



Volume 31, Number 39 Thursday, October 8, 2015

A Therapeutic Form of Art

by Connie Kuzydym

The idea of participating in a discussion and demonstration of the Polish paper-cutting craft known as *wycinanki* appealed to me on more than one level. I enjoy crafting, but more so, this was a chance to experience a part of my husband's heritage.

Being solely of Greek descent, I have always been thankful for my heritage, its culture and customs. When I married my husband, who was solely of Polish descent, the blending of two wonderful heritages began. When our daughters arrived, it became even more important that they understand and appreciate their dual heritages. After my husband passed away, I made a promise to continue embracing his heritage and his family's customs to ensure our children, then teens, never forgot that part of their lives.

The *wycinanki* program I attended was presented by



the Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana at the old St. Mary's School. Excited, I entered a room full of strangers, not knowing what to expect. By the end, it was as if I had shared an evening with my husband and his family. What a warm, welcoming, fun evening it turned out to be.

Along the front wall of the room was a beautiful array of *wycinanki* (pronounced vee-chee-non-kee). The works belonged to guest speaker Grace Bazylewski, a teacher and practitioner of this type of folk art for nearly 25 years. A Chicago-born Polish American, daughter of post-World War II political immigrants, she learned the art of *wycinanki* from Polish artists living in the United States. After being injured as a teen, paper cutting became a way for her to pass the time. In college, it became a source of

Grace Bazylewski discusses in greater detail one of the designs.

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Therapeutic

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income as she sold her patterns to companies making laser cutout cards. Later, as an urban planner in Lansing, Ill., paper cutting became a way to escape the stresses of the daily grind and politically charged atmosphere she found herself in at times. Now retired, she still enjoys teaching this art form and does custom pieces for individuals.

According to Bazylewski, paper cutting was created by the Chinese in the 4th century. By the 17th century, it had spread to Japan. The earliest known Polish paper cutouts date back to the mid-1800s. Although it was influenced by its journey across Europe, in Poland it developed as a unique, long-lived folk art tradition of Polish peasants. Typically, subject matter reflected the interests of the person. Often, these designs were used as home decoration, placed directly on whitewashed walls. Polish artisans added color, as well as layering of color to create multiple layered designs. By looking at a design, one can usually tell which region of Poland a cutout comes from by the color, paper and style. The designs from the Kurpie region, for example, usually are one color, whereas those from the Lowicz region are multicolored.

After a brief discussion, we received our first piece of paper to cut. With scissors and copy paper in hand, we had two rules.

“No running with scissors,” Bazylewski said, which immediately brought laughs from the older crowd.

“When you start cutting, always leave part of the edge you fold together intact because otherwise it will fall apart,” she continued, inspiring a few questions and some quizzical looks as to how much of that folded edge should be left.

As we began cutting our first piece, a *gwiazdka*, which is a star pattern, Bazylewski explained how this is similar to the snowflakes most of us created in grade school.

While we snipped away, Bazylewski mentioned how therapeutic it is to cut paper. Looking around the room at the intensity on the faces of both men and women as they were snipping away, my initial reaction was, goodness, how can this art form be therapeutic?

Our next cutout, known as a *drzewko*, which is a traditional tree pattern from the region of Kurpie, was created by folding the



Connie Kuzydym smiles as she looks over what she created.



As the program progressed, the atmosphere changed, with conversation and laughter filling the room.

preprinted design in half. The design gave the illusion that it was easier to cut, perhaps because there was a line to follow. In reality, it was a mind trick as the design was slightly more intricate, but once the black line was gone, you were left holding a folded blank piece of paper that required a bit of creativity.



The program's participants, busy at work.

Everyone's basic design was the same, yet each person was able to add their own touch. Some left their birds, others removed them. Some snipped a variety of shapes in their tree, others snipped exactly the same shape. Some snipped shapes into the base of the tree, others left it solid. The trees were as unique as each individual cutting them.

Snipping away, I noticed a shift in the room. A more relaxed atmosphere began to surface. Maybe everyone realized we had survived the first design without any major mishaps, but from there, conversations began to flow more freely.

Throughout the evening, as we were cutting, our instructor shared interesting tidbits about this art form.

When the craft began in Poland, Bazylewski explained, it was primarily a man's activity as sheep shears were used to cut the various materials used. It did not take long to realize how the correct scissors could make the paper-cutting process easier. When doing her own cutouts, Bazylewski uses a variety of scissors or an Exacto knife.

Continued on Page 4

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Therapeutic

Continued from Page 3

Moving our piles of snipped paper to the side, we began our third preprinted cut-out. The lesson was on how repetitive patterns can be reproduced on a circle pattern. The design was a single color design with repeats.

“In wealthier regions such as Lowicz, the piece would be more colorfully layered,” Bazylewski explained. “In less affluent areas, though, the patterns would be more detailed in a single color. Some of the colors reflected what dyes could be drawn from nature.”

Even though the cutout was more difficult, due to how intricate it was, the atmosphere in the room became totally relaxed as people snipped away, talked and laughed. There were numerous conversations occurring simultaneously.

As I was listening to bits and pieces, I began to



Kathy Sadlowski, Michigan City, and Clara Shebel, Westville, discuss their works in progress.

More About Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana

The society was founded in November 2007 by the Rev. Walter Rakoczy, senior priest at St. Mary Immaculate Conception Church and Sacred Heart Parish in Michigan City.

The group meets twice a month, once in Portage and once in Michigan City, and is open to anyone interested in learning more about Polish heritage. Email polamnwi@yahoo.com for more information.



The Rev. Walter Rakoczy begins work on his piece.

realize Polish was being spoken. I had goosebumps as I heard those words spoken here and there. I had

to be careful with my design as I tried to figure out what was being said. It might sound like a geek moment, but coming from a background where Greek was my primary language until I entered kindergarten, and now most of us speak “Grenghish,” it was awesome to hear Polish intermingled with English. As I was enjoying the atmosphere of the room, Bazylewski was appreciating



Blanche Murin, Chesterton, discusses her creation.

the faces of those cutting. As she looked around, she saw a spark in the eyes. She saw creativity and self-satisfaction.

“I teach it because whether it’s somebody at 60

or 6, the minute they open their very first creation,” Bazylewski said, “that look on their face. That moment of discovery of, ‘I created this and it’s mine,’ is why I do it. I saw it on faces here. It’s precious. It’s the reward for teaching.”

As we received our final piece, consisting of four different colored papers with various designs printed on each piece, I realized it was a perfect piece to end the evening. It was colorful and upbeat and reflected the shift that occurred in the room. This piece known as a *nalepeanka* is a layered folk art piece that tells a story. It often depicts birds or farm scenes.

By the end of the evening, every participant had a pile of different colored paper scraps in front of them, resulting in colorful paper cutout creations as unique as the individual who made them. At that moment, I understood how paper cutouts could be therapeutic.

Amazing how a pair of scissors, a piece of paper and your imagination can for a brief time become the only thing you are thinking about.

(All photos by Bob Wellinski.)

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We have voluntarily worked the past four years to make sure that Long Beach residents do not lose their historic right to use the beach. This has not been an easy fight. We have battled two lawsuits, one appellate court case and DNR hearings all initiated by lakefront residents trying to restrict resident use of the beach. These court fights continue.

But the historic right for all of us to use the beach has been threatened by members of the opposing slate and their organization the Long Beach Lakefront Homeowners Association. Their attorney actually presented an ordinance to the Town Council, restricting beach usage as follows:

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Remembering Our Veterans Unites With Wreaths Across America

by Andrew Tallackson

For Keith Harris, honoring those who served their country, and in many instances died while doing so, is a patriotic imperative.

So, in 2014, he and his wife, Donna, formed the non-profit group Remembering Our Veterans Inc., their inaugural effort being the Veterans Breakfast & Parade.

That event continues this year, and now, Remembering Our Veterans has joined forces with the non-profit Wreaths Across America to help place wreaths across the estimated 2,200 to 2,500 veterans graves at Greenwood Cemetery.

"I always believed," Harris said, "that we don't do enough to honor our veterans. We can do more."

Indeed, Wreaths Across America is all about doing more. Harris says he stumbled across it by accident on the Internet. The effort is the brainchild of Morrill Worcester, the owner of Worcester Wreath Co. in Maine. A profoundly moving trip to Washington, D.C., when he was 12, particularly the experience at Arlington National Cemetery, stayed with him the rest of his life. It served as a catalyst for actions in 1992 when Worcester Wreath had excess wreaths toward the close of the holiday season. With support from Maine Sen. Olympia Snowe, Worcester was able to place the wreaths in an older section at Arlington Cemetery.

As the years passed, more individuals and groups came on board to assist Worcester's now annual efforts. In 2005, a photo of wreaths at Arlington went viral, and his efforts garnered national attention, leading to his group's incorporation as a non-profit entity in 2007.

Here's how it works. For every two wreaths purchased through Wreaths Across America, a compli-



Keith and Donna Harris stand beside the World War II monument at Greenwood Cemetery.

mentary one is sent back with it. An individual wreath costs \$15. Those interested can go online to place an order at www.wreathscrossamerica.org. However, by choosing that route, requests can't be made to have wreaths placed at specific sites. If people contact Harris and make arrangements through him, he can ensure the wreath is placed where the person who ordered it wants it to be. In fact, Harris says, he prefers people choose that option.

"I want to know who you are so I can thank you," he said.

The deadline to place orders is Nov. 30. A brief wreath-laying ceremony is Saturday, Dec. 12, at Greenwood Cemetery. Volunteers, including members of The Guardian Riders, will help place the wreaths on veterans' graves.

The more people participate, the more Remembering Our Veterans will realize its core mission.

"We formed to organize and promote events designed to honor veterans and active members of the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as our emergency medical services personnel at home," he said.

More about Remembering Our Veterans

Contact Keith Harris at (219) 229-2389 or kharris@rememberingourveteransinc.com to place wreath orders.

The Veterans Breakfast & Parade is Saturday, Nov. 7. The breakfast is from 8 to 11 a.m. at American Legion Post 37, 756 E. U.S. 20. Veterans are free. Regular admission is \$5 to help defray costs. The parade, which starts at noon, travels along Franklin Street from 10th Street to Fourth Street.

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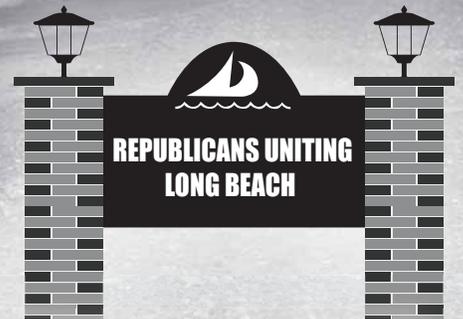


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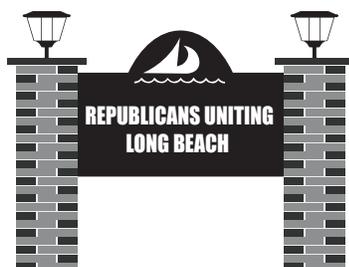
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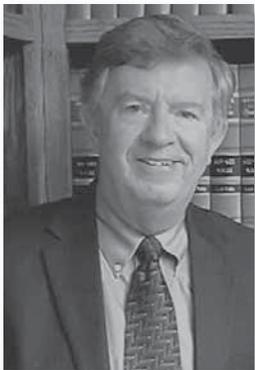
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Homeward Bound Walk



Homeward Bound's Epic Sidewalk Shopping Cart Walk was held Sept. 26 at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, 818 Franklin Square. Those who wanted to participate could start a team, then create a theme and gather supplies or costumes as needed. All funds raised benefitted local agencies that assist the homeless.

Photos by Matt Cunningham





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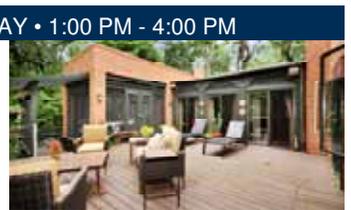
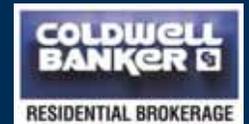


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Sculpture Receives New Home

Elliott Balter's "Clouds and Trees" was relocated Sept. 23 from the triangle just north of Michigan City's City Hall to its new home at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

"Clouds and Trees" has been on loan to Michigan City from the Lubeznik Center for eight years. When the city announced construction projects for Second Street and Franklin Street that included the median where "Clouds and Trees" stood, LCA worked with Craig Phillips, Michigan City director of planning and redevelopment, and the Balter family to ensure the timely relocation of the piece. LCA has three staff members who sit on the Michigan City Public Art Committee and have worked with the city on several public art initiatives.



Shelley Balter, son of the late Elliott Balter, said, "Clouds and Trees" is one of my favorites, and it was one of my dad's favorites, and now it's on loan to the Lubeznik Center for everybody to share in it."

"Clouds and Trees," finished in 1985, is made from fabricated stainless steel and is now located on the southeast corner of the LCA adjacent to the sidewalk — just across the street from its former placement. It is on loan again to LCA until 2020.

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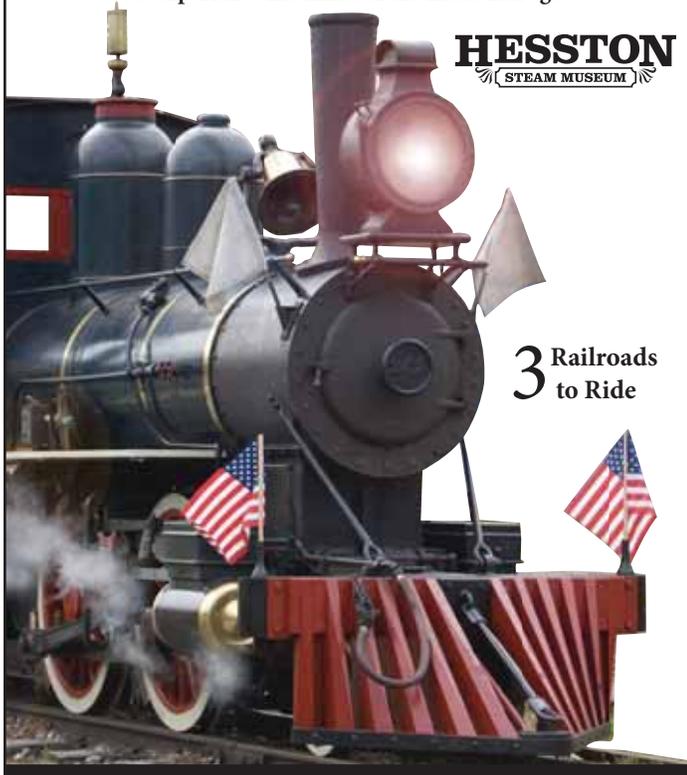
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Barker Birthday Bash

Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., will host a new event, Barker Birthday Bash, which celebrates 40 years of placement on the National Register of Historic Places, from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.



The register is an official list of sites significant to the history of their community. Managed by the National Park Service, sites must meet criteria before being admitted. Barker Mansion was accepted due to its “architecture and statement about American life,” according to the official Oct. 10, 1975, report.

To celebrate, families can play old-fashioned games such as jacks, pick-up sticks, musical chairs and four square, which would have been popular during the Barkers’ time. Children can make paper hats, decorate treat bags with nostalgic candy and enjoy cupcakes. All activities will be held in the garden, or move indoors if it rains.

Sponsored by the Friends of Barker Civic Center, the event costs \$2. Anyone interested in volunteering can call the director at (219) 873-1520. Visit www.BarkerMansion.com for more information.

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Micky Gallas and Rima Binder, steering committee members for Cocktails4aCure held at Long Beach Country Club, presented a \$3,250 check to assist local patients with breast or ovarian cancer. The check represents part of the \$7,250 raised from Cocktails4aCure events in 2014 and 2015. Pictured are (from left) Sandy Gleim of Unity Foundation of La Porte County, Tony Englert and Julianne Parikh from Franciscan Alliance Foundation/Woodland Cancer Care Center, Maria Fruth from The Foundation in support of IU Health La Porte Hospital, Binder of Cocktails4aCure, Cathy Dye and Nancy Adkins from NewDay Foundation, and Gallas of Cocktails4aCure. The back row is (from left) Richard and Joyce Marhanka of NewDay and Maggi Spartz, Unity Foundation president.

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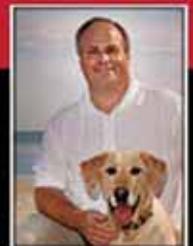
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Ready to Launch



Photos by Matt Cunningham



Michigan City Parks Department and Northwest Indiana Paddling Association hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new ADA-compliant canoe-kayak launching point Sept. 26 at Michigan City's Hansen Park, 100 E St. The ceremony concluded "Trail Creek Week 2015," an outreach event of the Trail Creek Watershed Partnership that educates area school children about ecology, and lets them travel in 24-foot voyageur canoes.



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Shirley Heinze Bus Tour

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host an educational bus tour of its nature preserves from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17.

Staff, board members and guest speakers, including author Ken Schoon and Erin Argyilan, Indiana University-Northwest geosciences professor, will provide insights on land conservation and Northwest Indiana's ecology, geology and history.

The bus will depart promptly at 8 a.m. from Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. It will head west to Hammond for the first stop at Seidner Dune and Swale Nature Preserve. Participants will depart the bus for a brief hike, guided by The Nature Conservancy's Northwest Indiana region director, Paul Labus.

The group will learn about the globally rare dune and swale habitat found at the preserve, which recently was used as a base of operations for the Grand Calumet River Remediation Project, a major cleanup of the river from Kennedy Avenue to Cline Avenue.

The next two stops are in Hobart, starting with a short hike at Gordon & Faith Greiner Nature Preserve to see the diverse wetland and prairie habitats in the geologically transitional spot. A brief stop at nearby Cressmoor Prairie, a state-dedicated nature preserve, follows. Then, the group will stop for a provided lunch at Meadowbrook Conservation



Last year's bus tour included a stop at Ivanhoe South in Gary.

Center and Nature Preserve in Valparaiso.

The afternoon portion will focus on several preserves in Porter and La Porte counties, including a stop at the Little Calumet River in Chesterton to hear about the Little Calumet River Project Area and the restoration activities there. Afterward, the bus will pass Father Basil Moreau Preserve, Barker Woods and Meer Woods on its way to Ambler Flatwoods in Michigan City for a final short hike.

On the last leg of the tour, the bus will pass through the Beverly Shores Project area for a glimpse of the Great Marsh properties. Water birds such as herons and egrets often

can be seen perching on branches. The tour will conclude back at the Visitor Center at 3:30 p.m.

The cost is \$35 per person or \$60 per couple. Reservations are required and may be made by calling (219) 242-8558 or through www.heinzetrust.org. Reservations must be made no later than Oct. 15. Seating is limited, so early reservations are advised.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust has been protecting natural land in the southern Lake Michigan watershed since 1981. It manages more than 1,700 acres that have been permanently preserved. Five of its properties – Cressmoor Prairie, Seidner Dune & Swale, John Merle Coulter Preserve, Barker Woods, and Ambler Flatwoods – have been dedicated to Indiana as state nature preserves.

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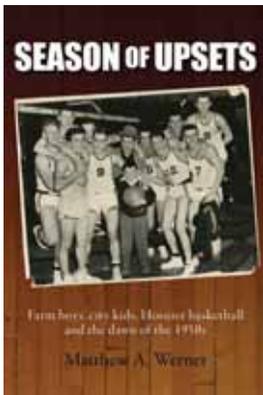
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“Season of Upsets”

A free panel discussion celebrating the people, and creative process behind, the new book “Season of Upsets” is at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.



For years, Matt Werner was fascinated by a photo from 1950 featuring his uncle, Dean, and fellow members of the Union Mills High School basketball team celebrating a triumphant victory. Werner’s three-year journey to uncover the story behind the photo resulted in “Season of Upsets,” a book that chronicles one year in the life of Hoosier basketball in La Porte County.

Drew Tallackson, editor of *The Beacher Weekly Newspaper*, and Martin Briggs, a fourth-grade teacher at Crichfield Elementary School, both huge fans of the book, will moderate the panel discussion that includes not only Werner, but also several players he interviewed, including Michigan City’s Gene Gielow and Union Mills’ Eben Fischer.

Copies of the book will be available for sale. Refreshments will be available. Call (219) 873-6248 for more information.

Local History Panel

Three local historians will share the “inside scoop” on key moments in the area’s history in the next Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, Oct. 15, at the library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The panelists include Nadra Kissman, co-author of “The New Buffalo Story,” RoseAnna Mueller, co-author of “A Pictorial History of Harbor Country,” and local historian Judi Herrbach Lowe.

Other programs in New Buffalo FOL’s Fall/Winter Community Forum Series include (all times Eastern): “Unwind with Michigan Wine,” co-sponsored with New Buffalo Township Library, at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23; “The Sustainability Project: Middlebrook Farm” at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27; “Quagmire: The United States in Vietnam” at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12; and “Holiday Harmonies with All the Trimmings” at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13.

Call the library at (269) 469-2933, follow the facebook link at newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org or email new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com for more information.

Black Bear Educational Program

The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife will conduct a free program to provide the public with information about black bears from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

The program will address sightings this summer of a black bear in Northwest Indiana, the first confirmed presence of a wild bear in the state in more than 140 years. It will cover ecology and behavior, management of black bears and ways to minimize negative interactions and live safely with bears.

The public can ask questions of wildlife biologists from the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife and Indiana conservation officers from the DNR Division of Law Enforcement. Because space is limited, anyone wishing to attend should register at wildlife.IN.gov/7548.htm or call (317) 234-8440.

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Rector Hall Dedication

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., will host a dedication of Rector Hall, named for Walter and Gloria Rector, at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

The couple was active with the center for many decades, with Walter acting as treasurer and Gloria as the first paid director. Under their guidance, the center made great strides to improve their offerings and adjust to the area's needs.



Gloria Rector (from left), center president John Mullin and Judy Gregurich, retired center director and current board member, celebrate the Rector Hall dedication.

To honor them, the center's education building will be renamed Rector Hall. The education program offers classes for adults in a variety of topics: drawing, painting, jewelry, stained glass, ceramics and photography. The children's program includes weekly classes for kids ages 3-16 throughout the school year and art camps during the summer.

Walter passed away in 2011. Gloria will attend the dedication, to which the public is invited. Visit www.chestertonart.com for more information.

Studio Open House

Behind the Orange Door Studio at New Troy Community Center will host an open house and reception from 4 to 7 p.m. EDT Friday, Oct. 9.

Refreshments will be served as guests view paintings of New Troy by folk artist Phyllis Norris, who rents space from the town's Community Center. Her works reflect an interpretation of the town's primary structures. The original paintings, as well as reproductions on notecards and postcards, will be sold during the open house, with a portion of each sale donated to Friends of New Troy, the non-profit organization that pays for and maintains the center. Norris also gave the organization permission to reprint and sell the notecards and postcards to benefit the center.

Tours of the center, 13372 California Road, New Troy, Mich., are planned during the open house. Call Phyllis Norris at (765) 617-3653 for additional information.

Maker Week

Westchester Public Library will celebrate "Maker Week" on Oct. 11-17, with staff offering tours, answering questions and giving away small creations made by their new 3-D printer.

A MakerSpace Lab is a creative design and fabrication space. Westchester's lab is on the second floor of Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton, inside the Computer Classroom in the Serials/Automation Department. Future programs will be scheduled that use it and its equipment.

The lab is available to Westchester Public Library cardholders. To access it, have present a library card in good standing and photo ID. It will be open starting Sunday, Oct. 11. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday.

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Helping the Homeless



Sacred Heart Men's Homeless Shelter representatives Harrison Holtkamp (from left) and Joann Chlebek receive a \$761 check from Queen of All Saints School Principal Marie Arter and Athletic Director Kevin Sparks. The funds were raised at the 2015 Queen of All Saints Golf Outing. The shelter houses up to 40 men per night and accepts donations and help from volunteers. Call Harrison at (219) 874-1443 for more information.

River Valley Garden Club

Christina Mazella will present the program "A Luffa Is Not a Sea Creature" at the next River Valley Garden Club meeting, which is Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich.

The meeting is open to the public and starts with a short business meeting at 1 p.m. EDT and the speaker at 2 p.m. EDT.

Spelled luffa or loofah, these plants are grown on the Mazellas' farm in Baroda, Mich. They start out looking like a zucchini, then are dried and processed to become excellent scrub brushes for the bath and shower. Mazella will demonstrate how the luffa is made. She also will bring some products to sell.

Contact Elizabeth Palulis at (269) 426-3513 or evpalulis@yahoo.com for more information, or visit www.rivervalleygardenclub.org



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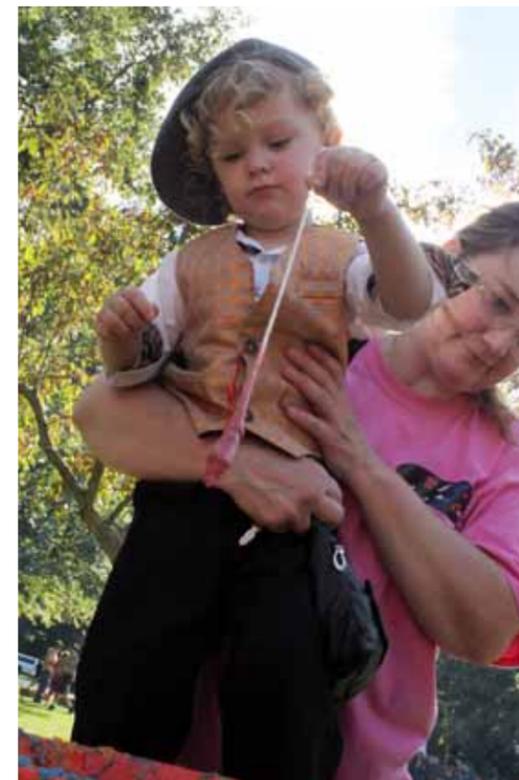
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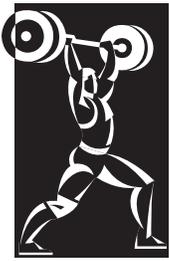
24th Annual Pioneer Days



Blue skies and ideal fall temperatures accompanied La Porte County Parks' 24th annual Pioneer Days on Sept. 26-27 at Creek Ridge County Park. The event, which celebrated pioneer history, food and lifestyles, included everything from wagon rides and outdoor cooking to crafts and Native American demonstrators.

Photos by Bob Wellinski





Health by the Numbers: Part Two

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.

In the last "Fitness Rebellion" column titled "Health by the Numbers," I gave you a lot of information from the National Center for Health Statistics. To recap, the main numbers and metrics were overall rankings in health outcomes and overall health factors. These two statistics then are compared across all Indiana counties to determine where we sit.

Overall rankings in health outcomes represent how healthy counties are within the state based on, at the top level, quality of life and life expectancy. Below these two major factors, which go into figuring this number, are issues such as physical and mental-health days, and low birthweight, but also health behaviors. These are actions taken by a person to maintain, attain or regain good health and prevent illness. Obvious negative factors do the opposite, such as smoking, obesity, food environment, physical inactivity and excessive drinking.

The other metric is overall health factors. This is different than outcomes because this metric describes measurements that aren't so easily controlled, like the ability to eat healthy and exercise regularly. Determined by things such as food insecurity, access to healthy foods, motor-vehicle deaths, clinical and health care, cost of health care and physical environment factors like pollution and drinking-water cleanliness, overall health factors are composed of the things all around us.

Now that you have a recap, or have been strung out even longer, I will reveal where we are as a county vs. other counties in the state.

Drumroll please...

Out of 92 counties in Indiana, in overall health outcomes, La Porte County ranks 75th. In overall health factors, La Porte County ranks 76th.

Was this higher or lower than you thought?

Some numbers across the board aren't as bad as others. Ones that jump out immediately are numbers like health behaviors. La Porte County has a ranking of 83 out of 92 in behaviors, such as adult smoking, adult obesity, physical inactivity, excessive drinking, alcohol-impaired driving deaths and food environment index. However, this may be the best report card for citizens of the county because, as mentioned before, health behaviors are the self-controllable factors. These are all things you can change with motivation, guidance and assistance.

Broken down even more, 27 percent of adults in La Porte County smoke while 34 percent of adults are obese. Physical inactivity is at 27 percent. These numbers are surprising when our access to exercise opportunities are at a higher percentage at 74 per-

cent. Our quality of life in the county ranks at 70 out of 92, while clinical care ranks much higher at 26 out of 92.

Social and economic factors that play into the overall health-factors metric give us a ranking of 81 out of 92. This is figured by rankings, among others, such as children in poverty at 27 percent and children in single-parent households at 36 percent.

Let's take a quick look at the counties that sandwich La Porte County: Porter County and St. Joseph County.

- **Porter County:** Overall Health Outcome — 8; Overall Health Factors — 15.
- **La Porte County:** Overall Health Outcome — 75; Overall Health Factors — 76.
- **St. Joseph County:** Overall Health Outcome — 41; Overall Health Factors — 52.

Jump a county over, and the quality of life rankings go from 70th in La Porte County to 13th in Porter County and 47th in St. Joseph County. The health factors in La Porte County again were 76th, while in Porter they are 15th and St. Joseph 52nd. Health behaviors drop in Porter County to 15th and 52nd in St. Joseph. Adult smoking is not much lower, at 21 percent in Porter and St. Joseph counties, and adult obesity is at 31 percent in Porter and 29 percent in St. Joseph.

Clinical care in Porter County is one higher at 27th and St. Joseph at 10th. Social and economic factors are 81st in La Porte County, while they are 17th in Porter County and 79th in St. Joseph. Children in poverty are at 15 percent in Porter and 29 percent in St. Joseph, and children in a single-parent household are at 26 percent in Porter and 36 percent in St. Joseph.

We could go on and on with numbers comparing



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us to the top and the bottom counties, neighboring counties, state to state and beyond. Instead, these numbers are a good wakeup call to start taking your health more seriously. Taking care of yourself with simple things like eating right and daily exercise will help the preventative maintenance I preach.

This shouldn't be done all in one fell swoop, but rather by taking things step by step. Start off by being aware of what you are eating day in and day out. How many times are you eating out? In turn, how much is this costing you? Cut out soda. Then, cut out all sugary drinks. Cut down the number of days you eat out. Then start cooking meals for yourself. Once you do that, dive into what is actually in your meals. Do you know all the ingredients in the ingredient list, or does it sound like some strange concoction you would find in a mad scientist's lab in "Frankenstein?"

Health factors are controllable, and it is time for us to step up our game. If you turn on the news or read the newspaper, articles online or another other than living under a rock, you are aware that as a country, 34.9 percent of adults are obese. Obesity related conditions include heart disease, stroke, Type 2 diabetes, certain types of cancers and other leading causes of preventable death. Again, preventable death. I am not sure about others, but if I am able to prevent my death, I definitely am going to try my best. Childhood obesity at a national level is at 17 percent for children 2-19.

The takeaway from all of these numbers isn't that I love numbers or love comparing them. It is that change must happen. As I just mentioned, at a national level, the numbers are scary. But let's start with our county, our city, our community, our block, our house, our family. Any level you start at, just start. I am telling you that once you start, you will feel so much better. And like any good and positive movement, it will spread like wildfire, and these numbers will start to change.



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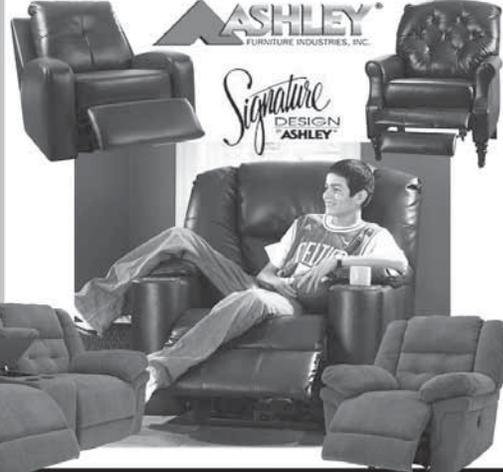
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LCSO Children's Concerts

Philip Bauman and La Porte County Symphony Orchestra will present the annual "Children's Concerts" on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

Performances are at 9:30 a.m., 11:10 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. The theme is "Symphony and Science" and will include special guest Jose Francisco Salgado, founder and director of KV 265 and formerly with the Adler Planetarium.



Tim King (from left), interim LCSO executive director, La Porte Savings Bank President Michele Thompson and LCSO Board President Michael Drayton celebrate the bank's \$3,500 sponsorship of the children's concert.

The 45-minute programs will be presented to more than 5,000 students and teachers from La Porte, Lake and Porter counties. They involve music from Holst's "The Planets," Debussy's "Clair de Lune," Johann Strauss Jr.'s "Blue Danube Waltz" and "Star Trek: Into Darkness." Music will be accompanied by artwork and photographs of the cosmos, connecting the music to the stars.

Salgado's music education programs have been performed by many orchestras across the country.

Call for Flea Market Vendors

Vendor reservations are being accepted for the New Troy Indoor Flea Market, which starts its 2015-2016 season Saturday, Oct. 24.

Accepted market wares include antiques, tools, crafts, books, memorabilia, housewares and furniture. Vendor spaces are \$13 and include a table and chair. A reduced rate is available for vendors who commit to the entire season. Call or text Janna at (773) 275-1514 to reserve a space.

The market, admission to which is free, is held the last two Saturdays of each month through March (with adjustments in December for the holidays). Hosted by the Friends of New Troy, it is located in the New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Proceeds from space rentals benefit the all-volunteer center, which is run by the non-profit Friends of New Troy.

The center will be open for dealer setup from 6 to 7 p.m. EDT Fridays preceding the market and 8 a.m. EDT Saturdays. Doors open to the public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EDT Saturdays. Lunch will be available for sale.

La Lumiere Fall Open House

La Lumiere School, 6801 N. Wilhelm Road, La Porte, invites prospective students and their families to visit campus for the annual Fall Open House from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17.

Visitors can meet faculty members and campus leaders, tour the school and preview its many options available.

The day's events begin at 8:15 a.m. with a continental breakfast and registration. Interactive classroom sessions, tours and small group Q&A discussions are from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The day concludes with an optional activities fair showcasing the school's many extracurricular options until 12:30 p.m.

Reservations are required by Thursday, Oct. 15, by calling (219) 326-7450 or emailing admissions@lalumiere.org

Seniors Drawing Class

Duneland Resale will sponsor a free, two-part Seniors Drawing Class from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16 and 23, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Open to participants 60 and older, Lee Bauman will highlight the basics of drawing, guiding students through a still life and landscape. All materials will be provided.

The non-profit Duneland Resale, 801 Broadway, Chesterton, has partnered with the art center a number of times, offering free artistic opportunities for the community. While the class is free, there are limited seats. Contact the center at (219) 926-4711 to reserve a spot.

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“Violin Virtuosity”

The Michigan City Chamber Music Festival will present “Violin Virtuosity,” a free concert featuring Zofia Glashauser and Nic Orbovich on violin and Jennifer Muniz on piano, at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

The concert will showcase some of the repertoire’s most challenging and beloved favorites, including “Caprice in G Major” by French violin virtuoso Henri Vieuxtemps, the “Sonata for Violin and Piano” by Maurice Ravel, “Troubled Waters” (a solo for piano based on the spiritual “Wade in the Water”) and a rare presentation of Max Bruch’s “Concerto for Violin in G Minor,” performed by Glashauser.

A familiar face with the chamber festival, Glashauser is the concertmaster for South Bend Symphony Orchestra and Lira Orchestra of Chicago, and has performed concertos by Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Wieniawski, Vieuxtemps and Tartini with orchestras around the world.

Orbovich, who co-founded the MCCMF and is director of music ministries at First Presbyterian Church, has medaled and been a prize winner in international competitions, including the Fischhoff National, and Her Royal Majesty’s International Competition at King’s College, Aberdeen, Scotland.

Muniz is a professor of piano/music at Indiana University-South Bend. She performed the premiere of Libby Larsen’s “Ferlinghetti” in August during the festival’s opening night. That performance will be featured on National Public Radio.

Call (219) 561-1939 or visit www.mccmf.org for more information.

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MQT Student Officers

Marquette Catholic High School has announced its student government officers and class officers for the 2015-2016 academic year.



The students are:

- **Student Government:** President, Liam Roder; Vice President, Quinn White; Treasurer, Brittany Green; Secretary, Kate Parks.
- **Senior Class Officers:** President, Anthony Rondinelli; Vice President, Jailah Blakely; Secretary, Alondra Flores; Treasurer, D'Aria Kincaid.
- **Junior Class Officers:** President, Haley Housman; Vice President, Donovan Kussart; Secretary, Skylar Senseny; Treasurer, Kevin Robson.
- **Sophomore Class:** President Tommy Gotsch; Vice President, Johnny Roder; Secretary, Stacey Barron and Will Cannon; Treasurer, Buddy Jaffee.
- **Freshman Class:** President, Janae Galburth; Vice President, Brandon Spangler; Secretary, Cassandra Loza; Treasurer, Jack Mason.

Low-Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic

To help owners keep their dogs and cats healthy, and comply with animal-control ordinance, Trinity Episcopal Church will offer a low-cost pet vaccination clinic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, which is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Licensed veterinarian Julie Wheeler will give the vaccinations. Services are available to all pet owners. The cost for basic vaccinations is \$18 each. An additional service available at a slightly higher price includes puppy vaccinations and heartworm tests.

Vaccinations available for dogs are rabies, distemper and Bordatella. Vaccinations for cats are rabies, distemper and feline leukemia. Those attending the clinic are asked to pick up a number at the door, then wait in their cars with their pets until called. All dogs must be on leashes and all cats in carriers or secured containers.

A Blessing of the Pets, in honor of the Italian saint known for his love of all of God's creatures, follows the clinic at the church, Sixth and Franklin streets.

It is the law in Michigan City that "all dogs and cats over 3 months old must have shots protecting them against contracting rabies." Pets also must wear tags at all times. Owners not in compliance are subject to expensive fines.

Michigan City pet regulations are:

- A dog may not run at large and must be kept on a leash unless in a fenced area.
- No more than three dogs and/or cats are allowed in a single residential unit.
- Pet owners must remove any animal waste deposited by their pet on public or private property immediately.
- All dogs and cats older than 3 months must have shots protecting them against rabies.
- All dogs and cats must wear tags at all times.
- Animals are prohibited on school grounds while school is in session, and in city parks and cemeteries at all times.
- Owners must keep dogs and cats in a clean, sanitary area where they are adequately sheltered.
- Owners must provide veterinarian care when needed.
- Dogs barking, molesting passersby, chasing vehicles or attacking domestic animals are considered "creating a nuisance" and will result in a fine and/or impounding of the animal.
- It is unlawful for a person to knowingly or recklessly abandon or neglect an animal.
- It is unlawful for an owner to conceal animals from law enforcement officers.
- It is unlawful to torture or kill animals.

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VanderVinne Art Display

Mark VanderVinne, an American tonal impressionist landscape painter, will show his work in October at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

VanderVinne was born and raised in Eldridge, Iowa, just north of Davenport. After graduating from Chicago's American Academy of Art, he began a career in illustration and ended up as an art director in the advertising industry.

Known for his quiet scenes and subtle color palettes, his award-winning paintings have been featured in numerous solo and group exhibits, as well as plein-air events and private collections. He teaches classes and workshops, hosts Critique Night the first Wednesday of every month and gives lectures at Chesterton Art Center.

VanderVinne also will lead a plein-air painting workshop on Oct. 17 and 18 at the center, the focus being simplifying a composition while capturing the colors of autumn. The workshops will be held at a local park, although participants will meet at the center the first day. The cost is \$160, with members receiving a \$20 discount. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 for more information or to register.

Genealogical Society

The La Porte County Genealogical Society meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, at the La Porte City Parks Headquarters, 250 Pine Lake Ave.

The meeting's business portion will be followed by refreshments and Pamela Henderson's program, "Connecting Family's Past With Kids Can Be Very Important." Henderson is Dunebrook's director of development and communications.

Guests are welcome. Visit tinyurl.com/p3wxfhq for more information.

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LaLu's Gillen a Commended Student

La Lumiere School senior Megan Gillen, La Porte, has been named a Commended Student in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program.



Head of School Charles Clark (right) presented La Lumiere School senior Megan Gillen with the Commended Student honor.

Head of School Charles Clark presented a Letter of Commendation from the School and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, to Gillen on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

About 34,000 Commended Students nationwide are being recognized for their academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2016 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the Top 5 percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2016 competition by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Lunch With the League

La Porte County Assessor Mike Schultz will speak at Lunch With the League when it meets from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Mama Rosa's Restaurant, 402 W. U.S. 20, Michigan City.

Schultz was born and raised in Michigan City. He graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in financial advising. He served six years on the county council and as county auditor from 1987 to 1996. After leaving county government, he became an Indiana certified tax representative, helping clients with property tax appeals. In 2005 and 2006, he was appointed as a special master by the state to hear property tax appeals in Lake County.

Schultz was elected in 2007 to the office of Center Township assessor. He served in that capacity until 2009, when Indiana State Statute dissolved township assessors with fewer than 18,000 parcels. He then became a hearing officer for La Porte County, reviewing property tax appeals to fill out his term. In 2010, he was elected La Porte County assessor and re-elected in 2014.

Reservations are not required. Attendees may buy lunch from the menu. Call Sue Webster at (219) 874-6809 or visit www.lwvlaporte.org for additional information.

Monday Musicale

Monday Musicale met Sept. 28 at Barker Mansion, marking the start of its 106th season.

An affiliate of the National Federation of Music Clubs, the Michigan City chapter was organized on Dec. 7, 1909, making it the second-oldest Federation affiliate in the state.

In keeping with the theme for the year, "Music in Motion," Sue Cassler hosted a program titled "Swinging on a Star." Appointments performed tunes such as "When You Wish Upon a Star," "Blue Moon" and "I Got the Sun in the Mornin'," accompanied by pianist Beverly Griffith.

Cassler then led the group in exploring the musical genre called "swing." The swing era was the period from 1935-1946 when jazz-oriented big bands dominated the pop charts. Cassler played 78 RPM recordings by the Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey and Benny Goodman orchestras, demonstrating that each swing band had its own unique style. Ange Benz and Frank Casorio performed an impromptu dance to Goodman's "Jersey Bounce."

Appointments performed solo and ensemble numbers reminiscent of the swing era, including George Maslankowski's clarinet rendition of Benny Goodman's "Flying Home." Vocal trio Back Porch Swing, with members Deborah Beien, Lisa Schwingendorf and Cassler, sang "Tuxedo Junction," followed by soprano Beien's solo, "Blue Skies."

Maslankowski and Cassler teamed up for an Ella Fitzgerald arrangement of "I'm Beginning to See the Light." Other highlights included Schwingendorf's flute and vocal solo, "Fly Me to the Moon"; baritone Casorio's "Top Hat, White Tie and Tails," complete with cane and Astaire-like dance steps; and flutist Merry Johnson's "Swingin' Shepherd Blues." Back Porch Swing closed the program with "Swinging on a Star." The group then adjourned to the mansion's dining room for refreshments and fellowship.

Monday Musicale offers active and associate (non-performing) memberships. Contact Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for more information.

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A Forgotten Garden Begins to Bloom

The beginning blooms can be seen at the Lithuanian Heritage Garden in International Friendship Gardens.

The Lithuanian University Women's Association initiated the work of re-establishing the Lithuanian garden, with President Rima Binder inviting the IFG board, members of the Beverly Shores club and other Lithuanian organizations to attend a celebration of the project's first stage.



The Lithuanian Heritage Garden has begun to re-emerge at International Friendship Gardens.

On a glorious Sunday afternoon, more than 40 people came to speak of the Gardens' history and the Lithuanian Heritage Garden. They also welcomed IFG board members, John Leinweber, Richard Houck, Oleif Olsaker and Mary Fox, as well as Ruta Tavariete-Saagen, president of the Knights of Lithuania, Council 2, Birute Vilutiene, Lithuanian National Council, Ruta Sidabras, president of the Beverly Shores Lithuanian Club, Sigitas Savickas, president of the Gen. Daukantas Chapter of the Lithuanian National Guard, and V. Rutkauskas, Lithuanian History Club.

This first phase was achieved through donors such as Laura Bolten of Beachside Gardens, Kappa, Kappa Delta Mu Sorority and the Neale Family Foundation of Colorado. Binder invited Counsel Butkiene to officially plant the clump birch tree, one of many traditional trees of Lithuanian, with Binder. Members of the other organizations also were invited to add their spades to the planting. The goal is to have the garden completed for the celebration of the 100th year anniversary of Lithuanian Independence in 2018.

Volunteers and donors are needed to continue the work of re-establishing this garden and other gardens in the IFG Botanical Park.



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“Exuberance of Life” Concert

Pianist Christopher O’Riley will join Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra for its “Exuberance of Life” concert, complete with Mozart’s “Piano Concerto No. 22” and the overture to “The Marriage of Figaro,” at 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, Oct. 11, at Howard Performing Arts Center.



O’Riley is the host of NPR’s “From the Top,” which is broadcast weekly by 250 stations across the country and introduces the next generation of classical-music stars to almost a million listeners. He also hosted the Emmy-winning TV series “From the Top at Carnegie Hall,” and has collaborated with Yo-Yo Ma, Bobby McFerrin, Midori, Béla Fleck, Joshua Bell, Hilary Hahn, Sir James Galway

and Michael Feinstein. His repertoire spans the pre-Baroque to present day. He tours with a program called Shuffle.Play.Listen together with cellist Matt Haimovitz that combines classical and contemporary repertoire.

At 4 p.m. EDT Friday, Oct. 9, high school and college musicians will perform for O’Riley and the audience during a master class at Howard Performing Arts Center. Afterward, he will give insight into the interpretation of the music and technique, in addition to demonstrating passages. A Q&A period is planned.

Group packages are available. Individual tickets are:

- Zone A: adults, \$37; seniors, \$32; students, \$5
- Zone B: adults, \$20; seniors, \$20; students, \$5.

Also as part of the evening are a pre-concert conversation and post-concert reception. During the pre-concert conversation, held one hour before the program, concertgoers can learn about the forthcoming selections from Music Director Robin Fountain and the guest artist.

The post-concert reception lets guests mingle with friends, Fountain and the musicians.

Howard Performing Arts Center is located at Andrews University, 4160 E. Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs, Mich. Call (269) 982-4030 or visit www.smso.org for reservations or more information.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

Friday, Oct. 9

• 6 p.m. — Campground Crafts.

Join a naturalist at the campground shelter by site 113 for make-it, take-it crafts.

• 7 p.m. — Fun Stories, Songs and Sing Along!

The Northwest Indiana Storytelling Guild will lead an hour of stories and folk songs at the campground shelter by site 113.

Saturday, Oct. 10

26th Annual NWI Storytelling Festival!

• 10 a.m. — Dune Stories Through Time Hike.

Join a naturalist at the nature center for a one-hour trek to Mount Tom that includes stories about the dunes and plenty of fall colors.

• 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. — NWI Storytelling Festival.

Special sessions are planned at the nature center: 10:30 a.m.-noon — Stories for Children of All Ages; 1-2:30 p.m. — Storytellers’ Favorite Stories; 2:30-3 p.m. — Stories from Around the World & Open Mic.

• 5:30 and 7 p.m. — Ghost Stories.

Take a blanket and meet members of NWI Storytellers for either session at Wilson Shelter. The first is for younger children and their parents, the second for older children and adults. Friends of Indiana Dunes will provide apple cider and snacks. The program is free, but donations are accepted.

Sunday, Oct. 11

• 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. — Peak Fall Color from Mount Tom.

Meet at the nature center for the 45-minute, moderate jaunt to check out the view from atop the dunes.

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.

Depot Friday

Beverly Shores Museum and Gallery, 525 Broadway, will host Depot Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 9.

The museum exhibit features the Century of Progress houses. Local writer Trent Pendley will sign copies of his book, “Toys in the Closet,” set in the Indiana Dunes. “Little Black Dresses” continues in the gallery.

School in Top 15% Nationally

Notre Dame Catholic School, 1000 Moore Road, Michigan City, has achieved Top 15 percent status nationally in reading and math.

The announcement was made by the Council for American Private Education.



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- **NorthShore Health Center free blood-pressure screening from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Oct. 8, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

- **Music at the Museum from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, at Westchester Township Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

The Flashbacks will perform. Members are: Suzanne Keldsen, playing guitar, recorders and fiddle; Julietta Raby, playing fiddle, mandolin and guitar; Nancy Cairns on dulcimer and ukulele; Paul Mache playing guitar and banjo; and Marti Pizzini on autoharp, dulcimer and guitar.

- **Chesterton Writing Group from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, in the Bertha Wood Meeting Room at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The group is open to adult writers – fiction or non-fiction — of all levels, whether published or unpublished. Attendees share their work and learn more about publishing.

- **Bifocal Bookies at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Hageman Library.**

The focus is Natalie Brasz's "Queen Sugar."

- **Mad About Mysteries at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, and Saturday, Oct. 17, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Serena Sutliff will present Alan Bradley's award-winning Flavia de Luce series.

- **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.

- **Crochet Fabric Yarn Basket Class from 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays through Nov. 2 at Thomas Library.**

Students learn how to create fabric yarn. Registration is required. Participants will need to take supplies. A supply list is available at the Thomas Reference Desk. Call (219) 926-7696.

- **Lego Club meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Fridays through December at Thomas Library.**

The club is aimed at children 6-11. Registration is necessary and can be done in person or by phone at (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.

- **Crochet Club meets from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children 9 and older can participate.

Student Wins Anti-Bullying Contest

Jenna Stevenson, a 15-year-old Michigan City High School student, is the winner of Hey U.G.L.Y.'s 13th annual international acronym contest.



Presenting the award to Jenna Stevenson (center) outside of Michigan City High School are Principal Wendel McCollum and Jessica Swisher, Hey U.G.L.Y.'s outreach coordinator.

Jenna converted the word "geek" into Genius Enthusiastically Embracing Knowledge, winning a \$250 prize, T-shirt and certificate of excellence.

The contest asked students around the world, ages 7-17, to convert the negative words dork, stupid, loser, hate, fag and/or racism into a positive acronym similar to how Hey U.G.L.Y. turned the word ugly into Unique Gifted Lovable You.

An independent panel of journalists and writers judged the entries.

"Jenna's acronym for the word geek is the outcome we hoped for when we launched this contest in 2002," says Betty Hoeffner, co-founder and president of the non-profit Hey U.G.L.Y.

Jenna read about the contest in an article that appeared in *The Beacher*.

In the first contest, a 13-year-old girl from Texas converted loser into Love Others Show Everyone Respect. A few years back, the winning entry was by a 16-year-old boy who converted stupid into Stop To Understand People's Individual Differences.

The contest is part of a curriculum offered to schools that empowers students to create tools to help themselves and other students turn negatives into positives.

Hey U.G.L.Y.'s 14th annual contests are under way, with a May 31, 2016, deadline.

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Krueger Opens New Wetlands Trail

Krueger Middle School held a ribbon cutting ceremony Sept. 30 to introduce its new "Pathway to the Wetlands" trail system, the latest addition to its Outdoor Environmental Science Center initiative.

The new wetlands area features a floating boardwalk across a fen and seven learning stations: Invasive Species, Watersheds, Plant Identification, Comparing Wetlands, Soil Testing, Water Testing and Macro-invertebrates. It is the fourth phase of a six-phase project transforming the area into a regional resource for environmental learning. The first three phases included the establishment of a bird habitat trail, a forest management trail and a Savanna Prairie restoration area. Future phases include a butterfly habitat and stormwater reclamation project.



Krueger Middle School eighth-grade students and staff who worked on the boardwalk, along with special guests, celebrate the project with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Krueger Principal Vera Jones acknowledged several key partners who assisted with the Wetlands Pathway, which is funded through an Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Grant. They included Maggie Byrne of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Al Walus of Christopher Burke Engineering and Krueger Environmental Technology Teacher Brian Schroll and his students.

Krueger students will conduct "Field Day" trips for area elementary students, leading children on tours of the Wetlands Pathway and other trails at Krueger.

In 2013, Krueger began operating as an Outdoor Environmental Science Center, offering students in grades seven and eight course work tailored to the environment. The school has been honored with several awards, including an Indiana Governors Award for environmental education.

Harvest & Wine Fest

As summer draws to a close, the New Buffalo Business Association looks to its Harvest & Wine Festival as an opportunity to bring families back to the area for Columbus weekend.

Now in its 10th year, the event is from noon to 10 p.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 10, at Lion's Beachfront Park in New Buffalo, Mich.

The event has become an outing for all ages, averaging more than 6,000 people who sample local cuisine, view artists, crafts, clothing and jewelry and hear live music. Visitors can sample award-winning handcrafted wines, beers and ciders. The Family Fest includes pumpkin painting and other activities. Free horse-drawn hayrides are available throughout New Buffalo.

The fest also includes more than 25 vendors from around the region selling art, jewelry, soaps and handmade clothing. Food vendors include barbecue, pizza, sliders, kettle corn, English toffee and handmade marshmallows.

The live music lineup is (all times Eastern):

- Hired Hands — noon.
- Chameleon — 1:30 p.m.
- Slim Gypsy Baggage — 3:45 p.m.
- The Newports — 5:30 p.m.
- Déjà Vu — 8 p.m.

Admission to the festival is \$5 donations per person, while children 12 and younger are free. Visit newbuffalo.org, [facebook.com/newbuffalo](https://www.facebook.com/newbuffalo) or call (888) 660-6222 for more information.

Childrens Art Scholarships

The Michigan City Public Art Committee has \$1,800 remaining in its budget to fund art-instruction scholarships for Michigan City children.

Visual art classes or individual art instruction for qualified children between 5 and 18 will be funded. The maximum grant request per individual is \$200. Funds will be available for instruction in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, collage, crafts such as beading, mosaic work and weaving, art camps or any combination of these taught by a legitimate instructor.

The committee will not fund music, writing, dance or drama instruction. Applicants must show financial need and take instruction from an art provider located in the city limits. The deadline to apply is at least 30 days before the instruction is scheduled to start.

Applications are available at the La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau in Marquette Mall, or the application can be sent by email. Submissions can be made to Jane Daley at La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Marquette Mall, 4073 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360, or by email at jane@michigancitylaporte.com



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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Knitting Club for All Ages at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 7, 14, 21 and 28.**

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.

• **Marble Roller Coasters at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.**

The 45-minute program, aimed at children 6 and older accompanied by an adult, lets children build a roller coaster with pipe foam and race marbles through loops and turns.

• **Celebrate the Library's Birthday with Cake at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 9.**

Oct. 9 is the library's 118th birthday. Help celebrate the occasion with cake and cider, and sing happy birthday to the library.

• **Speed Oiling 101 Workshop on Saturday, Oct. 10.**

Visitors can move along 12 different stations for five minutes each. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. for check-in and refreshments. The workshop starts at 11 a.m. Giveaways are planned. Tickets are free for the adults only event. Register at tinyurl.com/nbkjd3g

• **"Season of Upsets — The Story Behind the Story" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11.**

Drew Tallackson, editor of *The Beacher Weekly Newspaper*, and Martin Briggs, a fourth-grade teacher at Crichfield Elementary School, will moderate the free panel discussion.

• **AARP Smart Driver Course at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13.**

The five-hour program is a refresher course that highlights the effects of aging on driving and how to adjust reactions. Participants may earn an insurance rate discount (check with your insurance company) by taking the course designed for drivers 55 and older. The fee is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Take an AARP card. Call 873-3049 to register.

• **Story Time with Guest Performer Linda Boyle at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14.**

Children and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts during the time designed for parent/guardian and child interaction. Arrive early to receive a name tag.

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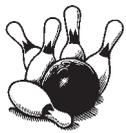
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TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. IncrediBowls	9	3
1. Wrecking Balls	9	3
1. Pin-ettes	9	3

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Jill Mellen	194
2. Cindy Beck	169
3. Mary Lou McFadden	168
4. Sue Labovitz	162
4. Nancy Kubath	162
5. Sue Luegers	154
6. Diana Holt	150

THREE STRIKES IN A ROW

Jill Mellen, Cindy Beck, Diana Holt

SPLITS

1. Ellie Parkerson	3-10
2. Jill Mellen, Sue Luegers	5-7

Spooky Helpers



The A.K. Smith Career Center's construction technology class took their skills on the road Tuesday, Sept. 22. Nine students from the class, along with their teacher, Dick Bucher, came to the aid of longtime Michigan City resident Bessie Block and her husband, who have created a haunted house display on Greenwood Avenue for the past 30 years. The students took care of siding their "spook house."

Duneland Weavers Guild

Duneland Weavers Guild meets at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, at Westchester Public Library Annex, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Members will show their latest projects. Rita Hagenbruch then will present a program on Scandinavian fabrics. Gifts of handwoven linen made by family still in Sweden encouraged her interest in weaving.

Guests are welcome. View dunelandweavers-guild.org for more information.

Fall Book Sale

The Friends of Westchester Public Library will hold its Fall Friends of the Library Book Sale on Friday through Sunday, Oct. 16-18, at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

The sale begins with the Friends Only Preview Sale from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, with Friends of the Library memberships sold at the door for \$5 and allowing entrance to the sale that day.

The public sale is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 17-18. On Sunday, all items will be sold for \$3 a bag. No scanners will be allowed throughout the sale.

Prices for newer and special books will be individually marked. A large selection of hardcover books will be sold for \$1 and paperback books for 50 cents. Children's and young adult books are 25 cents.

Patrons donating materials for the sale are encouraged to take their donations to the collection box in the Thomas Library lobby. The library cannot use damaged books or books without covers, smelly or water mildewed books, textbooks or encyclopedia and reference sets more than 10 years old.

The Friends needs volunteers to help sort materials for the sale at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, as well as volunteers to help staff the sale. Contact Julia at (219) 926-7696 if interested.

Proceeds from the sales are donated to the library and help fund supplemental and special programming efforts, such as film series, children's programs, book discussions and staff-recognition events.



**American
Red Cross**

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

- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, La Porte, noon to 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12.

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

Watercolor Display

Herb Helm's watercolors are on display through Sunday, Nov. 1, in the Clark Gallery at Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich.

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

Giving Back



Representatives of Michiana Lions Club and United Way of La Porte County stopped by Pine Elementary School to deliver 25 new backpacks filled with school supplies. Additional backpacks, made possible by donations from the Lions and Big R, went to Stepping Stone Shelter. Pictured are Pine Elementary students Kayla Treto-Arreola and Jayla Patrick, who accepted the backpacks on behalf of the school and assisted Lion Brian Pagels in unloading them. Backpacks will be used as incentives for students who attain exceptional academic progress in reading programs this school year.

Owl Curriculum for Teachers

Indiana Dunes State Park and the Friends of Indiana Dunes are offering a free, owl-based curriculum for teachers this fall.

Timed in conjunction with the state park's popular saw-whet owl banding program, the curriculum packet provides classroom activities about owls, their ecology and behavior, and local banding efforts. Available in a hard-copy binder format and an electronic version, the curriculum was developed based on current academic standards and includes writing, environmental studies and math. Each packet is divided for grade levels first through sixth and is written for busy teachers.

The curriculum can be combined with on- and off-site visits by park naturalists to educate students on the owl banding program held nightly at the state park from early October through mid-November.

The binders are free at the park Nature Center, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 for more information.

Bacchus Festival 2015

Union Pier's Wine Sellers Inc. will host the 16th Annual Autumn Bacchus Festival from 7:30 to 10 p.m. EDT Friday, Oct. 9, at Marina Grand Resort, 600 W. Water St., New Buffalo, Mich.

Guests can sample wines from all over the globe, while wine-industry professionals can answer questions. Chef Jenny Drilon of the resort's Bentwood Tavern will prepare a light menu of seasonal foods.

Reservations are recommended because space is limited. The fee is \$60 per person. Call (888) 824-WINE for reservations or more information.

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<http://www.thebeacher.com/>

OAKtoberfest

Tickets are on sale for Taltree Arboretum & Gardens' second OAKtoberfest, which is from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24.

The adults-only event features oak-aged brews and gourmet food pairings in an autumn setting. Oak aging creates an intense flavor and "kick." Servers will instruct and guide tastings of oak-aged beers and hard ciders from regional brewers and others.

Designated Driver tickets allow guests a chance to sample all the food options, and as a new treat will have a Barrel Aged non-alcoholic option: Vernors Ginger Ale.

Guests can rank their tastings. The most popular brew and food pairings will be featured at OAKtoberfest 2016. Guests also will be entered to win an annual Taltree membership.

Event proceeds support Taltree's environmental restoration, conservation and education initiatives.

Unlimited brew and food tickets are \$55 and designated driver tickets \$20. Only advanced ticket sales are available. Purchase by Wednesday, Oct. 14. Visit Taltree.org or call (219) 462-0025 for tickets or more information.

Taltree is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso.



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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

Oct. 8 — Music at the Museum, The Flashbacks, 2-3:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Oct. 8 — Marble Roller Coasters, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Free. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 9 — Depot Friday, 5-7 p.m., Beverly Shores Museum and Gallery, 525 Broadway.

Oct. 9 — Matt Schofield, British blues guitarist of the year 2010-2012, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets/info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

Oct. 9 — 16th Annual Autumn Bacchus Festival, 7:30-10 p.m. EDT, Marina Grand Resort, 600 W. Water St., New Buffalo, Mich. Cost: \$60. Reservations: (888) 824-WINE.

Oct. 10 — Michigan City Mainstreet Association Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Eighth and Washington streets, through Oct. 31. Info: www.michigancityfarmersmarket.com

Oct. 10 — Duneland Weavers Guild, 10 a.m., Westchester Public Library Annex, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Info: dunelandweaversguild.org

Oct. 10 — Northwest Indiana Storytelling Guild Festival, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., nature center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 10 — Barker Birthday Bash, 1-4 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$2. Info: (219) 873-1520, www.BarkerMansion.com

Oct. 10 — Harvest & Wine Festival, noon-10 p.m. EDT, Lions Beachfront Park, New Buffalo, Mich. Admission: \$5 donations, children 12 & younger free. Info: newbuffalo.org, (888) 660-6222.

Oct. 10 — Michigan City Chamber Music Festival free concert, "Violin Virtuosity," 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Info: (219) 561-1939, www.mccmf.org

Oct. 10-11 — Oktoberfest, 11 a.m., Michigan City Senior Center, Washington Park. Cost: \$5 entrance fee applied to food purchase.

Oct. 11 — "Season of Upsets — The Story Behind the Story," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Free. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 13 — Lunch With the League, La Porte County Assessor Mike Schultz, 1 p.m., Mama Rosa's Restaurant, 402 W. U.S. 20, Michigan City. Info: (219) 874-6809, www.lwvlaporte.org

Oct. 13 — Bifocal Bookies, Natalie Brasz's "Queen Sugar," 1 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

Oct. 14 — Story Time with Guest Performer Linda Boyle, 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Free. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 14, 17 — Mad About Mysteries, 2 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.



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Oct. 15 — Black bear informational program, 6-7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Reservations: wildlife.IN.gov/7548.htm, (317) 234-8440.

Oct. 15 — Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum, local history panel, 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933, new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com

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

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

Farther Afield:

Oct. 9 — Behind the Orange Door Studio open house & reception, 4-7 p.m. EDT, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Info: (765) 617-3653.

Oct. 9-11 — “Disney’s Beauty and the Beast Jr.,” Elkhart Civic Theatre youth production, Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (Eastern): 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Tickets: \$12/ adults 18 & older, \$10/students 18 & younger. Reservations: (574) 848-4116, www.elkhartcivictheatre.org

Oct. 10 — Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra “Exuberance of Life” concert, 4 p.m. EDT, Howard Performing Arts Center @ Andrews University, 4160 E. Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs, Mich. Tickets/reservations: www.smso.org, (269) 982-4030.

Oct. 13 — River Valley Garden Club, 1 p.m. EDT, Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich. Info: (269) 426-3513.

Through Nov. 1 — Herb Helm watercolors display, Clark Gallery @ Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Info: (269) 695-6491, fernwoodbotanical.org

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On October 8, 1871, the fire that destroyed the city of Chicago began. The fire started (legend would have us believe) when a cow, owned by a Mrs. O'Leary, kicked over a lantern. The fire, which took more than 200 lives, and destroyed 17,000 buildings, continued to burn for about 30 hours.

On October 8, 1892, in Moscow, Sergei Rachmaninoff performed his piano "Prelude in C-Sharp Minor" publicly for the first time.

On October 8, 1904 on New York's Long Island, at a place called Hicksville, the first automobile race for the "Vanderbilt Cup" took place. Stretched over a 30 mile course; the race included 5 Mercedes, 3 Panhards, 2 Fiats, 2 Popes, 1 Renault, 1 Packard, and 1 Simplex. A Mr. George Heath, driving a Packard, was the winner.

On October 8, 1944, "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet" made its radio debut on CBS.

On October 8, 2004, Martha Stewart reported to the Alderson Federal Prison Camp in West Virginia to begin serving her sentence for lying about a stock sale.

On October 9, 1002, Norwegian explorer Leif Ericson is believed to have discovered Vinland (North America). Some historians maintain that he landed somewhere in the area of New England.

On October 9, 1888, the Washington Monument was opened to the public.

On October 9, 1930, Laura Ingalls became the first woman to fly across the United States. She completed a journey from Roosevelt Field, NY, to Glendale, CA, making nine stops along the way.

On October 9, 1936, the first generator at Boulder (now Hoover) Dam began transmitting electricity to Los Angeles.

On October 9, 1947, the first telephone conversation between a moving automobile and an airplane took place.

On October 9, 2003, a nine-day trash haulers strike ended in Chicago, with an estimated 135,000 tons of garbage awaiting pickup.

On October 10, 1886, at New York's Tuxedo Club, a men's dress coat without tails, introduced from England, was worn in the United States for the first time. Many guests that evening were outraged at such cavalier dress, but the "tuxedo" soon became more popular in America than the coat with tails.

On October 10, 1935, the American opera "Porgy and Bess," with music by George and Ira Gershwin, opened on Broadway.

On October 10, 1978, President Jimmy Carter

Season of Upsets



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On October 10, 2004, actor Christopher Reeve, star of the movie "Superman" who became a quadriplegic after a May 1995 horse riding accident, died in Mt. Kisco, NY; he was 52.

On October 11, 1868, Thomas Edison filed for a patent for his first invention, an electrical voice recorder to tabulate votes in Congress more quickly. Congress refused to use it.

On October 11, 1968, *Apollo 7*, the first manned Apollo mission, was launched from Florida's Cape Kennedy with astronauts Wally Schirra, Donn Eisele and R. Walter Cunningham.

On October 11, 1975, with comedian George Carlin as host, "Saturday Night Live" made its debut on NBC.

On October 12, 1492, a sailor aboard the *Pinta*, one of three vessels in an armada led by Christopher Columbus, first sighted land in the new world.

On October 12, 1868, Marshall Field and Levi Leiter opened a department store at Chicago's State and Washington Streets.

On October 12, 1964, in the first space mission involving more than one person, the Soviet Union launched a space capsule carrying three men.

On October 12, 1971, the rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar" opened on Broadway.

On October 12, 2004, J.L. Hunter "Red" Roundtree, the nation's oldest known bank robber, who turned to crime in his 80s, died, in a Dallas jail, at 92.

On October 13, 1792, President George Washington laid the cornerstone for the Executive Mansion. It was designed by James Hoban as a replica of the Duke of Leinster's Palace in Ireland. The British burned the mansion in 1814, and it was restored in 1818. The stones were painted white to cover the marks left by the fire, and it was from this paint job that it became known as the "White House."

On October 13, 1843, B'nai B'rith, a Jewish organization, was founded in New York.

On October 13, 1962, Edward Albee's play, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, opened, on Broadway, to rave reviews by the New York critics.

On October 14, 1906, the Chicago White Sox beat the Chicago Cubs 8-3, winning the only World Series ever played between the two cross-town rivals.

On October 14, 1916, the first Professional Golfers Association tournament (played at Mt. Vernon, NY) was won by James Barnes of Philadelphia.

On October 14, 1930, singer Ethel Merman gained fame of sorts when she, while singing "I Got Rhythm," held a high C for 16 bars.

On October 14, 1968, *Apollo 7* transmitted the first live telecast from a manned spacecraft.



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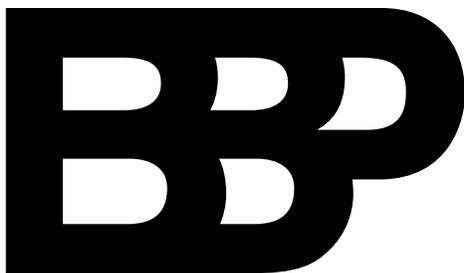
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The Fall Girlfriend Sale, your ultimate woman's resale clothing event, is scheduling appointments now through Oct. 12 to submit up to 30 items for resale. To participate email whatsnexta@comcast.net or call Susan Vissing at (219) 861-6188 and leave a message with a few alternate dates and times you can come in with your items. Appointments are scheduled every 1/2 hour M-F (no Thursday appts.) 10 a.m.-4 p.m. plus weekend dates of Sat., Oct. 3, and Sunday, Oct.11. Ask for the participation guidelines if you don't have them already. Be sure to bring along 1 sweater, jacket or coat to donate, with proceed to benefit the Samaritan Center.

Shopping dates:

- Friday, Oct. 16,** 6-9 p.m. for participants and friends
 - Saturday, Oct.17 & 24,** 10-2 p.m. open to the public
 - Sunday, Oct. 25,** 12-4 p.m. famous 1/2 price day
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Long Beach Stop 31 3 BR/4BA home with lake views and steps from beach. \$1,800 a week. Also, weekends available. (773) 718-5546.

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Seasonal Rental: September-May: \$1,300/mo + utilities. Beachside Stop 30. 5/BR, 2-car garage. **Call/text Cari @ Merrion 219-898-5412.**

WATERFRONT APTS for rent in MC. Furnished-utilities, WiFi/TV incl. 1BR \$775/mo., 2BR \$975/mo. Sec. dep. Call Pete at (219) 871-9187.

Dunescape: 4th Floor 2BR/2BA condo available Oct. 1-end of May 2016. \$1,100/mo + utilities. Call/Text Cari @ Merrion Realty @ 219-872-4000.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Run You Down by Julia Dahl
(hardcover, \$25.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

“I blink and blink but there is no holding back the tears now. And why should I hold them back? I haven’t cried about my mother in years. I thought I’d outlived the sadness, but really I’ve just learned to live with it sitting quietly inside me, tainting everything. Gotta get it out, I think. Gotta get it out.”

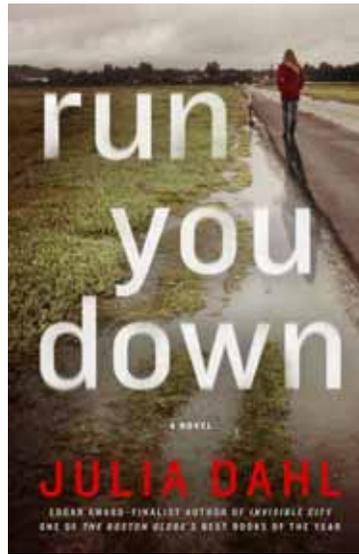
Speaking is Rebekah Roberts, a 20-something young woman who works for a New York newspaper. She never knew her mother, Aviva Kagan, who abandoned her and her father many years ago. Now, she has received

a text from Aviva saying she wants to meet with her. By the time Rebekah works up enough nerve to call her back, her calls go straight to voicemail. So, what’s the deal? Does her mother want to connect, or not?

Aviva was born in the ultra-orthodox Jewish community in New York, a sect with strong rules for education, work and marriage. When she was a teenager, she fell in love with a non-Jewish boy, and they ran off together to Florida, where Rebekah was born. And now, through a series of work-related events, Rebekah finds herself in the middle of this same community, while not realizing how close to her mother’s family she is.

Rebekah’s job at the newspaper is called a stringer, a writer who goes on site to news stories, gathers information and takes pictures, then calls in the information to the desk where someone else turns it into a story. In Dahl’s first book, The Invisible City, Rebekah is sent to this Hasidic community to cover the death, and possible murder of, the wife of a prominent Jewish businessman. She meets with much opposition as the community closes ranks and refuses to help. However, her work with Saul, a Jewish former policeman-turned private detective, solves the murder and gives Rebekah a big write-up in the newspaper.

Now, another member of the Hasidic community, this time in Roseville, N.Y., has reached out to her because of that story. He tells her about his own wife’s death. She was found in the bath, the death presumed an accident. But her baby was in his car seat on the living room floor, and she wouldn’t have left him there to take a bath! Religious law forbids an autopsy, and her parents just want her buried and the matter forgotten because it is their secret fear she committed suicide. Her husband reaches



out to Rebekah to investigate.

I like the way the author plainly explains the Hasidic community, neither defending nor condemning their ways. As Rebekah starts her investigation, she discovers a lot of people besides her mother have left the community, some with secrets the community would like to ignore.

One clue leads to another until she learns she has an uncle, Aviva’s brother Sam, somewhere in the area. Problem is, he has left the Jewish community and is now connected with a white supremacist group. How did he get mixed up with them? Sam has no clue as to how far these people will go to prove their twisted point of view —

many may suffer, and there’s a climax to this story you won’t long forget.

As for Rebekah, she’s about to find out how events and people can collide in the strangest way.

In-between Rebekah’s story, Aviva tells her own story, basically written like a letter to her daughter, trying to explain her life and how she came to leave her faith and Rebekah’s raising to her father.

As the two women’s stories weave back and forth in time, they come closer and closer to an intersection in the present, and I began to understand how each came to make the choices they did.

Religion, family, racism, love, murder and a need to find our roots all mesh into a story that holds a lot of heart and a lot of heartache.

Dahl is proving to be an exciting new voice in literature, and I foresee more stories about Rebekah Roberts in the future.

The Invisible City was named one of *The Boston Globe’s* Best Books of 2014 and was a finalist for an Edgar Award and Mary Higgins Clark Award.

Dahl is a journalist specializing in crime and criminal justice. She lives in Brooklyn and writes for CBSNews.com

The New York Times Book Review: “A treat... Strong, blunt prose.”

The Washington Post: “Fast-paced, suspenseful... rises above the crime novel genre in its unusual psychological, spiritual and sociological dimensions, entering a world unfamiliar to most people.”

The Boston Globe: “Bringing together the hyenas of tabloid journalism with the secretive, inwardly focused, self-protecting religious Jews, Dahl manages to demonize and humanize both, while delivering a riveting story.”

Till next time, happy reading!



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**434 Maplewood Drive
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3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Living/dining room with cathedral ceiling & fireplace. Large main floor master bedroom with new bath. Lower level has been redone with large rec room & room currently used as 4th bedroom with attached bath. Screen porch, 2-car garage & large lot.



**3321 Duneland Drive
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Sunny has been a practicing residential and commercial broker since 1997 where she began her real estate career with Coldwell Banker in Traverse City, Michigan. At that time she also formed an LLC for the sole purpose of purchasing and renovating waterfront cottages.

All of Sunny's clients in Chicago stem from "word of mouth". She has an eye for simple elegance when it comes to design coupled with a wealth of experience with regards to staging/meeting the public/and most importantly, representing her clients well. Her breadth of knowledge when it comes to preparing a property for sale and introducing it to the public is extraordinary.

"A good broker has to have several important skill sets many of which at times are the opposite ends of the spectrum. I understand form and function; how to prepare and price a home for sale and I know how to execute and close a deal, I believe in what I do - each and every time," says Sunny Billups.



Whether you are buying or selling or want to have a discussion about real estate, Sunny Billups is a real estate broker you should know.

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