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Life on the Edge

Man with Local Ties is Respected Hollywood Stuntman

by Andrew Tallackson

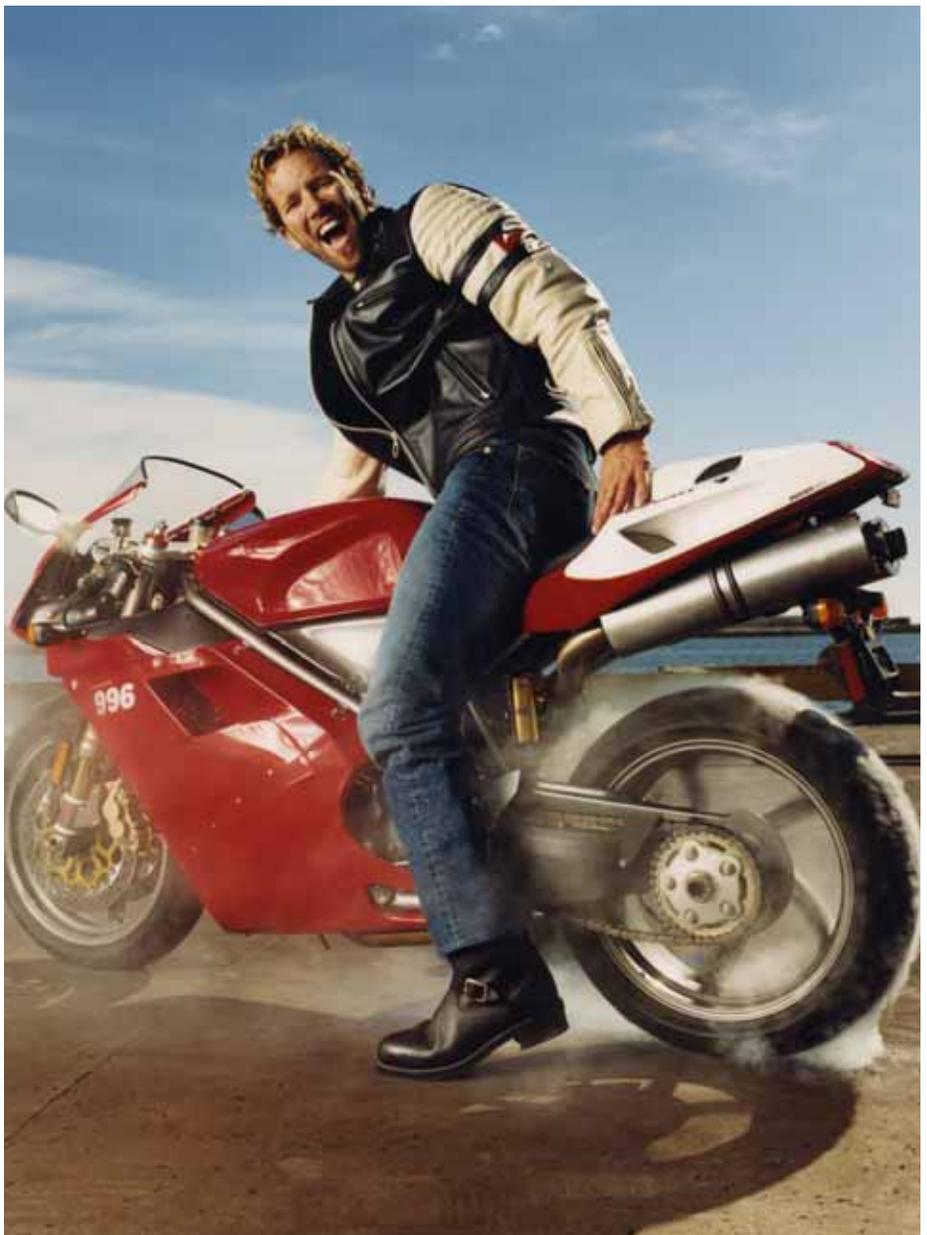
When Tom McComas Jr. was 14, he did something that even today, he recalls with an air of disbelief in his voice.

He took his father's prized possession — a BMW R60 motorcycle acquired after his service with the U.S. Marine Corps ended — out for a joyride one night without his father's permission. He'd learned that if you stuck a nail into the ignition, the bike would start...and start it did. Being a freshman in high school, though, meant he didn't have his license, which also meant he was riding it illegally. The headlights weren't working either. He was chased by police, but eluded them, abandoned the motorcycle and made it back home.

The police later called his father, inquiring if he owned a motorcycle. They'd recovered one involved in a high-speed chase. Ironically, police reported, there was no damage to the bike. The "thief" also properly parked it, leaving the kickstand in place.

"That's amazing," his father told police. "I'll be there in a minute." He then addressed his family, including Tom Jr., who remembers barely being able to look at him. "A thief stole my motorcycle," he announced, "and there's no damage to it."

It wasn't until years later that Tom Jr. fessed up to his father, easing into the revelation with, "Remember when that guy stole your motorcycle? Uh, that was me."



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At 45, Tom McComas Jr. is one of Hollywood's most hard-working stuntmen.

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Life on the Edge

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His father, Tom McComas Sr. of locally based TM Productions, creator of the wildly popular “I Love Toy Trains” series, shook his head and said, “Ugh.”

It’s a wild story, one Tom brings to a close with a “what was I thinking” laugh, but it makes something crystal clear about him. From an early age, his fascination with speed, motorcycles and vicarious living paved the way for a career in Hollywood.

At 45, McComas is one of the industry’s most respected and hardworking stuntmen and stunt coordinators. In the past five years, he’s worked on movies such as “Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation” “Terminator Genisys,” “White House Down,” “Star Trek Into Darkness,” “Identity Thief,” “Gangster Squad,” Men in Black 3” and “Fast Five.” On the small screen, his work has appeared on “Sons of Anarchy,” “House,” “NCIS,” “Two and a Half Men” and “The Mentalist.” He’s also developed a working relationship with two-time Oscar winner Ben Affleck that spans “Armageddon” to “The Town.”

“I am 45 and living my dream,” he said in a recent phone interview. “It couldn’t get any better. I don’t go to work. I go to play. I love it.”



Tom (left) with Ryan Gosling on the set of “Gangster Squad.”

Born in Evanston, Ill., motorcycles were his world entire, a love cultivated by his father and his father’s BMW R60 motorcycle — the first motorcycle he ever sat one...at age 2.

“As a kid, I was interested in anything that went fast,” he said. “As soon as I learned that if you twist the throttle and you go faster, all I did when I was riding with my dad was put my hand over his hand on the throttle and twist it faster. There was something inherent inside me that made me love two wheels. It struck a chord inside me.”

McComas graduated from Georgetown Preparatory School in Rockville, Md., then attended Loyola University Chicago for one year. He also was working at the time as a bike messenger. By the fifth time he was hit by a taxi cab, he says, along with weather that made for difficult riding conditions, he decided to change plans and headed for California, taking extension classes at University of California, Santa Barbara. A lecture by acclaimed professor Roderick Frazier Nash in Environmental Science 101 was so “electrifying and magnetizing,” McComas recalls, that he ended up graduating with a degree in environmental science.

Still in love with motorcycles, his gameplan after college, McComas said with a laugh, was “racing to save the environment.” He raced for six years, even winning a national championship in 1994. In 1995,



Tom (left) on the set of “Reindeer Games” with Ben Affleck (right) and director John Frankenheimer.

however, he was in a terrible accident at Road Atlanta, a 2.54-mile course near Braselton, Ga. He crashed amid speeds of 110 miles per hour. He was black and blue from his neck to his ankles. He still owed \$14,000 on a loan he'd taken to buy the motorcycle, yet all that was salvagable from the wreck was the motor.

Devastated, and "lost for a while," McComas said, he came to Michigan City to work with his father and TM Productions. His time here involved work on the locally produced "Yoga Kids" videos.



Tom and his father on motorcycles in the late 1980s.

But it was in 1997, after he saw the Bruce Willis sci-fi action film "The Fifth Element," that he headed back to California, specifically Hollywood to become a stuntman. He met with the William Morris agency, and it was his skills as a motorcyclist that struck a chord with the human resources representative whose husband was into stock car racing.

Things moved pretty quickly from there. Right off the bat, his first job as a stuntman was as David Hasselhoff's stunt double on "Baywatch." He did what's called a "bulldog," or a tackle. He ran around a building as the bad guy ran around the opposite side of the building in his direction.

"We meet, and I tackle him," McComas said. "That was my first job."

His next assignment: Michael Bay's "Armageddon," the second of two comet/asteroid disaster movies in 1998 after "Deep Impact." It was a huge hit in the United States and overseas. McComas was Affleck's stunt double.

"That is probably my favorite work memory. I was the man, or, I was doubling the man," he said, laughing. "I got to do everything. I jumped off a building, smashed through windows, got into fights. I was living the dream."

It also was the start of a long working relationship with Affleck that has included the films "Reindeer Games," "Pearl Harbor," "Changing Lanes," "Paycheck," "Jersey Girl," "Surviving Christmas,"

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Life on the Edge

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“State of Play” and “The Town.” He has nothing but praise for Affleck.

“We look very similar,” McComas said. “People always say to me, ‘You look a lot like Ben Affleck.’ I call that job security.”

Other projects over the years included “Zoolander,” “American Wedding,” “Poseidon,” “Live Free or Die Hard,” “The Dark Knight,” “Horrible Bosses,” and “Super 8,” as well as “Grey’s Anatomy,” “Ally McBeal” and “Hart of Dixie” on TV.

After all these years in the industry, does he still get nervous before a stunt? He replies to that question in detail.

“A lot of things can go wrong. Death is a reality. I could get seriously hurt or killed,” he said. “But when they say, ‘Ready. 3. 2. 1. Action,’ I say to myself, ‘#!@\$ it.’ I have done everything I can do. I’ve visualized it (the stunt) and gone over it hundreds of times in my head.

“There is a moment when I experience sheer terror, but then, I believe the true metal of a man is determined not when things are going right, but when they are not going well. But when I come off the set successfully, that is euphoria.

“The stunt could last one second, it could last seven seconds, but it’s during that time and when I realize, that’s why I do stunts. That to me is living. Even if it’s half a second, it might feel like 30 seconds in my mind, and I can’t get enough of it.”

Over the years, McComas has suffered from 13 concussions. Nonetheless, when he’s working, he is truly happy. An example he gives is his recent work as Charlie Hunnam’s stunt double on FX’s “Sons of Anarchy.” The show’s stunt coordinator was Eric Norris, son of beloved action hero Chuck Norris. Eric, McComas said, is “one of the nicest guys you’ll ever meet. No ego. A real hard worker. Just a great



Tom was involved in one of the most dangerous stunts, set on the Golden Gate Bridge, in “Terminator Genisys.”

guy.” Norris guided him and the other stuntmen through the series finale that involved cars, motorcycles and semi-trucks in a toy factory.

“It was non-stop. The day was crazy,” McComas said, “but I love days like that. It’s non-stop and you’re doing big stunts all day long.”

Sometimes, those stunts don’t appear in the finish product and he’s not credited for it. That is part of the politics of working in the industry, he said.

Take, for example, McComas’ work on “Terminator Genisys.” He was involved in a chase sequence on San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge. He was driving a mini-van involved in a spectacular collision with a bus driven by Sarah Connor. His vehicle, McComas said, was almost sliced in half.

However, reshoots were required during post-production, which brought in different stunt people to work on the shots. Those individuals were listed in the credits, not McComas.

“In my opinion, it’s not right,” McComas said, “but that’s just politics. I can’t let that bother me, although my friends go to these movies, and they don’t see my name in the credits and they are disappointed, so that’s kind of a drag. I’m out there four months risking my life, and I don’t get credit.”

Nonetheless, McComas has no intention of slowing down, nor permanently shifting from stuntman to stunt coordinator. He’d rather be in the thick of the action



than be the one orchestrating it.

He also credits his father with instilling in him the drive to pursue his dreams.

“What I learned from my dad is that you can set out to accomplish everything you set your heart out to do. That’s what drives me,” he said. “I don’t listen to what other people tell me. People told me when I was racing that there were a million reasons why not to race, that I could get hurt, that it’s dangerous, that it’s time consuming.



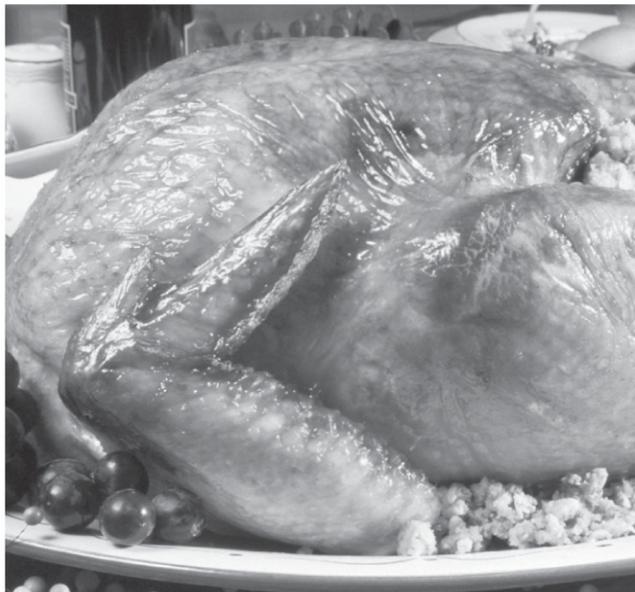
Tom (right) appears with Charlie Hunnam on the set of “Sons of Anarchy.”

“But I knew then I was truly living the dream. I was doing exactly what I wanted to do. I think it’s amazing when I see people who have a calling in life and they follow their passion. I have very little fear, very little jealousy and I live in the moment. I love it.”



Tom manning a machine gun on the set of one of his movies.

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Harbor Country by Design

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.

One of eight Harbor Country communities, New Buffalo has been a popular vacation destination since its founding in the 1800s, and a primary home to just under 2,000 residents.

A lot has changed since Captain Wessell Whittaker first filed claim to a large parcel of land around the mouth of the Galien River and named it after his hometown of Buffalo, N.Y. The town now seeks to find balance between the area's growing tourism population while preserving its historical and cultural identity.

Art+Times spoke with Bill McCollum of McCollum Architects about his efforts to help New Buffalo maintain its historical architecture and charm while incorporating improved planning ideas that will benefit generations to come.

Art+Times: What is your vision of Harbor Country through an architect's eyes?

Bill McCollum: Well, we're finding these communities are really welcoming in these projects that serve the community, like the New Buffalo Township Park. I was so proud to do that one. Every Wednesday, when they have their concerts, the place is packed. So, we are giving back to communities, and if you're getting more full-time residents, they're around to enjoy these spaces. A lot of it gets funded through the Pokagon Fund. A lot of new housing going up around here and again, we're finding more people are coming up here to retire and make this their primary residence.

A+T: Some feel the newer architecture is taking away



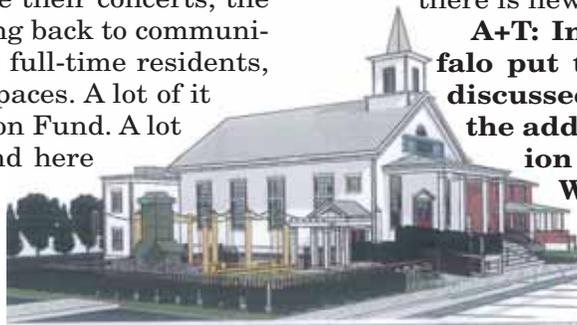
Bill McCollum

from the original charm of New Buffalo. What are your thoughts?

McCollum: While trying to save the older buildings has always been one of my goals, and that's not the way it's been happening in New Buffalo, but there are some other old buildings we're trying to save, like the Methodist church. I believe that will really help the town to keep some of the past. As far as the newer buildings, if we do a better job designing them, maybe we can make everything fit in a lot nicer. It's like the pavilion we're doing in Three Oaks. We want to make it look like it's always been there.

A+T: How do you approach a project like the Three Oaks Pavilion when tasked with preserving the historical feel of the area?

McCollum: Well, we really look at the site first. That's the key. You have to look at the solar orientation, the drainage, whether it's a house or these pavilions and try to figure out how it can fit into the environment around it. You don't want to stick out like a sore thumb. It really wants to blend into the surrounding environment, where there is new construction or renovation.



A proposed Water's Edge United Methodist Church drawing.

A+T: In 2012, the City of New Buffalo put together a master plan that discussed Lions Park and possibly the addition of a bandstand, a pavilion or something of that nature.

What's your feeling on what needs to happen with that space?

McCollum: I actually drew a plan up about a year ago and presented it to the Plan

Art+Times



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ning Commission, and it was precisely to do that. It was to develop a bandshell outside of Lions Park, and it was sponsored by the Lions. The past Planning Commission decided that that's not what they really wanted, and they were preferring to put it at Oselka Park, where we didn't



Lions Park in New Buffalo.

think it would really get used at all. With the new administration, I think, it's worth trying to roll it back out. As with the wonderful Ship and Shore Blues Festival, it shows you that something could be down there that would make it a lot better. Let's see if we can push for this new bandshell down there. There was also a plan to reroute the highway down there and bringing it back towards the back of the condo so that the park would be contiguous to the beach area and not be cut across by that big road...but that's a long-range thing for New Buffalo to do. They have to finish up their streetscape first and get the utilities into Whittaker.

A+T: What is your long-term vision for New Buffalo?

McCollum: I think fixing the main street would be key. Trying to plant some trees there may be narrowing down the street so it's more pedestrian friendly, and I think that's what their current plan includes, and they're replacing all the infrastructure there which is sorely in need of. So once that's done, we narrow the street down. It becomes more of a walkable community.

A+T: Who benefits the most from the creation of a more walkable community?

McCollum: I think everyone. I mean right now, the street is way too wide, and by narrowing it down, we can slow down the traffic and permit better uses of the sidewalk. The parking lot will always be an issue, so perhaps we can get a satellite parking area and some way to corral the cars, not so much on Main Street.

A+T: In New Buffalo and Harbor Country in general, what would you like to see more of in the area?

McCollum: Oh, that's a tough question. I think preservation of the older buildings, we're running out of them. They took down Hannah's...and hopefully we can save the old Methodist church and preserve the old history that was here. There's not too much left.



Downtown New Buffalo.

We have to be careful with the buildings that we do have and... make it look more like St. Joe or the towns that are further up the coast. They've done a very good job of saving the old ones, and we can learn from them.

A+T: Are there any other projects in Harbor Country

that involve a repurposing of a building?

McCollum: Well, we're hoping that the Methodist church will turn into a restaurant. We expect that goes to the Planning Commission this month, and there will be a very big change... an opportunity for New Buffalo there, but we have to get approved at the Planning Commission.

A+T: Have there been any structures in New Buffalo that you weren't able to be save or repurpose?

McCollum: Well, we were working with the old Gold's Gym, the old train car restaurant and now that's in limbo of what's going to happen to it, but saving that project would certainly be a plus for the city. The New Buffalo lumber building was sold. It was purchased by the city, so they're trying to put together a collection of a series of lots there to rent. Whilst not architecturally significant, it would be a great opportunity for the city to entice a developer into fixing up the south end of Whittaker (Street) and developing that end of the woods.

A+T: Do you think more modern type of buildings are needed in the architectural landscape of the town?

McCollum: It's always easier to build new than to fix an old building, but I think we have an obligation to fix the old buildings. There's a little bit of history there. They need to be made more energy efficient so we can we always strive to do that in our houses or other buildings we're doing. We've done some other houses and Three Oaks where someone wanted to preserve the look of the old farmhouse. This is a building right by the post office. In order to

preserve the look and the feel of the interior spaces, we put these 12-inch thick insulated panels up on the roof, and then we're able to sandblast the inside of the ceiling. It really looks like it was built at the turn of the century. So, there's ways of preserving old buildings and keeping them looking the way they did way back when.

Community Garden Enlightening Experience for La Lumiere Graduate

by Kayla Weiss

Alana Murray has always felt a sense of dedication to her community. Her interest in environmental studies came from her mother, an environmental activist heavily involved in the community.

“I remember when I was young, my mom was involved in a very big contamination problem in town,” Murray said. “Fly ash was being dumped on our town’s property, causing extreme contamination to the town’s water supply. I just always remember how passionately she spoke about situations like that and how much she wanted to help, and that’s when I realized that’s what I wanted to do as well.”

Murray, a Pines native and La Lumiere graduate, is a senior at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. She is an environmental studies and sociology/anthropology double major. Her main interests involve the food system, specifically how it all works and what we can do to improve it. With graduating looming in the spring, Murray is strongly considering getting her master’s degree in public health.

Last summer, Murray had an internship with Newark’s Garden of Hope, a restorative justice program run out of a community garden in Newark, Ohio. There were three sessions, each three weeks long, with the participants from Newark ranging in age from 13 to 18. The at-risk teens usually are recommended to the program to complete court-mandated community service.

Each summer, Denison University hires three student interns for the program. Murray decided to apply after seeing flyers on campus.

“As interns, we act as mentors to the teens and are in charge of planning the activities for each day,” she said. “While a lot of activities involve working in community gardens in Newark, we also took the teens to Denison and showed them around the college. We planned a lot of science activities and art projects as well, and cooked meals for local homeless shelters with the vegetables that we grew.

“This was my first experience working with at-risk teens, but I found that I really enjoyed it. It was



Alana Murray stands by Newark’s Garden of Hope.

really encouraging to see the teens progress through the program. At the beginning of the session, the teens clearly did not want to be there, but by the end, you could tell that they were proud of the work they had done in the garden and in their communities.

“In fact,” she continued, “one of the girls decided to come to another session because she enjoyed it so much. Another teen decided that he was going to go back to school, or at the very least try to get his GED. It was so neat to see the impact that we had

on these teens, and how working in the garden and improving their community positively influenced them. I think that was my favorite part.”

Murray’s research this past summer focused on examining the social, political and health impacts of community gardens in Newark. Her research had three main components:

- She interviewed four community members who were participants in one of the three gardens, gaining their views on how the community gardens impacted the town.
- She developed her own nutrition education program that she shared with the teens who participated in the Garden of Hope program that summer, consisting of five lessons covering important nutritional topics.
- She analyzed the data from the county health department, which included rates of heart disease, diabetes and obesity from a variety of years after the implementation of the community gardens.

Through her research, Murray learned the community garden had a number of positive effects on Newark.

Personally, she realized she enjoyed teaching others about nutrition. In addition to pursuing a master’s degree, she wants to work for a non-profit group.

“I have considered applying to FoodCorps, an AmeriCorps organization that works in school gardens and teaches kids about food and nutrition,” she said. “I am still in the process of deciding what I am going to do after graduation, but I do know that I want to do something that will make a difference.”



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A Day of Discovery

Editor's note — The following article was submitted by Debbie Steele-Semla.



Members of the Glidden family, together at Long Beach Community Center. Photo by George Kassal.

It was Labor Day weekend, and Duneland Beach resident Jackie Glidden was surrounded by her entire family.

After seeing the historical room at Long Beach Community Center, she wanted her family to view what has been started, especially for her grandchildren to learn about her family's history. Her father-in-law, Orrin Glidden, was one of the founders of Long Beach, and the beach area as well.

The family, consisting of different generations, pointed out various people they knew as they walked up the historical brick walkway that leads to the school. In the entryway, they pointed out pictures of themselves and friends from class pictures on the wall of Long Beach School's Wall of Fame. Once inside the Historical Room, the family remi-

nised over pictures and items, thumbing through old copies of *Billows* and *Beachers*.

At one point, Glidden said to me, "You are looking at the last of the Glidden family that's from the beach area."

I detected a bit of sadness in her voice, yet I saw a look of great accomplishment and satisfaction on her face. I felt privileged to be with the Glidden family on this beautiful day of discovery.

Thanks to the foresight of Orrin Glidden, Orphie Gotto and Clarence Mathias, we have an oasis, created by these men, for all of us to enjoy.

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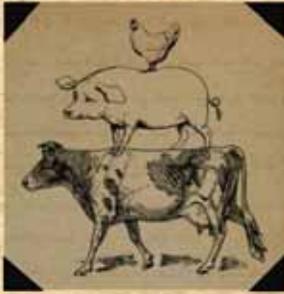
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“Love and Mercy”

Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., as part of its fall film series, will show “Love and Mercy” at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20.

The screening, a collaboration with Purdue University-North Central’s Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series, is free.

The film, rated PG-13, is based on the life of Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys, considered to be among the most significant of American rock ‘n’ roll bands. Paul Dano plays a young Brian Wilson and John Cusack the older incarnation.

Wilson was known to lead dazzling and confounding recording sessions as the Beach Boys soared in popularity in the 1960s. But in 1973, he became a recluse, having experienced a creative breakdown, a long descent into drug use and the death of his father. His father sold Wilson’s music rights away for fewer than \$1 million, explaining that “five years from now, no one is going to remember you or the Beach Boys.”



Paul Dano plays a young Brian Wilson in “Love and Mercy.”

Wilson resurfaced in 1975 after being incorrectly diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia while in the care of controversial therapist named Eugene Landy, who would manage and question Wilson’s every move for the next decade. The Wilson family and Wilson’s girlfriend, Melinda Ledbetter, who later became his wife, finally won a court order that separated Wilson from him. Later found to have bipolar schizoaffective disorder, Wilson was said to have a distinctly different personality before and after his years in seclusion.

The Hollywood Reporter wrote that “John Cusack gives one of the best performances of his career, its effectiveness limited only by his lack of a physical resemblance to the songwriter. That will be a stumbling block for some fans, but those who can get beyond it will find a very fine film about a singular artist.”

More information about PNC’s Odyssey series is available at www.pnc.edu, or by calling Judy Jacobi, PNC assistant vice chancellor of marketing and campus relations at (219) 785-5593.

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Northern Indiana Walk for PKD

Patients, their families, friends and the medical community will unite in the fight against polycystic kidney disease during the 2015 Northern Indiana Walk for PKD on Saturday, Sept. 19, at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City.

One of the families walking is "Team Chadwick," which has Laura Moyer, La Porte County Parks recreation and education programmer, as the team captain. A living donor kidney recipient, she and 15 members of her immediate family are affected with the disease.

Moyer founded the Northern Indiana Walk and Chapter, and has been participating in the Walk for PKD with her family since 2007. Since the event's inception, along with other fundraisers, Moyer has raised nearly \$100,000 for the cause in La Porte County. Funds assist the PKD Foundation's efforts to finance research to find treatments and a cure, and provide information and support to people affected by PKD and their caregivers.

Registration for the walk is at 9 a.m., with the walk starting at 10 a.m. Activities for children start at 10 a.m.

Register for the walk at www.walkforpkd.org/northernindiana.

New PNC Photo Exhibit

The Purdue University-North Central Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series will present "People and Places – Places and People," work by photographer John Horwitz, through December.

The exhibit will concentrate on photographs of cities and buildings. It will transition to "Places and People" in January and continue through May, featuring photographs of people.

Horwitz is the Northern Indiana Artists Association president, the director of Washington Street Gallery and curator of City Market Studios and Gallery. His work has been included in exhibits at The Art Institute of Chicago, the Guggenheim, the Carnegie Center for the Arts, CBS TV in New York and Lubeznik Center for the Arts.

He explained the inspiration for his work.

"Before you look at the photographs, there is a story that needs to be told about the pieces that are in front of you," he said in a press release. "We often see a final image and are struck by the color, light or texture of a world interpreted by the artist. It may be real, surreal, an abstraction or an impression. We compare it to the experience itself and decide if it is truth or beauty, brutal reality or unjustly critical."

Free and open to the public, the exhibit is in the first-floor north study area of the Technology Building. Building hours are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday during the school semester. Otherwise, the building is closed on Sunday.

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



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Weird dreams along Lake Michigan

Posted By David Hoppe on Fri, Sep 4, 2015 at 5:30 PM

Imagine you're having a dream. You look out your window and the view is beautiful. What's more, a little voice keeps whispering in your ear: "It's yours, all yours."

As dreams go, this is pretty nice. It's enough to make you want to sleep late.

The trouble is, everybody wakes up sometime.

It seems some folks who own property along the Lake Michigan shore in Northwest Indiana have been dreaming. They dreamt that when they looked out their windows, everything they saw, from their back doors, to the water's edge — and everything in between — belonged to them.

Never mind that they didn't pay property taxes on this land. Hey, they were dreaming!

Never mind that they never bothered to check into whether, perhaps, this land might belong to the State of Indiana. This, remember, was a dream.

The wake-up call came in the form of a ruling by Judge Richard Stalbrink of the LaPorte County Superior Court on July 24. "It is adjudged and decreed," wrote Judge Stalbrink, "that the State holds the shores of Lake Michigan below the ordinary high water mark...in trust for the public, regardless of whether the land is currently covered by water."

Not only that, the Judge wrote that the northern boundary of the private property in question ran along a line called Section 15 — a line markedly above the water's edge.

The reason Judge Stalbrink made this ruling was because a group of these property owners didn't want to stop their dreaming. They brought suit against the State of Indiana, the state's Department of Natural Resources and an alliance of community and environmental groups.

In other words, they picked this fight.

They acted as if something was being taken from them that was never theirs to begin with.

They were dreaming.

But now that they're awake, they're as grumpy as can be. They published a two-page ad in a local paper, claiming that towns planned as "resident focused beach communities" will be driven out of existence, "granting universal public ownership of large portions of the beach to the entire public."

The ad, sponsored by a group calling itself Stewards of Our Shores, alleges "There are designs in motion at the state level that intend to create a 'destination' for non-residents to our beaches." It claims concession stands and commercial buildings will be built; that signage is in the works promoting the beaches and (gasp) that there will be "bus activity from Michigan City and elsewhere to the lake."

Next thing you know, we'll be forced to celebrate Kwanzaa and Dia de los Muertes.

This nightmare scenario is, of course, also a kind of dream. What the so-called Stewards fail to recognize is that Michigan City already enjoys an embarrassment of riches with its broad and well-maintained public beach.

That someone would want to board a shuttle bus and go to Long Beach, for example, where rising lake levels and the fecklessness of private property owners and town managers has created not just narrow beaches, but stretches cluttered with all manner of sun'n'fun bric-a-brac, corrugated steel and concrete sea walls, NO TRESPASSING signs, bull-dozed foredunes, and the occasional leaking drainage pipe...well, you must be dreaming.

What the Stewards fail to mention is that the lack of stewardship by private property owners along the beach helps account for the grassroots community support that spurred resistance to private ownership claims in the first place. The rampant development of large-scale houses and the installation of septic systems on the beach, as well as the aforementioned demolition of picturesque foredunes (otherwise known as Nature's levees) seems an odd kind of stewardship.

But then, in dreams, anything goes.



Indy's **alternative** voice

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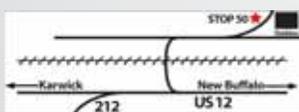
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Sinai Forum Opens with Jane Pauley

The 62nd season of the Purdue University-North Central Sinai Forum opens with “An Evening with Jane Pauley” at 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, at Blue Chip Casino Stardust Event Center, 777 Blue Chip Drive, Michigan City.

Pauley, one of America’s most well-known and respected broadcast journalists, has become a highly regarded mental-health advocate. Ten years ago, in her memoir “Skywriting: A Life Out of the Blue,” she revealed her personal struggle with bipolar disorder, diagnosed at age 50. She has worked to change the way



people understand mental and emotional disorders.

An Indianapolis native, she began her career at WISH-TV in Indianapolis after graduating from Indiana University, then co-hosted the “Today” show for 13 years and “Dateline NBC” for 12. She now is a contributor to CBS News “Sunday Morning.” She wrote two bestselling books, most recently “Your Life Calling: Reimagining the Rest of Your Life,” based on her award-winning series on “Today” about new life changes after 50.

A member of the Broadcast and Cable Hall of Fame, Pauley’s work has earned multiple Emmys, as well as the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Journalism, the Edward R. Murrow Award for outstanding achievement and the Gracie Allen Award from the Foundation of American Women in Radio & Television.

The program is sponsored by Duneland Health Council. A book signing will follow.

Tickets for the five-program season are \$75 for regular subscription passes and \$200 for patron subscription passes, which include reserved section seating and five exclusive receptions with the speakers. Students who show a valid school ID are free. Tickets can be purchased by credit card at www.sinaiforum.org or by cash or check at: Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., Michigan City; Kabelin Hardware, 512 Andrew Ave., La Porte; The PNC Chancellor’s Office, Schwarz Hall, Room 137, 1401 S. U.S. 421, Westville; and Undergraduate Building at PNC-Porter County, 600 Vale Park Road, Valparaiso.

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Health by the Numbers (Part 1)

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

A little while back, I wrote a piece titled "Preventative Maintenance." This was not about proper timing and techniques on oil changes or tire rotation for your car. Rather, this related that simple strategy to staying healthy and being ahead of the game that is your life.

While doing research on the health and wellness of our area, it appears if we treated our cars like our bodies, you might just see an auto shop on every corner instead of a Starbucks or McDonalds.

Studies and research through the National Center for Health Statistics give scary numbers for our area. Overall rankings by counties in Indiana are determined by two different metrics. The first is the overall rankings in health outcomes. This ranking represents how healthy counties are within the state. The ranking system is based on how long people live and how healthy people feel, also known as life expectancy and quality of life.

Many factors go into determining these rankings. Quality of life is determined by things such as quality number of physical and mental health days, all the way to low birthweight. The term health behaviors is defined as an action taken by a person to maintain, attain or regain good health and to prevent illness. Much like a political or religious view, this term reflects a person's health beliefs. Some of the negative factors that drive this measurement are smoking, obesity, food environment, physical inactivity, excessive drinking, access to exercise opportunity, STDs and teen births.

The second ranking is overall health factors. This assesses counties based on four measurements. The first is health behaviors, which includes factors such as food insecurity and access to healthy foods. This also includes health factors like motor vehicle crash deaths. Clinical care is the next measurement. This ties into health care, insured vs. uninsured children and adults and overall cost of health care. Social and economic factors are next, which involve income and government food programs. Last is physical environment factors such as air pollution, drinking water cleanliness, even long commutes to work.

By this point, I am sure a picture is being painted in your head of what factors lie in our backyard or even in our individual homes. Controllable and non-controllable, direct and indirect, we can probably come up with a number of factors that fit in these different categories. I look at these rankings from two different views: professional and personal. Professionally, looking at the health in the commu-

nities we live in is enormously important. Health benefits are so large, they trickle into every other aspect of our life. Personally, I look at these rankings and see how they relate to me. I had a baseball coach when I was younger who always preached the mantra: "Control the things you can control." Something like health behaviors sticks out like a sore thumb here. Your health literally is the foundation of your life from which you can build upon.

I am leaving you with a cliffhanger. This discussion will pick up in the next Fitness Rebellion on Oct. 1. Let's see where our readers think La Porte County is in the state rankings in these two categories. Just a quick refresher, the first category is overall health rankings in health outcomes (quality and life expectancy). The second is overall rankings in health factors (health behavior, health care, social, economic and physical factors). The state of Indiana has 92 counties.

Where do you think we rank, readers?

Email your guesses to me at kevinthomascott00@gmail.com or post your response on our facebook page starting Thursday, Sept. 17.





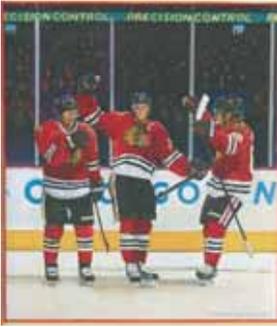

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Somewhere between Mount Baldy and Mount Tom, amid acres of privately-owned duneland, a fabulous imaginary mansion rises, set back a respectful distance from Lake Michigan, but close enough to see the Chicago skyline on a clear evening. For reasons yet to unfold, this enclave is named Brighton.

As the story opens, Brighton is the destination of its owner, fictional Nathan Franklin, who arrives via South Shore and snowmobile – a pair of them in fact, purple snowmobiles – steered through a blizzard by the caretakers of his estate. Nathan, a jeweler and acclaimed author, has chosen to leave his Arizona home to spend Christmas here, among the memories and treasured artifacts of his sometimes-troubled childhood.

This scenario is the creation of Trent Pendley, a homeowner in Furnessville who has named his first novel “Toys in the Closet.” Trent in real life is a jeweler, raconteur and devotee of historical tales – local history, family history and Jewish history – all of which are abundantly woven into his book.

“I wanted to tell a Midwestern Jewish story,” Trent says, “that wasn’t about the Holocaust and wasn’t an immigrant story.”



Trent Pendley, pictured in his Furnessville home, holds one of the scrapbooks he assembled while gathering information for his novel, “Toys in the Closet.”

He invented Nathan Franklin – a sensitive and compassionate individual, successful author, politically liberal, collector of art and antiques, Jewish, well-traveled, fashion-conscious, worldly-wise... and, he explains, “Nathan’s story is not always Trent’s story. The character took on a life of his

own.”

Trent, himself, began writing as a teen for the Northwest Indiana Jewish Welfare Foundation. He converted to Judaism, a faith not practiced by his parents. When he enrolled at Indiana University, he took the opportunity to study in Jerusalem, one of the studies-abroad programs.

As an adult, he became president of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society and amassed a wealth of information about Jewish people and their contributions to society, from Jerusalem at one end to Hollywood at the other. Many of these facts are now incorporated into his novel, bringing it to a hefty 792 pages.

Trent’s personal involvement in local history is a story in itself. Eleven of his ancestors — the Lewry family — are buried in Furnessville Cemetery. His mother’s great-grandfather, a blacksmith and wagonmaker, lived in Furnessville more than 100 years ago. The very house Trent bought was previously owned by distant cousins, but he didn’t know that at the time he bought the house, nor when he wrote the book.

This is not a case of buying a historic house and becoming so enraptured that you write a novel about it. Trent had almost completed the novel by 2002, and he didn’t buy the house until 2004. Part of his motivation was to publish some documentation about his great-great-grandfather’s pre-Civil



The historic Furnessville Cemetery holds the remains of Trent Pendley’s grandparents, great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents.

A Delicate Dance Between Fact and Fiction

by Barbara Stodola

Book Signing

The historic Schoolhouse Shop, situated across from Furnessville Cemetery at 278 E. County Road 1500 North, is a fitting spot for Trent Pendley to bring his new novel, “Toys in the Closet,” which is set in Furnessville. The building was constructed in 1886 for Porter County school children and later served as an art gallery, before being renovated in 1997 by James Ruge and Roy Krizek. It now houses antiques, art and gift items and annually sponsors an art fair – this year on Sept. 19 and 20, when Pendley will sign copies of his book.

War house in Furnessville, to give it some historical stature, as he saw the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore closing in on historic structures.

The controversies surrounding the national park also form part of this narrative, and Nathan’s grandmother is invested with a leadership role in those struggles.

After spending some years in Arizona and in Chicago, Trent returned to his native Indiana. The house he bought, on U.S. 20, turned out to be the home where famed author Edwin Way Teale spent his boyhood summers.

Trent pursued this historical connection, then had a bronze marker placed out at the road recognizing Teale, who wrote “Dune Boy” in 1943 and later won a Pulitzer Prize for “Wandering Through Water.” Nathan also wins a Pulitzer Prize, thus taking on



A painting by Daniel O. McKee (1906-1976) depicted the Lewry Home in Furnessville – the ancestral home that inspired Trent’s novel.

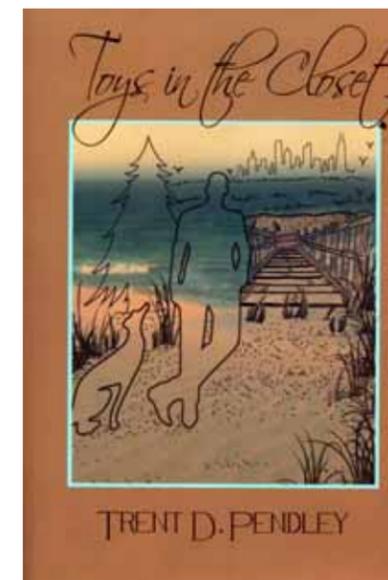
some of Teale’s persona.

But back to the Lewry family.

By now, it should be clear that Trent has a penchant for tracing historical connections. And so, he applied his research skills to family history and found that the Lewry family emigrated from England, specifically from Brighton, where he discovered indisputable evidence: a Moses Lewry gravestone in the local cemetery.

Visiting Brighton, Trent also toured the Royal Pavilion, the fantastic seaside getaway built by the Prince of Wales in the mid-19th century. Thus, a bit of Brighton finds its way into his developing novel – but only a bit. Brighton’s Indiana namesake, rather than being adorned with domes, minarets and indoor glitter, is fitted out more appropriately for its windswept duneland setting.

Trent devotes many pages to the description of



The book cover depicts a shadowy figure with his faithful companion, overlooking the dunes and Lake Michigan, where the novel is set.

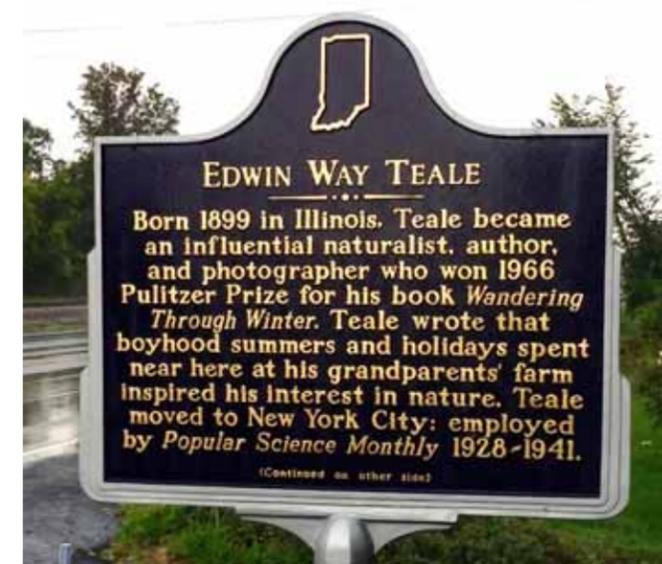
his own Brighton, to the extent that the house itself takes over and ultimately becomes the main character in the book.

One of my favorite passages arises from the ingenious subterranean vault that Trent/Nathan has devised for storage of his valuables. Being a jeweler, of course, he would have accumulated an extraordinary collection, and being out of town so much, he would of course require elaborate security mea-

sures. This section is one of several that illustrate how fiction exerts its own demands on the writer.

Historical fiction is always hard for me to read because I become so engrossed in disentangling fact from fiction that I stray from the main story. For that matter, historical fiction also is hard to write. Trent spent more than seven years compiling this very long book, and now he feels it deserves his “lifetime achievement award.”

But once he puts “Toys in the Closet” to rest, Trent would find his second novel much easier to write. Being less constrained to commit to print those many years’ accumulations of facts, he could feel free to give greater range to his vivid imagination, strong descriptive powers and droll sense of humor.



A bronze plaque marks the historic home in Furnessville where Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edwin Way Teale spent his childhood summers.

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Bookmarks at the Museum at 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, at Westchester Township History Museum, located in the Brown Mansion, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Dennis Norman will review Winston Graham's "Ross Poldark."

• **Knit Wits and Pearls of Wisdom at 9 a.m. Thursdays, Sept. 17 and 24, at Hageman Library.**

Learn and share with fellow knitters and crocheters. No registration is required.

• **Chesterton Chess Club from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

All ages and skill levels are welcome. Meet at the tables by the reference desk. Chess boards and game pieces are provided.

• **Kids Science Explorer Club at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, at the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Duneland School Corp. teacher Kim Stahura will explore the science of sound. Registration is required in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Free PSAT for Students from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Take the PSAT under conditions similar to the actual SAT. Registration is required in person at the Thomas branch or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Book Bingo from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, in the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Haunted History Hunt from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

This year's hunt takes participants to buildings and areas thought to be haunted or potentially haunted due to a tragic event. The hunt is for all ages, but parents or guardians should accompany their children. Participants should start no later than 3 p.m. because the hunt lasts one hour.



"The Age of Adeline."

• **Sunday Matinee: "The Age of Adeline" at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, at the Library Service Center.**

The movie is rated PG-13. Free popcorn will be available.

• **Zentangle Coloring from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21, in the Bertha Wood Meeting Room at Thomas Library.**

Patrons will create coloring books using Zentangle. Color books will be available. Registration is necessary in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **The AARP Driver Safety Program from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, at Westchester Public Library.**

The cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Registration is necessary. Visit www.aarp.org/drive or call Instructor Jeanette Pike at (219) 949-6307 for more information or to register.

• **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.

Real Estate Tax Sale - Do you need a lawyer?

Is your home or real property listed for sale in the LaPorte County Tax Sale set for October 8?

LaPorte County will conduct a public auction at 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

The auction is a tax sale containing properties with delinquent taxes and special assessments due from the 2014 spring installment or before.

You can Stop the sale. Learn how. Call for an appointment.

Cost of initial hour of consultation will be \$100.00. Retainer required to stop the sale will be \$2000.00 if you can benefit from this option. Clearly, you should owe more than \$2000.00 of taxes to call for an appointment.

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Run to the Center of the World

The fourth annual Run to the Center of the World 5K Race & Walk, hosted by Friends of New Troy to benefit the all-volunteer New Troy Community Center, is Saturday, Sept. 19.

Early registration ended Sept. 3, but runners and walkers may register the morning of the race for \$25 at the center, 13372 California Road, New Troy, Mich. Check-in and on-site registration are at 8 a.m. EDT, with the race starting at 9 a.m. EDT. In addition to a free T-shirt and breakfast, the first 100 people to check in also receive a goodies bag filled with donations from area bakeries, restaurants and stores.

Prizes will be awarded in several categories: First Place Overall; Best Costume; Largest Team; and Longest Distance Traveled. First-place medals will be awarded in each age category, and the name and time of First Place Overall will be engraved on a brick permanently mounted in the New Troy Community Center's Friends Garden.

Registration forms can be picked up at the community center or Center of the World Woodshop in Harbert, or downloaded at tinyurl.com/ou9qcnl

Contact Terry Hanover at (269) 426-4199 or Lorraine Hanover at (269) 469-5687 for additional information.

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HESSTON STEAM AND POWER SHOW

Labor Day weekend signaled the arrival of the 59th annual event at

Hesston Steam Museum. Festivities, which included everything from train rides to antique vehicles and

machinery, were greeted by large crowds and weather that

alternated between humid and blustery.



Photos by Janet Baines





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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

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

- **Tommy Penson and Stage Coach Productions will re-enact the work of the famous Buffalo Soldiers from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at Glenwood Dunes Trail.**

Riders in authentic uniforms will demonstrate horsemanship typical of the Buffalo Soldiers. Free pony rides will be offered for children from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. A presentation on the work of the Buffalo Soldiers is from noon to 2 p.m., followed by an opportunity for children to take pictures with a Buffalo Soldier. Anyone who owns a horse can bring it to accompany the re-enactors on a trail ride from 4 to 6 p.m.

The Friends of Indiana Dunes donated hot dogs and water to the event. The Glenwood Dunes parking lot is on U.S. 20 three miles east of Indiana 49 in Chesterton.

- **Apples, Apples, Apples from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at Chellberg Farm.**

Celebrate apples through traditional music, crafts and farming demonstrations. Visitors also can try an old-fashioned apple cider press before trying a free sample. Park at the Chellberg/Bailly lot, which is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12 in Porter.

- **“Kid’s Rule” from 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Join a ranger in the Visitor Center’s activity room for stories and activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is on Lake Street in Gary. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

Adopt-a-Beach

Volunteers can help not only remove trash from the shoreline, but also record their findings during Adopt-a-Beach from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 19, in Washington Park.

Meet at the pier. Data collected will be used for pollution prevention and clean-water education. Volunteers are invited to lunch and wine tasting (21 and older) from noon to 2 p.m. at the new North Pointe Pavilion.

Pre-register at www.greatlakesadopt.org or register on site the day of the event. Contact Shannon Eason at (219) 873-1506 or season@emichigancity.com for more information.



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Folk, Blues & Brews Festival

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens will present Eric Lambert and friends, including Chris Walz, Don Stiernberg and Dean Milano, during the Folk, Blues & Brews Festival on Saturday, Sept. 19.



Eric Lambert (center) is joined in concert by Don Stiernberg (left) on mandolin and Chris Walz (right) on banjo.

Lambert is a flatpicking guitarist and 2015 Chicago Music Award winner who performs original and traditional Americana infused with bluegrass, blues, folk, rock and soul. Walz is a bluegrass and blues picker who will alternate between picking on banjo and guitar. He toured the world with The Special Consensus for 3 1/2 years and has been teaching at the Old Town School of Folk Music since 1996. Stiernberg, a mandolinist, is a protégé of Jethro Burns. He tours, performs, records and writes a regular column in *Mandolin* magazine. Milano, author of *The Chicago Music Scene: 1960s and 1970s*, will perform on upright bass.

The Planetary Blues Band will open the event. Planetary, as their fans affectionately call them, is based in Valparaiso. Influenced by a wide range of musical styles, they began learning to play the Chicago Blues greats, including Buddy Guy and Son Seals, and expanded their musical universe from there. They have been a fixture in local venues for years. Their most recent album is "Once Upon a Time in the South Loop."

Also helping kick off the night is local singer-songwriter David Hernandez.

The event is restricted to 21 and older. Doors open at 6 p.m. in The Sidetrack. Tickets, which are pre-selling for \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members, can be purchased at Taltree.org/event/folk_blues_brews/. They also can be purchased at the door for \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. Craft beers, cider and non-alcoholic options, as well as food, will be available for purchase.

Taltree is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso. Visit Taltree.org, or follow Taltree on twitter at @TaltreeArb and facebook at facebook.com/Taltree, for more information.

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Northwest Indiana Green Drinks

Lora Fosberg will discuss her new exhibit, “Everything Looks Perfect from Far Away: Up Close,” on Thursday, Sept. 17, during the latest Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City meeting.

The program starts at 6 p.m. at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., where the exhibit is on display, before heading at 6:30 p.m. to Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St. There, Fosberg will give a more inclusive talk, complete with visuals. Fosberg’s work is influenced by man’s integration with nature, consumption and the human condition.

Northwest Indiana Green Drinks meets the third Thursday of each month at Shoreline. Events are sponsored by Save the Dunes and supported by 219 GreenConnect. The suggested donation is \$5, or \$2 for students. Call Dennis at (219) 874-4076 for more information.

Calumet Outdoors Series

The Calumet Outdoors Series, hikes organized by the Calumet Stewardship Initiative, continues Saturday, Sept. 19, with “Lake Calumet to Wolf Lake.”

Led by Tom Shepherd of Southeast Environmental Task Force, the hike starts at 9 a.m. Meet at William Powers State Recreation Area, 12949 S. Avenue O, Chicago. Stay afterward for the scheduled “Fall into Wolf Lake Expo.”

Reservations are requested. Contact Series Coordinator Eric Neagu at (773) 403-5237 or ericneagu@gmail.com

The Calumet Stewardship Initiative is a coalition of more than 40 organizations that promotes a sustainable relationship between people and nature in the Calumet region of Northwest Indiana and Northeast Illinois. Visit <http://calumetstewardship.org/events> for additional information.

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Tower Run

The Tower Run, an 8K Run/5K Fitness Walk showcasing the lakeshore, parks and beach communities, is at 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 20.

The first mile starts in Washington Park, then heads along the sandy beaches of Lake Michigan, through Beachwalk and circling Lake Kai before hitting Lakeshore Drive and joining the walkers. At this time, participants can stretch their legs before taking the climb up to the WPA Tower. Several Michigan City landmarks can be viewed before the final approach back to Washington Park.

Online registration can be done at www.towerrun.org, or at 8 a.m. the day of the race. Call Michael Sewell at (219) 229-2000 for more information.



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Shay Locomotive Day



Visitors have another chance to ride the Shay logging locomotive Sunday, Sept. 20, at Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, La Porte.

Volunteers worked all summer to have the Shay ready for this year's 59th annual Hesston Steam & Power Show on Labor Day weekend. The locomotive needed boiler work when the fire tubes were found to be thin on its yearly inspection. The crew pulled the tubes and replaced them using historic tools and methods of the 1930s. Hundreds of hours of work from a dedicated crew came right down to the wire to have the Shay ready for Labor Day weekend.

Museum grounds open at 11:30 a.m., with train rides lasting from noon to 5 p.m. Visit www.hesston.org for more information.



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Business After Hours

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce, Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce, Greater La Porte Economic Development Corp. and Economic Development Corp. Michigan City have united to host a Business After Hours from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23.

The free event, held at Space Center Facility (formerly the Whirlpool Complex), 1900 Whirlpool Drive in La Porte, will allow guests to network and celebrate the day before "Made in La Porte County." Hosted by GLEDC and EDCMC from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, at the Space Center Facility, it allows local firms to showcase products that are produced, assembled and/or distributed from La Porte County.

Registration is encouraged by calling the La Porte chamber at (219) 362-3178.



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

- YMCA, 901 Michigan Ave., La Porte, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19.
- St. John Kanty, 7012 N. County Road 600 East, Rolling Prairie, 1 to 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21.
- Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., La Porte, 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22.
- American Licorice, 1900 Whirlpool Drive South, La Porte, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23.

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.

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Women in Leadership Scholarship

Women in Leadership La Porte County has awarded its 2015 \$500 college scholarship to Brooke Baima, a La Porte High School senior.



The daughter of Charles and April Baima of La Porte, she maintained a 3.98 grade-point average and showed exemplary leadership skills in her extra-curricular and community activities. Her activities included: president of the Hanna-Noble 4-H Club; Student Council secretary; Show Choir member; Mixed Chorale; Spanish Club; Girl Reserves; and the National Honor Society. She has been volunteering at All Creature Features Veterinary Clinic in La Porte and participated in Relay for Life.

It was Baima's essay, a requirement for WILL's scholarship consideration, that distinguished her from the other applicants. The scholarship committee was impressed by her explanation as to why leadership skills gained over the years through school will benefit her while in college and in her chosen career goal as a large animal veterinarian.

Baima will attend Anderson University for her undergraduate schooling. In addition to the WILL scholarship, Brook received a scholarship from St. John's Lutheran School, her elementary school alma mater. She wants to own a clinic in La Porte County, using her leadership skills to interact with area 4-H and FFA organizations to instruct them regarding care for their livestock.

Duneland Historical Society

Duneland Historical Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, at Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Longtime area resident Shirley Anderson will present the history of Tassinong. The village originally was an Indian community. In the 1830s, it was first settled by Americans in south Porter County, near modern-day Baum's Bridge Road and Indiana 49. Although Tassinong was incorporated as a village in 1852, it began to decline in 1865 when the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad was built through Kouts, just north of Tassinong.

Duneland Historical Society monthly programs are free. Membership applications will be available at the meeting. Call (219) 983-9715 for additional information.

Special Mass



The most Rev. Donald Hying, bishop of the Diocese of Gary, opened the 2015-2016 academic year for Marquette Catholic High School with a special Mass. Afterward, parents, grandparents and special guests met in The Scholl Center for brunch with their MQT student. Pictured is Dean Swider serving Mass with Hying.

Kindermusik Classes

Sunny Gardner Orbovich, newly certified as a Kindermusik teacher, will offer Kindermusik classes at The Garden Door, which is located in First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

Kindermusik is a musical education system that covers infant years to age 7. Parent and child learn together in a gentle, non-competitive environment using simple songs and games. The goal is to reach different aspects of development, including intellectual, social and physical growth. Parents, in turn, become the home instructors.

“Cuddle and Bounce” for babies 7 months to 1 starts at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22. “Wiggle and Grow” for ages 1-3 meets at 5 p.m. Thursdays starting Sept. 24. “Laugh and Learn” for family groups from infant to 7 starts Saturday, Sept. 26.

Contact Gardner Orbovich for more information, as well as costs, at sunnyjogardner@yahoo.com and (219) 561-3264.

Fearsome Fours Golf Outing

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will host the Fearsome Fours Golf Outing on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at Briar Leaf Golf Club, 3233 Indiana 39, La Porte.

The shotgun start is at 4 p.m. The cost is \$160 for a four-person chamber-member team and \$200 for a four-person non-member team.

The outing is similar to the Crazy 8’s event, but with smaller teams. It is non-golfer friendly because the rules are different. Each player chooses only one club he/she must use for the entire 9-hole round, even if that means putting with a driver.

All Fearsome Fours golfers are invited to the dinner at about 5:30 p.m.

Visit tinyurl.com/p37wbbo to register.



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Marquette Questers

Marquette Chapter of Questers No. 139 held meetings the first Tuesday in July and August.

Sandi Thayer presented the July program on Georgia O'Keefe at Sara McNabb's home. The August program was "bring a favorite small antique" to share the history with the group.

The Questers on Sept. 4 hosted a table during the First Friday Art Walk, displaying bandstand sun catchers for sale. Members also will take orders for bandstand etched coasters. Proceeds will aid the bandstand's upkeep and restoration. If interested in buying a coaster, call Joyce Dalton at (219) 874-5832 or Maryanne Garon at (219) 872-3905.

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month from spring to fall. This year's fall council meeting is in Goshen. Hosted by the Christiana chapter, the program is on Norman Rockwell. The cost is \$25. Lunch is provided.

Kiwanis Sunflower Run/5K Fun Walk

The Kiwanis Sunflower Run and 5K Fun Walk, a family friendly event that kicks off La Porte's annual Sunflower Fair, is Saturday, Sept. 19.

In support of La Porte's effort to promote healthy living, the course follows the same route as the weekly Fitness Friday course on Michigan Avenue. All proceeds stay in La Porte County in support of Kiwanis-sponsored organizations.

Registration and packet pickup are at 6:45 a.m., with the race starting at 8 a.m. The start/finish line is in front of the La Porte YMCA. Children 15 and younger cost \$15. Adults cost \$25. Register at tinyurl.com/npzt42c. Shirts are guaranteed to pre-registered participants. Awards will be given to the top male and female overall, while the top three in each age group receive medals.

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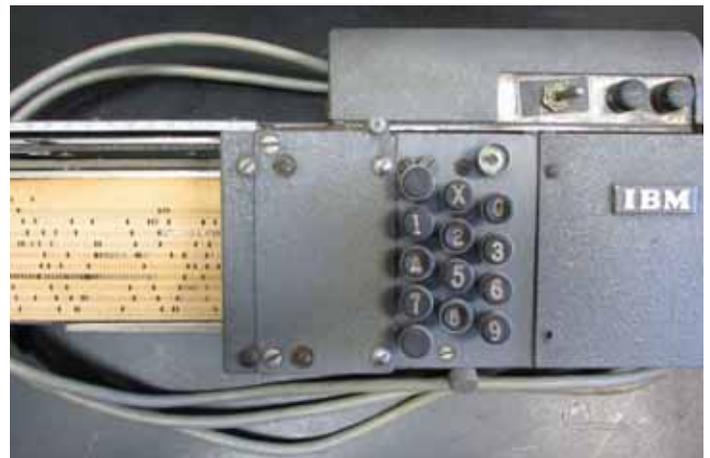
August Curator's Report

The La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., has released its August curator's report.

Visitors came from 10 counties, 21 states and Germany. The summer display, "The Finishing Touch," was taken down at the end of the month. Events included the "Fourth Annual Memorial Gardens" on Aug. 8 and the third annual Family Fun Day on Aug. 22. New intern Keri Jakubowski started in her position and will remain until December.

Donations were:

- Two photographs, box of stationery, Phyllis Mould.
- Michigan City Fire Department full dress uniform, pin, buttons and insignia (late 1940s), all belonging to Richard W. "Fuzzy" Stevenson, Kaye Franks and Jo Fraser.
- 1969 La Porte High School prom dress, Karen Towle.



One of the items donated in August was an IBM machine used by Joy Manufacturing of Michigan City to keep track of piece work by employees so they could get paid.

- IBM machine used to count piece work at Joy Manufacturing Co. in Michigan City in the 1940s, Ron Tulacz.
- Kessler's Dairy milk bottle, Robert W. Kessler.
- Items for the sale table, Patricia Kessler, Phyllis Mould, Rae Ann and Roger Brown, Susie Richter and Karen Piper.

Upcoming events include the opening of a new exhibit, "Clock In... Clock Out: A Look at Early La Porte County Industry," which runs through November. In conjunction with the display, County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz will give a program on KOP at 1 p.m. Sept. 26.

On the lower level is a traveling Indiana Historical Society exhibit on cartoonists from Indiana that continues through the end of the month.

Volunteer Jim Plenus passed away in August. He will be missed.

Anyone wishing to volunteer at the museum may call (219) 324-6767 and ask for Susie, or email info@laportecountyhistory.org.

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, Sept. 16, 23 and 30.**

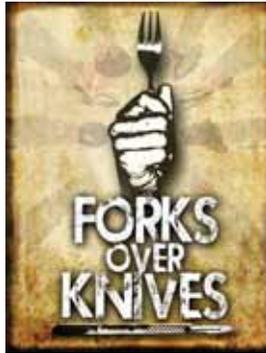
Take size 9 straight knitting needles, worsted yarn and tape measure (optional). Contact Joanne Hale at joeyAB1971@yahoo.com or (219) 814-4398 for more information.

- **Art à la Carte at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17.**

All materials are provided. Children ages 4 to 10 accompanied by an adult must be present to receive craft materials.

- **Plant-Based Nutrition Informational Programs at 6 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 17 and 24.**

The documentary "Forks Over Knives" examines the claim that most, if not all, of degenerative disease can be controlled, even reversed, by plant-based nutrition. Sept. 24 will involve a discussion of the film and tips on how to transition to this type of eating, including where to find information and recipes. Certified plant-based nutritionist Mary Jo Wenckus will lead the discussion.



- **Bookmarks: "The Poldark Series" at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18.**

Dennis Norman will review "Ross Poldark: A Novel of Cornwall" (1783-1787).

- **ARRRGH! International Talk Like a Pirate Day! at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18.**

The interactive family program includes magic, a craft and prizes.

- **Understanding Your Dreams at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19.**

Experienced dream therapist Terese Fabbri will facilitate the workshop for people interested in dreams and their significance.

- **Films on DVD Series: "Love & Mercy" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20.**

The biopic of Beach Boys mastermind Brian Wilson focuses on two distinct periods in the songwriter's life.

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

Polish-American Cultural Society

Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana, Michigan City Chapter, will have its meeting and a *wycinanki* (Polish paper-cutting craft) demonstration at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the former St. Mary School, 321 W. 11th St.

Grace Bazylewski will discuss and demonstrate the old Polish craft.



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July 22

- Sue Faul – Kathy Gazzolo.
- Molly Trafas – Mary Jane Brodie.
- Jayne Krol – Felice Madda.
- Mariana Bruce – Mary Lou Linnen.

Aug. 3

North-South

- Betty Madigan – Molly Trafas.
- Eileen Healy – Peggy Bolger.
- Sally Allen – Barb Brosnan.
- Sue Faul – Kathy Gazzolo.

East-West

- Dottie Healy – Sharon Delawder.
- Susan Keeley – Judy Brogham.
- Pat Costello – Mary Jane Brodie.
- Nancy Stokes – Jeri Devereaux.

Aug. 17

North-South

- Gloria McMahon – Mary Lou Linnen.
- Pat Costello – Mary Jane Brodie.
- Linda Wilson – Judy Wadlington.

East-West

- Cindy Garver – Beverly Battle.
- Dottie Healy – Michele Eckert.
- Kathy Gazzolo – Sue Faul.

Sept. 2

North-South

- Sally Allen – Gloria McMahon.
- Kathy Kenefick – Katherine Clarke.
- Eileen Healy – Peggy Bolger.

East-West

- Sue Faul – Kathy Gazzolo.
- Adele O'Donnell – Dottie Healy.
- Michele Eckert – Molly Trafas.

Sept. 9

- June Salmon – Ellie Parkerson.
- Gloria McMahon – Sally Allen.
- Mary Lou Linnen – Mariana Bruce.

Sarett Nature Center

The following programs are available at Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.:

• **Restoration Rangers will have a workday at 1 p.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 17.**

The goal is to remove invasive plants threatening the native ecosystems.

• **Travel to Van Buren State Park and Sarett's Ross Preserve from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT Friday, Sept. 18.**

The fee is \$20.

• **Junior Naturalist Club for kids 7-12 begins its monthly meetings from 10 a.m. to noon EDT Saturday, Sept. 19.**

The cost is \$45.

• **Join a Sarett naturalist for a wetland wild-flower walk at 1 p.m. EDT Sunday, Sept. 20.**

Visit sarett.com or call (269) 927-4832 to register.

Vote for Mansion's Christmas Theme

New this year, the staff at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., are inviting the public to select their 2015 Christmas décor theme.

Previous motifs have focused on children's Christmas stories, holiday movies and yuletide traditions around the world.

Mansion staff began brainstorming on theme ideas over the summer and chose three that will be voted upon by the public: "Songs of the Season," featuring each room of the mansion decorated around a different Christmas carol; "A Storybook Christmas," based upon classic Christmas stories; or "A Woodland Christmas," featuring the mansion decorated in natural elements.



A Christmas tree in Barker Mansion's dining room in 2014.

Cast a vote by Monday, Sept. 21, by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/r/SHCRDVF or www.facebook.com/barkermansion.

Call (219) 873-1520 or visit www.barkermansion.com for additional information.



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Real Estate Tax Sale - Do you need a lawyer?

Is your home or real property listed for sale in the LaPorte County Tax Sale set for October 8?

LaPorte County will conduct a public auction at 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

The auction is a tax sale containing properties with delinquent taxes and special assessments due from the 2014 spring installment or before.

You can Stop the sale. Learn how. Call for an appointment.

Cost of initial hour of consultation will be \$100.00. Retainer required to stop the sale will be \$2000.00 if you can benefit from this option. Clearly, you should owe more than \$2000.00 of taxes to call for an appointment.

Attorney Doug Allen Bernacchi, MBA*/JD
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(219) 879-ATTY (2889)

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Constitution Day Activities

Purdue University-North Central will observe Constitution Day on Thursday, Sept. 17, with a free showing of the HBO production of "John Adams" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Library-Student-Faculty Building Room 170A.

The public is invited. Guests can take a lunch or buy one from the PNC cafeteria. Room 170A is located near the cafeteria

"John Adams," directed by Oscar-winner Tom Hooper ("The King's Speech"), chronicles most of U.S. President John Adams' political life and his role in the founding of the United States.

Also on Constitution Day, students in a class taught by Michael Connolly, associate professor of history, will participate in a role-immersion game based on the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention called "Reacting to the Past."

The game requires students to adopt the personas of delegates to the Convention and attempt to create an American Constitution, as did the Founders in the summer of 1787.

Contact Carol Connolly at (219) 785-5618 or mconnolly@pnc.edu for more information.

Deep River Grinders

The Deep River Grinders will face off against the Huntington Hilltoppers at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, at Deep River County Park.

The teams play baseball according to the original rules of 1858, where the striker is out if the ball is caught on the fly or on one bound, fair or foul. There are no called strikes, and a foul ball does not count as a strike. The rover/shortstop may play anywhere on the field.

A child gets a chance at bat during a Deep River Grinders event.

The game is free. Families can take lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Games are played on Grind-er Field across the river from the Grist Mill.

Deep River County Park is located at 9410 Old Lincoln Highway, Hobart.

Wave of Peace Water Ceremony

In conjunction with events held at the same time around the world, a ceremony featuring peace meditations, prayers and water ceremonies is set for noon Sunday, Sept. 20, at International Friendship Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12.

The event is free, but donations to the Gardens are appreciated. Take a lawn chair or something to sit on and a vessel of water. Dress for outdoor weather. Dogs on leashes are welcome.

Visit unify.org for more information.

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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

Saturday, Sept. 19

- **10 a.m. — 3 Dune Challenge Hike.**

Meet at the campground shelter for the rugged hike through the park's three highest dunes, then pick up a free sticker at Dunes Visitor Center.

- **2 p.m. — Trek to the Paw Paw Patch.**

Meet at the Wilson Shelter for an hour hike down Trail 2 to visit the park's many Paw Paw patches.

- **7 to 11 p.m. — Singing Sands Star Show.**

Meet local members of the Calumet Astronomical Society on the main beach near the pavilion for a night of star gazing. Special telescopes will be set up and periodic constellation talks offered. Take a blanket.

Sunday, Sept. 20

- **9 a.m. — Fall Migration Hike.**

Meet by the main entrance gate parking lot for the hike focused on fall migrant birding. Take binoculars, or borrow a pair from the park.

- **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.

- **11 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Bird Banding Demonstrations.**

Meet at the Nature Center to get a close look at birds of the Indiana Dunes.

- **2 p.m. — Tree ID Trek.**

Meet outside the Nature Center to explore simple ways to ID trees in the park and in your own backyard.

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.

Polonica Pilgrimage Society Trip

The Polonica Pilgrimage Society will host a bus trip to Chicago, sponsored by the Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana, on Wednesday, Sept. 30.

The luxury coach departs at 8:30 a.m. from Nativity of Our Savior Catholic Church in Portage, Ind., and at 9 a.m. from All Saints Catholic Church in Hammond, Ind.

Featured will be tours of St. Stanislaus Kostka (The Sanctuary of the Divine Mercy) and St. Stanislaus B&M churches, a Polish-American buffet lunch at the Jolly Inn Restaurant and shopping at Rich's Foods & Liquors, Dom itp and the Oak Mill Bakery — all Polish-owned businesses — in Harwood Heights, Ill.

Approximate return times are 5 p.m. to Hammond and 5:30 p.m. to Portage. The cost is \$55 per person. Reservations are due by Sept. 23 and must be phoned in prior to sending payment by calling Theresa Child at (219) 464-1369.

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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

Sept. 17 — Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City, 6 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., then 6:30 p.m., Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St. Suggested donation: \$5, \$2/students. Info: (219) 874-4076.

Sept. 17, 24 — Plant-Based Nutrition Informational Programs, 6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 18 — Bookmarks: "The Poldark Series," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 18 — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Sept. 18-21 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Phoenix." Rated PG-13. In German and English with English subtitles. Times: 6:15 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "Jimmy's Hall." Rated PG-13. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Mon. & 3:15 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

Sept. 19 — Michigan City Mainstreet Association Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Eighth and Washington streets, through Oct. 31. Info: www.michigancityfarmersmarket.com

Sept. 19 — Kiwanis Sunflower Run and 5K Fun Walk, 8 a.m., La Porte YMCA. Cost: Children 15 & younger/\$15, adults/\$25. Registration: tinyurl.com/npzt42c.

Sept. 19 — Adopt-a-Beach, 9 a.m.-noon, Washington Park. Preregistration: www.greatlakesadopt.org, or day of event. Info: (219) 873-1506.

Sept. 19 — Northern Indiana Walk for PKD, Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City. Check-in/9 a.m., walk/10 a.m. Info: www.walkforpkd.org/northernindiana

Sept. 19 — Haunted History Hunt, 1-4 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, located in the Brown Mansion, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Sept. 19 — Singing Sands Star Show, 7 p.m., beach near pavilion @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 19 — Folk, Blues & Brews Festival, 6 p.m., Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso. Advance tickets: \$10/members, \$12/non-members, @ Taltree.org/event/folk_blues_brews/. @ door: \$12/members, \$15/non-members.

Sept. 19 — Apples, Apples, Apples, 1-4 p.m., Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 & 12 in Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Sept. 19 — Buffalo Soldiers re-enactors, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Glenwood Dunes Trail, U.S. 20 three miles east of Indiana 49 in Chesterton.

Sept. 20 — Films on DVD Series: "Love & Mercy," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth

St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 20 — Tower Run, 9 a.m., Washington Park. Registration: www.towerrun.org. Day of registration/8 a.m. Info: (219) 229-2000.

Sept. 20 — Wave of Peace Water Ceremony, noon, International Friendship Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Info: unify.org

Sept. 20 — Bird Banding Demonstrations, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 20 — Sunday Matinee: "The Age of Adaline," 1:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Sept. 20 — Purdue University-North Central Sinai Forum, "An Evening with Jane Pauley," 7 p.m., Blue Chip Casino Stardust Event Center, 777 Blue Chip Drive, Michigan City. Tickets/info: www.sinai-forum.org

Sept. 20 — Steve Chapin Band Plays the Music of Harry Chapin, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

Sept. 21 — Friends of New Buffalo Library Sustainability Series, Pat and Ellie Mullins of Local, 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Sept. 21 — Zentangle Coloring, 6-7:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Registration: (219) 926-7696.

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:

Sept. 18-20 — "Deathtrap," Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (Eastern): 7:30 p.m. Sept. 18-19, 3 p.m. Sept. 20. Tickets: \$19/adults, \$17/students & seniors 62+. Reservations: (574) 848-4116, www.elkhartcivictheatre.org

Sept. 18-27 — South Bend Civic Theatre, "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike!," The Warner Theatre, 403 N. Main St., South Bend. Times (Eastern): 7:30 p.m. Wed.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$21. Reservations: (574) 234-1112, sbct.org

Sept. 19 — Run to the Center of the World 5K Race & Walk, New Troy Community Center, 13372 California Road, New Troy, Mich. Check-in & on-site registration/8 a.m. EDT, race/9 a.m. EDT. Info: (269) 426-4199, (269) 469-5687.

Sept. 19 — Miller Garden Club, 10 a.m., Marquette Park Aquatorium, 6918 Oak Ave., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood.

Sept. 19 — Steve Brundage, 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10/general admission, \$8/students and seniors, free/children 12 and younger. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, info@boxfactoryforthearts.org, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org



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A Garden Task Service for Homeowners Who Seek Help in Sustaining the Beauty of Their Outdoor Design

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WANT TO SELL

ART SUPPLY GIFT SETS FOR BUDDING ARTISTS – FIRME'S (2 Stores) 11th & Franklin Streets, Michigan City - 219/874-3455 Hwy 12, Beverly Shores - Just West of Traffic Light - 219/874-4003.

FOR SALE: Wood bunk bed of superior quality. Includes attached stairs/storage space, as well as mattresses. Unless having large vehicle, may require two trips to move. \$450. Call (219) 873-6248.

2 adjacent RV lots in Yogi Bear Park, Portage, IN. \$15K. Class A 2001 Airstream Land Yacht 390XL, diesel, 1 slide, electric steps & levelers, s-b-s refrig washer/dryer, and other 1st class accessories. Cond. EXCELLENT. \$65K. Call Tony @ (708) 927-9297.

Very nice Baldwin spinet piano with bench, newly tuned. Best offer. (219) 879-8871

FOR SALE: Almost new self-propelled Toro lawn mower/recycler. \$325. Shredder/chipper 10 horsepower. \$265. Call (708) 609-7065.

Solid wood desk, pigeon holes, drawers, side storage, distressed look. Great condition \$325 OBO. Patio set: Wrought iron table and chairs. Chairs need care, but are solid. Umbrella included. \$75. Large trestle table dining room set, upholstered chairs, beautiful condition. Was \$1,500. Asking \$350. (219) 262-5007

Photo developing equipment. 6ft developing sink/stand (\$300). Enlarger (\$200), etc. Call (312) 399-5341.

WANT TO BUY

WANTED: I buy all types of antiques and collectibles, including toys, advertising, military items and more. Call Matt at (219) 794-6500.

REAL ESTATE

REAL ESTATE INVESTING

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GREAT 5BR HOUSE. CLOSE TO BEACH AT STOP 20. CALL PATTY AT 773-401-2966.

Stop 31. Nicely furn. 3BR, 2BA with 3-season porch. Family room. WiFi. Winter/spring available for \$895/mo +util. Short or long term. \$1,850/wk. summer rental avail. W/D. No smoking, no pets. 4-min. walk to beautiful beach. See VRBO #372192. Call Pat at 708-361-8240.

Duneland Drive, Duneland Beach, 1 year furnished rental. 4BR/3BA, 2-car garage. \$1,600/mo + utilities
Call/text Cari @ Merrion @ 219-898-5412.

Long Beach fall/winter rental, 5BR/3BA, furnished, two fireplaces, 165 ft. to lake, \$895 per month+utilities. C/A, heat. Call Tom at (708) 606-4614.

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.

Long Beach off-season rental. 3BR/2BA, GREAT VIEW OF LAKE from deck & living room, 2 fireplaces, nicely furn. & dec. W/D, WiFi, AC. No smoking. No pets. Call 708-420-1109.

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 \$700/mo., 2BR \$850/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.

AVAILABLE NOW! 902 Birch Tree Lane, 2BR condo w/balcony. \$850/mo + electric. Gas included. Call/text Cari @ Merrion Realty @ (219) 898-5412.

Quiet, nicely furnished 1 BR coach house in The Woodlands off Tryon Road. Hardwood floors, granite counter. Efficiency kitchen. WiFi. Credit check reference required. Utilities included. \$750/mo. Available immediately. Call (312) 399-5341.

RENTALS MICHIGAN

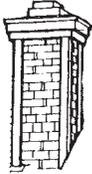
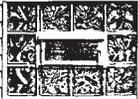
FOR RENT: Fully furnished downtown New Buffalo studio apartment. Lake views, kitchenette, Jacuzzi tub, cathedral ceiling. Includes cable TV, electric, water, trash, heat, air. Year lease & security deposit required. No pets or smokers. \$645. (312) 925-0753.

 **REAL ESTATE FOR SALE** 

VACANT LAND FOR SALE: Two 50x100 lots on Maplewood Drive in Shoreland Hills, a pleasant 2-block walk from Stop 33 beach. A great opportunity to build 1 large or 2 smaller homes in a very desirable neighborhood. Priced to sell by owner at \$59,500 per lot. Contact Bob N. at (312) 726-2699 if interested.

FOR SALE: 3 BR/4BA home on Moore Road, three doors from Lake Shore Drive (Stop 31). Two-car indoor garage. Lake view from living room. Deck. Two fireplaces. \$499,999. Call (773) 718-5547.

5BR/2BA, fenced backyard. Close to outlet mall, Lake Michigan and U.S. 12. Perfect for weekend home or investment property. Best offer. Call (219) 575-4120.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Little Paris Bookshop by Nina George (hardcover; \$25 in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

We all know our three R's: reading, writing and arithmetic. In this story, the author wants you to consider the three L's: life, love and literature.

The title and cover first caught my attention in the bookstore (no surprise there), but then I learned it is becoming quite popular in the U.S. (the original was published in France). As of last week, Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com ranked it in the Top 100 popular books. So, I was intrigued...but after reading a few pages, I almost abandoned the book for what I first perceived to be too much talk and not enough action.

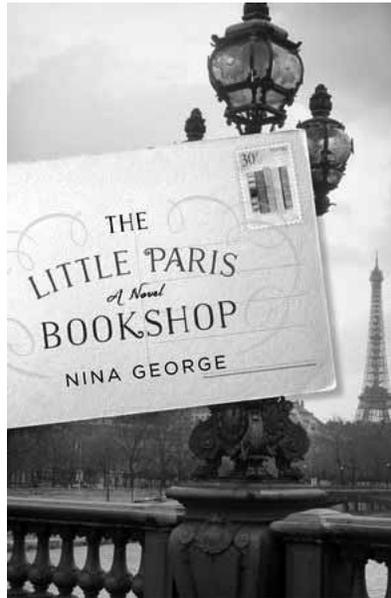
But, I kept reading and found myself getting more and more interested in this story of a floating bookshop in Paris and its melancholy owner, Jean Perdu. You will be surprised at where this neat little volume will take you--places of the heart, places of imagination and places along the Seine River from Paris to the south of France.

"Perdu reflected that it was a common misconception that booksellers looked after books. They look after people."

Perdu takes an 80-foot barge, converts it into a bookstore/reading room and renames it the Literary Apothecary. Strange name, but Perdu feels books exist to heal our emotions. He possesses a keen intuition, and by talking to each customer, he is able to recommend books based on his assessment of their personality. He is known to refuse a customer a particular book because he knows it will not meet their needs. Sounds strange, and yet, somehow, believable!

One day, he finds a strange young man lurking among the bookshelves. It is Max Jordan, a popular novelist whose novel, *Night*, is a current best-seller. He wears earmuffs and seems to spend his time running away from admirers. When pressed by Perdu, Jordan admits his publisher is looking for his next book, and he has writer's block. Ouch.

Perdu, on the other hand, is hurting inwardly because the love of his life, Manon, left him 20 years ago—with only a letter by way of a farewell. Trouble is, Perdu never read the letter and put it away, too hurt to even look at it. But now, Catherine, a new neighbor in his apartment building, has caused him to finally open the letter. What he reads sends him on a journey of discovery—about Manon, about



himself and about the life that might have been. As the note to his landlady said, *"I'm off to tame my ghosts."*

He pulls up anchor, places his two cats, Kafka and Lindgren, onboard and at the last minute finds Jordan running up the gangplank begging to be taken along. It seems he has demons to fight, too.

"Everybody has an inner room where demons lurk."

Only when we open it and face up to it are we free."

Along the way, stopping at many little villages and towns along the Seine River, and heading for Manon's hometown in the south, with *"no idea what he was supposed to do when he got there,"* the pair picks up Salvatore Cuneo. He's an Italian seeking

out a woman he fell in love with many years ago and lost track of. He calls her his "river pilot" and has inquired at every port if anyone knows her. So, our intrepid trio finds friendship and camaraderie in each other and slowly, amid the splendor of southern France in the summertime, learns more about each other, and comes to uncover many truths they never had the courage to admit to.

Perdu never stops dispensing his books and his wisdom at each little town, learning more about himself as the days and nights go by. The imagery presented of the French countryside is as beautiful as the effect of the journey itself on the three men.

I won't give the ending away — no spoiler alert here! — but you will suddenly find yourself on the deck of the Literary Apothecary and maybe looking at life a little differently at the end of the journey.

Immensely intelligent and elegantly written, I found this story to be the perfect end-of-summer read. I hope you do, too. This is not a waiting room read or an airport lounge read, no, take the time to savor and enjoy every word while sinking into your favorite armchair with a nice glass of wine.

"Reading—an endless journey; a long, indeed never-ending journey that makes one more temperate as well as more loving and kind..."

George has extensive experience as a writer and journalist. *The Little Paris Bookshop* spent more than a year on bestseller lists in Germany, and has been a bestseller in Italy, Poland and the Netherlands. She is married to another writer, Jens J. Kramer, and divides her time between Hamberg, Germany, and Brittany, France.

Till next time, happy reading!



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NEW PRICE



136 Maplewood Trail • Shoreland Hills

\$338,000

Inviting 5 bedroom, 3 bath home that must be seen to appreciate all it has to offer. Gas fireplace, updated kitchen, family room, master bedroom set apart from additional two bedrooms on main floor. Lovely screen porch on back with fireplace provides the feeling of being on vacation in your own home.



NEW PRICE



217 Adahi Trail • Michiana Area

\$309,900

This 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage is nestled amongst trees & perennials. Open floor plan, bamboo floors, fireplace, vaulted ceilings & skylights. Kitchen has custom maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances & breakfast bar. Screen porch, deck, lush landscaping, stone walkways, firepit & outdoor beach shower.



NEW PRICE



416 Birch Tree • Long Beach Pointe

\$84,999

Maintenance free 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo in desirable community. Second floor unit with open floor plan & deck. Many new features including carpet, bathroom, kitchen counters, paint & fixtures. Storage unit in the basement. Association pool for your summer enjoyment.

Your True Beach, City and Country Connection

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4201 Hillside Trail

This gloriously secluded two-story contemporary is only a block and a half from the beach, giving you the best of wooded, natural surroundings and beach living. With four bedrooms and two full baths, the home can easily accommodate a group of folks. It has a strong rental history or would be a wonderful retreat from the daily grind.

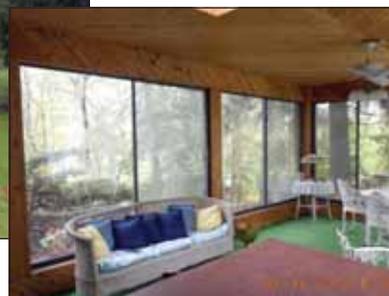
\$525,000



2707 Belle Plaine Trail

Historic, two-story, 1927 Mediterranean style home still retains its old world charm, complete with the classic clay tile roof. Sited comfortably on more than three-quarters of an acre lot with golf course views. Four bedrooms and two baths, formal dining room, breakfast room and an enclosed porch provides for luxurious living.

\$575,000



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GRI
Principal Broker

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Sandy Rubenstein*, Managing Broker, 219-879-7525
June Livinghouse*, Broker, ABR, GRI 219-878-3888
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