a peek at this week's recommendations...

**Seasons of the Fool** by Lynne Cantwell (oversize paperback, \$9, available online and as a Kindle eBook)

Loved this story! I felt I was walking with Julia every step of her journey of self-discovery.

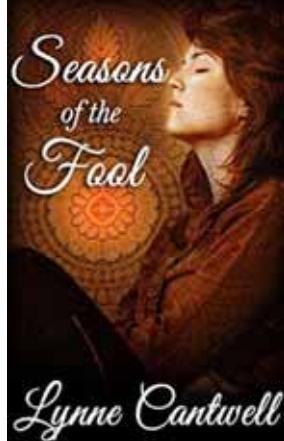
Is Julia Morton Michaud a fool? She thinks she has been making bad decisions all her life, and as for the men she's been with, well, that's a bad chapter all by itself. As we go through the seasons with Julia, you be the judge of her decisions. What would you do in her place?

Julia married Lance maybe too soon after her parents were killed in an accident. He was handsome, ambitious, always in charge. The big home in Evanston, Ill., wasn't enough. He had to have a condo in Chicago, too. Then, there were expensive vacations, and well, in retrospect, she should have questioned where the money was coming from. Now, with a divorce looming, Lance is being charged by the Securities and Exchange Commission with embezzling millions of dollars from unsuspecting clients.

Julia retreats to her grandparents home in Michigan, Mich. She always wanted to be a writer, so here is the perfect opportunity to regroup, rethink her life and work on her writing in the quiet Lake Michigan beach community. She never guessed her journey of discovery would include a place to reflect and look back on her life — a labyrinth right there in the middle of the peaceful woodlands.

Cantwell's characters, from Julia to Lance and the others who move through her life, are well defined people you can feel everything for, from love to disgust. Her feelings for a woman in transition like Julia make your heart ache as you turn each page hoping she will find the peace and future you just know she deserves. Maybe the two old ladies down the street will help her along--they are a lot more than they first appear to be!

Although she now lives in Washington, D.C., Cantwell grew up along Lake Michigan. A former broadcast journalist, she now writes fantasy novels and contributes to the suberbog Indies Unlimited. Her website is [hearth-myth.blogspot.com](http://hearth-myth.blogspot.com)



**What Solomon Saw and Other Stories** by Mary Dean Cason (oversize paperback, \$12.50, also available as a Kindle eBook)

What a collection! I could rave about all the stories in this volume, but there isn't the space, so here's a little preview:

Solomon of the title story is a tree, and if trees could talk...well, this one would laugh out loud! Young teens with growing bodies, and especially those girls who developed at an early age, and the boys who can't help but notice, make for a story both funny and memorable.

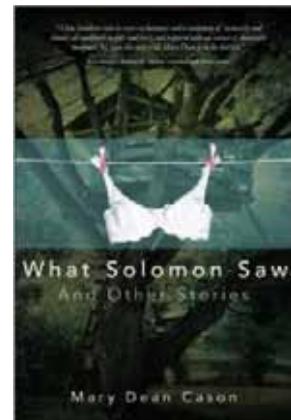
"Rich as Pluff Mud" takes us to Charleston, S.C., and the old families that survived wars and the economy, and the newly rich who clash and try to outdo each other. It's a sad story of one woman who wants desperately to have a baby, and another who can't stop having them. But it's much more than that. It's a story of a special place and three couples who wander in and out of each other's lives.

"A Whore For Thursdays" finds Gina facing the future without her husband of 40 years after a heart attack takes his life. Before he died, he wanted to talk to a priest. But why? He wasn't very religious, and after the funeral, Gina decides to get to the bottom of his confession. She will be surprised at where the journey will take her.

This is an amazing compilation of stories that can tug at your heart, make you feel happy, sad or surprised. But the one thing they all have in common is their ability to reach that unique point we call the human experience, with characters that literally jump off the pages.

Cason lives along Lake Michigan and is a featured writer at Chicago's Story Club. She also is co-founder of Indigan Storytellers and creator of Wine, Women and Stories, an Indiana literary salon. She is the recipient of several writing awards; her website is [marydeancason.com](http://marydeancason.com)

Till next time, happy reading!



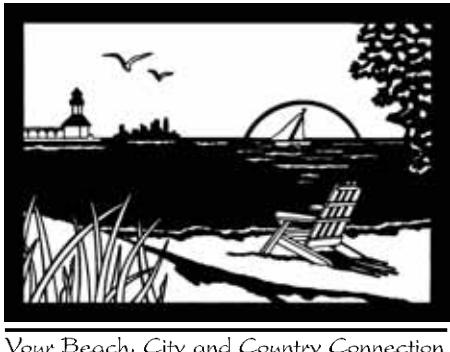
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### 222 El Portal

Nature, sandy beach and woodlands are all part of the surroundings of this well built home on a corner lot. This perfect getaway with total privacy includes 4 bedrooms, 4 baths and an open concept floor plan. Beautifully designed wood floors throughout the entire home. Exterior walls are built of concrete for superior insulation.

**\$430,000**



### 3737 Michiana Drive

Unique, contemporary home with outstanding architectural features is sited on the top of the dune for ultimate privacy. Three levels of living space including a crow's nest hideaway. Four bedrooms and four baths are split among the levels. A large living room, complete with fireplace, provides gathering space or plenty of room for relaxation. 390 sq. ft deck for your outdoor enjoyment.

**\$679,900**



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