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Happy Thanksgiving



THE *Beacher*

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Members of the Indiana Dunes 99s:
Heidi Handtke (from left), Judy Longnecker, Lynn Pergher, Janice Welsh,
April Graham, Marcia Forcey, Meredith Malczewski and Karen Oselka.

Since the times of the Ancient Greeks, humanity has dreamed of flying high with the birds and touching the clouds.

For millennia, however, men have spearheaded humanity's quest for flight. Women have taken a backseat to men in the innovation of powered flight. Indeed, the story of Icarus and Daedalus, an early Greek parable that depicts two men who learn to fly, is an early example of how men usurped women in the holy grail that was human flight.

This often was the case for most of history, until the 20th century with the advent of reliable powered flight and, of course, Amelia Earhart.

She wasn't the only one, however, and with 99 other female pilots one cold November day in New York, she helped form the first women pilot's organization: the 99s. I met with members of the local Duneland chapter.

The experience was unforgettable.

La Porte begins to bloom in brilliant fall colors in early October.





Andrew Holt appears in front of Marcia Forcey's Beechcraft Bonanza.

I arrived at La Porte Municipal Airport five minutes early, despite calculations telling me I was, in fact, going to be 10 minutes late. The women I was supposed to meet had not arrived yet. It wasn't long afterward, however, that an old Cessna 172p rolled onto the tarmac and three women emerged from it. One was Janice Welsh, an enthusiastic and experienced pilot of 25 years. After a brief conference about our plan, which included two other women — student pilots Heidi Handtke and Karen Oselka — we headed over to the tiny plane and prepared to take off. The plan was to fly down to Rochester, Ind., for brunch with a group of female pilots from Northwest Indiana. The plane, arguably one of the most ubiquitous ones on Earth, was small on the outside and even smaller on the inside. I squeezed my 6-foot-null lanky frame into the back seat next to Heidi, and Karen took the pilot's seat next to Janice. After Janice gave a quick rundown of the controls, we were taxiing for clearance and not long after that taking off. We circled around southern La Porte once, affording us good views of the airport, the high school, Lake Michigan and shining Chicago on the horizon across from Michigan City. Quickly, we headed south over Indiana farmland in harvest season, the trees below us still mostly green, but with the first vestiges of yellows, oranges and reds gracing the boughs of trees scattered throughout the countryside.

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Heidi Handtke, Karen Oselka and Janice Welsh pose in front of the Cessna 172.

NEW BUFFALO BUSINESS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

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- **6PM TREE LIGHTING AND CAROLING** at Corner of Whittaker and Mechanic Streets (sponsored by Casey's & Warner Vineyards)



Visit www.newbuffalo.org for more event information

Taking Flight

Continued from Page 3

The flight to Rochester was relatively quiet, with momentary radio contact made by other planes, but mostly filled with conversation and calm guidance from Janice, whereby I learned good rules of thumb for navigating while flying. As we neared Rochester, we radioed in to announce our intention to land. At a small airfield, there isn't someone on the radio at all times on the ground. This ended up being more for the benefit of other planes in our vicinity.

As we landed, I was surprised and quite impressed by the smoothness of our landing. Having had a history of private flying in my family, this



The landing gear of a Cessna 172 is clearly visible from the window.



was by far not the first time I'd been in a single engine plane; however, it was one of the smoothest landings I'd experienced in a private aircraft.

The rules of Rochester's airfield stated that all visiting aircraft must park on the lawn alongside Indiana 14. Even though we were meeting other women who were flying other, faster planes, we were the first to touch down.

That being said, within the next 15 minutes, another 172, albeit a different model, touched down and parked next to us. Judy Longnecker, an instructor and corporate pilot, stepped out of the bright red-striped aircraft and onto the lawn. She'd flown alone. Immediately after her came a brand-new Beech Bonanza, custom painted black and yellow with a stylized "M" along the side.

This plane was flown by Marcia Forcey, a real-estate broker associate out of Chesterton. Her passengers were April Graham and Meredith Malczewski, both flight instructors, and Lynn Pergher, a private pilot who teaches adult education.

After everyone disembarked, the only thing left to do was decide where to eat. We decided breakfast food was more appealing than Mexican, so we ended up at Sunny Side Café across the street. We all got seated, and I ordered a plate of two pancakes, which the waitress, to all of our puzzlement, told me I'd rather have one because they're huge. I acquiesced, and we all soon learned the waitress wasn't kidding. The pancake was the size of a spare tire.

Conversations with the women quickly turned to piloting, and how the women became interested in flying. One interesting (and quite funny) story, told by Lynn, sheds light on a childhood role model: her aunt.

"My aunt was a pilot," Lynn said, "and I used to listen to her stories when I was young. One of my favorite stories was how she'd go up above a lake, above a boat with people fishing in it, and she'd put the plane in a spin, going right at the boat, and then she'd pull out as she got close to it," she said to chuckles from around the table. "But she had so much fun watching the fishermen try to row their boat out of the way."

Funny stories aside, I got down to brass tacks about my mission: learning about, and reporting on, the 99s. Welsh provided a condensed history of the 99s.

“In 1929, a group of women had actually completed the Cleveland Air Race, and that was a transcontinental race from California to Cleveland. They decided, ‘Hey, we all get along pretty well, we should form a group. So they met in New York, at Curtis Field, and what they decided was that Amelia (Earhart) would be their first president. And the 99 name came from the fact that there were 99 charter members. They sent notices to all the women pilots in the U.S. at that time, and that’s how many responded.”

Being a woman in the predominantly male world of flying — in the U.S., one study reveals about 5.12 percent of airline or commercial pilots are female — was then, and remains to be, a defining trait for these women in their lives and careers.

“You get really excited when you see other women,” Meredith said. “There’s definitely a bond with other women pilots. It’s unspoken, but you automatically just get along with them.”

“You feel more comfortable with them,” Heidi added.

When asked about discrimination, they immediately answered. “Not by everybody,” one woman



Meredith Malczewski poses for a photo before we take off.

added, and the rest agreed. “But it tends to be older men, codger-like men that treat you differently.”

Lynn added, “But it’s not always like that. Sometimes, they’re the best mentors.”

“We do get mistaken for flight attendants a lot,” April said, “and I’ve flown with people before who were like, ‘Oh, we’ll see how you do, you girl pilots,’ stuff like that.”

Meredith recalled a time when she was constant-

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Taking Flight Continued from Page 5

ly referred to as a secretary by an older man, even after he had been corrected. "I mean, I walked in with my student and was reviewing flight records!"

The group was quick to check me on my own ignorance as well when I called flying a "hobby."

"Maybe in the beginning," one woman said. "It always starts out that way," another added. "Most of the young women who are getting into flying today are doing this as a career."

I was humbled quite profoundly, realizing my own experience with private flying — my father was a pilot solely as a hobby until he died in 1997 — colored my opinions. As we continued talking about planes and flying, I was surprised to learn I was already familiar with many of the concepts of being a pilot through my family's long-standing past time, recreational boating, which is very much a hobby.

After we paid our bills, and I collected the 1/3 remaining of my pancake, we made our way back across the street to the planes. Here, I had the chance to see Marcia's brand-new plane in greater detail. The tan leather seats and all-glass cockpit — a term here meaning all the instrumentation was digital — stood in stark contrast to the association plane I experienced which, as a plane open for use by association members, has seen quite a bit of use.

The ladies gathered for photos, and I snapped many a picture on their phones, as well as mine.

As we prepared to part ways, I had the opportunity to fly in the less-cramped Bonanza with Marcia, April, Lynn and Meredith, an opportunity I immediately jumped at for several reasons, not the least of which being I would get a fresh experience in a different plane.

The Bonanza, still in its shakedown phase, was

much faster than the Cessna, and we made it back to La Porte in about half the time it took us to get there. After another one of the smoothest landings I'd experienced in a single-engine plane, we pulled up to Marcia's hangar, which houses one of her three other planes, a recently refurbished Piper Cherokee.



Marcia Forcey's newly refurbished Piper Cherokee shows off its new paint job

After we stored the Bonanza safely and bid farewell to the other ladies, I stayed to continue speaking with Marcia. She was quite proud about the pristine Cherokee, which she and her late husband purchased as a trainer, saying she recently had all the screws and bolts

replaced with stainless steel ones. The plane was custom painted in white, purple and line-in dark metallic grey that became a stylized "M" on the tail. Airbrushed details accentuated the contours on the "M," making it pop as if raised from the surface. This was another point of pride for her. She told me as we examined the newly-upholstered interior that the painter who worked on the plane was skeptical at first about the color scheme, but was so taken by its appearance afterward that it now holds a place of distinction as a showcase plane on his website.



Janice Welsh works on the Cessna that flew us to Rochester.

Forcey was kind enough to give me a ride to the other side of the airfield, where Janice was putting the Cessna back in its hangar. After some brief closing conversation and a couple more photos, I hitched a ride with Janice back to my car.

I've had a large amount of outstanding experiences in my life; however, this particular adventure one chilly day in October with the members of the Indiana Dunes 99s will stay with me as one of the most memorable. These women are doing what they love and blazing a trail for women everywhere who savor life high in the skies above.

(Visit <http://indianadunes99s.org/> for more information about the group.)

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Desire and Passion Drive Oscar-Nominated Costume Designer

by Kim Ward

Editor's note — The Beacher continues its partnership with iRock Jazz to provide Art+Times, a bi-weekly column that highlights how art and culture intersect today.

With more than 45 film credits and two Oscar nominations under her belt, it is hard to imagine that costume designer Ruth Carter didn't start out with dreams of working in Hollywood.

Her family legacy was one of teachers and Hampton University graduates. It was an easy decision for Carter to enter college at Hampton as a special education major. She wanted to be a teacher. Love and a chance introduction to a young independent filmmaker named Spike Lee, however, put her on a different path to create her own legacy.

Carter's latest project is Lee's "Chi-Raq," scheduled for release Dec. 4. With that debut just around the corner, the costume designer took time out to speak with Art+Times.

"My love was in theater," she said. "I had done some theater in high school. I was in after-school drama programs. I gravitated toward the theater. It kind of molded me."

Carter became a "self-proclaimed" costume design major, putting together her own curriculum. She began designing for all the campus plays and musicals. It didn't take long to gain a following and become the go-to costume designer on campus.

After leaving Hampton, she interned at the Santa Fe Opera and Stage West Theatre in Fort Worth, Texas. She then took advantage of an opportunity to go to Los Angeles.

"I was a theater snob. Los Angeles wasn't exactly the place you would go for theater," she said. "I went around with my portfolio. I wanted to show people what my desire was... to design. There wasn't a lot of opportunity here. The film industry was very strong, and there were a lot of professional designers."

She found an opportunity at the newly opened Los Angeles Theatre Center as a dresser. She moved quickly through the ranks, becoming the foreman running the costume shop.

"I didn't like that very much because I really felt that I was a designer," she said. "I sought out design opportunities outside of Los Angeles Theatre Center."



Ruth Carter first studied special education in college before letting her love of theater take over.

She approached Otis Sallid, artistic director for a popular production called "A Night for Dancing" at the Lula Washington Dance Center in Los Angeles, and asked if she could design their costumes. One night, the relatively unknown Spike Lee came to see the show.

"At intermission, I had my portfolio with me. I kept my portfolio with me all the time," she said. "Spike wasn't the Spike Lee that we know of today. 'She's Gotta Have It' hadn't gone to the Cannes Film Festival yet. Nothing big had really happened to him yet. He was just another guy. I was showing my portfolio to my friends and (Spike) was looking on."

Carter and Lee quickly developed a friendship. Lee advised Carter to get some film experience by signing up to work on student thesis projects at schools such as University of Southern California and University of California, Los Angeles. She followed Lee's advice, and he later hired her as costume designer on his second film, "School Daze." Since that time, the designer and filmmaker have collaborated on more than a dozen films, including



Spike Lee during a press conference in Chicago about "Chi-Raq," with actor John Cusack present on the far right.

"Do the Right Thing," "Crooklyn," "Clockers," "Malcolm X" and now "Chi-Raq." Her Oscar nominations were for Lee's "Malcolm X" and Steven Spielberg's "Amistad." Other films include "Lee Daniels' The Butler," "Selma," "Seren-

ity,” and “Love & Basketball.”

Carter says all costume designers have their own process.

“You have a schedule. That’s where you begin. You get a priority list based on the schedule,” she said. “Sometimes, you move things up on the priority list that are more difficult to build. Like suits...generally my tailor likes six weeks to build a suit. You build that into the schedule, making sure I have all the elements together — the sketch is done, the fabric is selected, everybody has signed off on the design and the idea, and I can put that on the tailor’s table and he can get started on it with enough time to get it finished.”

Although she has found great success in costume design, she does not allow that work to clutter her life.

“I used to collect stuff, but then I started to feel like I was a bag lady,” she said. “I stopped collecting because it started feeling like clutter. I just appreciate it now. I like to go out to look for it and appreciate and use it for what I need it for, then put it out there on film and appreciate it on film. But not collecting. After a while, who has the space for it? I have lots of interests now, too. It’s not the only thing I like. I don’t want my world to just revolve around costuming 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I don’t want to be the crazy bag lady.”



Carter, pictured here with Oprah Winfrey, designed the costumes for “Lee Daniels’ The Butler.”

While Carter has designed costumes for A-list celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey and the late Whitney Houston, she has no desire to become a celebrity stylist, and you won’t see her designs on the red carpet. Instead, she prefers her designs to tell stories with all of their imperfections.

“I’m a costume designer. I like putting

a little bit of struggle...putting a little fairy dust on your clothes to say a little something about you. I like to reveal your inner person on the outside of

your clothes. I like to say something about who you are with your costume,” she said. “When you are doing a red carpet or appearance, they are doing a personality and that usually has to be perfect. That is not telling us anything about you. That’s putting the best foot forward — all glamour — that’s fashion. Perfect hair. Perfect makeup. Perfect dress, perfect suit, perfect shoes that never walked a day in their lives...I don’t do that. I do the shoes that have walked a mile. I do the suit that has seen better days. I do the hat that has the sweat in the brim. That’s what makes it a costume. That’s what makes it interesting.”

The story that her costumes help to tell in Lee’s “Chi-Raq” reimagines the ancient Greek comedy of “Lysistrata” by Aristophanes in modern-day Chicago. In the original comedy, a woman named Lysistrata persuades women to deny sex to men until they end the Peloponnesian War. Filmed primarily in Chicago’s Englewood neighborhood, the movie addresses the issue of gun violence in the city. Critics of the film believe it will taint the city’s image. Lee, the director, says he is an artist and the film is satire.

The violence in Chicago, however, is very real. During the five weeks of filming, 331 people were wounded and 65 murdered in the city. These numbers helped contribute to Chicago being named America’s mass-shooting capital. The movie borrows its title from a nickname given to the city by residents and local entertainers that equate the violence in Chicago to that of the warzone in Iraq.

Lee and Carter are no strangers to tackling controversial topics. They first teamed for Lee’s 1989 classic “Do The Right Thing,” which examined volatile race relations in one neighborhood over the course of a hot summer day.

Making a film involves a lot of different aspects of the creative process that are interrelated. Carter says coordination of the pieces is not difficult.

“It’s called ‘composition and communication.’ You communicate with all the artists and you share information. Everybody has a common goal and a common subject. There is research and development. There is trial and error. No one is perfect right out the gate,” she said.

“You have to have time to combine all those elements. You have to have patience. Composition is

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Desire and Passion Continued from Page 9

a big word. It has to work. There are several conversations that have to happen. You keep revisiting. Everything evolves. It's a collaboration."

While "Chi-Raq" is fictional, some characters are based on well-known figures in Chicago. John Cusack's character in the film, Father Mike Corridan, is loosely based on St. Sabina's Father Pfleger.

Carter says "authenticity" always is top-of-mind for designers.

"Sometimes, it's very scary. It drives you nuts," she said. "When you are the costume designer, it really drives you crazy. You know it was bought at a store today. No one else does. You have to get over that. There is never gonna be a perfect storm.

"What saves you is your knowledge. You know how to select things that are going to work. You can't be too stressed out. You have to have a place in the brain for the creative process."



Carter's designs can be seen in the Oscar-nominated "Selma."

Carter has learned that mistakes happen. Lee, whom she calls a "master teacher," has given her the space to make mistakes, then help her to find the way out.

While she did not graduate from college with an education degree, her success as a costume designer has brought her full circle. When she is able, she takes on interns to help new designers get experience in the industry.

"A foundation is a foundation," she said. "A costume design degree will certainly help. Your desire and passion are what's gonna drive into this field from wherever you come from."

(Follow Ruth E. Carter on Twitter at @OnSet-Wardrobe)

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About the Cover

by Andrew Tallackson

There is an African proverb, bandied about by Hillary Rodham Clinton in the '90s, that says it takes a village to raise a child.

Well, when it comes to a photo shoot involving a Great Dane puppy, it takes a village of epic proportions to pull it off.

If you're a frequent visitor to our facebook page, then you've seen photos of Scooby, a 4-month-old Great Dane owned by Tommy Parker, who has been with *The Beacher* for two years, helping collate it, then deliver it to Long Beach-area readers.

Scooby is all puppy: adorable, affectionate, restless, explosively energetic, growing like a weed. So it was *Beacher* co-owner Tom Montgomery's idea to feature the pup on the cover of our Thanksgiving edition.

Several locations were considered for the photo shoot. We eventually settled on Burek Farms, 0381 E. County Road 400 South. That's not far from Kingsbury Elementary School, off U.S. 35. Over the years, Eddie and Jackie Burek, along with daughters Abby, Becky and Jessy, have become familiar faces to countless residents, visitors and tourists.

Burek Farms hails back to Ed and Jean Burek, who purchased the 90+ acres of land back in May 1956. Eddie and Jackie, who've been married for 26 years, eventually bought the property and added an additional 13.5 acres. What began as a small garden of sweet corn and strawberries now spans 50 acres of corn, five acres of strawberries and additional acreage for tomatoes, green beans and other veggies.

Their sweet corn is a staple at the La Porte County Fair. They've



Tommy Parker poses with his dog Scoobyblue during one of the pup's many visits to The Beacher.

shoot was Montgomery, who found the costume for Scooby and enlisted the aid of friend Judy Joseph to get the puppy dressed and modify the costume

so it fit. *Beacher* photographer Bob Wellinski then snapped away, taking photos during two sessions lasting about 10 to 15 minutes, all with Montgomery frequently emphasizing "sit" and "stay" to the photo shoot's canine star.

As you can see, Scooby was a good boy. The photo — we couldn't have asked for better. Parker, whose busy schedule alternates between *The Beacher*, his studies in business administration at Ivy Tech and landscape work through Healy's Landscaping, is proud of him. We all are.



Eddie and Jackie Burek pose with their R.O.S.E. award.

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Happy
Thanksgiving

Thankfulness from some of our Merrion & Associates Real Estate Brokers:

Tricia Meyer: I am thankful for my family and friends, a flourishing business, and a team of real estate brokers that are like family.

Jane Cooley: I am thankful for everyone who has been a positive part of my life ... parents, husband, good friends and family members. These people walk with us through the journey of life and help shape who we have become. I am also thankful for the abundance of music, the adventure of living each day, and my cat Socrates.

Rose Pollock: I am thankful for my family. The holidays are a great time to appreciate the family that you have. It is extra special now with having granddaughters to enjoy and spend time with.

Gary Mohamed: I truly am grateful for the good health of my family and supportive friends, and hopefully grandchildren soon. The beauty of nature hiking a trail on a sunny day. And the luck of being born in such a wonderful country.

Daneley Patterson: I am thankful, first of all, for my wonderful husband. He has been my biggest supporter and best friend. I am also thankful for having the opportunity to meet wonderful people, including my co-workers and my clients.

Betty Sams: I am thankful for family, friends and the opportunity to work with a great group of people here at Merrion & Associates.

Diana Hirsch: With the threat of terrorism around we as Americans still - thanks to our service men and women - can walk in freedom. I am thankful for my family, my health and my friends/clients. I am thankful for each and every day - good and bad - the good days are a blessing - and the bad days keep me on my toes and make me face challenge!!

Cindy Hernandez: I am thankful for my family - their love, patience & support is always unconditional and heartfelt.... And for each day given, good friends and the new relationships made along the way.

Jane Palella: Thankful for my faith, which guides me to the real joys in life, including successful closings!

Denise O'Connor: I am thankful for the country we live in and our freedom.

Cari Adams Gee: I am thankful for my family at home and at work; an outstanding year in real estate, the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan and tacos.

Val Pudlo: I am thankful for the smiles that I see as a Realtor, on the faces of the new homebuyers at closing and on the sellers when their home is finally sold.

JuliAnn Merrion: A quick thanks to all, friends and family alike, who remind me daily of how truly blessed our lives are.

Marge Skwiat-Gloy: Thankful for the country I live in, (we are so blessed to live in Democracy) and for my family and extended working family. They are all awesome people!

Gail Mathews: I am thankful for my family and for being part of a great company: Merrion & Assoc. Realty!

What are you thankful for?

Annual Historic Home Tour

People Engaged in Preservation, La Porte's non-profit historic preservation group, will present its 2015 Christmas Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6.

All seven sites will be open for self-guided tours and be decorated for the holiday season. Also included is live musical entertainment, refreshments at First United Methodist and horse-drawn carriage rides.

Advance tickets are available for \$20 in:

- La Porte — the CO-OP Shoppes, Coachman Antique Mall, Posh Day Spa, La Porte County Historical Society Museum, Town and Country Florist and Arbor

Hill Inn.

- Michigan City — The Framing Station and The Antique Market.
- New Buffalo, Mich. — The Villager.
- Valparaiso — South Bend Chocolate Co.

Advance tickets also can be ordered by mail, with a check sent for \$20 postmarked by Nov. 28 and payable to: People Engaged in Preservation, P.O. Box 853, La Porte, IN 46352. Day-of tickets cost \$25 and will be available at First United Methodist during actual tour hours only.

Contact Pam Ruminski at (219) 362-5712, Tim Stabosz at (219) 363-7485 or email ruminskipep@yahoo.com for more information.



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This completely updated and restored building has two storefronts and two apartments. The original character remains from the tin ceilings, hardwood floors, and leaded glass. Everything else is new —boilers, electric updated, a/c units, windows, doors, and roof. The Artspace project at the Warren Building is on its way to completion which will only add to the hustle, bustle of downtown living and working.



Small Group Dinners Offer Culinary Adventures

by Barbara Stodola

For starters, the setting is superb.

Beachgoers like myself have watched hopefully as the new building went up in Washington Park, a lean silhouette against the lake, its upper deck promising evenings open to the stars.

Then talk circulated about a new restaurant – a sign appeared at the park entrance, dramatically announcing Fire And Water – and my first question was: but where? I circled the building on foot, happy to see the outmoded stage and bathers' facilities are now replaced, but still no clues to the dining establishment. Does anyone know?

"Facebook," I was told, "social media" – an ah-ha! moment.

Informed by social media, four couples arrived at Fire and Water for one of its soirees, and we were served a five-course gourmet dinner, beginning with seared halibut prepared on site by guest chef Brad Hindsley of La Porte's Spire Farm to Fork Restaurant.

Our host was Moe Mroueh, familiar to Michigan City diners for his Mediterranean cuisine served over the years in trendy spots along Franklin Street.

This, however, is different. Moe is inviting different chefs from Chicago and other areas – next up are Japanese and Indian – and "trying to create a little interaction between the chef and the diners."

Hearing this plan, I anticipated a TV-type commercial kitchen with guests seated at a stainless-steel island, observing the chef at his hot stove.

Not so.

The dining room is quite special: an intimate space



Participating in the recent event were Eve Landsman Wierzbicki and Chef Brad Hindsley.

measuring maybe 12' x 18', with one long table and 12 bistro chairs, the walls vari-colored in bright orange, yellow and lime green, a handy little bar present. Though there is no view of the lake, the room is decorated with quirky prints by an artist-friend of Moe's named Sykes – altogether creating a lively atmosphere.

"Reserved at Fire and Water – small-group dining at North Pointe Pavilion." Moe elucidates his concept, saying, "People come in here not knowing each other, and by the time they leave, they are good friends, with shared experiences."

A case in point: The ladies seated to my right and across the table discovered their

careers both started as nurses, then advanced to management. Nancy Moser now is vice-president of Community Health Care in Munster. She and her husband, Terry, have a country home near Otis. He is retired from NiSource and owns car washes in the Michigan City area. Greg and Cheryl Dieterle spend weekends at their place in Union Pier, Mich., and on Sunday nights head to O'Hare International Airport for jobs that involve extensive travel.

Both couples enjoy food adventures. Both have boats in the marina, and they all devote leisure time to new entertainment opportunities. The Dieterles originally are South Chicagoans. They heard about Fire and Water via Eve Landsman Wierzbicki's facebook page, "Dig the Dunes," which now reaches 3,500 viewers.

Assuredly, much of the conversation revolves around food. The Dieterles have been happily work

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An intimate setting awaits guests at "Reserved at Fire and Water."

ing their way through "100 Best Chicago Restaurants" and are pleased to find this place closer to home. Moser just returned from Pebble Beach, Calif., where she had a similar food adventure, but "Everything here I knew what it was," she commented, "which I kind of appreciate."

Hindsley dispelled any mysteries, sharing such details as "tortellini stuffed with cannellini beans, in a ragu made of mushrooms and fennel." Grilled

ribeye steak béarnaise was served with roasted carrots and a small item resembling a hush puppy, which in fact was a scoop of shredded beef, deep-fried, identified by the chef as "beef rib confit." Each plate was nicely garnished with fresh herbs. For dessert, one of the chef's favorites: sticky toffee pudding with ginger.

Moe kept everyone happy, with rounds of sparkling chardonnay followed by merlot. He remarked enthusiastically, "This type of occasion gives me a chance to spend time with the dinner guests, which I always enjoy."

An unexpected pleasure on such an evening comes from meeting acquaintances not seen in a long time, such as Dan Moser, a banjo player who used to play for us at the John G. Blank Center for the Arts, and his wife, Kelly, secretary at St. Mary of the Lake Church in New Buffalo. I was pleased to learn that Moser, still a banjo player, performs locally.

The evening ended on a high note, with rounds of applause for Hindsley.

Moe expects to host similar dining experiences twice a month, typically on Saturday nights. Menus and pricing will be determined by each chef, and Moe will offer payment options with or without beverage. Ours cost \$65 per person, with wine included. Future events can be found on eventbrite, Fire & Water and Reserved's facebook pages and on digthedunes.com.



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Madrigal Dinner

First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St., will present the Seventh Annual Madrigal Dinner on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4-5.



Members of First United Methodist Church's music department.

The church's music department will recreate a Renaissance feast like those held in the great baronial halls throughout England during the Christmas season. The church's Community Room will be transformed to contain food, music, entertainment and pageantry one might expect as a guest in Henry VIII's castle.

Seating for dinner begins at 6 p.m., with festivities starting at 6:30 p.m. The five-course dinner and program last approximately two hours.

Tickets, which are \$35 or \$240 per table (seating for eight), are available through the performance dates. Contact the church office at (219) 872-7200 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for tickets.

As part of First Friday, the Dec. 4 performance only will feature a Renaissance marketplace in the church narthex, with area craftsmen and artisans plying their wares. Doors will open for shopping at 5 p.m.

Winter Storytime for Children

Children's storytimes return to both Westchester Public Library locations the week of Jan. 4, with required registration starting Monday, Nov. 30.

At Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Westchester, Stories and Kicks for 4, 5, 6 meets at 10 a.m. Tuesdays. Children ages 4-6 participate in stories, songs, pretending, dancing and crafts.

At 10 a.m. Wednesdays, Tickle Tales for babies 9-24 months and their caregivers is an interactive, lap-sit program designed to build critical pre-reading skills. Wiggles and Giggles meets at 10 a.m. Thursdays and Fridays and features active, musical storytime sessions for 2- to 3-year-olds and their caregivers.

Registration can be done in person or by calling the library at (219) 926-7696.

At Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter, Toddler Time for children 2-3 meets at 10 and 11 a.m. Mondays. The program emphasizes books, music, games and crafts. All sessions apply the principles of Every Child Ready to Read.

On Tuesdays at Hageman starting Jan. 5, two Play Date classes meet at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Play Date is unstructured playtime for newborns to 24-month-olds (siblings are welcome) and their parent or caregiver.

Tickle Tales for babies 9-24 months is at 10 and 11 a.m. Tuesdays at Hageman, while Storytime for 4's & 5's meets at 10 a.m. Wednesdays. Weekly themes are explored through books, songs and crafts. Sessions support the principles of Every Child Ready to Read.

Wee Wonders will meet at 10 a.m. Fridays and targets 2- to 3-year-olds. It includes hands-on exploration of weekly themes, and includes a book or two, music and a weekly project.

Registration for Hageman classes must be done in person.

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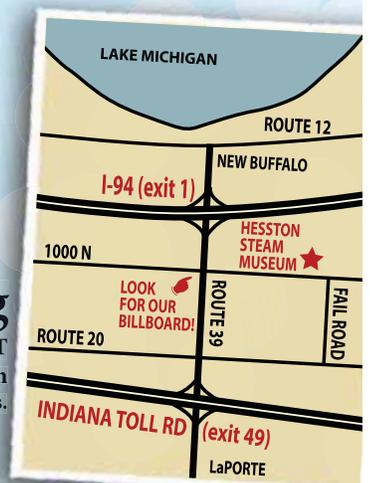
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Look for the billboard at CR 1000 North and IN-39
GPS: 1201 East 1000 North LaPorte, IN 46350 Hesston Steam Museum



George Krasl Memorial Concert

The George Krasl Memorial Concert, which will offer a musical journey through the Depression era, is at 7 p.m. EST Thursday, Dec. 3, at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.



The sounds of blues, jazz, Dixieland and bluegrass will be inspired by the center's current exhibit, "Dorothea Lange's America," and features the Ed Bagatini Trio.

Bagatini graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a music-education degree, then became a trombonist with the 5th Army Headquarters Band. He operates a music store in St. Joseph and is involved in the musical group DYNABONES and the Ed Bagatini New Swing Orchestra.

Guest artists include fiddling champions Matthew and Noah Tan, Dave Ratjik on clarinet and Larry Schanker on piano.

The concert is free, with donations accepted. Contact Krasl Art Center at (269) 983-0271 or visit www.krasl.org for more information.

Teacher Grants Awarded

Eight teachers from Michigan City public and parochial schools received grants from the Barbara A. Carmen Memorial Endowment Fund through Unity Foundation of La Porte County.

The fund was established in 1992 in memory of Carmen, a Michigan City Area Schools elementary teacher. Her family conceived the fund through Unity to promote classroom excellence.

Annual grants fund efforts that enrich curriculum or enhance a teacher's ability to meet student needs. More than \$49,500 has been awarded so far to finance teacher-directed projects, classroom equipment and continuing education.

Nineteen applications from 10 schools were received through Unity's online application process. The eight approved projects, impacting more than 220 students, will receive \$2,643.78. The projects are:

- Barker Middle School — Erin Frever: Book Club for Struggling Readers, \$400.
- Edgewood Elementary School — Teresa Pavloff: Growing Our Kinder Garden, \$330.
- Joy Elementary School — Lauren Stacks: iPads for Education, \$288.89.
- Knapp Elementary School — Joshua Schultz: IXL Online Math Practice, \$349.
- Niemann Elementary School — Nancy Gonzalez: Literacy for Little Learners, \$257.16.
- Pine Magnet School for the Performing and Visual Arts — Tessa Maguire: Keeping Engaged with Technology, \$389.88.
- Springfield Elementary School — Melissa Wise: Math Games Galore, \$400.
- Notre Dame Catholic School — Amanda Hartleib: Bring-home Baggie Books, \$228.85.

Santa Parade in New Buffalo

The New Buffalo Railroad Museum, in conjunction with New Buffalo Business Association, will host the return of the Santa Parade on Saturday, Nov. 28.

Santa and his reindogs begin their trip from the museum onto North Whittaker Street at 4 p.m. EST. Santa will hear Christmas wishes at the NBBA information booth. Contact the NBBA at (888) 660-6222 to be a parade participant.

Also, donations to the museum will be matched dollar for dollar on Giving Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Giving Tuesday is a global day dedicated to giving and celebrating kindness. A donor has challenged museum supporters to donate by cash, check or credit card by mail, at www.newbuffalorailroad-museum.org/Donations and Gifts or at the museum during open hours from noon to 5 p.m.

The museum is located at 530 S. Whittaker St., Suite B. Call (269) 469-8010 for more information.

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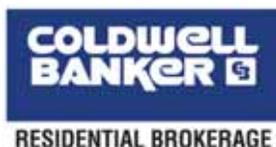


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How to Cook a Turkey

Stories from Notre Dame Elementary School third-graders on how to cook a turkey are a Thanksgiving tradition at *The Beacher*. They never fail to make us smile: A perfect start to the holiday season. Thanks to teacher Jennifer Scriba for sharing the stories with us. Enjoy!

How to Cook a Turkey

1. First, go on top of your roof and think if you should get a turkey.
2. Then, say "yes" in your mind.
3. Next, hunt the turkey and tell your family you captured it. Right after that, it ran away.
4. When it runs away, tell your family, "help!" But they will say, "no" and "go to bed."
5. After that, go get it by yourself.
6. When you find it, realize it came from the same place.
7. Then, grill it outside for 50 hours, and let it be a surprise for your family.



Elaina Balling

How to Cook a Turkey

1. First, get the turkey by hunting or at Al's.
2. Next, before you cook the turkey, spread some peanut butter and jelly on it.
3. After that, cook the turkey in the fireplace for about 5 or 6 hours.
4. Then, you will set the table.
5. After you finish setting the table, you could relax while watching the TV or using the restroom.
6. Then, call some friends to come over for Thanksgiving.
7. After that, you could go walk your dog or cat on a long walk for a half an hour.
8. Finally, when it is done, eat a happy dinner with your friends and family, and make sure you grab the only good piece!!!



Livia Balling

How to Cook a Mickey Mouse Turkey

1. Go to Walmart, and buy a turkey.
2. Tell Mickey Mouse to cook the turkey.
3. Next, he will stuff the turkey in a dresser drawer and put it in the oven.



Eli Bennett

4. Then, the turkey will catch on fire!
5. While the turkey is on fire, set the table.
6. Then, make scary cherries.
7. Tell Mickey to put out the fire, because now the scary cherries are on fire!
8. Mickey will say, "They're supposed to be on fire!"
9. Remake the cherries.
10. Set the scary cherries on the table, and grab a tissue to put on Mickey's nose, because he is about to sneeze all over the food!
11. Then, wipe Mickey's face off with glue. Oops, some glue got on the turkey.
12. Wash the turkey off with oil.
13. It may be disgusting, but you have to EAT IT!
14. Mickey will say, "Wait! No! I will wash it with water!"
15. Finally, the turkey is good enough to eat.

Chloe Barnes

How to Cook a Nuclear Turkey

1. Hunt your nuclear turkey with a Pokémon (tiny alien that can fit in a tennis ball-sized Pokémon ball).
2. Capture the nuclear turkey in a Pokémon ball.
3. Season the nuclear turkey with ghost peppers.
4. Put the nuclear turkey in the oven.
5. Set the oven for -1,000,000°.
6. Set timer for half of a nanosecond.
7. Your oven blows up.
8. Stomp your feet so hard that the whole house crumbles down.
9. Cook the nuclear turkey on a bonfire.
10. Eat it.
11. Make peach cobbler with ice cream.
12. Eat it.
13. Your stomach hurts so much, you almost blow up, so drink some ginger ale.
14. Happy Thanksgiving!



Bobby Looney

How to Cook a Chronos Turkey

1. Hunt the turkey with a hunting rifle.
2. Stuff the turkey with stuff, stuff, and most importantly, stuff.
3. Cook the turkey in the oven for 100,000,004,080 eons at 18,000 degrees Fahrenheit.
4. Take a nap.
5. You will probably have some more time, so cook mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce.
6. Check the turkey.
7. The turkey will expand and it will go KAA-BLUEY!
8. Congrats! Your house is completely splattered and ashy!
9. Get a Chronos Sapphire (a sapphire from Spy Kids that has super powers), and use your new, awesome powers to fix your house and make a perfect turkey.
10. Your relatives and friends will say, "This tastes very explosive, because someone snuck a magical chili pepper in here!"
11. Say that you have a dentist appointment, and leave super-speedily so you don't get spanked!



Shang Li Berk

How to Make an Everlasting-Cooking (aka Burnt) Turkey

First, look for a turkey in the woods. Next, hide in the grass and sneak up on the turkey when the turkey least expects it. Pounce on it. Then, when you have the turkey, you cook it for 5,937 hours at 500 degrees, and stuff it with stuffing. Then put gravy on the side. Invite some friends over. Finally, you should eat away!



Bobby Looney



How to Have Thanksgiving

1. Get a turkey at Al's.
2. Oh no! The turkey is gone!
3. Discover the turkey sitting in the grass.
4. Run and snatch the turkey by the legs.
5. Google how to cook a turkey.
6. Now, cook the turkey for 30 minutes at 10 degrees.
7. Get a big potato and mash it with a hammer.
8. Pour some gravy that you get from a cow on the turkey and mashed potato.
9. Serve with Caesar salad and carrot cake.
10. Invite your family to Thanksgiving and have a party!
11. Go to bed.
12. The end!



Morgan McCarthy

How to Make a Super-Gluey-Laffy-Taffy-Smelly-Socks Turkey

1. First, hunt the turkey with a rifle.
2. Second, put some smelly socks and Laffy Taffy in the turkey.
3. Cook it in the oven for 10,050 min. at 1,000 degrees.
4. The turkey blows up from the smelly socks and dirty, splattered Laffy Taffy.
5. Glue the turkey pieces together with Super Glue.
6. Try not to get stuck to the turkey.
7. Invite your enemies over.
8. Your enemies say, "Eeeewwww! Super Sticky Glue!!!" and drive away.



William McLinden

How to Make a Vegetarian Turkey

First, get the potatoes. Next, get the turkey molder. Then, get the gravy. Mash the potatoes. After that, stuff the potatoes with gravy. When you finish, pour it in the turkey molder. Then put it in the oven and wait.



In 200,000,000 days, you should be 46 years old. Then you should invite your friends and family, who should all be moved out by now, because cooking takes so long, so you may need to go out and try to make some more friends to have vegetarian turkey with them. May I suggest all the bunnies in the world?

Finally, invite the new friends, and eat the mashed potato turkey.

Hazel Murphy

How to Make an Explosive Turkey

1. Go to the farm, and look for a turkey.
 2. Pretend you are leaving, but hide in a bush.
 3. When the turkey looks away, then you can grab its legs.
 4. Then go home with the turkey. **JUST KEEP THE DOORS LOCKED!!!!**
 5. When you arrive home, put it in a pan, and add 10 big marshmallows and 4 jalapenos.
 6. Put 4 kinds of HOT, HOT sauces.
 7. Then put salt and pepper, and put it in the oven for 1 hour.
 8. Next, while your family is watching TV, wait 'til the turkey explodes, and your family jumps.
 9. Finally, if your family asks how and who made this turkey, blame it on your sister.
 10. If you don't have a sister, blame it on your brother.
 11. If you don't have a brother or sister, blame it on the TURKEY'S brother or sister.
 12. If the turkey doesn't have a brother or sister, then just admit that you did it.
- THE END**



Aine Rudzevicius

How to Fry a Garlicky Turkey

1. First get a lion net (but use it for the turkey).
2. After you get the lion net, go somewhere there are lots of turkeys (such as a harvested cornfield or the woods).
3. Next, throw the net over a big, fat, chubby turkey.
4. After that, pluck it.
5. After you pluck it, wash it with hot water so that all the feathers are removed.
6. Then, marinate the turkey in garlic oil and spices (such as more garlic).
7. Then fry it in a deep fryer for 10-20 minutes. Make sure to have a meat thermometer.
8. When the thermometer is at 300 degrees, the batch of turkey



is done.

9. Finally, eat it, but not TOO fast.
10. Remember to brush your teeth with garlic toothpaste. Don't worry, EVERYONE will smell like garlic.

Matthew Speakman

How to Make a Trick-Your-Siblings Turkey

1. Hunt 2 turkeys the day before Thanksgiving. You will need an axe.
2. The next day, make cranberry sauce and some mashed potatoes and gravy (even though your brother and sister don't like it).
3. Then, secretly stuff 1 turkey with Juicy-Fruit gum so your brother and sister will never tease you ever again, and make the other turkey good.
4. Finally, give the 1 good turkey to you, mom, and dad, and give the bad turkey to your sister and brother, and if they say, "Why does it smell of fruit?" just say, "It's the cranberry sauce," and let the fun begin!



Madelyn Shinn

How to Make a Bugs Bunny Turkey

1. First, think about what you're going to do for Thanksgiving, while snuggled in your bunny burrow.
2. Then, pop up and say, "I should go hunting for a turkey."
3. Third, walk quietly through the woods.
4. Fourth, sneak up on the turkey.
5. Fifth, sit on the turkey to make sure it won't get away.
6. Sixth, ask the turkey, "Mind if I take you for Thanksgiving?"
7. If the turkey says, "Yes!" just take it anyway.
8. Go home with the turkey.
9. Get a big pot filled with water, and put it on the fire.
10. Then, cut up some vegetables and put them in the pot.
11. After that, wait for 1 hour for the turkey to be done.
12. Serve with family and friends.
13. If they say the turkey is good, then make it again next year.



Anne Marie Wadle



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What's Cooking

by Jim LaRocco

I would like to begin this Thanksgiving column by sharing a recent experience, one that was surprising, gratifying and never would have happened had I not been a columnist for *The Beacher*.

In my Aug. 13, 2015, column, I reminisced about attending Garfield School, school lunches, the long countdown to summer vacation and the dreaded task of shopping for school clothes with Mom. I added my kindergarten class picture from Garfield School from the 1955-1956 school year. I know, you're getting a little bored right now, but I promise, here is where things get interesting.

Like most columnists, I have received countless emails from readers, but the one I received Sept. 19, 2015, surprised me the most. I would like to share part of it with you: *"Hi, Jimmy LaRocco. I was really surprised and pleased to read your article, "What's Cooking" in the August 13 issue that displayed your Garfield School Kindergarten picture (1955-1956). My picture is in the center of the photo.....your kindergarten teacher, Barbara Janette Reichert."*



Jim's kindergarten class picture from Garfield School from the 1955-1956 school year. Jim's photo is immediately to the right of his teacher's.

Imagine my surprise.

She went on to say that it was great I saved my first school photo, that it brought back many happy memories from her first teaching assignment. She hoped I continue writing and sharing memories and recipes.

Who would have thought a picture from 60 years ago would put me in touch with my kindergarten teacher? I answered her email and thanked her for the kind comments.

Finding out she is still living in Michigan City, I did not know that for 20 years, we lived a mile and a half apart. I thought it might be nice to pay my first "Teach" a visit. I ran the idea past my wife, Sue, and she agreed. So, I sent off another email asking if we could see her, and she said she would be more than happy to have us visit.

With your indulgence, I would like to share some of that visit with you before we get to the Thanks-

giving part of the column.

Like most teachers of the day, Barbara attended Ball State Teachers College and landed her first teaching assignment for the 1955-1956 school year at Garfield School. Her salary was a whopping \$3,100, and she managed to send home to Rochester, Ind., \$1,000 of that first year's salary. She said the reason she could send that much home was that she didn't have a car, and she shared the cost of an apartment with another female teacher. She mentioned back in the 1950s, single women did not live alone.

We talked about how things changed during her years at the head of the class. She said class began each day with the Pledge of Allegiance, the Lord's Prayer and a Bible verse or two.

Class sizes kept growing, and to keep order, she had a red thinking chair. If you were one of the "naughty" kids, you got the "honor" of sitting on it. The other thing Barbara mentioned was that she was not allowed to teach when she became pregnant with her first child.

I mentioned, of course, the milk and cookies. I reminded her of every kid's favorite cookie, the Salerno butter cookie. She let out a laugh, recalling how students put them on their fingers and ate the petals off first. You know what? I think she might have bitten off a few herself.

She related a story about a student who did not like milk, and whose mother asked if it would be OK if she sent watered down wine to school for him to drink.

She shared many more stories about her 34 years of teaching. She is the mother of two, an avid lover of Mexican food and loves to travel.

Although she retired from teaching in 1994, she still teaches some children today. We all enjoyed the conversation and vowed to keep in touch.

This time of year brings back memories of huge family Thanksgiving dinners growing up. I recall my mother getting up early to start the feast. While the meal was cooking, she set the tables. Everything had to be just perfect.

She made pies a few days before Thanksgiving, and my older brothers would try to sneak some pumpkin pie. They tried right up until dinner, then argued about who was getting a bigger piece for dessert. Finally, to keep the peace, Mom made each one of my older brothers their own pie. That really didn't solve the problem because they always tried to sneak a piece of someone else's pie before they dug into theirs.

It was years before I realized turkeys didn't have eight legs. A few of my older brothers liked turkey legs so Mom, to avoid another pumpkin pie-type sit-



Sue's pecan pies.

uation, always made sure to cook some extras.

One funny side story about Thanksgiving. My Mom usually gave her daughter and daughter-in-laws something to do. It was the responsibility of my brother Dave's wife, Laura, to put the biscuits in the oven. She did her job, but sometimes forgot to take them out. Now, Laura says it only happened once. That's her story, and she is sticking to it.

I would like to share a couple of recipes that have become family favorites. One is a yam casserole, the other a cranberry conserve.

For the yam casserole, boil, drain and mash 3 pounds of yams (you can substitute sweet potatoes).

Into the yams, mix 2/3 cup of brown sugar, 1 1/2 tablespoons of vanilla, 2 well-beaten eggs, 1 stick of melted butter, cinnamon and nutmeg to taste and set aside.

For the topping, 2/3 cup of sugar, 1/3 cup of flour, 1/3 stick of butter and 1 cup of chopped nuts (walnuts, pecans or a mixture of both). I prefer finely grinding the nuts almost to a powder.

Grease an 8x8 glass pan and add the yam mixture. Place the chopped nuts on top and back for 25-



Jim's yam casserole.

30 minutes at 350 degrees. Cooking time might vary.

For the cranberry conserve, combine 1 pound of fresh cranberries in 1 cup of water into a sauce pan (I substitute 1/2 cup of orange juice with pulp). Cook until the cranberries burst.

While the cranberries are simmering, chop 1 large orange, 1 peeled and chopped pear and 1 peeled and chopped Granny Smith apple. You also will need to set aside 1 cup of golden raisins, 1 cup of pineapple and 3/4 cup of chopped walnuts.

After the cranberries burst, add to the mixture the chopped-up fruit with 1 1/2 cups of sugar. Mix well and return to heat.

Constantly stir. Mixture will thicken as it cooks, usually 20-25 minutes. Then, remove from heat and cool. You can later add the nuts and pineapple. It is best to leave these last few ingredients until the end.

I make this dish a few days early. It will last in the refrigerator for two weeks, or it can be frozen for up to a year. If your family loves cranberries as much as mine, you will have to double the recipe.

I try to prepare as many dishes ahead of time as possible. That way, I don't have as many pots and pans to clean on Thanksgiving. It makes the big day less hectic.

I am thankful for all of the emails and recipe requests I get from the faithful readers of "What's Cooking." I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Until next time, enjoy.



The turkey Jim prepared last Thanksgiving.



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Songs of the Giving Heart Concert

The third annual Songs of the Giving Heart charity benefit concert was held Nov. 15 at Notre Dame Church, 1010 Moore Road. The program, a collaborative effort between Notre Dame's music ministry and Peace and Social Justice Commission, featured area soloists and other local musicians. Proceeds benefitted Citizens Concerned for the Homeless, The Salvation Army and Sacred Heart Pantry.

Photos by Bob Wellinski



The following programs are available:

- **All branches of Westchester Public Library, Library Service Center and Westchester Township History Museum will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26, for Thanksgiving.**

The Westchester Township Trustee office also will be closed Nov. 26. Library buildings reopen Friday, Nov. 27, and resume regular hours.

- **Make-N-Take Holiday Ornament Craft Time at noon Saturdays leading up to Christmas starting Nov. 28.**

Stop by the children's department at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton, to make a new holiday ornament.

- **WPL Gaming Guild from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29, in the Bertha Wood Room at Thomas Library.**

Adventurers, players and storytellers can participate in tabletop events, including a 5th edition Dungeons & Dragons campaign, "Settlers of Catan" and "Pandemic."

- **Coloring Books & Zentangle from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30, in the Bertha Wood Room at Thomas Library.**

Patrons create coloring books using Zentangle. Color books will be available for coloring and inspiration. Registration can be done in person or by calling (219) 926-7696. All materials are provided, but patrons can take supplies.

- **Bits & Bytes series, Introduction to Ancestry, from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Dec. 2, in the Serials/Automation Department on the second floor of Thomas Library.**

Registration is required. Those interested in attending may register on the library's Bits & Bytes page, in person or by calling Thomas Library at (219) 926-7696.

- **Minecraft Meet-up from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, at Thomas Library.**

Registration is required and can be done in person. The WPL Gaming Policy and Rules of Conduct must be signed upon registration.

- **Battles of the American Civil War from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, and 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 5, in the Bertha Wood Room at Thomas Library.**

History buff and Civil War enthusiast Thomas Murphy will discuss the Battle of Wilderness/Spotsylvania.

- **Children's Chess Club from 3 to 5 p.m. Mondays through Dec. 7 at Thomas Library.**

Veteran coach and chess expert Nick Groenewegen leads the club. The first hour is for new chess players and the second for those with some experience. Register by calling (219) 926-7696.

- **Pokemon League from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays at Thomas Library.**

First-graders and older are invited. Attendees will learn to make decks of 60 cards.

Casting a Spell



Cast members from Michigan City High School's fall musical, "Cinderella," delighted Pre-K and elementary children across the city Nov. 16, performing several numbers and visiting with students at Imagination Station Child Development Center, Barker Woods Enrichment Center, Niemann School, Edgewood Elementary and Marsh Elementary. The cast members pictured here, Elizabeth Werner (Godmother), Lauren Werner (Cinderella) and Christian Toney (Prince), were at Niemann School.



THANK YOU!

We at Stop 50 would like to thank all our guests, both near and far, for a great ninth season.

We appreciate all your support and patronage, and wish each of you a very blessed Holiday.

Our ninth season ends on November 29. We will be closed till beginning of March, 2016.

Thank you again, and we look forward to seeing everyone again in March 2016.

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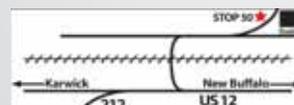
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Make Yourself a Morning Person

by Kevin Scott

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

Twenty four hours in a day. How is one supposed to get everything done? I am a firm believer it starts by waking up with the birds. While others are sleeping, the morning is the quietest time to get work done that may be put off or lack depth because of distractions later in the day.

Particularly in my field, people claim to not have enough time in the day for exercise. Zig Zigler said, "Lack of direction, not lack of time, is the problem. We all have 24 hour days."



I recently watched a video by Dr. Mike Evans, who has a pretty impressive background. He is the founder of the Health Design Lab at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, an associate professor of Family Medicine and Public Health at the University of Toronto and a staff physician at St. Michael's Hospital. That's all. No big deal.

Well, Evans posted a video on his YouTube channel called "23 and 1/2 Hours: What is the single best thing we can do for our health?" In it, he describes an intervention with patients in a clinical trial trying to find out what one thing has the biggest Return on Investment (ROI) on an individual's health. Patients came in with conditions such as knee arthritis, dementia and Alzheimer's, diabetes, post-menopausal, anxiety, depression and chronic fatigue. All the patients who came in and received a certain treatment saw significant decreases in their conditions.

What was the magic pill or medicine? Exercise. I am sure most of you saw that coming. But the underlying message is that all they devoted was 30 minutes a day.

I am a firm believer in the saying "you make the bed you lie in." Whether it is not enough exercise, not enough time with the family, not enough time to study or whatever area in life you find you cannot find the time for, try utilizing the morning. Waking up early is definitely hard to do, but once it becomes a habit, you accomplish so much more.

If you are not as happy nor as successful as you would like, self-audit. See where you are really spending time. Self-auditing typically reveals large chunks of time, frequently seated in the living room to be the first that can go. Binge watching TV can be glorious, and I am guilty, on occasion of this cultural phenomenon. However, if you are telling me you have no time to exercise, but also telling me about



how you just caught up with the last season of "Sons of Anarchy," I tend to believe time" is the culprit. So, make yourself a morning person. Get up early, get things done and move on with your day.

Don't wake up easy? Try these tips that are sure to assist you in waking up with the birds:

• **Tip 1 — Cool Down to Warm Up.** This can be done with a cold shower in the morning, or a cold little jaunt outside.

• **Tip 2 — Get ready the night before.** Packing your bag and getting your breakfast and lunch ready the next day ensure you cut out a couple more excuses once that alarm goes off.

• **Tip 3 — Get bright.** Once that alarm goes off, immediately turn on a light. The tendency to pull the covers over your face will be there, but RE-SIST!

• **Tip 4 — Caffeine is life.** OK, well maybe not exactly. But if you do have trouble waking up, get your coffee pot ready and have some coffee early. If you are heading to a workout, check out pre-workout mixes. Always check with your doctor before you take one of these.

• **Tip 5 — Get a workout partner.** You are way more likely to get up and get ready if you know someone is waiting for you. This may be in the form of a friend or a personal trainer.

• **Tip 6 — Set two alarms.** Set one alarm as a warning for yourself that you are about to absolutely crush your day. The second alarm is the gun at the start of a race. Get up, get moving and don't look back.

Sure there are a million other tips, from wakeup lights to alarms where you have to take a picture of something to shut it off — I tried this and almost broke my phone due to frustration — but these are ones I find to be the most helpful. So if you have goals, whether health-related or just life-related, that come back to the phrase "I don't have enough time," use the morning hours to knock those things out. So while others are in bed and dreaming, get up early and make those dreams happen.

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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

Friday, Nov. 27

- **10 a.m. — Holiday Crafts.**

Meet at the Nature Center for a holiday themed nature craft while watching birds in the bird room.

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

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

Saturday, Nov. 28

- **10 a.m. — What's at Your Feeder?**

Meet in the Nature Center bird room for a look at common birds. A craft is planned.

- **2 p.m. — Dump the Stuffing Hike.**

Wear hiking boots and join guest naturalist Cookie Ferguson at the Nature Center for a trot up to Mount Tom and back.

Sunday, Nov. 29

- **10 a.m. — Feed the Birds.**

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

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

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

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



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Southeast Alaskan Odyssey

The Alaska String Band will present a "Southeast Alaskan Odyssey" as part of the La Porte Community Concert season at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29, at La Porte High School Auditorium, 700 F St., La Porte.



Hailing from Alaska's capital city of Juneau, the Zahasky family presents a family friendly concert of American-roots music, including swing, jazz, bluegrass, pop, Celtic and gospel.

The public may purchase tickets at the door. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for students through high school. Call (219) 362-8262 or (219) 362-5292 for more information.

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Teddy Bear Tea

Teddy Bear Tea, the annual Toys for Tots benefit sponsored by The Harbor Grand and Marina Grand Resort, bills itself as "an afternoon of giving, snacking and dancing."

The event is at 1 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 6, at Marina Grand Resort, 600 W. Water St., New Buffalo, Mich., which is transformed into a holiday wonderland. Guests encounter tea service and treats while waiting to meet with Santa and present their gift for a child in need. They then can take to the dance floor, led by award-winning kindie band Poochamungas, which is described as what it would sound like "...if the Allman Brothers made kids music."

Admission is \$10 per person with a donation of an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Call (269) 469-9900 or visit www.toysfortots.org for more information.

Turkey Walk

The Annual Turkey Walk and Native American Heritage Day is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 26, at International Friendship Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, Michigan City.

Donations of canned or packaged food, or cat/dog food, will be collected for those in need. Visitors can stroll through the grounds, see live turkeys and join the hunt through the woods for hidden (paper) turkeys. All youngsters win a prize.

Hot drinks, snacks and garden souvenirs will be sold. Activities will be in the Native American Garden, with an open fire, displays and crafts. Pets on a leash are welcome.

Call (219) 878-9885, email internationalfriendshipgardens@yahoo.com or visit www.friendshipgardens.org for more information.

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Dunebrook Honors Exchange Club

Dunebrook recently honored the Michigan City Exchange Club when it hosted its annual gala, "Dunebrook Around the World," at Heston Hills Banquet Center.

Linda Hough, president of Dunebrook's board of directors, presented the Lester Radke Community Service Award to Club President Mike Schultz, with many club members present.



Exchange Club President Mike Schultz (holding the plaque) is surrounded by club members at the gala.

The award, first presented in 2004 to its namesake, recognizes community members who help improve the lives of others. Previous winners are Diana Dibkey, Angela Nelson Deutch, Bruce and Julia Manner, Fred and Sue Miller, Duane Seifert, Dave De Lau, Norm Steider, Larry Fegaras, Rebecca Fistel and Joe Coar.

The Exchange Club joins with Dunebrook in April, "Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month," to present the Child Abuse Intervention Award for outstanding work in protecting children from the dangers of child abuse and neglect, and spearheads numerous projects that share a common vision with Dunebrook.

Proceeds from the gala support Dunebrook's work, which includes educating, supporting and guiding parents, performing forensic interviews when abuse is alleged or suspected or another crime witnessed, providing an early education experience at Westville Little School and presenting Body Safety and Stewards of Children child sexual-abuse prevention programs. More than 300 families benefit each month from work by Dunebrook, which has offices in Michigan City and Valparaiso, and serves La Porte, Porter, Starke, Jasper, Pulaski and Newton counties.



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High School Honors U.S. Marine Corps

Michigan City High School's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps honored the U.S. Marine Corps by conducting a military ball to celebrate its 240th birthday.

The banquet was held at Pine Grove Banquet Hall in La Porte. A highlight was the presentation and cutting of the birthday cake. The second and third pieces go to the oldest and youngest cadets, the first piece to the guest of honor. This symbolizes the passing of the tradition of Marine Corps excellence. Reinforcing that tradition as well was the reading of the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Message.

James Strzelecki, owner and chief executive officer of St. Andrews Products in Michigan City, was the guest of honor. He attributed his success in business in part to the discipline he learned while serving in the U.S. Army.



1st Lt. Jalen Stockley gives the first piece of cake to the guest of honor, James Strzelecki.

"I probably hated every minute of basic training and advanced infantry training," he said, "but as I look back, it is probably one of the best things I have ever done. It taught me discipline, and the will to persevere."

Strzelecki also related conversations he's had with his partner in charitable organizations and friend, former Notre Dame football coach Lou Holtz.

"With all of the accolades Lou earned as a football coach, he says one of his greatest accomplishments was serving as a U.S. Army lieutenant," Strzelecki

said.

He complimented the cadets for their hard work and determination to become positive contributors to the community and nation.

"So many of our youth are doing unproductive activities," he said. "I commend you for the effort you put into improving your school and ultimately our country, and I encourage you to continue your admirable performance."

Also, JROTC competed in the first round of CyberPatriot, a national cyber security game that simulates a cyber attack on a computer system.

This is the third year Michigan City fielded a team. Last year, cadets finished second in the state out of 38 JROTC programs. Michigan City is the only school in La Porte and Porter counties to compete in the event.



The Color Guard presents the flag for The National Anthem.

The scores are announced a week after the round is completed. The cadets will compete in two more rounds Dec. 4 and Jan. 29. These rounds determine who advances in the competition, with the finalists competing in Washington, D.C., for the national championship in March.

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La Porte County Parks



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

Stroller, Baby and You

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

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call at least one week in advance to register.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

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

- Dec. 9: "Knock on Wood."

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.

Indoor Flea Market

New Troy's Indoor Flea Market is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST Saturday, Nov. 28, at New Troy Community Center, 13372 California Road, New Troy, Mich.

The free flea market features antiques, tools, crafts, books, memorabilia, housewares and furniture. A hot lunch is served.

Vendor spaces may be reserved in advance for \$13, which includes a table and chair. Call or text Janna at (773) 275-1514 for more information. Proceeds from space rentals benefit the Community Center, an all-volunteer facility run by the non-profit organization Friends of New Troy. It is one of the organizations largest annual fundraisers.

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Teacher Innovation Fund Grants

The Michigan City Area Schools Teacher Innovation Fund supported a record number of applications this year to enhance innovative classroom projects.

Former Michigan City Mayor Chuck Oberlie and MCAS Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins established the fund with Unity Foundation of La Porte County in 2011. It provides grants of up to \$350 to teachers and professionals at Michigan City High School and the La Porte County Career and Technical Education-A.K. Smith Center. Horizon Bank also contributed to help grow the fund, and Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce supports one grant each year in memory of Joe Mellen, an A.K. Smith graduate and longtime Horizon Bank employee.

A record 21 applications were received this year, requesting a total of \$6,544.25. The selection committee under Unity awarded more than \$2,600 available in the Teacher Innovation Fund, and recommended selecting eight projects. Unity Foundation then reached out to representatives of its La Porte County Educational Advancement Fund, which opened in 2012. The LCEA also was impressed with the projects presented and contributed an additional \$3,874.39 to fund all the applications.

A total of 41 teachers will benefit, reaching 5,838 students with projects during the 2015-2016 school year. They include:

Michigan City High School

- Erica Arnett, Hotpotatoes, \$158.86.
- Nancy Benson, Read to Succeed, \$259.61.
- Rory Boone, The "S.T.E.M.-Tacular" Problem Solving Project, \$350.
- Janet Dimke, Outcasts United Novel Study, \$269.70.
- Deanna Ehrhardt, Legacy of Learning, \$350.
- Kelly Fargo, MCHS Students Save The Sinking Ship!, \$260.
- Kristen Freitag, Project Classroom Technology Interaction & More, \$334.98.
- Aaron Garrett and Bruce Stahl, Don't Be a Lone Wolf-P.S.A. Campaign, \$350.
- Adam Goebel, Just How Small Is Our World, \$333.80.
- Ashley Kohler, Bubble Learning, \$268.
- Mary LaLuna, Operation Participate to Graduate-Phase 2, \$335.70.
- Catherine Lindgren, Atlas of World Geography Student Classroom sets, \$350.
- Michael Livovich, Digitize, Write and Revise: Digital Testing for English 11, \$310.17.
- Richard Merrick, Jamey Aebersold Jazz Play-a-Long Sets, \$349.98.
- Ronda Ross, Quickbooks Software for Accounting Class, \$350 (Recipient of Joe Mellen Award).
- Rebecca Sanders, Read-er-cise, \$350.
- Rebecca Shaman, Black History Expo, \$341.97.
- Lucas Snyder, Decades Project, \$331.84.

- Mariam Taha, Popsicle Sticks Babies Project, \$210.
- Amy Wojasinski-Labis, Teaching Like It's 2999 Going from Good to Great, \$329.93.

La Porte County Career and Technical Education/A.K. Smith Career Center

- Ralph Gee, Bridging the Gap Between Engineering, Technology, and Art, \$349.71.

To support the growing number of teacher grant requests, tax-deductible contributions are welcomed to the Teacher Innovation Fund or La Porte County Educational Advancement Fund. Online contributions may be made at www.uflc.net, or checks mailed to Unity Foundation, P.O. Box 527, Michigan City, IN 46361, with Teacher Innovation or LP Ed. Advancement in the memo line.

Call Unity at (219) 879-0327 or email unity@uflc.net for more information.

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| 3. IncrediBowls | 26.5 | 16.5 |

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

| | SCORE |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Jill Mellen | 244 |
| 2. Tammy Vouri | 201 |
| 3. Sue Labovitz | 171 |
| 4. Barb Macudzinski | 170 |
| 5. Liz Lutterbach | 166 |
| 6. June Salmon | 156 |
| 7. Ann Bogart | 153 |
| 8. Mary Lou McFadden (series) | 403 |
| 9. Dottie Brinkman (series) | 401 |

FOUR STRIKES IN A ROW

Jill Mellen (twice in same game)

THREE STRIKES IN A ROW

Barb McCorkel

SPLITS

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 1. Liz Lutterbach | 5-8-10 |
| 2. Ellie Parkerson | 2-4-5 |

White Saturday

Historic Downtown Buchanan, Mich., will offer a day of art, antiques, music, food and shopping during its annual White Saturday on Nov. 28.

The event is presented in conjunction with Buchanan Downtown Development Authority. Individual store hours will vary.

Offering food and drinks are: Back Door Café; B&W Olde Village Inn; Union Coffee House; Tasty Chen's; McCoy Creek Tavern; Gary Z's; The Sweet Shop; Hilltop Café; Milanos Pizza; Sonny's Restaurant; Fernwood Café; and Wheatberry Restaurant & Tavern.

Sites with galleries and antiques include: Buchanan Museum of Fine Art; Alan Robandt; Guys & Dolls; Dean Antiques; Front Street Framery; Slocum's Gifts and Décor; SL Consignment Gallery; Sandy's Floral Boutique; Buchanan Art Center; Thomas Jolly Home and Garden; Impressive Lettering; Rustica; and Brimfield's.

Salons and spas include: Pure Rituals; Haven's Retreat & Day Spa; and Guys and Dolls.

Also, First Presbyterian Church will have nativity scenes from around the world, and Buchanan District Library will be open at the Front Street entrance, with hot chocolate, raffles and a movie planned.



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Lake Hills Honored as One of First STEM Schools in Indiana

Lake Hills Elementary School was honored in Indianapolis for obtaining certification as a Science/Technology/Engineering/Math school.

Lake Hills is one of only nine schools in Indiana to receive the designation.

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz presented Lake Hills Principal Connie Bachmann and STEM Coordinator Shelley Deutscher with a large banner recognizing the certification during the 2015 Indiana STEM Symposium. Special guests included Melissa Moritz, Deputy Director of STEM for the U.S. Department of Education, as well as leaders from the Department of Workforce Development, Project Lead the Way and experts in higher education and STEM industries.

During a MCAS School Board meeting, Lake Hills teachers and staff were recognized for their efforts.

"We already knew Lake Hills was a leader in Indiana and even nationally," MCAS Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins said. "Five years ago, they were the first public magnet school doing STEM in our state, and many schools and educators have visited Lake Hills as a model of innovation."

Bachmann said, "We could not have accomplished this without the support of our staff, parents and community partners."

She noted that the school has more than 75 community partners involved in its work.

Indiana's first nine STEM Certified Schools were named following a rigorous application and review process. In announcing the designation, the Indiana Department of Education said the schools selected exemplify "a highly non-traditional approach to education by employing a great deal of inquiry, project based learning, community engagement, entrepreneurship, student centered classrooms and out-of-school STEM activities."



Lake Hills teachers and staff are recognized for their efforts during a Michigan City Area Schools board meeting.

Lake Hills opened as a STEM magnet school in 2011. It serves students in kindergarten through sixth grade, maintaining a primary focus on core academic subjects while engaging students through a STEM-themed approach. The school has received several awards for its work, and in 2013 was selected as one of only 41 schools nationwide to pilot the Project Lead the Way engineering curriculum at the elementary level. It received an "A" letter grade from the state in 2013 and 2014.

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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Knitting Club for All Ages at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 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.

• **The library is closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving holiday.**

• **Professor Oops! at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 27.**

Professor Oops! presents a family program that explores ideas about ecology, psychology, art, creativity and science with wit and whimsy.

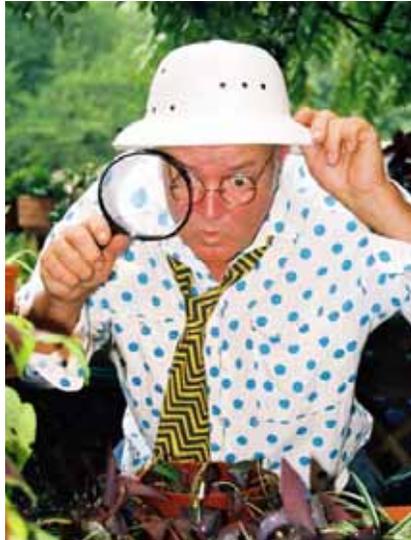
• **Winter Reading Challenge! runs Dec. 1-31.**

The Youth Services Department is challenging kids through 17 to read (or be read to) nonfiction books this month. Participants can win a prize bag. Stop by the Youth Services desk for more details.

• **Santa Claus Visit at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, and 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2.**

Stories are planned, and visitors should take a camera. Children must be present to receive a surprise from Santa. The Tuesday program is for children birth to 12 accompanied by an adult. The Story Time program is for children birth to 5 accompanied by an adult.

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



Piloting Course

The U.S. Sail & Power Squadron will present its piloting course starting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at Michigan City Port Authority's Conference Room, 200 Heisman Harbor.

The class focuses on navigation for recreational boats today, embracing GPS as a primary navigation tool while covering enough traditional techniques so students can find his/her way if GPS fails.

Register and/or obtain more information by contacting Larry Fleck at Topsider@greatcirclecruise.com or (219) 879-4156, or Bill Jenkins at michigan-citypowersquadron@gmail.com or (219) 928-6118. Additional information is available on facebook.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

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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.

Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

Nov. 26 — THANKSGIVING DAY.

Nov. 26 — Annual Turkey Walk and Native American Heritage Day, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., International Friendship Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, Michigan City. Info: (219) 878-9885, internationalfriendshipgardens@yahoo.com, www.friendshipgardens.org

Nov. 27 — Professor Oops!, 10:30 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Nov. 27-30 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Truth." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "99 Homes." Rated R. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. *Also:* "The Looking Glass." Not rated. Times: 3 p.m. Nov. 27, noon Nov. 28. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

Nov. 27-28 — 100 Years of Indiana State Parks, 2 p.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Nov. 28 — Santa Parade, 11-12:30 p.m., Downtown La Porte. Info: gesse@lpchamber.com, (219) 362-3178.

Nov. 28 — Dump the Stuffing Hike, 2 p.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Nov. 28 — Santa Parade, 4 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Railroad Museum, 530 S. Whittaker St., Suite B, New Buffalo, Mich. Info: (269) 469-8010.

Nov. 29 — Alaska String Band, "Southeast Alaskan Odyssey" (La Porte Community Concert season), 3 p.m., La Porte High School Auditorium, 700 F St., La Porte. Cost: \$15/adults, \$5/students through high school. Info: (219) 362-8262, (219) 362-5292.

Dec. 2 — Battles of the American Civil War, 6-8 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

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

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

Saturdays in November — "Birding with Ken Brock," 7-10 a.m., Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, located off Indiana 249 north of Interstate 94. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Farther Afield:

Nov. 28 — White Saturday, downtown Buchanan, Mich. Individual store hours vary.

Nov. 28 — Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy Community Center, 13372 California Road, New Troy, Mich. Info: (773) 275-1514.

Dec. 3 — George Krasl Memorial Concert, 7 p.m., Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Free, donations accepted. Info: (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org

Students Gain Real World Lessons

Purdue University-North Central's undergraduate marketing students are partnering with the community to learn effective marketing strategies.

The knowledge students gather will be put to work as they build a marketing plan for the Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City.



Members of the PNC Principles of Marketing class visit Family Express as part of their learning experience.

Throughout the fall semester, students in the Principles of Marketing class are learning about techniques such as advertising, public relations, social media marketing and strategies. This experience has included presentations by organizations and businesses in the Valparaiso area.

Rex Richards, Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce president, presented the chamber's successful marketing campaigns and explained how market research fueled these programs.

"I found the students extremely engaged," Richards said. "The questions the class members asked were quite advanced. I was very impressed with their technical knowledge of the subject matter."

John Seibert and Barbie Johnson, of the Valparaiso Parks and Recreation Department, met the class at the Urschel Pavilion to explain how the department's strategies and relationship-building create partnerships with the Valparaiso community. The class also visited with Joe Battistoni, digital advertising director, and Jim Pellegrini, marketing manager, at The Times Media Co. to discuss advertising and integrated marketing communications.

The group also met with the marketing team at Family Express and Chris Mahlmann from Ideas in Motion, who presented real-world lessons to complement the marketing lessons learned in the traditional classroom.



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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



On December 3, 1925, in New York's Carnegie Hall, George Gershwin performed as a soloist, playing his *Concerto in F*. It was the first public performance of a jazz concerto for piano in musical history.

On December 3, 1947, the Tennessee Williams play "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened on Broadway.

On December 3, 1948, 1,140 died when a steamship exploded and sank south of Shanghai.

On December 3, 1948, the famous Pumpkin Papers came to light with the revelation that microfilm of secret documents was found hidden inside a hollow pumpkin on the farm of Whittaker Chambers. Chambers, a former communist agent, claimed he received the papers from Alger Hiss.

On December 3, 1967, the 20th Century Limited, the famous luxury train that ran between New York and Chicago, completed its final trip.

On December 3, 1999, scientists failed to make contact with the *Mars Polar Lander* after it began its fiery descent toward the Red Planet; the spacecraft is presumed destroyed.

On December 4, 1867, the National Grange of Husbandry, usually known simply as the Grange, was founded in the United States. This organization of farmers contributed significantly to the development of agriculture, and provided a focus for much of the social life of rural America.

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

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

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

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

On December 5, 1929, the "American League of Physical Culture," the first nudist organization in America, was established. While December would not seem to be the best time of the year to go around without clothes, the enterprise appears to have flourished.

On December 5, 1978, *Pioneer Venus 1* began beaming back its first information and pictures of Venus.

On December 5, 2003, the two makers of flu shots in the U.S., Chiron and Aventis Pasteur, announced they had run out of vaccine and would not be able to meet a surge in demand.

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

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

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

On December 6, 1957, America's first attempt at putting a satellite into orbit blew up on the launch pad at Cape Canaveral, FL.

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

On December 7, 1842, the New York Philharmonic gave its first concert, performing works by Ludwig van Beethoven and Maria von Weber.

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

On December 8, 1829, the first tavern license in Chicago was issued to Archibald Caldwell. A nights lodging cost 12-1/2 cents; with three meals a day costing a total of 25 cents.

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was herself free of Original Sin.

On December 8, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln announced his plan for reconstruction of the South.

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

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

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

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

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

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

On December 9, 1973, governments of Arab oil producing states ordered a cutback in oil production.

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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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Sullair Honorees Christmas Party

The Sullair Disconnected Compressor Honorees, consisting of former employees who resigned, retired or were fired, will hold their annual Christmas meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at Galveston Steakhouse, 10 Commerce Square.

The cost is \$10. A cash bar is planned. Donations and guests are welcome. To assist with the planning process, a request is made to send RSVPs by email to SDCH.Reunion@gmail.com

Wigilia Christmas Luncheon

The Polish Women's Alliance District 3 Wigilia Christmas Luncheon is Saturday, Dec. 19, at the Carmelite Fathers Banquet Hall, 1628 Ridge Road, Munster.

Doors open at noon, with the meal served at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$17.50 for children 5-11. Proceeds benefit the organization's scholarship fund. Reservations are due by Dec. 14 by calling Dolly Huneycutt at (219) 218-4420.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Crossing by Michael Connelly (hardcover, \$28 retail online and in bookstores; also available as an eBook)

When a world-renowned author puts out a new book, and places like Barnes & Noble and amazon.com offer it for half the retail price, well, it piques my curiosity and my wallet!

After all, Connelly's books have sold more than 60 million copies worldwide, so it's not like he's a struggling author trying to make a name for himself. Who knows? Maybe this is a Christmas present to his adoring public, and maybe B&N and Amazon are just trying to outdo each other.

Whatever the reason, I was excited to read this latest edition—and I wasn't disappointed...

Connelly's two most famous characters are Micky Haller, the Lincoln Lawyer, and Harry Bosch, LAPD homicide detective. So how about linking up the two in one blockbuster novel?! That's exactly what he does, and here's the lowdown on this exciting story...

Harry and Micky are half-brothers. Harry has devoted his career to the Los Angeles Police Department, while Micky has gone the way of becoming a defense lawyer...opposite sides of the fence in the legal world.

Harry is retired from the force, not because he wanted to, but because of something he did, and now he is fighting the system to get reinstated...but that's another story.

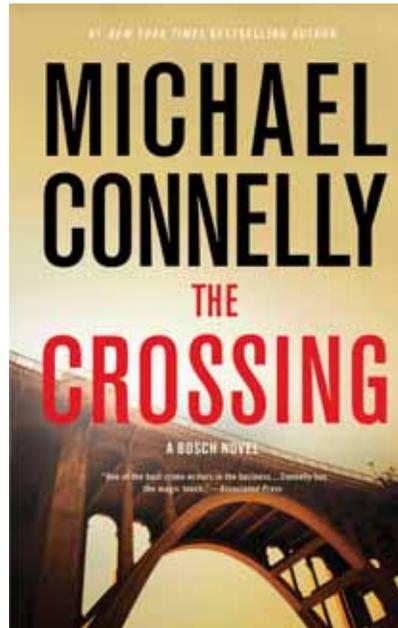
Micky has his office in the back seat of his Lincoln Town Car. He defends any and all, no prejudice involved, and that's why the police despise him. A murderer's lawyer is considered no better than the murderer. But Micky has proven to the courts that not all indicted people are the guilty party.

One day, Micky calls Harry about one of his cases. Why, oh why, would Harry want to enrage the LAPD any more than he already has with his lawsuit against them?

Harry tells him, "You know what they call a guy who switches sides in homicide? They call him a Jane Fonda, as in hanging with the North Vietnamese. You get it? It's crossing to the dark side."

Micky pushes. His investigator has had an accident and is out of commission. He knows Harry has developed an eye for discovering things others overlook.

Harry reluctantly says he will review the paperwork on Da'Quan Foster. The man has been accused



of the home-invasion rape and murder of Lexie Parks, a city worker and wife of a sheriff's deputy. They found Foster's DNA in and on the woman, and he's a former gang member, so it looks like a slam dunk case. Or is it? Foster says he has an alibi, but refuses to say what it is.

Harry takes his time looking over the paperwork and studying the photos, finding several things that don't add up. Pretending to be an interested buyer, he goes to Lexie's home, now put up for sale by her husband, to look over the crime scene — "Visit the scene of the crime long after the crime has been committed. He called it looking for ghosts. He believed every murder left a trace on the environment, no matter how old." Harry finds something interesting — an empty

box for a very expensive watch — that was not on the victim's arm in the photo, even though tan lines tell him otherwise, and, the watch was not listed as missing after the murder. We're talking a five-figure European-made watch here — awful pricey for a man on a lawman's salary. Maybe something to check on, and maybe not...but it wakes up his instincts as a homicide detective. He tells Micky he will help him.

It is mesmerizing to follow Harry's investigation—how a missing watch leads to a shady watch sale—which leads to a male prostitute—which leads to a GPS bug planted on his car—and finally leading him back to the police department itself. The methodology is impeccable, but what he discovers might not sit well with those determined to put away Da'Quan Foster.

As past fellow officers learn of Harry's involvement in the defense of a man they have decided is guilty, you begin to understand what a fine line Harry is walking. If he is proven wrong about Foster, there may be no going back to the LAPD ever.

This is another of Connelly's fine crime novels. No one does it better.

Maureen Corrigan of *The Washington Post* wrote: "As always with a Bosch novel, the delight is in the 'inside police' details..."

From Jeff Ayers, *Associated Press*: "Connelly continues to write quality crime fiction, and The Crossing is another great character study mixed with a truly baffling puzzle."

Connelly is a former newspaper reporter who has won numerous awards for his journalism and novels. Till next time, happy reading!

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