



Volume 31, Number 10 Thursday, March 19, 2015

# ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

“Season of Upsets” Takes Writer on Three-Year Journey

by William Halliar

**T**

The black-and-white photo was 65 years old, the image of a jubilant high school basketball team tattered around the edges, frayed at the corners and faded by time.

For Matthew Werner, the picture was the catalyst for him to uncover the story of his uncle, Dean Werner, who died many years before he was born.

“Where else but in Indiana could a per-



The photo that started it all for Matthew Werner, the 1950 Union Mills sectional team. His uncle, Dean, is behind player No. 9.



Matthew Werner grew up in Union Mills and graduated from South Central High School.

son’s quest for family history end up uncovering an incredible untold story about basketball?” Matthew Werner writes in the introduction to his new book, “Season of Upsets.”

The photograph has been with Werner, 41, an exuberant college-level instructor in management and leadership, since his youth, when he found it while rummaging around in his family’s farmhouse attic. He’d always loved basketball and the image struck him, so he decided to claim it as his own and has carried it with him ever since, framed and hanging

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**ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE** Continued from Page 1

on his office walls from Bowling Green, Ky., to Chicago and Milwaukee, and finally to his latest position in Cincinnati.

Within the yellowed border outline, typical in photos of that vintage, a moment in time is forever captured. Ten boys of the Union Mills "Millers" basketball team huddle breathlessly around their coach and team manager, arms draped casually around each other's shoulders. Their hair is tasseled, uniforms rumpled and soaked in sweat, but their smiles bear the unmistakable glow of victory.

Werner's quest to uncover the story behind the photo spanned three years, culminating in him deciding to write the "best damn sports book that I possibly can."

Basketball was born during the harsh Massachusetts winter of 1891 when James Naismith, who was teaching at a Springfield YMCA, encountered a particularly rowdy class of student athletes filled with pent-up energy created by months of forced indoor inactivity.

Naismith's supervisor at the time, Luther Gulick, head of Springfield YMCA physical education, gave him the order to come up with an "athletic distraction." He was given 14 days to complete the task of creating a game that could be played indoors, would not take up much room and help the track athletes keep in shape in winter. Gulick added, "Make it fair for all players and not too rough."

Naismith studied the most popular games of the times: rugby, lacrosse, soccer, football, hockey and baseball. He narrowed his creativity to three main

thoughts. First, he decided his new game would use a big, soft ball, such as the one used in soccer. Second, he opted to limit physical contact, concluding that passing would be the main source of ball movement on the court. Finally, he decided to make the goal "unguardable," that is, he placed it high in the air, above the player's heads, forcing them to throw the ball in a soft lobbing shot to reach the goal.

Next came the rules by which the game should be played. This he scribbled on a piece of paper and hung on the wall of the gym for his rowdy gang of athletes to peruse before they began to play. Interestingly, these original rules did not include dribbling. At first, the only way to move the ball around the court was by passing. Two peach baskets were hung from the balcony railing on either side of the gym, about 10 feet from the floor. At first, the bas-

kets were complete, with bottoms only later to be modified to let the balls fall completely through.

Naismith logically christened his newly invented game "basketball."

The very first game was played in December 1891 in a Springfield YMCA gymnasium. In a written report about that first game, Naismith said, "*The class did not show much enthusiasm but followed my lead. I then explained what they had to do to make goals, tossed the ball up between the two center men and tried to keep them somewhat near the rules.*"

He continued. "*Most of the fouls were called for running with the ball, though tackling the man with the ball was not uncommon.*" In this first game, the players faced each other 9 vs. 9 on the court.

By 1893, basketball was introduced across the nation through the efforts of



James Naismith holds the type of basket used for the new game he invented.

the YMCA movement, which by its founding principles represented all that was best in the development of the body, mind and spirit, especially among the nation's youth.

In "Season of Upsets," in the chapter titled "Hoosier Hysteria," Werner writes that after that first game was played in 1891, *"Three years later the first known scheduled basketball game in Indiana was played in the town of Crawfordsville when its YMCA team beat the Lafayette team. From there Indiana changed forever and the game spread to industrial cities, hay lofts, border towns and everywhere in between. The people of Indiana didn't think of it as a game, but a part of life. And Hoosiers loved it."*

The indoor sport was a natural fit for high school athletic curriculums, and it was not long before the sport was found in high schools across the country, but it especially took root here in Indiana.



James Naismith

The Indiana High School Athletic Association was founded in 1903 and headquartered in Indianapolis. In 1925, Naismith was invited to attend a championship basketball game in Indianapolis and commented on the experience: *"As a guest of the IHSAA I had the opportunity to watch the effects of their state tourney"; it must be recalled that the desired 'effects' of the game were to match the YMCA's goals of the development of the body, mind and spirit."*

Naismith continued. *"The possibilities of basketball, as seen there, were a revelation to me. The striking features were the grade of basketball, the splendid spirit of the players and the unbounded enthusiasm of the fifteen thousand spectators who crowded the exposition building."*

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## ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Continued from Page 3

Eleven years later, Naismith was invited, once again, to attend state finals in Indianapolis, at which time he declared, “Basketball really had its beginnings in Indiana, which remains today, the center of the sport.”

And so, as Werner observes in his book, “Indiana changed forever,” and Hoosier Hysteria was born.

Werner subtitles his book “Farm boys, city kids, Hoosier basketball and the dawn of the 1950s.” He set out three years ago to discover the story behind the photo he carried with him for so many years. Who were these boys?



A billboard celebrating 100 years of “Hoosier Hysteria.”



The 1950 Elston Red Devils. Photo provided by Gene Gielow.

What of their coach, who the boys so lovingly embrace in the afterglow of victory? How had the experience of growing up in Indiana in the 1950s and being part of such a team colored their lives over the last 65 years?

Werner started interviewing a few people, beginning with his family. One story led to the next, he began to record the interviews and eventually spoke with more than 70 people who experienced the Indiana sectional season of 1950, a season he claims “Encompassed Hoosier Hysteria in all of its glory.”

No matter where he travels, Werner will always be an Indiana farm boy at heart. He grew up in Union Mills and graduated from South Central High School in 1992, and he

loved the game of basketball. That old, creased, faded photo of his uncle’s basketball team was a constant inspiration to him, and so in the spirit of “anything is possible,” he took the stories related to him about La Porte County and the 1950 Indiana State High School basketball season and started to plan a book.

Werner studied the great sport writers of the century, took a creative writing course and read many books, studying the craft until he finally found his voice. He has always enjoyed telling stories, and the ones he had heard in his interviews were so compelling, they needed to be recorded, compiled and re-told.

In reading, he discovered that many sports books are boring, filled with stats and figures, but missing the heart of the game. So, Werner tried to share the excitement, enthusiasm and emotions — both elation and sometimes pain — that fill a well-played game of hometown basketball.

In the end, the effort took three years in which he wrote, set the type, arranged the photos and created his own self-published book. He did have the aid of a professional editor who guided him along the way, and a friend who was expert in medical transcriptions help document the recorded interviews. The bulk of the herculean task, however, was his. He felt a need to publish his work quickly because many of the folks whom he inter-



St. Mary’s basketball team in 1950.



Wanatah's cheerleaders in 1950 included Bonnie Marks, Bessie Prowant and Shirley Scholz.

viewed are well up in years, and he wanted them to see their stories in print.

All of La Porte County's 15 schools, which were in operation in 1950, are represented in the book. Michigan City plays a major roll as Werner recounts, "even though it didn't win the sectional that year, it hosted the sectional in Elston gym and also stole the county tourney away from La Porte that season.

In the end, whether you win or lose, high school basketball in Indiana, indeed "Hoosier Hysteria," is all about the journey. A road traveled together by players, cheerleaders, the student body, mothers, fathers, grandparents and siblings young and old in La Porte County — all share in the adventure each season.

Speaking of the 1950 season, Werner says in the last chapter of his book, it was not so much about the games but, "it had been a great journey. The dances after the games, playing in the county tourney, sharing the County Conference Championship, the screaming fans at the Sectional, becoming the

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Springfield's cheerleaders in 1950.



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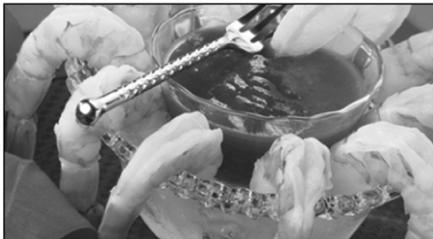
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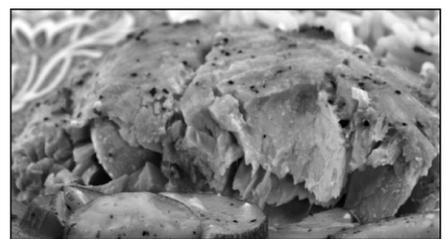
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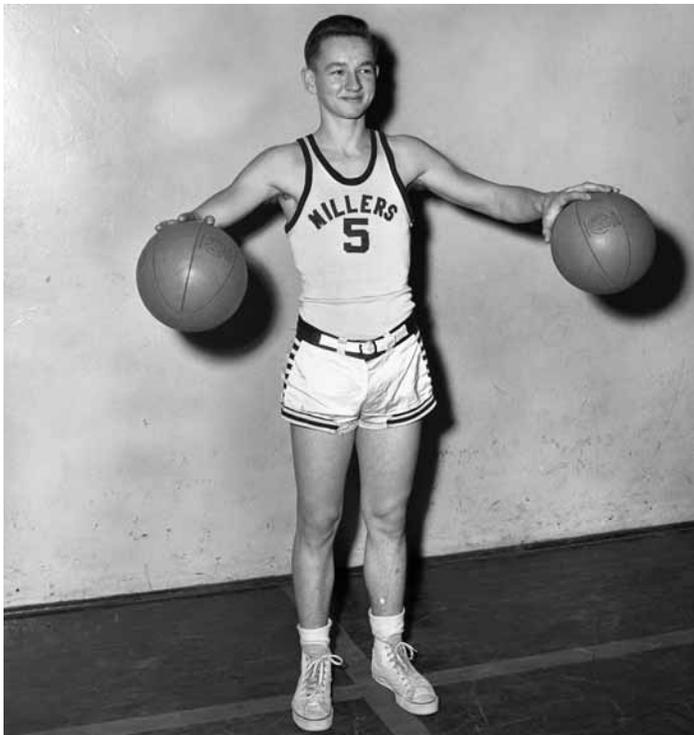
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# ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

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Dean Werner, Matthew's uncle, in 1950. He died in a farm accident eight years later at age 26.

*best team in the whole county, the pep rally on Monday morning in that cramped —oh, so cramped— gymnasium, filled with people. The cheer that went up when everybody let loose and expressed how much that victory meant to them.”*

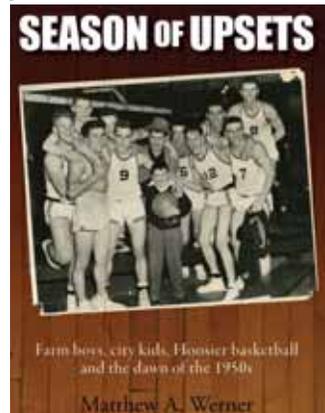
These stories are a part of all of us, who we are, what makes us Hoosiers, a belief that, indeed, anything is possible.

*(Matthew Werner provided The Beacher with most of the photos for this article. “Season of Upsets” can be purchased on Amazon or at La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La*



When Union Mills went to the regional, it had 600 tickets and only 500 people in town, so everybody left. Michigan City volunteered its police force to guard the town to keep it from getting wiped out while everybody was at the game.

*Porte, Dewey's Auto Supply, 10420 U.S. 30, Wanatah, Les & Pearl's, 612 Water St., Union Mills, Scarby's South Shore Pub, 1716 Franklin St., Michigan City, J-Mart BP Station, 10300 U.S. 30, Wanatah, or from any Union Mills Historical Society member.)*



The cover of “Season of Upsets.”



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**10 E. Fairwater, Beverly Shores.** Location-Location-Location! Just around the corner from the beach! Offering one level living w/ open floor plan, cook's kitchen w/ granite & SS, main flr bdrm/baths. Lower level walk-out fam rm & 2 guest bdrms/bath. 2 fireplaces, walls of windows overlooking huge private backyd. Deck, patio, scrnd porch. Easy drive into 2/c garage & one step access into house. The ultimate beach house! **\$479,000**



**NEW LISTING**

**120 Beachview, Beverly Shores.** They call it 'the treehouse'. 3 levels scaling the side of the dune offering 3 bdrms/2 baths, great room w/2-sided fireplace, newer kitchen. Spacious scrnd porch overlooking the backyard. Across the street from Lithaunica Park and couple blocks to the beach. Great weekend getaway or full time retreat. **\$329,000**



**SOLD**

**320 Idler, Beverly Shores.** Sweet split log cabin in the woods. Great room w/fireplace, 2 bedrooms & bath. Wide pine plank flooring. Wrap around deck. Handy storage shed. Hidden in the woods when trees are in full foliage. A perfect little dunes getaway. **\$259,000**



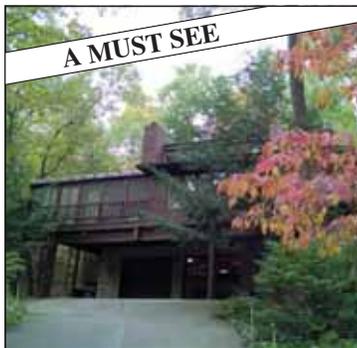
**SOLD**

**3 E. Stillwater, Beverly Shores.** Neat as a pin bi-level on beautiful sloping & wooded dune in one of the nicest neighborhoods in Beverly Shores. 3 bedrooms/2 baths. Large living room, dining room & updated eat-in kitchen. LL family room. 3 car garage. Few blocks to beach. **\$439,000**



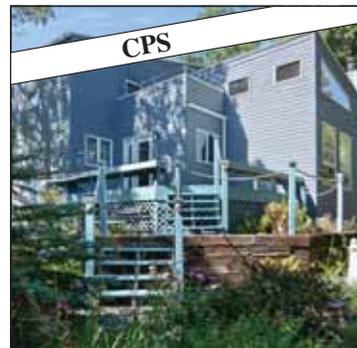
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**64 West Road, Dune Acres.** The most beautiful lakefront property along the Indiana shoreline. 3.5 acres of dunes, woods & swale, 422 feet of beach frontage. Belonging to the Flora Richardson Wildlife Foundation until recently sold. Lucky buyers will be building their dream home with forever views of the shoreline, Chicago skyline & those unforgettable sunsets. **\$1,975,000**



**A MUST SEE**

**26 W. Ripplewater, Beverly Shores.** Enjoy a beautiful stone fireplace from all formal spaces. Living rm, well appointed galley kitchen & spacious dining room open to a large screened porch. Walls of windows, hardwd flrg thruout, newly updated bathrms. Main floor bedroom/bath & two bedrooms & bath upstrs. Most rooms open to decks that surround the house. 2/c garage. Generator. Quiet...except for the neighborhood resident owl. **\$445,500**



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**21 W. Lakefront, Beverly Shores.** Imagine a living room that extends all the way to the sunset. High on a dune, spacious, well appointed, plenty of outdoor space, fab views, great beach. Central kitchen opens to all formal spaces and the screened porch. Private upstrs master suite w/balcony & best views. Lower level offers 3 guest bdrms/2 baths. Decks, balconies, 2/c garage & the best 13 mile stretch of beach you'll find anywhere. **\$975,000**



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## DuneLife Team Joins @properties Harbor Country

DuneLife Team joins @properties to offer clients sophisticated technology and marketing CHICAGO, February 10, 2015 – @properties, the largest independent real estate brokerage firm in Illinois and fastest-growing broker in Southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana, announced that the DuneLife team has joined the firm. The team will work out of @properties' Harbor Country office, serving the Dune Country area, which comprises Ogden Dunes, Dune Acres, Porter Beach, Beverly Shores and other nearby communities.

Headed by Ted Lelek, the DuneLife Team comes to @properties from McColly Real Estate in Schererville, Ind. The team consists of Lelek, Noreen Mitchell, Mark Hull, Linda Wiechnik-Goble and Michael Bill Smith. Together they have more than 50 years of combined experience in the Duneland area, specializing in a variety of property types ranging from lakefront homes to inland properties.

Previously, Lelek was the owner of Lakeshore Realty, where he developed a successful Ogden Dunes real estate office that served the entire Dune Country area for more than 20 years. Lakeshore Realty merged operations with McColly Real Estate in 2013.

Lelek said the move to @properties comes at a time when cutting-edge technologies are playing a bigger role in the real estate industry and changing the way brokers do business. He also looks to leverage the firm's growing presence in the Tri-State area.

"@properties continues to pave the way for real estate companies with new technologies and partnerships that benefit both the broker and client," said Lelek. "Many of our clients also come from Chicago, so this new affiliation will enable us to tap into the firm's large client base in Chicagoland and receive greater exposure."

"The DuneLife team has decades of experience in the area and knows Dune Country better than just about anyone," said George Schultz, vice president of brokerage services for @properties' Harbor Country office. "Their addition further enhances @properties' reputation as the leading brokerage firm in Southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana."

### About @properties

Established in 2000, @properties is the largest independent real estate brokerage firm in Illinois and one of the top 20 residential brokers in the U.S. @properties has 17 office locations in the city, northern suburbs and southwest Michigan.

For more information, visit [www.atproperties.com](http://www.atproperties.com).

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# MUSIC to the EARS

## Peter van de Graaff Loves Performing With LCSO

by Kayla Weiss

Sunday's La Porte County Symphony Orchestra concert will mark the third time Peter van de Graaff has performed with the group.

Having the opportunity to do so is something he cherishes.

"Whenever the opportunity arises for me to be a part of the LCSO, I jump at it because I just enjoy working with everyone so much," he said. "Everyone in the LCSO is very good at what they do, because they love what they do.

"Sometimes, you perform with people who are there just to do their job, but not this group. It's always fun to perform with people who just love the music and what they are doing."

Music Director Philip Bauman will lead the LCSO when it presents its IU Health La Porte Hospital Classic Concert, featuring works by Bach, Bruckner and Brahms, at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at Michigan City's Elston Performing Arts Center, 317 Detroit St. The concert will feature works such as Bach's Cantata 140 "*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*," Bruckner's "*Te Deum*" and Brahms' "Symphony No. 2."



Peter van de  
Graaff



Jori Jennings



Emanuel-Cristian  
Caraman



Sarah Gartshore

Illumination is a 20-voice ensemble featuring singers from Chicago, Rolling Prairie, Lafayette, Michigan City and points in between. Their professions range from college students to college professors, teachers, a preacher, nurses and stay-at-home mothers.

Van de Graaff has been performing for the past 42 years, ever since he was a little boy. His parents weren't very musical, but they did have a piano. He would beg his parents for piano lessons. Finally, they gave in. It didn't take long for him to become completely enraptured with music.

"You know how a lot of parents have to keep on their kids about coming in from outside to practice their instruments? Well, my parents had the opposite problem. I was glued to that piano. They kept getting on my case to go outside and play with my friends, because I just wouldn't leave that piano alone," van de Graaff laughed.

The LCSO enjoys exploring pieces of musical literature from across the genres, never shying away from an artistic challenge. It is eager to engage in different performance mediums, from live video feeds so children can see the performers on stage to vocal competitions. Nothing is off limits.

"I love being a part of the recreation of musical masterpieces," van de Graaff said. "Every day, I get to get inside some of the greatest minds of the world. That's what is so amazing to me, being able to be surrounded by all of this beautiful music and being able to share it with others."



The concert will include Northwest Indiana Symphony Chorus and Illumination. Soloists include van de Graaff, soprano Sarah Gartshore, *mezzo soprano* Jori Jennings and tenor Emanuel-Cristian Caraman.

Established in 1987, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Chorus has performed with the symphony in everything from Requiems to Reggae. It is the choral component of the Symphony Society, performing regularly for the Halloween and Holiday Pops Concerts, and joining the orchestra for major works in the Maestro Series.

### If You Go

Tickets, which range from \$18 to \$20, are available at [www.lcso.net](http://www.lcso.net), at the door or at:

- La Porte Savings Bank, 710 Indiana Ave., La Porte
- LR Men's Clothier and Tuxedos, 205 Lincolnway, La Porte.
- Roxy Music, 1012 Lincolnway, La Porte.
- Visit Michigan City La Porte Visitors Bureau in Marquette Mall, Michigan City.
- Arturo's Baked Goods & More, 2613 U.S. 12, Michigan City.



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# Wolf Pack Round Up!

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25**

**5:30 P.M.**

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# "CITY, YOU GOT THIS!"

## Call for Entries

April 12 is the entrance deadline for two new exhibits through South Bend Museum of Art.

The first is for large-scale 2-D and 3-D artwork for long-term display in "Sightlines," a collaborative project between SBMA and The Century Center. The two-year exhibit will highlight four new artists alongside two current artists. Indoor and outdoor sites are available.

Artist submission review and selection will be done by SBMA and Century Center representatives. A \$1,000 stipend is allotted for each selected artist. A modest printed piece will be produced.

Exhibit dates are June 20 through May 14. Visit [southbendart.submittable.com](http://southbendart.submittable.com) for full details and to apply online.

The second event is the all-media "Biennial 28," which offers a diverse look into contemporary work in the Midwest open to artists in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The number of exhibiting artists is deliberately limited to allow for a greater body of work by each artist. About \$1,500 in prizes will be awarded by the juror and up to \$1,500 in purchase awards by SBMA's Collections Committee. There is a \$30 entry fee.

Staci Boris, Elmhurst Art Museum chief curator since 2012, is the juror. She served as senior curator at Chicago's Spertus Museum from 2004 to 2009, and was responsible for shaping and overseeing its exhibition program. She lives in Chicago.

Exhibit dates are July 5 through Sept. 27. Visit [southbendart.submittable.com](http://southbendart.submittable.com) for full details and to apply online.

## ASL Club Coffeehouse

The Purdue University-North Central American Sign Language Club will host an ASL Coffeehouse from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 20, at Uptown Café, 1400 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso.

The coffeehouse is open to ASL students, as well as community members and children with a parent or adult. Participants are asked to use ASL for conversation. Coffee, food and drinks may be ordered throughout the evening.

Future coffeehouses are April 17 and May 15. Some may feature a guest speaker at about 6 p.m.; otherwise, guests may take decks of cards and games to play.

Information about the club may be found at [www.aslclub.info](http://www.aslclub.info). Information about other events in the community is posted at [www.nwideaf.org/deafevents.htm](http://www.nwideaf.org/deafevents.htm). The PNC ASL Club and Northwest Indiana Deaf Community are on facebook.

Additional information is available at [pncasl-witulski@yahoo.com](mailto:pncasl-witulski@yahoo.com)



# Wolf Pack Round Up!

**3:30 TO 6:30PM**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25**

(BARKER MS, KRUEGER MS, MICHIGAN CITY HIGH SCHOOL)

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26**

(ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS)



All school buildings will be open during Parent/Teacher conferences for parents, students, & community

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*MEET TEACHERS, COUNSELORS, and PRINCIPALS*

*FIND OUT WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOUR STUDENT*

*AT THE NEXT LEVEL*

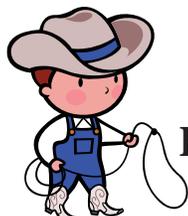


### Check us out....

- ✓ See elementary magnet programs in STEM (Lake Hills) and the Arts (Pine)
- ✓ Visit our award-winning Environmental Science Middle School (Krueger) and STEM Middle School (Barker)
- ✓ Find out about the services we offer for special-needs students
- ✓ Check out GT Centers for high-ability students (Joy, Knapp, Springfield)
- ✓ Discover how you will save THOUSANDS \$\$\$\$ on college tuition through dual credit, and AP programs (MCHS)
- ✓ Learn about Career & Technical Education programs like the Energy Academy, PLTW Engineering, Construction Trades and more (MCHS)
- ✓ Hear from outstanding high school students who are headed to top-tier colleges and universities (MCHS)
- ✓ Get the scoop on Early College and Honors College (MCHS)
- ✓ Explore the MANY opportunities for athletics, clubs, and activities



## “CITY, YOU GOT THIS!”



**PLUS: Kindergarten (and PreK)  
Round Up for 2015-16 @ all elementary  
schools on March 26 (10am-6pm)**



*Public, Private,  
Charter and  
Home-schoolers  
welcome!*

# SAFE PASSAGE

## Michigan City Power Squadron Helps Educate the Public

by William Halliar

What could be more fun than a hot summer's day spent with friends and family on the waters of Lake Michigan?

Working to create a safe, enjoyable environment for all who venture onto the Great Lakes is the Michigan City Power Squadron. Established in 1961, it has been responsible for many memorable and safe boating seasons on Lake Michigan through classes in seamanship, navigation, first aid and many other subjects vital to the boating public's safety.

Those of us who have grown up with one of the Great Lakes in our own backyard know that Lake Michigan has its "moods." At times, the surface is smooth as glass, with small ripples gently caressing the sandy beaches. Other times, the waters can be an angry steel gray color with waves crashing against the beach.

It is estimated that as many as 6,000 shipwrecks are scattered on the bottom of our lake alone, attesting to the fact that anyone venturing far from shore must remain alert to the lake's changing moods.

A 2013 survey of drownings in the Great Lakes (2013 Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project) found that of the 101 fatalities, 50 occurred in Lake Michigan.

The U.S. Power Squadron, of which our Michigan City squadron is a chapter, was founded as a non-profit organization in 1914. The idea had its beginnings in 1909 when Roger Upton, a Boston Yacht Club member, became fascinated with the idea of equipping pleasure craft with the "newfangled" internal combustion engine.

Up until this time, of course, sail was the only practical source of propulsion, and it had its advantages as well as disadvantages. A becalmed vessel, no matter the size or design, or how experienced the captain and crew, was dead in the water until a breeze could be found. This fact did not discourage the many who sailed for the pure pleasure of it, but to those with pressing matters ashore, the delays

could be frustrating, as well as dangerous in the case of an emergency.

Steam engines had become somewhat common place amid pleasure sailing fleets since shortly after Robert Fulton's *Claremont* plied the waters of the Hudson River in 1807, but these engines were expensive and required an experienced crew to fire and maintain them.

The reliability of the power supplied by internal combustion engines, and their relative simplicity and ease of operation, fascinated Upton. He had one installed in his 50-foot *Ketch, Nirvana*, so he could maneuver and return to port, no matter the direction or conditions

of the prevailing winds.

In 1912, Upton was elected "Commodore" of the Boston Yacht Club, and in 1914 he established a "club within a club" in the form of the "Power Squadron." In a 1914 article, he wrote; *"To my mind, the organization can be of use to yachtsmen for three major reasons; first, improvement in navigating ability of power-boat owners; second, promotion of acquaintance and social intercourse by the power-boat owners; third, the fitting of power-boat owners to be of possible use to the Navy in time of war so that they might be received as volunteers should they so desire."*

The fledgling power-boat technology created a need for new ideas in education. The country's laws concerning navigation and the handling of water craft, at the time, applied only to steam and sail. These laws were governed by a board of steamboat inspectors who held the owners of "stinkboats," as



Roger Upton's ideas were the basis for The U.S. Power Squadron.



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power-boats were called, in contempt. These steamboat inspectors wanted to hold the power-boaters to the same stringent rules as ocean liners and steam-powered vessels.

Upton and fellow founders of the U.S. Power Squadron, to protect their new-found sport from these harsh inspectors, and to protect the reputation of its followers from the more ignorant and foolhardy of the group, established official rules and framed a stringent examination. Only by passing a complex test in advanced piloting and navigation would a member be allowed into the club, and be allowed to fly the designated ensign from their stern. Members acknowledged from that time forward were held in great esteem by fellow boaters.

News of the Boston Yacht Club's activities began to spread across the country. Because of the utility and merit of the idea, and the need for education, the U.S. Power Squadron was incorporated on Feb. 19, 1915. Educational courses were formalized and examinations established with the goal of creating a safe boating environment across the nation.

Today, The U.S. Power Squadron has approximately 45,000 members organized into 450 squadrons across the country and in some U.S. territories. The Power and Sail Squadron of Canada also maintains close ties with its sister organization in the U.S. The squadron is America's largest non-profit boating organization and has been honored by three U.S. presidents, beginning with Franklin Roosevelt, for its "civil contributions."

The Michigan City squadron in-



The Michigan City Power Squadron strives to create a safe, enjoyable environment for all who venture onto the Great Lakes.

cludes members with power-boats and sailing craft. According to the organization's present commander, Bill Jenkins, it "consists of some very dedicated people who have worked very hard to make it a success, and through the years have trained and educated hundreds, if not thousands, of people to help them enjoy recreational boating safety."

While shelf ice still clogs Trail Creek, and the warm and lazy days of summer

are still a far-off dream, the Michigan City squadron is kicking off the 2015 boating season with a six-week course on "Basic Boater Safety." It is for anyone interested in having fun in a safe atmosphere around today's powerful and speedy watercraft. The classes will be held at B&E Marine, 31 Lake Shore Drive in Michigan City, in the customer lounge. The first class is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 24. Attendees will receive a certificate for successful completion of the course.

Jenkins stresses his appreciation for the support his group has had from B&E Marine over the years, with B&E Sales Coordinator Gretchen Demko calling the educational opportunity "fantastic."

Other courses are offered by the squadron during the boating season through the educational department of the USPS. Some of these include: Advanced Powerboat Handling, Anchoring, Basic Coastal Navigation and Basic Weather Forecasting. These courses, as well as instructions covering advanced subjects such as Marine Radar, Navigation and the Mariner's Compass, add to the enjoyment and safety of the ever popular sport.

The Michigan City squadron has received a first-place national ranking for its educational courses, which are organized by Assistant Educational Officer Larry Fleck, who recently won the Edward F. Chapman Award for Educational Excellence in Teaching.

The squadron meets monthly and has hosted speakers addressing topics of interest to everyone who lives near Lake Michigan. Recent speakers have included: John Taylor, an expert on weather and the technology available to boaters for forecasting marine weather; Mike Thieneman, a cruising captain from St. Joseph Mich., who recounted experiences encountered during his three-year circum-



Michigan City Power Squadron Commander Bill Jenkins holds the group's charter.



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**Safe Passage** Continued from Page 15

navigation of the world; a marine engineer who discussed 1,000-foot, heavy haul, lake boats and their interaction with recreational boaters. Representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard have made presentations concerning safety do's and don'ts for boaters, and the Michigan City Fire Department has demonstrated proper use of fire extinguishers.

Jenkins also stresses that when you are on Lake Michigan, out of sight of shore or off a sparsely populated coast, it is important to know basic first-aid practices and CPR. A quick reaction by a trained boater could save a life. Courses on these subjects also are included in the squadron's curriculum.



Attendees at a previous Michigan City Power Squadron class held at B&E Marine.

Another important service is annual boat safety inspections. Jenkins said the squadron is not a law-enforcement entity, its main function being education, but it will point out to boaters problem areas on their vessels and make recommendations for corrections. The resulting certificate ensures the boater's safety throughout the season and guarantees passage by Coast Guard inspectors.

Of course, membership in the squadron is not confined to serous issues. Friendships are made between folks who share such a wonderful common interest. Each year, the squadron holds a June cook-out and a Christmas party in which members and their families share the stories of their adventures on the waters.

Boating safety, however, is a concern for everyone on the water, including swimmers, water skiers and owners of personal watercraft. By learning responsible boat operation, etiquette and the rules of the waterways, those of us who take advantage of our lakefront parks and beaches can ensure a safe and memorable summer season for all.

*(For information about upcoming classes or to join the squadron, visit them on facebook, email Jenkins at jenkinswc@gmail.com or call him at (219) 928-6118. More information also is available at wwww.BEmarine.com)*

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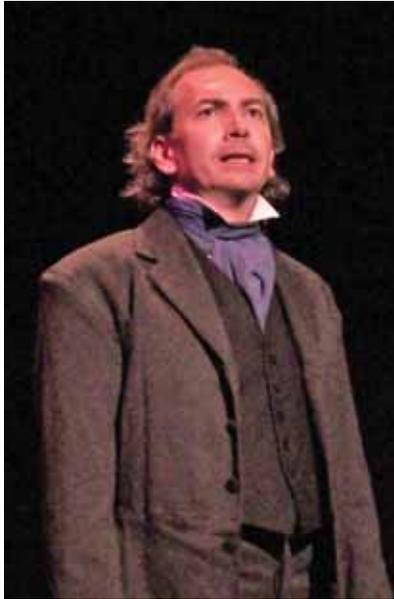
## “The Player King” Arrives From Los Angeles

On the heels of “Bette Davis: On the Edge,” Festival Players Guild will present another one-person tour de force: Los Angeles actor/director/writer Darin Dahms and his acclaimed production, “The Player King.”

The piece is inspired by the lives of Edwin Booth, Junius Brutus Booth and John Wilkes Booth, and is set sometime during the year following President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination. Edwin Booth, perhaps the greatest Shakespearean actor in American history, has been forced to quit the stage because of his brother’s heinous crime. He is questioning whether he can return to the theater after the tragedy that has befallen his family.

Part soliloquy, part memory play, “The Player King” is Edwin’s personal investigation into his relationship to his art, and a search for an answer to the question, “What does it mean to be an actor?”

Dahms hails from Mishawaka and began his professional career at Red Barn Summer Theatre, Frankfort, Ind. He won Best Director-Local and Best



Darin Dahms in “The Player King.”

Producer at the 18th Annual NAACP Theatre awards in Los Angeles. He has a Bachelor of Arts in acting from Indiana University-South Bend and a Master of Fine Arts in acting from the University of South Carolina. He is a member of The Actor’s Studio.

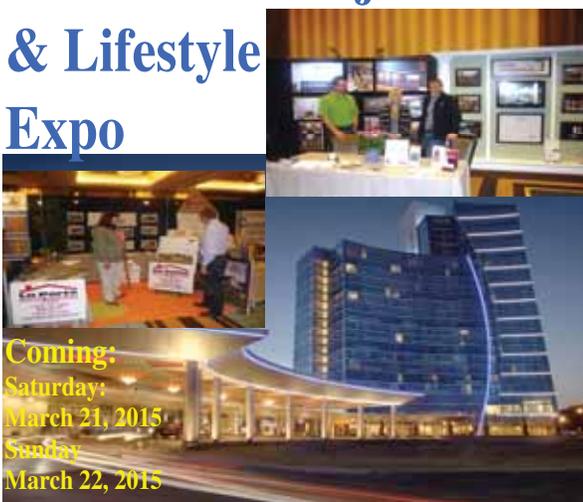
Of “The Player King,” critic Mor-na Murphy Martell wrote, “*This is a one-man show but actually, under the spell of playwright-performer Darin Dahms, there are three distinct men on stage, all fully realized and fascinating....Brilliantly written and performed, this is a must-see for lovers of Shakespeare and students of history.*”

Tickets are \$20, with discounts for seniors and students. There is a mild amount of strong language and adult situations that would make it the equivalent of a PG-13 movie; however, the show is appropriate for most ages.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 20-21 and 27-28, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 22 and 29, at Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St., Michigan City. Call (219) 874-4269 for reservations.

### Builders Association of LaPorte County

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**Call Builders Assn 219-326-0624 to register  
Or see [www.balc.org](http://www.balc.org) and click on home show tab.**

# Maple Sugar Time



Park rangers, alongside volunteers, revealed how maple tree sap has been used over the years during the annual event, held March 7-8 and 14-15 at Chellberg Farm. Visitors could drill a tap hole, use old-fashioned yolk to carry heavy sap buckets and try free samples of pure maple syrup.

Photos by Bob Wellinski



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## “Presenting the Maple City Four”

“Presenting the Maple City Four,” a tribute to the popular singing group with La Porte ties, runs through May at La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

One day in October 1924, three fellows were enjoying a meal together in La Porte when they heard about a singing audition for the Elk Lodge’s annual talent show. They won a spot in the show, billed as the Maple City Four. Their first radio experience came in 1926, doing some campaign spots. They auditioned for WLS and were signed. The group was as well-known for its crazy antics and goofy costumes as it was wonderful harmonies, which dubbed them “the four Marx Brothers of radio.” Companies used them to showcase products, from Kellogg’s cereal to Caterpillar tractors. In 1937, they performed as singing cowpokes in two films starring Gene Autrey and Roy Rogers.



The Maple City Four pictured in their goofy costumes.

In 2007, recordings, photos, scrapbooks and other memorabilia were donated to the La Porte County Historical Society. Rare copies of “Whispers in our Maple Tree,” the yearbook put out by the MC4 Fan Club, will be shown, as well as original songbooks used by the “boys.” Also featured will be snapshots on location in Hollywood showing Trigger himself.

Members of the original Maple City Four were: Fritz Meissner, tenor, Pat Petterson, bass, and Art Janes, baritone, all of La Porte, and Al Rice, lead, from New Jersey. In 1941, Janes retired for health reasons and Charles Kerner joined the group.

Call (219) 324-6767 or email [info@laportecounty-history.org](mailto:info@laportecounty-history.org) for more information about the exhibit.

## Community Spell Bowl

Read La Porte County Inc. invites organizations, businesses and individuals to participate in its Community Spell Bowl on Wednesday, March 25, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 181 W. McClung Road, La Porte.

Adult teams can be comprised of up to four players, who confer and use paper and pencil in their deliberations. Teams compete against each other by accumulating points for each correctly spelled word. Word lists are available to study as preparation. Teams also are encouraged to decorate their tables to win the Spirit Award.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for registration, with the tournament starting at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments and a cash bar are planned.

Contact Mary Hedge at [mhedge8@comcast.net](mailto:mhedge8@comcast.net) or (219) 325-0875 for more information.

## Watercolor Class

Dick Church will offer a six-week Beginning/Intermediate Watercolor Class starting from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, March 27, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Church will lead students through techniques aimed at everyone from the first-time painter to the mildly experienced.

The cost is \$70, with members receiving a \$5 discount. There also is a \$10 board and pattern fee. Other supplies are not included. Church will discuss supplies with all beginners to start the class. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 to register. Visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) for more information.

## Duneland Historical Society

Duneland Historical Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

To celebrate the birthday of Alice Grey (also known as Diana of the Dunes, born March 25, 1881), Westchester Township History Museum staff Joan Costello, Susan Swarmer and Serena Sutliff will present her story through photographs, newspaper articles and diary excerpts.

All Historical Society monthly programs are free and open to the public. Memberships are available. Call (219) 983-9715 for additional information.

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### Baby Steps

*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 Trainer Shannon Rockstad.*

Often times, when people set out with a new workout regime or diet, they have general goals in mind. Some examples are: lose 50 pounds, be skinny, lose my stomach or get back to my high school weight.

The problem with general goals is, they are hard to measure, and to stay motivated to achieve. Going back to losing 50 pounds, for instance. It is measurable, but tough. Sometimes, it resembles a dream, not something you can track and reach.

When setting goals for your body and health, I suggest setting small ones that eventually lead to the big result you want. Baby steps build on each other to create a solid foundation that can eventually lead anywhere in the world of fitness.

A personal example is when I started running after a knee injury. I was pretty out of shape, and scared to make anything worse, but I loved running. Once my knee felt strong enough from physical therapy, I began to run just a mile at a time. Eventually, two miles felt good, and that's what I stuck to for the better part of four months. By the next year in school, I had upped my miles to three. Before I was graduated that spring, I was training for a marathon. The process for the marathon took about two years starting from my therapy. That is a considerably short time, but it still shows that without building on top of the small goals, a big one does not occur.

So, next time, when you are setting out to achieve health, lose weight or even get stronger, remind yourself to have small goals that help you achieve the big one. Slow and steady is the key when it comes to achieving anything large.

### Check Out "Red Tape" on Facebook

We sent *Beacher* photographer Maureen Rice to Walnut Ink Projects on Friday, March 6, to cover the performance-based installation "Red Tape." The colors in Maureen's photos are so vibrant, we want you to experience them in color. Visit our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/thebeacher911](http://www.facebook.com/thebeacher911) to check out the photo album we've created of the event.

### Polish-American Cultural Society

Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana, Michigan City Chapter, will meet at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, at the former St. Mary School, 321 W. 11th St.

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## Author Visits ND Second-Graders



Sean Brennan appears with Trish Baczkiewicz's second-graders at Notre Dame School.

Local author Sean Brennan visited Trish Baczkiewicz's second-graders at Notre Dame School on Feb. 27 to tell a story and teach a workshop.

Asked to visit by his 8-year-old neighbor, Bud McLinden, Brennan visited the class and read one of his Irish tales, "Nora Corrigan and the Leprechaun," from his recently published memoir, "Bridie's Boy." For each child, Brennan personally autographed his "Bridie's Boy" bookmark, which shows him as an 11-year-old altar boy.

Halfway through the signing, Maggie, a student

in the class, spotted the author writing the wrong date on the bookmarks. Another pupil, Benjamin, wanted to know why he looked sad in the picture.

Brennan gave the class a homework assignment, to write a paragraph about what he/she liked best about the workshop. "Reread each sentence that you write at least twice before you move on," the author stated.

The experience, Brennan said, was wonderful.

"I had more fun than the kids," he said. "Their innocence and sincerity is priceless."

## Medieval Times Art Class

Marsha Browne will teach a Medieval Times art class from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 26-27, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

The class is meant for children ages 6-11. Students will explore King Arthur and the legend of Camelot by creating castles and family crests. Children will design two-dimensional art using mixed-media techniques.

The cost is \$30, with members receiving a \$5 discount. All supplies are included. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 to register. Visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) for more information.

## Presidents Program at NB Library

The Friends of New Buffalo Library's presentation "U.S. Presidents: The Great, Near-Great and Not-So-Great" is at 6 p.m. EDT Monday, March 23, at the library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Previously cancelled due to weather, the popular program features Tim Moore of Lake Michigan College, who will share his Presidential Ratings Game that ranks the nation's leaders.

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



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## Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available through Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:

- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 20, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.

- **Help improve “Your Neighborhood National Park” during the volunteer opportunity from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 21.**

Activities may include removing invasive species or planting native flowers, depending on the day’s conditions. Call (219) 395-1661 to learn the location.

- **Join fellow dog owners for a hike through Miller Woods’ oak savanna habitat from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 21, at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Make sure your pet is leashed, and take a bag to pick up after it. Donated dog treats will be available to reward good behavior. Those interested can hike another couple of miles to Marquette Lagoon.

- **Parents and toddlers can participate in the new Nature Tot’s program from 10 a.m. to noon the second Wednesday of each month at the Paul H. Douglas Center.**

Children 2-4 will learn about nature through a ranger-led story time, 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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# PERFECT DAY FOR A PARADE



Clear skies and warmer temperatures drew nice-sized crowds to the annual St. Patrick's Day parade on March 7. The route began at 10th and Franklin streets and headed north through the city's Uptown Arts District.

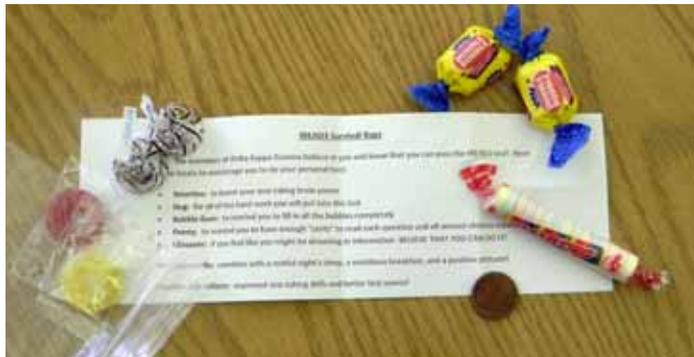


Photos by Bob Wellinski



## IREAD3 Survival Kits

Delta Kappa Gamma members assembled small student survival kits to encourage Michigan City Area Schools third-graders to do their best on Indiana's high stakes reading test, IREAD3.



Items included in the survival kits.

The "IREAD3 Survival Kits" included Smarties (to boost their test-taking brain power), Hershey Hugs (for all the hard work they will put into the test), bubble gum (to remind them to fill in all the bubbles completely), Lifesavers (if they feel like they are drowning in information, believe they can do it!) and a penny (to remind them to have enough "cents" to read each question and all answer choices carefully).

The kits were distributed to MCAS' eight elementary buildings. All third-grade teachers and special-education teachers received a small gift to let them know Delta Kappa Gamma believes in their efforts to get students ready for the test. Principals were thanked for their leadership and guidance, and staff members in the elementary buildings were sent best wishes for success on the test.

IREAD3 was held March 12-18.

Delta Kappa Gamma is an international organization comprised of retired and working female educators.

## Exhibit Symposium

Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art, in conjunction with its exhibit "Inner Visions: Sacred Plants, Art and Spirituality," will present a symposium from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 25.

Sessions are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Harre Union, Ballroom A, with the panel discussion at 7 p.m. in the Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources Community Room.

The symposium schedule is:

- 9 to 10 a.m. — Rebecca (Stone) Bailey, "Uncovering the Imagery of Sacred Plants in Ancient American Art: Five Major Plant Teachers."
- 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. — William Richards, "Sacred Knowledge: Religious Experiences and Psychedelic Sacraments."
- 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. — lunch break.
- 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. — Rick Harlow, Shaman of Colors.
- 3 to 4 p.m. — Dennis McKenna, "Waking Up the Monkeys: Plant Teachers and the Rediscovery of Nature."
- 4 to 7 p.m. — dinner break.
- 7 to 8:30 p.m. — Panel discussion moderated by exhibit curator Luis Eduardo Luna and featuring panelists Anderson Debernardi, Rebecca Bailey, Rick Harlow, Dennis McKenna and William Richards. Panelists will discuss works in the museum's exhibit, as well as larger themes and questions treated in sessions earlier in the day.

The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, runs through April 5. Visit [valpo.edu/artmuseum](http://valpo.edu/artmuseum), email [gregg.hertzlieb@valpo.edu](mailto:gregg.hertzlieb@valpo.edu) or call (219) 464-5761 for more information.

## Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered through Indiana Dunes State Park:

### Saturday, March 21

#### • 10 a.m. — Morning Bird Crafts.

Join a naturalist at the Nature Center to explore different seeds birds like, then make special bird feeders.

#### • 2 p.m. — Spring Walk.

Meet at the Nature Center for a casual walk to the wetlands and back to discover signs of spring.

### Sunday, March 22

#### • 10 a.m. — Sunday Morning Stroll.

Meet at the Nature Center to search for early migrating birds and other sights and sounds. Take binoculars or borrow a pair from the state park.

#### • 2 p.m. — The Green Fire Movie.

A new documentary showcases conservationist Aldo Leopold and how his work influenced today's environmental movement. Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium.

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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## Drug Free Partnership Awards Grants to Benefit Community

Working collaboratively with area partners to combat drug and alcohol abuse, La Porte County Drug Free Partnership has awarded \$56,713 in community grants to benefit 11 local initiatives.

The grantees were selected through a strategic evaluation process. Funding is designated by the state legislature, enabling the “local coordinating council” to determine grants to implement objectives approved in the county’s comprehensive drug free communities plan. The local coordinating council refers to the Drug Free Partnership in each county, which grants the funds specifically allocated to it through court fees. The monies are divided to support the areas of Justice, Treatment, Prevention and Administration.

The current La Porte County three-year plan is targeting the following goals:

- Reduce the La Porte County Alcohol misuse rate priority score by 5 percent from 230 to 218 by 2017.
- Reduce the La Porte County Marijuana Abuse index rate by 5 percent from 167 to 158 in 2017.
- Reduce heroin and heroin-related deaths by 3 percent through increased capacity for prevention, treatment and diversion.
- Reduce nonmedical prescription drug usage by 3 percent in 2017.

More than 40 organizations and agencies are active and associate members of the Drug Free Partnership, collaborating to support these efforts.

The 2015 grantees benefiting from the Drug Free Partnership’s county funding cycle are:

### JUSTICE GRANTS

- Teen Court, La Porte: The program will impact 20 juvenile alcohol offenders annually and 100 teen volunteers ages 11-18.
- Teen Court, Michigan City: The program is exactly like the La Porte court, but impacts 40 offenders and will use 90 teen volunteers.
- La Porte Metro Operations Drug Task Force: Metro works with confidential informants in undercover operations to gather evidence to make drug arrests in the county and decrease drug dealing in neighborhoods in our cities.
- Problem Solving Court: Buying Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor tests and drug tests for participants in the specialized court.

### PREVENTION GRANTS

- Boys & Girls Club SMART MOVES: To implement the program that helps young people develop skills necessary to resist alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, as well as early sexual activity.
- Open Door Adolescent Health Center: For primary prevention education services to Michigan City High School students.
- Safe Harbor Lead and Seed Project: To coordinate the implementation of the Lead and Seed prevention program targeting youth tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug usage.
- New Prairie Middle School Lead and Seed Drug

Free Youth Coalition: For program implementation of Lead and Seed.

- Training/Special Projects/Recognition Event: For regional/state trainings that address alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and abuse, plus special committee projects and the annual DUI officer recognition event.

### TREATMENT GRANTS

- Open Door Adolescent Health Center: For treatment/intervention services to Michigan City High School students.
- La Porte Problem Solving Court: Stipends for individualized treatment for rehabilitation of high risk non-violent substance abuse offenders.
- Moral Reconciliation Therapy: To support facilitator costs of MRT groups in La Porte County Jail.
- Frontline Foundation: Stipends for indigent treatment services that begin in La Porte this year.



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## Snell Honored as Volunteer of Year

The United Way of La Porte County honored GAF Plant Manager Denby Snell as Volunteer of the Year on March 5 at the 2015 United Way and Funds Volunteer of the Year Awards Banquet in Indianapolis.



Celebrating the award for Denby Snell (center) are (from left) Rick Davis, Indiana Association of United Ways board chair, Kim Olesker, United for Children Indiana regional director, Valerie Lambert, La Porte County United Way director of development, and Andrew Neal, La Porte County board member.

Snell serves as chairman of the Campaign Cabinet for La Porte County United Way. Before then, he was involved in United Way campaigns by volunteering to be a loaned executive. Not only did he speak about why giving back to the community is important at his workplace, but also helped with campaigns in other workplaces.

The past year proved even more challenging for GAF during a three-week shutdown, yet Snell rose to the challenge. During GAF campaign meetings, company incentives to contribute were provided, including gift cards, tickets to the United Way Carnival gala and entries to the United Way 5K Run. GAF's campaign hit an all-time total this past fall with \$20,000 in employee giving.



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## Early Childhood Conference

The Purdue University-North Central Center for Early Learning will host its Ninth Annual Early Childhood Conference on Saturday, April 25.

The theme is "Meaningful Measures" and will focus on assessment and evaluation. The conference will be appropriate for early childhood professionals, caregivers, child-development professionals and all parents, students and community members interested in working with young children.

The day starts with registration and breakfast from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m. The conference will open at 9 a.m. with keynote speaker Candace Meyer, founder and developer of Minds-in-Motion Inc. She will speak on "Meaningful Movements," and present two breakout sessions.

A full lineup of breakout sessions is scheduled. Each will focus on tracks that include: child development; community resources; family engagement; environments; teaching, learning and assessment. Speakers will include PNC faculty, as well as experts in early childhood education, development and assessment. A panel discussion will explore the issue of school safety plans.

PNC Chancellor Jim Dworkin will present a breakout session to share his experiences with publishing his children's book, "The Dog and the Dolphin." All participants receive a free copy.

There will be a study trip to the Westville Little School — the Professional Development Partnership with Westville Schools, Dunebrook and the PNC Early Childhood Education program. It is a preschool program with a focus on school readiness, family engagement and teacher education.

PNC Early Childhood Students serve as ambassadors at the conference and will share poster presentations of current class projects and service engagement.

There will be a lunch break and an afternoon break with a snack.

A Family Fun Time Event with the Jesse White Tumblers will follow the conference from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the PNC cafeteria. The event is open without charge to all community members.

Early Bird conference registration is open until March 28. Conference registration, which includes lunch, is \$60 if completed by March 27. Registration completed after March 29 is \$70, with no guarantee of lunch. The fee includes entrance to the Family Fun Time Event. The group rate of \$55 per person is available through March 28 for groups of five people or more. The PNC student fee is \$15. The non-PNC student fee is \$25.

Visit <http://www.pnc.edu/earlylearning> to register or for more information.

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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.la-portecountyparks.org](http://www.la-portecountyparks.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, March 30, at Red Mill and April 6, 13 and 27 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call at least one week in advance to register.

### Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate.

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:

- 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. Call at least one week in advance to register. The schedule is:

- 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.

### Teachers-Groups-Scout Leaders

Free environmental education programs are offered to groups throughout the year. Programs last one hour or longer depending on the group size and age. Programs can be scheduled at Creek Ridge, Luhr, Bluhm or Red Mill parks. Call (219) 325-8315 for more information or to make a reservation.

### Shelter and Hall Reservations

Call (219) 325-8315 to make reservations for one of many picnic shelters at any of the four county parks, or Pat Smith Hall at Red Mill County Park for a family function.

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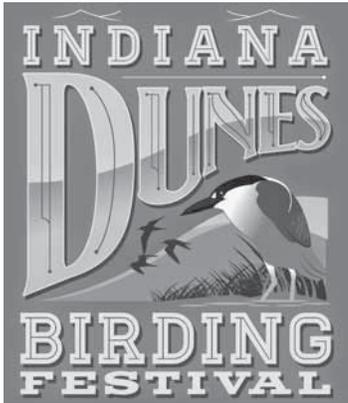
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## Indiana Dunes Birding Festival

General registration runs through April 1 for the inaugural Indiana Dunes Birding Festival on May 7-10.



The four-day event not only will feature some of the Midwest's premier birding locations, but also an assortment of nature-related workshops, programs and hikes. The event is organized by the Indiana Audubon Society and includes Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park as site hosts.

The festival will appeal not only to birders, but also general nature enthusiasts. This is due, in large part, to a diverse set of activities tailored to beginning birdwatchers, advanced birders and dune plant and animal lovers.

Three separate photography workshops will introduce participants to basic camera settings, tips and techniques, and ways to share work with others. One workshop will focus only on spring wildflowers. For those wanting more in-the-field wildflower identification, specialized hikes will be led, as well as a special session on ways to landscape a lawn for birds and other wildlife. Additional topics will include dunes geology, wildlife management and a native plant sale.

Registration is available at [www.indunesbirding-festival.com](http://www.indunesbirding-festival.com). More information is available at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, by calling its information desk at (219) 395-1882 or the State Park Nature Center at (219) 926-1390.

## Service League

Service League of Michigan City met Tuesday, March 10, with President Katherine Brennan calling the meeting to order. Fourteen active members were present and seven excused. February meeting minutes, delivered to membership by email, were approved as published.

Vice President's Report: Birthday cards were sent to Karen Burnside, Esther Schlegelmilch and Audrey Hagenow.

Past President's Report: Nine sustaining members haven't paid their dues.

The Collections Committee for February sent 22 first cards, 16 second cards and two letters. Sally Piotrowski gave an overview of the process of collecting overdue items.

The Equipment Committee reported that in February, 64 patients were served, 77 items loaned and 52 items taken out of inventory. Twelve donations were put into inventory. Marge Bockover of the Equipment Committee reported that from Feb. 12-21, the League served 76 more patients, had 33 fewer donated items added to inventory and purchased 115 fewer pieces of equipment due to grants awarded for equipment the year before. There were 651 items in inventory as of Feb. 10. The grand total of equipment loaned from March 1, 1949, through Feb. 11, 2015 is 67,481.

Twelve thank you notes have been mailed.

Kent Lange will take pictures for the annual spring luncheon, when new officers will be sworn in and recent sustaining members recognized. New officers are: Linda Weeks, president, Marti Migliorini, vice president, Kathy Brennan, secretary; and Karen Burnside, treasurer. Members who will go sustaining in April are Judy Lange, Linda Novak and Vivian Trunk. Training has begun for new member Diana Chambers.

Ways and Means Committee reported the next give back is Tuesday, April 14, at Swingbelly's. Coupons are available at the office or from any active member.

Kathi Dean reported sales of the Carson's Community Days Coupon Books brought in more than \$650 for the Service League.

The League again will award at least one \$1,000 scholarship to a student who lives in the Michigan City Area Schools district, has completed at least one year of a college program and is majoring in physical therapy, occupational therapy or related field. Applications are available at the office, 301 E. Garfield St.

A 30-second video has been produced by Morse and Co. featuring Brennan, who discusses the \$500 gift recently donated by Member's Advantage Credit Union.

The League thanked children and staff at St. Stanislaus School for their recent \$100 donation.

Call the office at 872-1144 for more information.

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## Miller Garden Club

Miller Garden Club's first spring meeting is at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Marquette Park Aquatorium, 6918 Oak Ave., Gary.

The featured speaker is Steve Sass, who will address how to provide space for birds in a garden. He is a lifetime northern Indiana resident who has served on the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society board of directors. He just completed a term on the Indiana Audubon Society board and is co-founder and president of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society North Chapter. He also is a board member with the Friends of the Indiana Dunes and is involved with a number of "citizen science" projects, such as the USGS Breeding Survey, Indiana Breeding Bird Atlas and Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network.

The club meets the third Saturday of each month through October and is open to the public. Speakers discuss subjects ranging from gardening to ecology and the stewardship of natural resources. Refreshments are served.

## "Native Plants in the Landscape"

The Friends of Indiana Dunes will host the program "Native Plants in the Landscape" by Steve Sass, Indiana Native Plants and Wildflower Society north chapter president, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at Indiana Dunes Tourism, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter.

Sass will discuss the importance of landscaping with native plants, and their role in creating the responsible landscape. The main emphasis will be plant communities and their essential role in the web of life. Sass will explain how native plants include trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges, forbs (perennials) and ferns.

Many species discussed will be available for sale at the Friends of Indiana Dunes 19th Annual Native Plant Sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 11, at Indiana Dunes Tourism. Sass will have Pre-order Native Plant Sale forms available at the program, and can help select the species best suited for a habitat.

## Annual R.O.S.E. Luncheon

In observance of National Tourism Week, Visit Michigan City La Porte Convention and Visitors Bureau will join forces with the Porter County CVB to host the 16th Annual R.O.S.E. Awards Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, May 7, at Strongbow Inn, 2405 U.S. 30, Valparaiso.

The annual Recognition of Service Excellence luncheon recognizes winners of the past year and winners of several other categories. Nominations can be accepted by April 1 at <http://bit.ly/RoseNomination>



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## Book Signings

Book Warehouse at Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets, Michigan City, will host two book signings from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 21.

One is by David Weiss, a Michigan City native who will sign copies of his awarding-winning children's book, "When God Was a Little Girl."

The book is a retelling of the biblical creation story that unfolds as a conversation between father and daughter. Weiss originally wrote the story in 2000 for his own daughter, Susanna, when she was 5. Thirteen years later, the story finally made it into print, now accompanied by illustrations by Joan Hernandez Lindeman. Last May, it received a 2014 Silver Medal for Children's Picture Book from the Nautilus Book Awards (the 2013 Silver Medal went to Desmond Tutu's "God's Dream"). Last October, the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards (Traverse City, Mich.) named it the 2014 Gold Medal Winner in the category of Religion/Spirituality.

Weiss grew up in Michigan City, attending St. Paul Lutheran School and graduating from Rogers High School in 1978. He later completed a graduate degree in Christian ethics at the University of Notre Dame. He lives in St. Paul, Minn.

The other author is Frank DiGiacomo, who will sign copies of his book "An Artist's Journal." He was born in Ozone Park, N.Y., but now lives in Michigan City. He has worked as a draftsman and design engineer, with part-time work as a commercial artist for a local advertising agency. He also has taught art to high school students in New Buffalo, Mich. He is a member of Michigan City Art League and Southern Shore Art Association.

## "Planned Giving" Seminar

The Center for Creative Solutions Inc. will host a seminar on planned giving, specifically educating and cultivating prospects, on Thursday, March 26, at Northern Indiana Education Foundation, 402 Franklin Square.

Attendees will:

- Recognize key points needed to brand a planned giving program.
- Learn to strategically craft a message.
- Learn the elements of effective planned giving messaging.
- Use effective channels to convey a message.

The program is designed for executives, staff and volunteers with non-profit organizations. It starts at 7:45 a.m. with registration and a light breakfast, followed by the program from 8 to 9:30 a.m.

There is a \$20 registration fee. Reservations are required by Wednesday, March 25, by contacting the Center at (219) 861-0955 or [creativity52@comcast.net](mailto:creativity52@comcast.net). Visit [www.centerforcreativesolutions.com](http://www.centerforcreativesolutions.com) for more information.

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- IU Health La Porte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, March 20.
- American Licorice, 1900 Whirlpool Drive South, La Porte, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, March 23.
- St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, 818 Franklin St., Michigan City, 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 23.
- Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., La Porte, 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 24.
- La Lumiere School, 6801 N. Wilhelm Road, La Porte, 2 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 25.
- Springfield Elementary School, 3054 W. County Road 800 North, Michigan City, 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27.

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.

### Indoor Flea Markets

New Troy's free Indoor Flea Market continues from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EDT Saturdays, March 21 and 28, at New Troy Community Center, 13372 California Road.

Past flea markets included tools, housewares, antiques, photography, jewelry, crafts and books. In addition to the many vendors, the center features the Homeroom Store, which sells used furniture, housewares and books.

Refreshments will be sold. Proceeds from space rentals and Homeroom sales benefit the center, an all-volunteer facility run by the non-profit Friends of New Troy.

Vendor spaces are still available at \$10 per table. Contact Janna at (773) 275-1514 or [janna@jannariley.com](mailto:janna@jannariley.com) for more information.

### World Water Day Blessing

Help bless Lake Michigan in celebration of World Water Day, followed by a drum circle on the beach, from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at Washington Park beach, Michigan City.

Dress for the weather and take a chair or blanket on which to sit. If interested, take a vessel of water to add to the World Water Vessel.

The event is free, and no dogs are allowed. Observe all shelf ice warnings. Individuals are sought to say a prayer or sing a song. Contact Lisa Gerardi at (219) 262-5146 for more information.

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## Valpo Artist Featured in Documentary

Valparaiso artist Virginia Phillips is profiled in the short-subject documentary on living with multiple sclerosis, "The Courage to Create."

Fish & Tsang LLP, an Irvine-based intellectual property law firm, and the 2015 Walk MS title sponsor, recently kicked off MS Awareness Week with the film's West Coast premiere.



Richard Israel (from left), National MS Society Pacific South Coast Chapter president, and Mei Tsang and Robert Fish, partners with Fish & Tsang LLP, appear with a painting by Virginia Phillips.

More than 100 supporters, including representatives from the Pacific South Coast Chapter of National MS Society, attended the event, which celebrated the firm's personal ties to Phillips and its commitment to the fight against MS. The film depicts her ability to create vibrant works of art despite a lack of mobility and daily challenges living with MS. Seven of Phillips' paintings were on hand for auction, raising more than \$2,000 for the National MS Society.

## Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available through Westchester Public Library:

- **NorthShore Health Center will provide free blood pressure screenings to walk-in patrons from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Interested patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

Screenings also are offered from 1 to 3 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

- **Bookmarks at the Museum, Christina Baker's "Orphan Train," at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Pat Klewer is the reviewer. Copies of the book are available at Thomas and Hageman libraries.

- **Saturday Movie at Hageman: "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at Hageman Library.**

The movie is rated PG and has a running time of 81 minutes.

- **Bits and Bytes series, "Intro to Ubuntu," from 1 to 3 p.m. Monday, March 23, and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, in the Serials/Automation Department at Thomas Library.**

Registration is required. Visit or call the Serials Department at (219) 926-7696 or visit [www.wpl.lib.in.us](http://www.wpl.lib.in.us) and click on the Bits and Bytes link.

- **Birthday Party at the Museum: Alice Gray aka Diana of the Dunes at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Museum staff Joan Costello, Susan Swarner and Serena Sutliff will present the program "The Legend of Diana of the Dunes." Birthday cake and punch will be served.

## Photos Donated to Museum

Marc and Leslie Danesi, owners of New Buffalo's Stray Dog Restaurant, have donated a framed collection of turn-of-the-century photographs of the Pierre Marquette railroad yards to the New Buffalo Railroad Museum, 530 S. Whittaker St.

The photos, which hung in Hannah's Restaurant before it was razed last December, include an 1885 picture of Engine 72 with local brakeman William Guhl, fireman Ted Hess and engineer Henry Lexo. The collection includes pictures of the original train depot on which the museum's current home was modeled, and several other engines that made routine trips through the old roundhouse, a section of which remains next to the museum grounds.



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## Help Sought to Restock ReStore

La Porte County Habitat for Humanity's ReStore is seeking donations of gently used furniture, cabinets, building materials, tools, fixtures and other items.

Popular items featured at the store include: home goods; major appliances in working condition; furniture; countertops and cabinets; plumbing fixtures and components; electrical fixtures and lighting; kitchen and bathroom fixtures; hand and power tools; fencing and decking material; doors and windows; lumber, drywall, masonry and sheeting; antiques, curios and collectable items

Donations can be brought to the store, located at 10th and Huron streets in Michigan City, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, or off hours by prior arrangement. Pickups may be scheduled for larger items. Call Dan at (219) 814-4985 for more information.

Proceeds from the store enable Habitat to continue building affordable homes for low- to moderate-income families in La Porte County.

## Luhr County Park Re-Opening

La Porte County Parks will re-open Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, on Monday, March 23.

Park hours are 7 a.m. to sunset daily. Only the paved trails, dog park and fishing access will be open to the public. The logging company has finished, but major cleanup remains. The process will last for many years.

The nature center opens April 1. Hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday and Sunday. It will be closed Easter Sunday.

## Third House Session

The La Porte and Michigan City chambers of commerce will present an Indiana Third House Session at 7:30 a.m. Friday, March 20, at Purdue University-North Central, LSF Building Room 002.

Meet local legislators and hear them discuss topics that affect the region.

The program is free for Chamber members. Refreshments will be provided. Make reservations by calling (219) 362-3178 or at <http://business.lpchamber.com/events/>

## Chamber Membership Luncheon

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will host a membership luncheon Tuesday, March 24, at the Chamber, 803 Washington St., La Porte.

The event sponsor is Ivy Tech Community College. Registration is at 11:15 a.m., with lunch and the presentation at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$12 for members and \$17 for non-members.

Visit [tinyurl.com/1stko3p](http://tinyurl.com/1stko3p) to register.

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## “The View As We See It”



Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., hosted an opening reception for “The View As We See It” Photography Show on Sunday, March 8. Winners included (from left) Sandra Teutemacher, Valparaiso (Honorable Mention for “Dew Drops”), Todd Petersen, Chesterton (Second Place for “Winter Beach”) and Victoria Jostes, Hobart (First Place for “Restorative”). Winners also included Louisa Murzyn, Munster (Third Place for “The Unveiling”), and Alyssa Lee, Maryann Pals and Corey Lee, all of Chesterton, who received Honorable Mentions. The show runs through March 28.

## Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays, March 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 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.

• **Bookmarks: “Orphan Train” at 2 p.m. Friday, March 20.**

Pat Klewer will review Christina Baker Kline’s “Orphan Train,” which is set between contemporary Maine and Depression-era Minnesota.

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

## Empty Bowls Soup Supper

The 20th Buchanan Empty Bowls Soup Supper is from 4:30 to 7 p.m. EDT Friday, April 17, at Buchanan (Mich.) High School, 401 W. Chicago St.

The philanthropic project is a partnership involving Buchanan Art Center, Buchanan Community Schools, Redbud Area Ministries and local potters, merchants, foundations and community members.

The community can buy handmade ceramic bowls, along with a simple soup supper. All potters, students, teachers, administrators, parents, donors and other volunteers who have helped out over the years are invited. A memorabilia table and an open potter’s wheel for past potters to “throw” one for old time’s sake are planned.

Adult potters’ bowls may be pre-purchased at the BAC through April 11. A commemorative T-shirt is available for pre-order at the BAC.

All profits from the supper and presales will be donated to the Redbud Area Ministries food pantry in Buchanan.

Call (269) 697-4005 for more information.

## NWIPA Rendezvous

Northwest Indiana Paddling Association will hold its Seventh Annual NWIPA Rendezvous from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 22, at Krueger Memorial Hall, 801 Liberty Trail, Michigan City.

Doors open at noon for social time. Lunch is at 1 p.m. The NWIPA will provide the entree. Take a side dish, beverage or dessert to share. Announcements and the NWIPA Annual Awards are at 1:30 p.m. At 2 p.m., keynote speaker Paul Labovitz, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore superintendent, will discuss “Paddling & the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.” At 2:30 p.m., Dan Plath of the NWIPA will discuss the Kankakee River National Water Trail Project. An open discussion about the 2015 paddling schedule will follow the program.

The cost is a \$5 donation to support NWIPA events, education and stewardship activities. RSVP to Plath at (219) 871-9559 or dplath@nwipa.org



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### Fernwood Botanical Garden

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

• **Herb Society of America Michiana Chapter Presentation: John Stempien at 10 a.m. EDT Wednesday, March 18.**

Stempien, Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum director emeritus, will discuss Bailey's *The Holy Earth*: 100 years old, but still a relevant resource. The program is free.

• **Gardener's Rummage Sale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, March 21.**

Donations of any gently used garden-related items will be accepted through March 20; however, no pesticides. The sale is free.

• **Fernwood Book Group at 10:30 a.m. EDT Saturday, March 21.**

The book is Jo Robinson's "Eating on the Wild Side: The Missing Link to Optimum Health." Those who have not read the book are invited as well.

Call (269) 695-6491 or visit [www.fernwoodbotanical.org](http://www.fernwoodbotanical.org) for more information.

### Women of the Moose Dinner

Women of the Moose 935 will hold its annual Dues Payor's dinner Monday, March 30, at Moose Family Lodge 980, 1108 Franklin St.

Cocktails are at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. Reservation must be made by Wednesday, March 25. Call Vana Briggs at (219) 210-3066, Natalie Ness at (219) 469-3196 or Carol Root at (219) 879-8667 for reservations or more information.

### Sarett Nature Center

Basketmaker Jill Woods will teach a class at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, March 21, at Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.

The fee is \$50. At 1 p.m. EDT, adults or youth 10 and older with adults can build a bat house. The fee is \$40. Call (269) 927-4832 to register.

### "Artist's Online"



The first year Amanda Joyner opened her Etsy store, it was a flop.

Learn how she went from being an amateur hatmaker to a professional milliner, selling hats all over the world, during "Artist's Online" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Joyner will share her own experience on Etsy and how she uses social media effectively, including:

- Creating an Etsy shop and list items.
- Properly tagging art for the best SEO (search engine optimization) outcome.
- Using social media, such as Instagram, twitter and facebook, to promote artwork.

The program is free, but registration is required at (219) 874-4900 or [artinfo@lubeznikcenter.org](mailto:artinfo@lubeznikcenter.org)

### "Cooking With Tri-Township"

"Cooking With Tri-Township" cookbooks are available at La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

The cookbook features nearly 600 recipes representing more than 80 classes from La Crosse and more than 30 graduating years from Wanatah. It has 13 pages of history about schools from Cass, Dewey and Prairie townships, as well as approximately 50 historical pictures.

The cost is \$15. The book also can be purchased at the La Crosse and Wanatah schools, La Crosse Public Library and The J-MART BP in Wanatah.

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## Activities to Explore

### In the Local Area:

**March 19** — La Porte Civic Auditorium 85th anniversary celebration, 4:30 p.m., Civic, 1001 Ridge St. Free. Registration: [tinyurl.com/p2ftz4p](http://tinyurl.com/p2ftz4p)

**March 19** — Bookmarks at the Museum, Christina Baker's "Orphan Train," 2 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

**March 19** — Amalfi Coast of Italy program, 5:15 p.m., Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce, 200 E. Michigan Blvd. Reservations: (219) 874-6221.

**March 19-23** — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* Premiere, "2101," filmed in Buchanan, Mich., by director Kyle Misak and writer Clayton Seager. Not rated (suggested rating PG-13). Time: 7:30 p.m. Thurs. Q&A with Misak after screening. *Also:* "Timbuktu." Rated PG-13. Times: 6:15 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "Mr. Turner." Rated R. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2:45 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: [vickerstheatre.com](http://vickerstheatre.com)

**March 20** — **EAT VEGAN FOR A DAY.** Info: [www.meatout.org](http://www.meatout.org)

**March 20** — Bookmarks: "Orphan Train," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**March 20** — The Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**March 20** — Purdue University-North Central American Sign Language Club Coffeehouse, 5-7:30 p.m., Uptown Café, 1400 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso. Info: [www.aslclub.info](http://www.aslclub.info)

**March 20-22 and 27-29** — "The Player King," Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri./Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$20. Reservations: (219) 874-4269.

**March 21** — Two book signings, authors David Weiss and Frank DiGiacomo, 1-3 p.m., Book Warehouse at Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets, Michigan City.

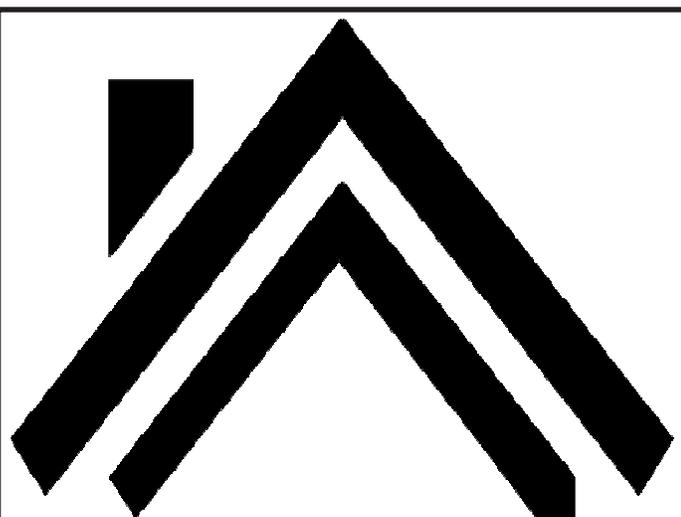
**March 21** — Morning bird crafts, 10 a.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East (north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**March 21** — Saturday Movie: "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day," 2 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

**March 21-22** — Builders Association of La Porte County 2015 Home Projects & Lifestyle Expo, Blue Chip Casino. Times: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sat./10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sun. Info: (219) 326-0624/[www.balc.org](http://www.balc.org)

**March 22** — "Native Plants in the Landscape," 1-2:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes Tourism, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter.

**March 22** — The Green Fire Movie, 2 p.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East (north end of Indiana 49),



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**March 22** — World Water Day Blessing, 3-6 p.m., Washington Park beach, Michigan City. Free. Info: (219) 262-5146.

**March 22** — Northwest Indiana Paddling Association Seventh Annual NWIPA Rendezvous, 1-3:30 p.m., Krueger Memorial Hall, 801 Liberty Trail, Michigan City. Cost: \$5 donation. Reservations: (219) 871-9559, dplath@nwipa.org

**March 23** — “U.S. Presidents: The Great, Near-Great and Not-So-Great,” 6 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Free.

**March 24** — Free lunch/senior bingo, 11 a.m., Settlers Place Senior Living, 3304 Monroe St., La Porte. RSVP by March 23 @ (219) 575-8200.

**March 25** — Women’s History Month luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Free/donations welcome. Reservations: kathy\_dennis@sbcglobal.net

**March 25** — Read La Porte County Inc. Community Spell Bowl, Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 181 W. McClung Road, La Porte. Registration/6 p.m., tournament/6:30 p.m. Info: mhedge8@comcast.net, (219) 325-0875.

**March 25** — “The Legend of Diana of the Dunes,” 2 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

**March 25** — “Inner Visions: Sacred Plants, Art and Spirituality” symposium, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Valparaiso University. Info: valpo.edu/artmuseum, gregg.hertziel@valpo.edu, (219) 464-5761.

**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 20-21** — “Nonsense,” Elkhart Civic Theatre at Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times: 7:30 p.m. EDT March 20-21. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$15/students & seniors 62+. Reservations: (574) 848-4116, www.elkhartcivictheatre.org

**March 21** — Basket-making class, 10 a.m. EDT, Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Cost: \$50. Registration: (269) 927-4832.

**March 21** — Mocking Bird, 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

**March 21** — Miller Garden Club’s first spring meeting, 10 a.m., Marquette Park Aquatorium, 6918 Oak Ave., Gary.

**March 21 and 28** — Indoor flea market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EDT, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Vendor spaces: \$10/table. Info: (773) 275-1514, janna@jannariley.com



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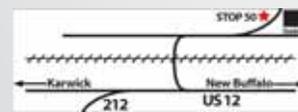
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WEEK  
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**On March 19, 1796**, freedom of the press was established in France.

**On March 19, 1831**, robbers removed \$245,000 from City Bank in New York, gaining the dubious distinction of participating in the nation's first bank holdup.

**On March 19, 1848**, Wyatt Earp, the legendary lawman, was born in Monmouth, IL.

**On March 19, 1859**, *Faust*, an opera by Charles Gounod, premiered in Paris.

**On March 19, 1918**, Congress approved daylight saving time for the nation.

**On March 19, 1925**, the 1-1/2-cent Warren G. Harding stamp went on sale in Washington, D.C.

**On March 19, 1953**, the Oscar ceremonies in Los Angeles were televised for the first time.

**On March 20, 1852**, Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin," went on sale. In this novel, the author depicts the cruelty, horror, and tragedy that was taking place under slavery. The publication of this book, perhaps more than any other single event, awoke the conscience of the nation to the inhumanity of slavery.

**On March 20, 1965**, Martin Luther King led more than 3,000 civil rights demonstrators as they began a march from Selma to Montgomery, AL.

**On March 20, 1969** the "Beatles" John Lennon married Yoko Ono.

**On March 21, 1916**, Frank Marshall took on 105 other chess players at the same time at a Washington, D.C., tournament. His final score was: 82 wins; 8 losses; 15 draws.

**On March 21, 1956**, "Marty" won best picture at the Academy Awards and its star, Ernest Borgnine, won best actor.

**On March 22, 1846**, English illustrator Randolph Caldecott, who became famous for his superb color illustrations of children's books, was born in Chester.

**On March 22, 1882**, Congress outlawed polygamy.

**On March 22, 1963**, the Beatle's first album "Please Please Me" was released in Britain.

**On March 22, 1972**, Congress sent the proposed "Equal Rights Amendment" to the states for ratification.

**On March 22, 1994**, "Woody Woodpecker" creator Walter Lantz died in Burbank, CA; he was 93.

**On March 22, 1997**, American Tara Lipinski, at the age of 14 years and 10 months, became the youngest person to win the women's world figure

skating title.

**On March 22, 2001**, animation pioneer William Hanna, who helped create such cartoon characters as Fred Flintstone, Yogi Bear, and Tom and Jerry, died in Los Angeles at the age of 90.

**On March 23, 1743**, Handel's *Messiah* had its London premiere. During the "Hallelujah Chorus," a captivated King George II rose to his feet. The audience rose with the King, and the tradition of standing during the chorus was born.

**On March 23, 1752**, the first Canadian newspaper, the *Halifax Gazette*, was published.

**On March 23, 1965**, America's first two-person spaceflight began as *Gemini 3* blasted off carrying Virgil Grissom and John Young.

**On March 23, 2001**, Russia's orbiting *Mir* space station ended its 15-year odyssey with a fiery plunge into the South Pacific.

**On March 24, 1883**, long-distance telephone service was first inaugurated between Chicago and New York.

**On March 24, 1932**, New York radio station WABC broadcast a variety program from a moving train in Maryland.

**On March 24, 1949**, John and Walter Houston became the first father and son to receive Oscar's from the "Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science." The award was for the movie, *The Treasure of Sierra Madre*.

**On March 24, 1955**, the popular Tennessee Williams' play, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, opened on Broadway.

**On March 24, 1958**, singer Elvis Presley was inducted into the United States Army.

**On March 24, 1959**, the United States Court of Appeals ruled that *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, a novel by D. H. Lawrence, was not an obscene book.

**On March 24, 1964**, the John F. Kennedy half-dollar was issued.

**On March 24, 1991**, aviation pioneer Neta Snook Southern, who gave Amelia Earhart her first flying lessons in 1921, died at the age of 95.

**On March 24, 2002**, at the Academy Awards, Halle Berry became the first black actress to win an Oscar for a leading role for "Monster's Ball."

**On March 25, 1867**, the cornerstone was laid for Chicago's famous Water Tower.

**On March 25, 1871**, sculptor Gutzon Borglum, best remembered for the Mt. Rushmore project, was born in the Idaho Territory.

**On March 25, 1913**, the Palace Theatre, which was to become known as The Home of Vaudeville, opened in New York.

**On March 25, 1984**, Hawaii's Mauna Loa volcano erupted with its largest lava flow in 24 years.

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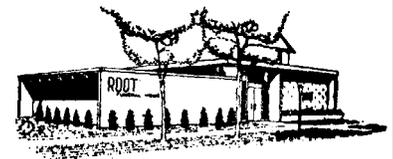
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### Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

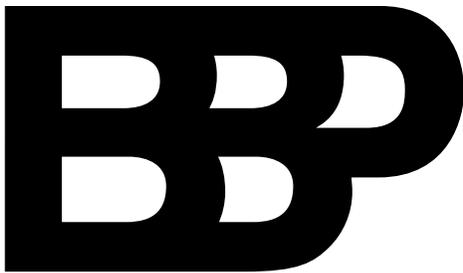
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## Long Beach Women's Bowling

March 10, 2015

### TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Striking Beauties	30.5	9.5
2. Alley Katz	25	15
3. Pin-ettes	24	16

### HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Nancy Kubath	171
1. Tammy Vouri	171
2. Ann Bogart	168
3. Margie Midkiff	159
3. Bina Gupta	159
4. Tina Sonderby	157
5. Jill Mellen	153
6. Dottie Brinkman	152
7. Lenore Hadaway	150

### SPLITS

1. Susan Kieffer	3-10
2. Tina Sonderby	1-3-7,2-7
3. Margie Midkiff	2-7
4. Mary Lou McFadden	5-7,2-7
5. Nancy Klausner	4-5

## Youth Mental Health First Aid

La Porte County Drug Free Partnership is initiating the Youth Mental Health First Aid program to help the public identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness.

The program shows parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human-services workers and others how to help an adolescent (ages 12-18) experiencing a mental-health or addictions challenge, or is in crisis. The eight-hour certification course unveils a five-step action plan to assess a situation, select and implement interventions and secure appropriate care for the individual. It also identifies risk factors and warning signs of mental-health problems, builds understanding of their impact and overviews common treatments.

The partnership is offering the free one-day class from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 9 and 30 at Northern Indiana Education Foundation, 402 Franklin St., Michigan City. Slots are limited, so register early. Lunch will be provided. Visit [tinyurl.com/ozbon2g](http://tinyurl.com/ozbon2g) to register for April 9. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/kcyzwy2> to register for April 30.

Visit La Porte County Drug Free Partnership's facebook page at [www.facebook.com/lpcdfp](http://www.facebook.com/lpcdfp) for more information.

## NPS Seeks Youth Workers

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore has jobs for 12 teens this summer.

The Youth Conservation Corps program is a work-learn-earn program for 15- to 18-year-olds. The application deadline is April 24.

Participants are paid \$7.25 an hour for the 40-hour work week. The program runs June 8 through Aug. 14, and applicants should be prepared to work the entire length of the program. Jobs include working as part of a crew to do manual labor, normally outdoors, such as staining, painting and caulking the exterior of park buildings, grounds maintenance (mowing grass, picking up trash, cleaning restrooms) and trails rehabilitation.

No experience is necessary. Participants will be selected by random draw from the pool of applications. To be eligible, youth must be U.S. citizens and be 15 before June 8, but not turn 19 before Aug. 14. The application is available through high school guidance offices or the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Office at (219) 395-8585, Ext. 1772. The forms also are available at [tinyurl.com/mf539u2](http://tinyurl.com/mf539u2)

## Camp Little Red Door

Little Red Door Cancer Agency will host Camp Little Red Door, a five-day summer camp for children with cancer, on June 21-26 at Bradford Woods in Martinsville, Ind.

Any child 8-18 with cancer or in remission living in Indiana is eligible. One sibling/friend per patient can attend if space allows.

The application deadline is May 1. The facility is Indiana's oldest camp for children with cancer. It includes swimming, canoeing, fishing, archery, camp fires, arts and crafts. An experienced medical staff is onsite 24 hours a day.

The Robert T. Grand Leadership Academy, open to previous campers at least 16 years old, is June 19-21.

The cost is \$25 per camper and \$50 per sibling/friend. Financial assistance is available. Download the application at [www.littlereddoor.org/camp](http://www.littlereddoor.org/camp) or call (317) 925-5595. The agency is located at 1801 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202.

## Women's History Month

Celebrate Women's History Month with a free luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 25, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

The program, sponsored by League of Women Voters of La Porte County and Michigan City Commission for Women, will feature presentations on famous women in history. Donations are welcome.

Reservations are required at [kathy\\_dennis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kathy_dennis@sbcglobal.net)

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**GARAGE SALES, ESTATE SALES, ETC.**

**The Good Things Sale is this weekend only! Resale at its best. Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., shop first for the best selection. Sunday, March 22, Noon-4 p.m., take it away day with marked discounts, most items at 50% off, and considering offers.**

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clocks, child's bed rail, quality wood safety gate, metal roasting oven, 400 wood clothes hangers, garden cast iron decorative bench and side table, antique low long bench-style chest with character, comfy deep blue and yellow on cream upholstered sofa, snow blower, lawnmower, 2 sets of Brown Jordan patio furniture round table, 4 chairs, 2 chaise lounges, coffee table, two low chairs with side tables, old steamer trunk, full size canoe, 2 Christmas trees 7ft. & 9ft, pre lit, new carpet and girl floral upholstery, plus so much more. Intake continues for another week and lots more surprises are on the way. Doors open on time, cash is appreciated and all items are priced at just \$5, \$10, \$15 and up.

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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**The Inspector and Silence** by **Håkan Nesser** (paperback, \$15 online and in bookstores; also available as an eBook)

Camilla Läckberg, Steig Larsson, Jo Nesbø, Henning Mankell — all Scandinavian writers who hit the international crime-writers scene with a bang. They are proof there is nothing like a hot crime novel to warm those cold Scandinavian nights! Now, I have discovered another writer, the Swedish Håkan Nesser who already is wildly popular with his series about Chief Inspector Van Veeteren.

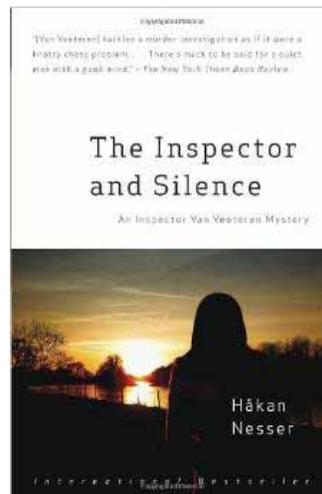
Our story begins in an unusually hot summer for Sweden. Van Veeteren is contemplating his future as he thinks back on his 35 years of service on the police force. Too many dead bodies, too many memories. Ah, that's the price you pay when you solve all your cases except for one. And then, there is the sign in the antiquarian bookstore looking for a partner. Hmm. He decides to take his three-week vacation on the island of Crete and figure out his future when he gets back. But we all know about the best laid plans of mice and men, don't we?

Meanwhile, in the nearby town of Sorbinowo, Sgt. Merwin Kluuge has been assigned acting chief of police while his boss goes on vacation. Not too happy about it, what with a very pregnant wife and all, but it's only a few weeks. Then, the phone call comes in...a woman claims a young girl has disappeared from Waldingen, a center for summer camps. She insists the police look into the matter and hangs up.

Kluuge calls the camp. They are genuinely surprised, as no one has gone missing. Several days later, the same woman calls again. She is agitated nothing has been done. She is sure the girl has been murdered, and there could be more killings. Maybe she should notify the press? Kluuge doesn't want that.

The summer camp is being used by The Pure Life, a religious group consisting of 12- to 14-year-old girls, three women supervisors and their charismatic priest, Oscar Yellinek. Kluuge has strict instructions not to disturb the chief, but to call Van Veeteren if anything comes up he can't handle. Van Veeteren is released to help as summer heats up even more.

Meeting Yellinek for the first time, Van Veeteren is convinced something is going on at the camp, but what? Everyone appears afraid to talk, the three women are practically mute and Yellinek is treated like a messiah with a direct line to God himself.



It doesn't take long for a body of a young girl to be found in the woods, raped and strangled. Now, there is something to go on, that is, until another body is found--same condition. Serial killer? Funny thing. Yellinek goes missing soon after.

The author clearly shows the frustration of the police as talking to The Pure Life members gets them nowhere. Then, there's the unending heat that makes the police nitpick each other and frustrates them even more. The girls also are seemingly cowed into silence. Days go by with nothing to show for the investigation but a lot of unanswered questions. Where do they go from here?

Van Veederen goes his own way, following his intuition wherever it leads him...like maybe a misspelled name leads to a clue in the phone book (I guess they still have them in Sweden!). Did I mention the fire? And then there's the strange neighbors whose lands border the summer camp: one family (father, mother, son) that Yellinek buys dairy products from, and the other, a man (fresh out of prison) and wife who are suspicious in their own right. Where will it all lead? You'll be surprised!

Following the clues of any crime mystery is interesting in and of itself, but Nesser takes the time to show how these crimes affect the men and women on the police force who find the bodies and must put their own lives on hold while doing their job, a job that doesn't leave you at the end of the day.

A fine read! Two enthusiastic thumbs up.

From *The New York Times Book Review*: "[Van Veeteren] tackles a murder investigation as if it were a knotty chess problem...There's much to be said for a quiet man with a good mind."

Nesser was awarded the 1993 Swedish Crime Writers' Academy Prize for new authors for Mind's Eye, the best novel award in 1994 for Borkmann's Point and in 1996 for Woman with Birthmark. He received the Crime Writers of Scandinavia's Glass Key Award for the best crime novel of 1999 for Carambole. He divides his time between Sweden and London.

Till next time, happy reading!



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NEW LISTING

### **3044 Lake Shore Drive Long Beach • \$1,100,000**

Vacant lot with 100 feet of beach frontage. Optimum blank canvas awaiting your architect/builder to build the ultimate dream home.

Seawall in place & lot could potentially be divided into two lots.



### **3510 Penamo Trail Duneland Beach • \$799,000**

5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Hardwood floors, two fireplaces, formal dining room, family room & garden room.

Main floor master bedroom suite with gorgeous bath. Deck & two car garage. Short walk to the beach.



### **125 Upland Beachwalk • \$779,000**

4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Walls of windows, new bamboo flooring, gourmet kitchen, main level open living concept. Walk-out lower level, expansive multi-level wrap around deck with hot tub. Amazing views.



### **2700 Oriole Trail Long Beach • \$539,000**

4 bedrooms, 5 baths. Soaring ceilings, two fireplaces, updated kitchen, hardwood floors, huge bar area, palatial master suite & 2-story bridal staircase. Short walk to the beach or Long Beach Country Club.



### **2507 Shorewood Drive Long Beach • \$439,900**

4 bedrooms plus den, 2.5 baths. Hardwood floors, stone fireplace, high end kitchen w/granite counters & stainless steel appliances. Private master bath with jetted tub & steam shower. Rear deck & screen porch.



### **El Portal Drive Michiana Shores • \$99,000**

Beach, woods and nature...lots of possibilities! Three, flat & easily buildable lots. City water available. Situated on the corner of El Portal & Birchwood. Short walk to the beach. Perfect location for your new home.

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# LONG BEACH REALTY

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*Family Owned and Operated Since 1920*



## 3737 Michiana Drive

Price Reduced! Unique, contemporary and simple, this house is the perfect getaway with total privacy. Once in the house, it feels like you are in the middle of the woods, but it is just 600' to the clear water and singing sand. This hidden treasure has 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms, huge living room with open ceiling, fireplace and wood floor made from the trees cleared from the property, open concept dining room and kitchen. Outside is cedar shingled with triangular and circular bumpouts. Enjoy the 30'x 13' outside deck where you can hear the waves while hanging out.

**New Price: \$649,900**



## 1528 Lake Shore Drive

Beautiful landscaping surrounds this solid 2-story brick sitting on a lot and a half of beachfront. Just past the mature foliage and off the deck and patio is the singing sands of your beach. If you prefer to enjoy the outdoors from a shady spot, then the gazebo would be your oasis. Wired for electric, phone and TV, you have all the indoor amenities at your finger tips. A basement rec room, complete with wet bar, offers up space for play time and relaxation. With four bedrooms, four baths, almost 5,000 square feet of living space and parking for eight cars, you will have plenty of room for guests.

**\$ 1,475,000**



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