



Volume 31, Number 35 Thursday, September 24, 2015

A Spirit Unbroken

by Connie Kuzydym



Ray Westort, relaxing in his Long Beach-area home, displays the many medals he received for his service, including a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and European Theatre medal.

Editor's note — This week, we continue our series, "Friends & Neighbors," which spotlights the many fascinating people in our community. Recommendations for individuals to profile can be made to Editor Drew Tallackson at (219) 879-0088 or drew@thebeacher.com

FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

Leaving the home of Ray Westort, a decorated World War II veteran and Battle of the Bulge Prisoner of War, my heart swelled.

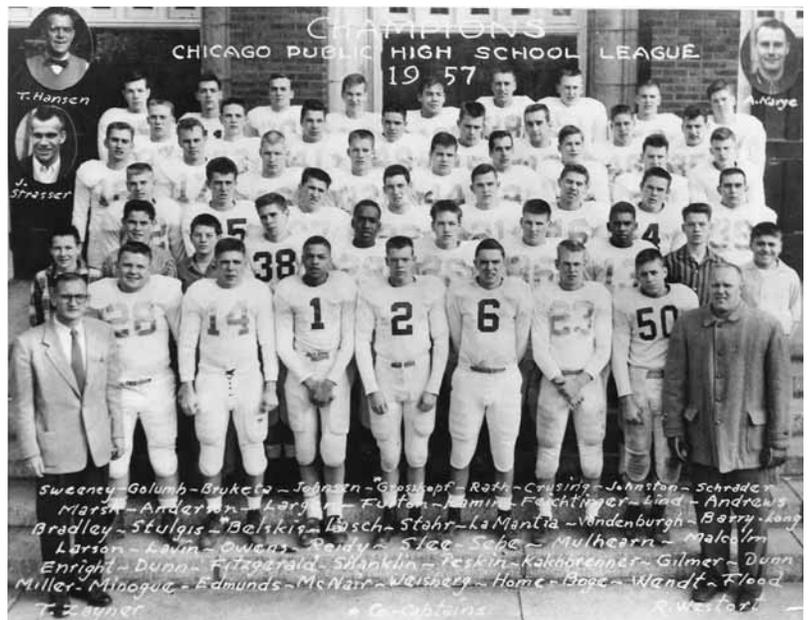
I'd been offered a glimpse into a special person whose spirituality helped him survive the ravages of war. For everything he endured, the 90-year-old Long Beach-area resident exudes a positive, enthusiastic, strong outlook toward life.

Born and raised on Chicago's south side, Westort excelled in high school football and basketball. Like

many young men of the time, he was drafted by the U.S. Army shortly after graduating at age 18. At 19, he was sent overseas to fight. By the time he was 20, he was returning home.

From Dec. 16, 1944, when the Battle of the Bulge began, until April 28, 1945, when the British discovered their camp and liberated them, Westort lived a lifetime. Those days changed his life forever.

His journey to survive began in the early hours on a bitterly cold day. With temperatures nearing minus-30 degrees, the soldiers of the 106th Infantry Division, the last of 66 Infantry Divisions to be activated during World War II, were positioned in the Schnee Eifel, a snow mountain in Germany. A vulnerable and exposed position left the entire division open to attack by the enemy force.



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The 1957 championship Calumet High School football team coached by Westort.

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In Case Of Emergency, Dial

911

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The division was only on the line for five days. By the end, there were many casualties and thousands captured. It ended up being the U.S. Army's largest defeat in World War II.

Dressed in GI boots and a field jacket, Westort and a few fellow soldiers decided to continue fighting. They outran falling shells, crossed freezing cold streams and waded through deep snow until Dec. 20 when German artillery barraged them.

"The Germans had our division all surrounded and their tanks were throwing those 88's and bodies were flying all over," Westort said. "We had 80 percent casualties."

He would later receive a Bronze Star for taking out a German machine gunner during that battle, the Purple Heart for being injured and a European Theatre medal.

Felled by shrapnel to his leg, he lay in the snow and was picked up by German soldiers. Thrown into a horse-drawn cart with wounded German soldiers, Westort was taken to a first-aid station, then transferred to a German hospital.

Suffering the effects of frostbite to his feet, the German doctors informed him gangrene had set in and they would need to amputate.

"I'm not going home as a cripple," Westort said. "They said, 'Well, you're going to die.' I said, 'Well, I'm going to die then.'"

Fate stepped in.

A 10-year-old boy named Peter, whose mom was a cook at the hospital, took a liking to Westort. Peter brought him a bottle of Schnapps in exchange for learning English.

"I drank it. I got so drunk, I grabbed a hold of my feet and I kept rubbing and rubbing, I got the blood flowing," Westort said. "That's why I am walking today."

Being in a hospital did not guarantee his safety, though. The facility Westort was in suffered collateral damage from a nearby Allied bomb. En route to another hospital, the Allied planes shot at the trucks. Many lost their lives during that trip.

Westort finally ended up in a German prison camp known as Stalag 11-B where 33,000 known prisoners died.

"Once every two weeks, we got a Red Cross parcel that was split up by 10 guys. You got a piece of this, a piece of that," Westort said. "Our meal was either cabbage or turnips, one potato and 10 men on



Stalag 11-B, where Ray was a Prisoner of War.

a loaf of bread. We slept on bunks that went all the way up to ceiling. You could never lay on your back, cause there wasn't enough room. There were two guys to a bunk. All we had was a blanket: no pillow, no mattress. The thinner you got, some of the bed boards weren't level. You felt every rib on your body because you'd sleep on one side.

"Every morning, guys would take all their clothes off to kill all the body lice. We had to cut a piece of our blanket off to wipe ourselves when we went to the latrine. It was rough. A lot of guys died."

By the time Westort was freed, he'd lost 80 pounds.

Being liberated did not mean Westort was out of danger. He was aboard the George Washington on May 7, 1945, escorted and flanked by two ships.

"The Germans were still at war with us," Westort said. "All of a sudden, the sirens sounded. There's these German subs, they (the escorts) threw all these depth charges. It was like big fountains bursting in the air."



A photo of Ray with two sailors after returning home from war.

Reflecting back, Westort recalled what it was like to be that age and being called to serve his country.

"I was crazy. I was ready to go. I was gung-ho," Westort said. "You're a kid and you don't know any better, until you see guys getting killed and dying. Then you realize. Then you say, what the hell am I doing here? I prayed every second."

The horrors of war became a fight to survive.

"You never knew if you were going to live or die," Westort said. "I prayed like heck. It was just one of those things you never knew because...a lot of your buddies never made it. So it was hard, but I made it."

How does one come back and adjust to a normal life after witnessing and enduring what Westort did?

"When I first got out of the Army, I was a sad case," Westort said.

Back home, it helped at first being with other men who had returned from combat. Those nightly gatherings helped dim what they witnessed enough to be able to sleep, to help them forget for a few hours.

Westort admits it was tough. The road to recovery did not happen overnight.

"It took a while," Westort said. "Most guys when they come back have problems. It takes a while to forget about it. I'm in pretty good shape."

Like other journeys in his young life, his road to college had a few curves.



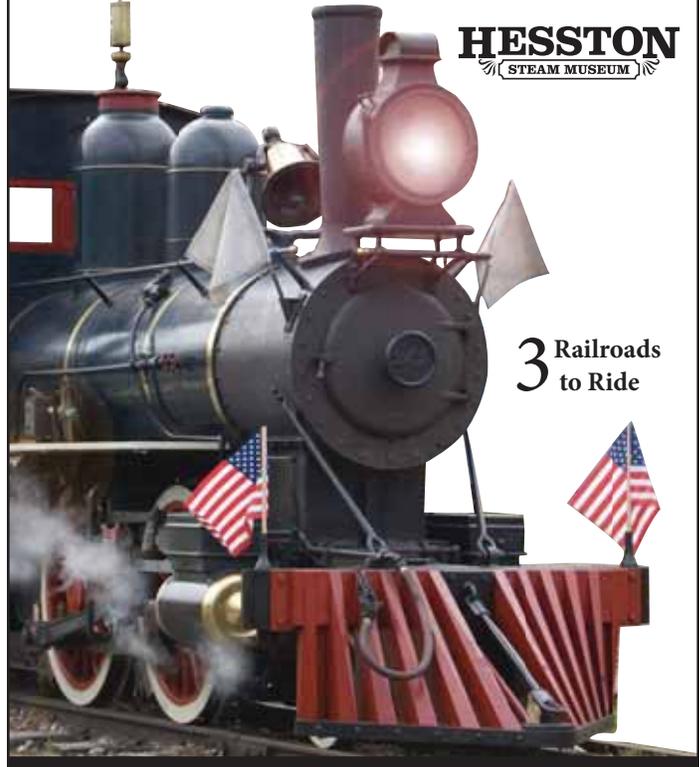
A photo of Ray Westort that appeared in a 1952 Street and Smith's Football Pictorial Yearbook. He's described as a 225-pound tackle.

Prior to being drafted, he had a basketball scholarship. Once back, he began playing football on an organized football team. In those days, football players like Westort were asked to come in for game day and play. They received \$20 a game to play. It was at one of these games that he caught the eye of Don Sukowicz, a fellow Chicagoan and University of

Continued on Page 4

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Continued from Page 3

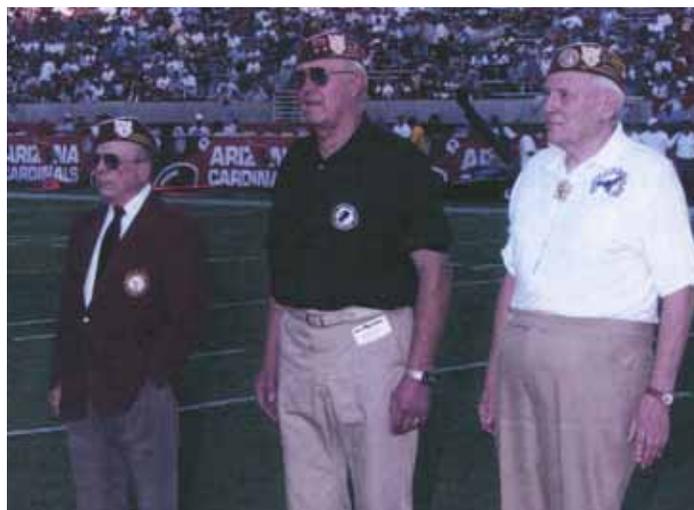
Utah player. Sukowicz told his coaches they should talk with Westort.

“Actually, I was really lucky,” Westort said. “I wasn’t even going to go to college but the coaches kept coming over to my house. They said, ‘We will take care of you,’ and they did.”

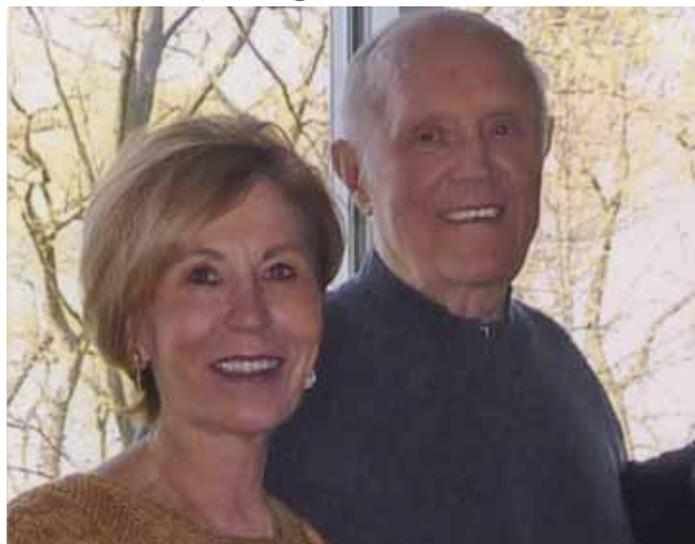
At Utah, he played defense tackle and offense left tackle. He helped the team win a couple conference championships from 1949-1952 and was named to the all-conference team.

His love of sports led him to earn a degree in physical education.

Westort was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles as a defensive lineman. Playing against the College All Star game, Westort said 93,000 were in attendance at Chicago’s Soldier Field. Afterward, he was in an automobile accident and “went flying through the air with the greatest of ease.” He injured his knee and back, ending his career.



Ray (center) being honored with other veterans in 2000 during a Cardinals vs. Cowboys game at Sun Devil Stadium.



Ray and his wife, Helen. They’ve been married for almost 60 years.

He moved back to the Chicago area, met his wife, Helen (they’ve been married almost 60 years) and took a position within the Chicago School System as a school fireman.

His love of football led him to coach at Calumet High School. His 1956 and 1957 team won the City Championship, which was played at Soldier’s Field before 70,000 people.

He eventually retired from the school system as an engineer and moved to Arizona. There, he was actively involved with a POW group of about 25 men. Today, there are only four of them left.

It was about 12 years ago that his daughter persuaded her parents to move to Indiana. He is now closer to his immediate and extended family. He likes the beach area, and really enjoys his “wonderful neighbors.”

Surviving the ravages of war, Westort is glad to be here. At a time when freedom could have been easily extinguished, it was young men like Westort who fought the battles to keep freedom alive.

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History and Heritage Come Alive During Polish Festival

by William Halliar

“The Polish people are a practical and resilient folk.”

Krystyna Sweeny offered that observation as she lovingly tended to her booth of colorful hand-painted pottery, decorated in folk art designs, during this year’s Polish Heritage Festival.

“If my parents could survive the slave labor and concentration camps of World War II,” she continued, “I know that I, too, can survive anything.”

Polska, the people call themselves — people of the land of their heritage. Poland. A fair country across the sea remembered in story and song as a place of broad fertile fields watered by great rivers festooned with riots of colorful red poppies. Their homeland is remembered as a great nation of great people.

With just such a spirit filled with joy, family and the ardor of life, people of Polish descent from all around the region gathered at Michigan City’s International Friendship Gardens to celebrate the fourth annual Polish Heritage Festival.

Sept. 13, 2015, was recognized by proclamation of both Michigan City and Indiana as Polish Heritage Day in honor of efforts by the festival committee and its supporters to “pass on the history, heritage, music and spiritual traditions” of the Polish people to future generations, and to share them with the people of La Porte County.

As is fitting for any such occasion, the day began in dedication and thanksgiving with a Holy Mass celebrated in English and Polish and officiated by the Rev. Walter Rakoczy. Grandparents stood with their children and grandchildren as their voices blended in the traditional hymns of the Polish-Catholic faith. A choir led the swelling chorus accompanied by Stephan Kowalczyk on the piano-accordion. The music was infused with the mystery of times past, memories of the homeland and hope for the future.

Rakoczy asked the rarely considered, but all important question, “Who are we?,” and stressed the importance of preserving for our children the traditions and heritage of our forbearers.

“We need to promote our culture,” Rakoczy said. “I am Polish-American, and the part of me that is



American is extremely happy to be here today.”

Through the silent verdant boughs of the evergreen forest, across the manicured lawns bedecked with colorful flowers, and the swiftly flowing waters of Trail Creek that meander through the garden, on the wings of the

breeze that gently cooled the morning, the voices of young and old singing the traditional hymns of the faith in their native language were carried into the September morning to mingle with the scents of sizzling sausage and *pierogi* that hinted at the promise of the feast to come.

“Peace be with you,” the people repeated as Rakoczy closed the reverently intoned benediction. “May God bless you, be filled with joy and rekindle your Polish Heritage.” The congregation filed quietly from beneath the canopy of the Symphony Garden, strolling down cinder paths and across a foot bridge to assemble at the Celebration Garden, where the feast would begin.

The day was wrapped in mid-September sunshine and inspired by the smiles of the young people of *Wesoly Lud*. Their enthusiasm, energy, colorful costumes and dedication to the preservation of Polish culture, accompanied by the ever-present, joy-





ous music of Eddie Sienkowski and the boys of the E-Z tones, created an atmosphere of celebration and joy that swept through the crowd.

Polish pride was on display everywhere in the garden, from the colorful costumes, to the smiles on the faces of people carrying plates filled to overflowing with tasty ethnic dishes, to the red T-shirts and hats decorated with Polish crests, designs and poppies.

Janusz Duzinkiewicz, Purdue University-North Central associate professor of history, recounted a lively history of a proud and ancient people whose story began more than eight centuries ago in the land of the *Polska*. He credits a powerful ruler, Mieszko, who first accepted Christianity in 966 A.D., as being the first ruler to unite the land under a single government.

The Polish government is considered to be the oldest democracy in Europe. Its founding document, the Polish equivalent of the English Habeas Corpus Act of 1679, was enacted in 1460. The Polish constitution was the first European constitution written and finally adopted on May 3, 1791.

Folks interested in their history must take pride in the many contributions of Poles to governmental theory, ideology and world science, including Kazimierz Siemienowicz's "Handbook on Artillery," published in 1650, which presented to the world the first formal study of rocketry, including multi-staged missiles.

Documentation shows a first generation of Polish people reached the shores of the New World as early as 1608, where they built and operated a glass-making factory at Jamestown in the Virginia colony. Many famous Poles came to the aid of the fledgling colonial American government during the Revolutionary War. Names such as Kosciuszko and Pulaski are familiar in early American and Revolutionary War lore.

A second and larger wave of Polish immigrants began to venture across the Atlantic to American shores in the 1890s, and Chicago became a major hub of Polish culture, with many small enclaves of shops and homes where the English language was hardly spoken.

Duzinkiewicz says the Polish people believed in granting limited power to a central government,

and its army was comprised of volunteer "citizen soldiers." Such a peaceful land found it difficult to stand against the vicious onslaught of the Nazi hordes and after a valiant struggle fell to the Hun in 1939, only to be reborn after the Solidarity struggles of the mid 1980s.

Today, the Republic of Poland once again is a free and proud people prospering and contributing to world commerce — a major player in the European market. Since the period of Communist domination, Poland has gradually improved its economic status until it is the sixth largest economy in the European Union. Today, it is considered among the fastest rising economic states in the world.

The Polish festival was not only a celebration of heritage, music, foods and dance, but also a riot of color and design. Witness Sweeny's hand-painted Polish-designed and created pottery.

Duzinkiewicz admits that to some, the combination of yellow, blue, purple, gold and green-striped aprons topped by hats decorated with poppies and feathers might seem garish. To the folks of the villages and towns along the rivers, valleys and mountains of the land of *Polska*, these vibrant, happy colors reflected their mood and spirit. Even though times were often difficult, there was always much to celebrate.

Ann Scamerhorn was honored for her efforts throughout the years in promoting Polish heritage in Michigan City and La Porte County. She was named Polish Ambassador of the Year. She was presented with a wooden plaque created by Robert Ty-lis to commemorate the occasion.

With yet another successful festival concluded, Chairman Mark Kolasa, along with all of the members of the Polish Heritage Festival committee, look forward to planning next year's event.

Triecia Roberts of International Friendship Gardens would like to encourage other groups to establish festivals celebrating their heritage, and welcomes all to consider their beautiful gardens as a venue for the event. Former board member and organizer George Neagu hints that an Irish Fest is in the initial planning stage. Information about the gardens can be found at www.friendshipgardens.org or call (219) 878-9885.

All photos by Bob Wellinski





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The Zhou Brothers Exhibit

The Purdue University-North Central Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series is featuring "The Zhou Brothers Exhibit," a collection of paintings, sculptures and terragraphs.

Viewed by appointment only through May 2016, the exhibit is in PNC's Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 02. Eugene and Dorothy Van Hove, Carmel, Ind., donated the collection to PNC. It includes mixed-media paintings, two sculptures and terragraphs displayed under glass. The terragraphs have been created using a process that uses sands from the Negev Desert to create dramatic textures. The sand is rinsed, neutralized and mixed with resins to permit flexibility and stability. It is coated with a translucent layer of ink to allow the sand to retain its natural color. The result is richly colored graphics of high-relief textures that cannot be achieved with screen printing.



This group of terragraphs is reminiscent of ancient Chinese cave paintings.

The Zhou Brothers have formed what critics call "our most accomplished contemporary Chinese-American artists." After surviving the Chinese Cultural Revolution from 1966 to 1976, they were the first artists to exhibit abstract art in China. Before leaving the country in 1986, the brothers were nationally recognized contemporary artists with shows in the National Museum of Art, Beijing; the Museum of Art, Nanjing; the Shanghai Museum of Art; the Guiling Art Museum; and the Guanxi Art Museum in Nanning.

The Zhou Brothers now live and work in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood. In 2004, they purchased an 87,000 square-foot former industrial building and transformed it into what is known today as the Zhou B Art Center. It provides studio and exhibit space for more than 50 artist residencies and their work. It hosts at least 10 exhibits a year and has hosted and curated more than 160 major exhibits in the past 10 years.

Contact Judy Jacobi, PNC assistant vice chancellor of marketing and campus relations, at (219) 785-5593 to schedule an appointment to view the exhibit.



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Groups from across the county united to support Dunebrook during its second Dragon Boat Races fundraiser on Sept. 12 at La Porte's Stone Lake. Dragon boat racing is an ancient Chinese sport rapidly gaining popularity in the U.S. This year's winner was La Porte High School's wrestling team.

Photos by Matt Cunningham





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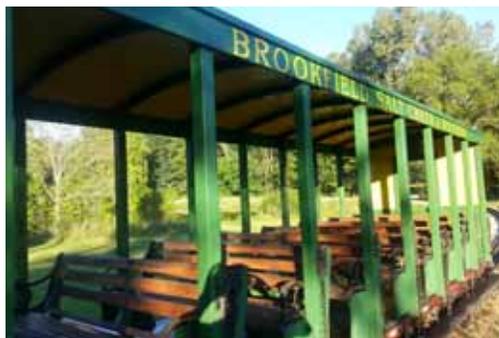
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Popular Attractions Fuel Museum

Among its many attractions, Hesston Steam Museum offers two fondly remembered rides.

One is the miniature steam train from Kiddieland in Melrose Park that carried families since the 1930s. The other is the Salt Creek & Western Railroad that meandered through Brookfield Zoo, giving a behind-the-scenes zoo tour from 1967 to 1985.



The Brookfield Zoo Salt Creek & Western Railroad car.

Those two trains, along with the steam museum's many other attractions, will be on display Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 26-27.

The best-known pair of steam locomotives that ran at Kiddieland are "The Hudson" and "The Northern," which are art deco streamlined trains of the 1930s. At Brookfield Zoo, three locomotives were in operation: two steam engines — one nick-named "The Blue Goose" and the other "Granny" — and a diesel-powered locomotive fondly called "Rudy," commissioned and donated to the zoo by the late Elliott Donnelley of RR Donnelley Printing.

The steam museum is located at 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, La Porte. Grounds open at 11:30 a.m., and trains run from noon to 5 p.m. Train fares are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 3 to 12. Parking is free, and there is no admission cost. Visit www.hesston.org or call (219) 778-2783 on weekends for more information.

ND Theatre NOW

Notre Dame's Department of Film, Television and Theatre will present Lila Rose Kaplan's "Wildflower" on Oct. 1-11 in the Philbin Studio Theatre at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

In the play, a 30-something single mother, seeking a fresh start, arrives with her son — an awkward teen and botany enthusiast — in Crested Butte, Colo., home of the Wildflower Festival. Over the course of one turbulent summer, their lives become entwined with those of a local forest ranger, a precocious teen girl and a retired drag queen.

The play is presented under the auspices of ND Theatre NOW, a special event in FTT's mainstage season that annually features a production realized entirely by student artists. "Wildflower" is directed by senior theater major Anthony Murphy, who previously directed "Out of Orbit" for ND Theatre NOW (2014) and appeared as the emcee in FTT's production of Cabaret (2013). During the summer of 2015, he appeared in Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival's productions of "The Winter's Tale" and "Love's Labor's Lost."

Tickets are \$7 for students, \$12 for faculty/staff/seniors older than 65 and \$15 for general admission. Group discounts are available. Make reservations at <http://performingarts.nd.edu>, by phone at (574) 631-2800 or in person at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center ticket office.

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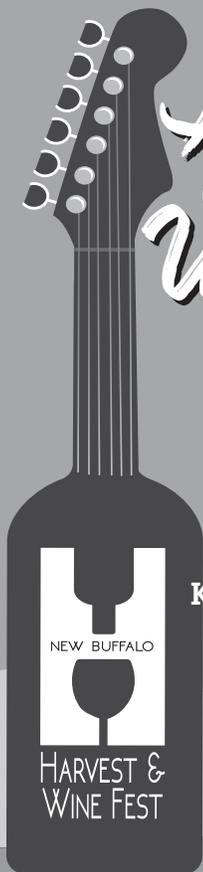


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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Knitting Club for All Ages at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 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.

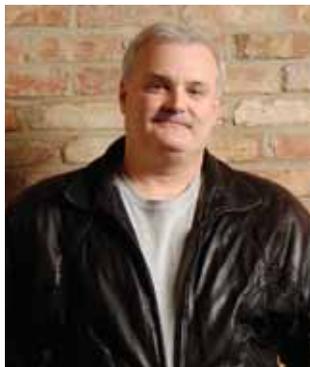
• **Plant-Based Nutrition Informational Programs at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24.**

The two-part program concludes with a discussion on the documentary "Forks Over Knives," which examines the claim that most, if not all, of degenerative disease can be controlled, even reversed, by plant-based nutrition. Certified plant-based nutritionist Mary Jo Wenckus will lead the program.

• **Basket Weaving at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.**

Margie Warner offers the one-day class with all materials provided. Registration and a \$10 deposit are required. Stop by Circulation to see the basket and verify the cost.

• **Writing Out Loud: Author Shane Gericke at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.**



Gericke has been held at knifepoint, hit by lightning and shaken Liberace's cold, sweaty hand — He was born to write thrillers. His latest is "The Fury," a novel of global terrorism endorsed by Steve Berry and David Morrell, the creator of Rambo. Tantor Media released it in trade paperback, eBook and audio-book on Sept. 4. His books have been translated into German, Chinese, Turkish and Slovak, allowing him to correspond with readers around the world. He spent two decades as a newspaper editor, most prominently at *The Chicago Sun-Times*, before turning to fiction. He keeps his hand in nonfiction by writing for digital media. The Friends of the Library will host a reception and book signing after the program.

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



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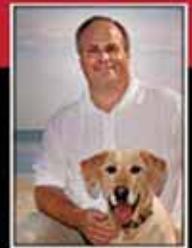
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Lee Bauman will teach a Watercolor on Aquabord workshop from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.



Lee Bauman's "Poppy Field."

Aquabord is a textured, clay surface that absorbs watercolors like a fine paper — perfect for layering. Students will work from a still life, exploring how layers of colors can give paintings energy and enrich the reflections.

The fee is \$45, with members receiving a \$5 discount. Supplies are not included, except the aquabord. Call (219) 926-4711 to register.

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

- **Stewardship Days from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 26, at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Help staff cut brush and remove invasive plants to restore a rare oak savanna habitat.

- **National Public Lands Day from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 26, in the Cowles Bog parking lot.**

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, hands-on volunteer effort to improve America's public lands. Join a ranger and other volunteers to help improve one of the National Lakeshore's most threatened wetlands: Cowles Bog. No expertise is needed, and all help is welcome. Wear comfortable work clothes; work gloves and equipment will be provided. Insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended. The Cowles Bog south parking lot is adjacent to Dune Acres, 100 yards north of U.S. 12 on Mineral Springs Road.

- **Kayak Fishing with a Ranger from 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk.**

Join a ranger for a paddle on Lake Michigan or in Burns Waterway in pursuit of the Chinook Salmon. Participants must take equipment, obey state fishing laws and wear a lifejacket. Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk is located off Indiana 249 north of Interstate 94.

- **"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.

24th Annual Pioneer Days

Step into the past during La Porte County Parks' 24th annual Pioneer Days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, September 26-27, at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City.

As visitors enter the 96-acre park, they will encounter a taste of pioneer history, food and lifestyles, complete with wagon rides, outdoor cooking, crafts and food.

Native American demonstrators involve fur traders, wood working and quilters. Food ranges from kettle corn and root beer to ham and beans and apple butter brewing. Guests can make a necklace or bracelets, ceramics, candle dipping and tin punch design. Horse-drawn wagon rides are planned.

Admission, paid at the gate, is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children or seniors and free for children 4 and younger. Call (219) 325-8315 or visit www.laportecountyparks.org for more information.

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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

- **Teen Scene Creative Space from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, in the Bertha Wood Meeting Room at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Teens in grades 6-12 can draw, doodle, compose music, write, create poetry or play board games.

- **Knit Wits and Pearls of Wisdom at 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, at Hageman Library.**

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

- **Rainbow Loom at the Library from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, at the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Youth in grades 3-6 create rainbow loom bracelets. Looms and rubber bands are supplied, but kids can take their own because supplies are limited. Registration is required in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.



- **Saturday Morning Children's Movie: "Cinderella" (2015) at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at Thomas Library's Children's Department.**

Children 8 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Free popcorn will be available.

- **National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

The local chapter will discuss collecting timepieces, and caring and repairing them. Take old watches and clocks — broken or functioning — to learn about their history and value.

- **The Unnamed Guild of Gamers meets from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27, in the Bertha Wood room at Thomas Library.**

Adventurers, players and storytellers are invited to participate in an afternoon of tabletop events.

- **Eating Well for Healthy Living Series from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29, in the Bertha Wood Meeting Room at Thomas Library.**

Registered Dietetic Technician Gia DeMartinis will discuss "Culinary Creativity: Using What's on Hand to Make a Great Meal." Registration is required and can be done in person or by phone at (219) 926-7696.

- **Trivial Pursuit Trivia Night at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Teams of one to four people can vie for a prize. Refreshments will be served.

- **Bits & Bytes Class: Internet Security from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29, and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, in the Serials/Automation Department at Thomas Library.**

Registration is required by visiting or calling the IT Department at (219) 926-7696, or online at www.wpl.lib.in.us. Click on the Bits & Bytes link.

- **Health Care: Part D from 5 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, in the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library.**

Thomas Murphy will focus on Medicare Part D.

- **Battles of the American Civil War from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, in the Bertha Wood room at Thomas Library.**

History buff and Civil War enthusiast Thomas Murphy will discuss the Battle of Gettysburg.

- **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.

(Thomas and Hageman branches will open two hours later, at 11 a.m., on Thursday, Sept. 24, because of a staff appreciation brunch.)



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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

Saturday, Sept. 26

- **10 a.m. — High Dunes Hiking.**

Meet at the campground shelter by site 113 for a trek over Mount Tom and into a valley called Ecology Cove. Wear hiking shoes.

- **2 p.m. — An Apple a Day.**

Join a naturalist at the Nature Center Program Area for an apple quiz while apple treats are made over the campfire.

Sunday, Sept. 27

- **10 a.m. and 2 p.m. — Beach Glass Jewelry Workshops.**

Register for one of two 90-minute workshops in the Nature Center Auditorium that highlight the art of wire-wrapping, beach glass and stone jewelry. Space is limited, with extra spots held for campers. The cost is \$5. Register by calling (219) 926-1390.

- **10 a.m. — Feed the Birds.**

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

- **2 p.m. — A Cacti Crawl.**

Meet at the beach pavilion for a one-hour look at the dunes' real native cacti — the prickly pear.

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.

Drawing the Gardens in Color

David Baker's plein air class continues with "Drawing the Gardens in Color" from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 26, at Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich.

The class includes selecting a subject, composing and planning a drawing, then creating the finished image. Those in the class will travel light, working with colored pencil, or pack a brush and use a water-soluble colored pencil. A materials list is provided upon registration.

Participants can have lunch in Fernwood Café or take a lunch to picnic in the gardens. The cost is \$60 (\$48 for members). Register by Sept. 25.

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

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Fall Hikes at Taltree

Trained naturalists will lead field trips for groups of children and adults this autumn at Taltree Arboretum & Gardens.



In October, the Trail of Scarecrows will be on display and the Railway Garden decked out for Halloween. Each hike, which lasts about 90 minutes, heads through native prairies, woodlands and wetlands and holds the possibility of meeting wildlife, seeing pumpkins and exploring the signs of fall. Guests should wear comfortable shoes and dress for fall weather.

Pre-registration is required. Youth field trip group rates are \$3 per student, \$5 per adult and free for teachers. Group rates apply to 12 or more students. The adult group rate is \$6 per adult for 20 or fewer people and \$5 per adult for 21 or more people. Guests can reserve their spot by emailing mgrimm@taltree.org or calling (219) 462-0025, Ext. 4.

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.

Spire's 3rd Anniversary

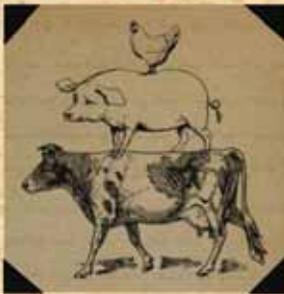
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Star of Stars

La Porte County Symphony Orchestra celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Hoosier Star fundraiser with "Star of Stars" on Sept. 12 at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. The competition brought back previous winners to vie for the title of "Star

of Stars." Nanda Danitschek took first place and Jeremiah Souza second place. Tim King, LCSO's interim executive director, estimates 850 people attended. The goal was to raise \$15,000, he continued, and early estimates show the event raised \$17,000.



Photos by Bob Wellinski





What's Cooking

by Jim LaRocco

Today's kids have incredible choices when it comes to listening to their favorite tunes. There are iPads, iPods, iTunes, tablets, cell phones and more. They can take their music wherever they go.

As a child of the 1950s and a teen of the 1960s, our choices were limited. Most of us had a transistor, or crystal radio, and a few had a portable record player and some vinyl. Our record player came from Elco Electronics, a Michigan City manufacturer.

I remember as a kid waiting for my favorite song to come on the radio. I would try to record it on my small reel-to-reel tape recorder. The DJ would usually talk over the intro to the song, keeping me from getting a clean recording. I'm sure I was not the only one having that problem.

From the early 1960s through the 1970s, disc jockeys were fun, entertaining and local personalities. They would visit schools for pep rallies, show up at sock hops and street dances. Each "jock" had their own style and unique voice. They would play the Top 40, and you never knew how crazy they would get.

We were fortunate here in the Chicago area to have many great DJ's. You became an avid listener because the shows were fun, the show hosts got to pick their own music and write, or not, their own shows. They had the opportunity to let their personalities shine through.

Big market radio today allows the "talent" to talk for fewer than 15 minutes per hour, and in many cases the "playlist" is set by the program director. To me, big market commercial radio has lost its soul, its spontaneity and creativity.

In Chicago, one station employs the world's "oldest living teenager" who just happened to turn 83 a few weeks ago. He is Dick Biondi, the "Wild I-tralian," a Hall of Fame broadcaster who is still going strong.

Dick has been an on-air fixture in Chicago radio since General Motors was a corporal. Back around 1960, he even cut his own record, "On Top of a Pizza." Dick was always telling Knock, Knock jokes, so on the flip side of the 45, he had the "Knock, Knock Song." I remember a few of his jokes. Knock, knock. Who's there? Biondi. Biondi who? Biondi look out for a stolen car.

Dick's jokes were legendary, and some have become urban legends. It is hard to say anymore which were actually told and which weren't. He had

one such joke when the mini-skirt was in its heyday. By today's standards, it is a PG joke, but back then, it was only trouble.

Through the many years on the air, Dick has never lost his sense of humor or love for what he does. He is a broadcast treasure.

Dick came to a sock hop here at the Naval Armory on Feb. 11, 1962. The cost was a whopping 75 cents in advance and \$1 at the door.



A photo of the sock hop that appeared in a local newspaper.

The sock hop was for the Catholic Youth Organization. My father was one of its leaders at the time. The sock hop's goal was to raise money for the group and its activities.

Back in the day, the Wild I-tralian claimed to like peanut butter pizza, so we had a few on hand for him at the dance.

Months ago, I sent Dick a copy of the picture that appeared in the local paper and a few stories about me listening to him as a youngster. Dick referred the picture to Pam Enzweiler Pulice, who is putting together a documentary on him.

Pam grew up in Villa Park, Ill., but moved to Lombard and was an avid fan. She first met Mr. B. at the Hillside Shopping Center. She retired and moved to La Porte in 2003.



Dick Biondi.



Pam Enzweiler Pulice and Matt Keene.

Pam and I met through facebook. She asked if I would be interested in being in her documentary about Dick. I said, "Certainly." Several phone calls and messages later, it was decided Pam and her crew would come and interview me in my radio studio.

Pam asked if it would be OK if she had a few other people come over and be interviewed at the same time. I said it would be fine. The other Biondi fans interviewed that day were: Sister Sharon Marie Peters, the young lady in the photograph who now is retired and lives in England; Charlotte Friedlund, Valparaiso, co-founder of the "Rock and Rollers" facebook page; and Frank Boynton, La Porte, the last to be interviewed.

It was a great time, and everyone got to share their stories and memories about Dick Biondi. The day started at 9:30 a.m. and ended around 4 p.m. Even Filomena helped make sure the equipment was set up properly. During my interview, I related a few stories about Dick and how radio has changed over the past decades.

I remember falling asleep listening to Dick on my transistor radio. I slept in a room with three of my brothers, so I put the radio under my pillow and naturally fell asleep. Batteries back then did not last very long and, of course, when I awoke, my batteries were dead. My father would threaten to not give me any more batteries, but he always did. I would promise not to fall asleep with the radio on, but I would and the cycle continued.

I got back into radio in 2012 and have been on



Filomena checks out the equipment used for the documentary.

WIMS AM 1420 with my own show with my wife, Sue, called "Miscellany." It is a fun show that airs at 10 a.m. Sundays. If you miss the show, you can go to jimlarocco.com and listen anytime. "Miscellany" is a theme-based music, trivia and talk show. There also is a "Miscellany with Jim" facebook page. I also do play by play for the Duneland Conference Football Game of the Week on WIMS.

The documentary is tentatively scheduled for a late 2016 release. If you have photos, memories or a personal story about Biondi, contact Pam Enzwieler Pulice at pamelajpulice@gmail.com

About those peanut butter pizzas. If you like to try your own, buy a ready made pizza shell, use your own pizza dough, hamburger buns or English muffins. Pre-heat the oven to 400 degrees. Take whatever you are using for the crust and spread peanut butter on it. I prefer extra chunky. Add your favorite cheese blend and bake 10-12 minutes on a cookie sheet or pizza stone.

Until next time, enjoy!

Contact Jim at jim@jimlarocco.com

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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Cannon Named to National Board



Patrick Cannon, academic director of Purdue University-North Central's Concurrent Enrollment Program, has been elected to the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships board as a member-at-large.

NACEP is the national accrediting body for Concurrent or Dual Credit programs

across the United States. Members include more than 300 universities. NACEP sets the standards for determination of accredited concurrent enrollment programs.

Cannon, Long Beach, serves on the NACEP Governmental Relations Committee. He will begin his two-year term of service with the board Oct. 27.

Cannon has been involved with the PNC Concurrent Enrollment Program since 2009, initially serving as the faculty liaison for the PNC Social Science Department. He and Sue Wilson, who previously served as the PNC director of school partnerships, together formed the first PNC accreditation committee when they sought full accreditation of the PNC Concurrent Enrollment Program in 2011.

The PNC Concurrent Enrollment Program has grown tremendously since its inception. It started with one high school class and one high school teacher in one high school. PNC now has one of the three largest programs in Indiana and is in partnership with more than 40 high schools with more than 300 instructors teaching more than 3,000 students.

Homeward Bound Walk

Homeward Bound's Epic Sidewalk Shopping Cart Walk, designed to help eliminate homelessness, is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at the parking lot at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, 818 Franklin Square.

All funds raised benefit local agencies that assist the homeless.

Those who want to participate can start a team, then create a theme and gather supplies or costumes as needed. Check-in is at 9 a.m. on Sept. 26. Nothing but the cart will be provided. Decorating starts at 10 a.m. The walk kicks off at 11 a.m. Awards, food and activities are at noon.

Visit tinyurl.com/og7p4t8 to register or for more information.

Oktoberfest at St. Ann

St. Ann of the Dunes, 433 E. Golfwood Road, Beverly Shores, will present its annual Oktoberfest from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27.

Under three large tents, guests can try bratwurst, potato salad, sauerkraut, beer, wine and soda. Music and children's activities are planned.

Admission (including the meal) is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children 4-10. Call (219) 879-7565 for more information.

"Remember Me" Ceremony

Beach Garden Club members will join Michiana Humane Society's "Remember Me" ceremony at about 6:15 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24.

A brief dedication to honor and remember Dorothy Miller is planned at a red Maple tree the club planted on the Humane Society grounds, 722 Indiana 212.

The community is welcome.

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La Porte County Parks



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

Stroller, Baby and You

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

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 5 and 19, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call at least one week in advance to register.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

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

- Oct. 7: "Let's Talk Tails."
- Oct. 21: "A Spooky Good Time" (come in costume).

Senior Lifestyles

Join the free 55+ Club, a social club designed for adults 55 and older to learn and explore various types of nature. Free coffee is served to participants.

The group meets from 9 to 10 a.m. at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Call at least one week in advance to register. The schedule is:

- Oct. 7: "Tips on Gardening: Getting Your Garden Ready for Winter."
- Nov. 4: "De-Clutter Your Life."

24th Annual Pioneer Days

The event is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 26-27, at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City.

Experience wagon rides, outdoor cooking, crafts and food. Visit with historically clad vendors, and try fun, educational activities. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children or seniors and free for youth 4 and younger.

Poochalooza Halloween Dog Social

The free event is at 5:45 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, at Creek Ridge's No Leash Bark Park. Dress pets in costumes. Judging categories include best homemade costume, scariest and best owner/pet combination.

A minimum of five dogs is required. Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance by calling (219) 325-8315.



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Solo Exhibit at Village Gallery

Artist, illustrator and graphic designer Melissa Washburn, who creates mixed-media illustrations often inspired by nature, is the featured artist through Oct. 22 at The Village Gallery at Pines Village Retirement Communities.

Washburn's current body of work — woodblock and linoleum block prints — was inspired by her participation in the Michigan City Steamroller Printmaking Project. She has chosen iconic images as the subject matter, drawing inspiration from diverse sources such as playing card designs, Asian block printing and vintage illustrations.



Melissa Washburn stands with one of her works.

Relief printing is an old technique of creating an image that can be produced in multiples. First, the areas that are to remain white are carved away from the block surface (whether wood or lino-

leum). Then, ink is rolled on the surface and paper pressed onto the block to transfer the image.

Based in Northwest Indiana, Washburn grew up in upstate New York, but has lived in the Midwest since 1996. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting and printmaking from Binghamton University (SUNY), a Master of Arts in arts administration from Indiana University-Bloomington and has completed several illustration classes through the continuing education program at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. The Indiana Arts Commission awarded her an Individual Artist Program grant in 2013. She also is a member of the Graphic Artists Guild and a founder of Community Supported Art, a co-op buying program for local art and artists.

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



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PNC Panther Pounce Race

The Purdue University-North Central 12th Annual Panther Pounce 5K Run/Walk and 10K Run is Saturday, Oct. 3.

Registration can be done online at tinyurl.com/gek73xb. Packet pickup is from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, at Michigan City's Anytime Fitness, or at 7:30 a.m. the day of the race in the PNC Library-Student-Faculty Building. The race starts at 9 a.m. It is a cross country-styled course with mixed terrain. Spikes are not recommended. Splits will be given at the first- and second-mile markers. Water will be available at 1.5 miles. Refreshments will be provided.

An awards ceremony for the 5K run is at 10 a.m., with the 10K awards presented upon completion of the race. Cash prizes and trophies will be awarded to the top male and female in the following divisions: Overall, Clydesdale, Athena and Masters. Medallions will be awarded to the top three male and female winners in each age group. All 10 and younger participants will receive a ribbon. Runner giveaway(s) will be announced at the ceremony.

Registration is \$20 before Sept. 25 and \$25 afterward. Registrants will receive an event T-shirt, available on first-come, first-served basis. Free tying stations will be available for all T-shirts.

Registration for PNC students, staff, faculty and alumni is \$10 when presenting a valid PNC ID. There will be a \$1 discount to members of the Calumet Region Striders.

Contact Race Director Tom Albano at (219) 785-5273 or talbano@pnc.edu for more information.

Open Studio at CAC

Suzie Rosso will host an open studio from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Participants can take a project in pastels, watercolor, acrylic, oil or drawing, and Rosso will lend guidance when needed. This is not a structured class, but an opportunity to meet other students working at their craft. Supplies are not included.

The cost is \$15. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 to register. Visit www.chestertonart.com for more information.

Long Beach Large Item Pickup

The Town of Long Beach will have large item pickups on Mondays, Oct. 5 and 12.

Bundle items such as wood, trim or carpeting, but not to exceed 4 feet in length. Tape all glass to keep it from shattering. No appliances with freon, cement, tires or car batteries will be accepted.

Place large items at the curb by 6 a.m. Call the clerk-treasurer's office at (219) 874-6616 or visit www.longbeachin.org for more information.

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Fernwood Botanical Garden

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

• **11th Annual Museum Day Live! on Saturday Sept. 26.**

As part of *Smithsonian* magazine's annual event, admission to Fernwood is free Sept. 26. The ticket is available for download at Smithsonian.com/museumday. Visitors who present the ticket gain free entrance for two at Fernwood and other participating venues for one day only.

• **Fall Landscapes in Pastels from 1 to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 3.**

Artist William Jensen leads the workshop open to everyone, from beginners to advanced artists. Materials are included in the class fee, or take an easel if having one. The cost is \$40 (\$32 for members). Register by Sept. 30.

• **Garden volunteer opportunity at 5 p.m. EDT Wednesdays.**

Join the Wine and Weed Wednesday volunteers for an hour or so of light work, followed by time to socialize on the café decks.

Call (269) 695-6491 for more information.

Artspace Information Sessions

Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts will hold three information sessions throughout La Porte County about its residential leasing program.

Those attending will learn not only about Artspace itself, but how to apply for the available lofts. The meetings are:

- Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29.
 - Westville Public Library, 233 S. State St., 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 17.
 - La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28.
- Visit artspace.org/uptown for more information.

St. Mary Chicken Dinner/Raffle

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish will hold its annual chicken dinner and raffle on Sunday, Oct. 4, at Elks Lodge 432, 416 U.S. 20, Michigan City.

Doors open at noon. Advance reservations, required and advised by Sept. 25, are \$13, or \$15 at the door. Children cost \$9. Carryouts are available. Winning raffle ticketholders don't have to be present to win.

Tickets are available from parishioners, at Michigan City Supply, 4301 Ohio St., or MC Interiors, 1102 Franklin St. Call (219) 878-1836 or (219) 871-2725 for reservations.

Inspiring Women Luncheon



The public is invited to join business and community leaders, as well as area high school students, for the "Inspiring Women" Luncheon featuring Michelle Halle Stern from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Blue Chip Casino Stardust Event Center.

A pioneer in sustainable/green building practices, Stern established one of the first sustainability programs among architecture firms and is a founding member of one of the country's first chapters of the U.S. Green Building Council. Today, she runs her own consulting firm, the Green Facilitator, and is an adjunct professor at Northwestern University in the Master of Project Management program at the McCormick School of Engineering.

Stern has dual bachelor degrees in civil engineering and architecture. In a press release, she says with some amusement her inspiration to enter architecture was sitcom character Mike Brady of "The Brady Bunch," a senior partner in an architectural firm. Her physician father felt her interest in math and science was a good fit for engineering, and Stern decided she could do well in both.

Her keynote address will focus on the importance of finding your passion, doing what you love and exploring the change you want to make in the world.

Attending the program as guests of chamber members will be AK Smith Career Center students from county high schools.

The program is open to everyone, including men. Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$25 for chamber members and \$30 for non-members and includes lunch. Registration is required by calling (219) 874-6221 or at MichiganCityChamber.com

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Secrets of Growing Orchids

“Growing Orchids” will explore the beauty of orchids, and some secrets for growing them, during the Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum session at 6:30 p.m. EDT Monday, Sept. 28, in the library’s Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St.

Master Gardener Rima Binder will share what she has learned about nurturing orchids since she saw them growing in the wild 25 years ago. Over the years, her collection grew, expanding into a greenhouse that accommodated her orchids and her husband’s bonsai collection.

Other programs in New Buffalo FOL’s Fall/Winter Community Forum Series include: “Six Events That Changed Harbor Country History,” Thursday, Oct. 15; “Unwind with Michigan Wine,” Friday, Oct. 23, co-sponsored with New Buffalo Township Library; “Quagmire: The United States in Vietnam,” Thursday, Nov. 12; and “Holiday Harmonies with All the Trimmings,” Sunday, Dec. 13.

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

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Chain of Lakes Paddling Event

The Sixth Annual Chain of Lakes Paddling Event is Sunday, Sept. 27, at La Porte’s Stone Lake.

Reservations for the free event, sponsored by La Porte County Conservation Trust and Northwest Indiana Paddling Association, are at 1 p.m., with everyone pushing off shortly after. Refreshments are planned afterward at the Stone Lake Beach House.

When registering, take a kayak or canoe, and a personal flotation device, to the Stone Lake shore between the beach house and Cummins Lodge. If needed, the NWIPA can provide a canoe or kayak, but arrangements must be made in advance by contacting Dan Plath at nwipa@nwipa.org.

Call (219) 873-6753 for additional information.

New Canoe-Kayak Launch Point

Michigan City Parks Department and Northwest Indiana Paddling Association will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new ADA-compliant canoe-kayak launching point at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at Michigan City’s Hansen Park, 100 E St.

The ceremony concludes “Trail Creek Week 2014,” an outreach event of the Trail Creek Watershed Partnership that educates area school children about ecology, and lets them travel in 24-foot voyageur canoes.

Free family activities, including canoe rides, continue until 4:30 p.m. Call Shannon Eason at (219) 873-1506 or season@emichigancity.com for more information.

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“Clock In...Clock Out”

La Porte County industries that are no more take the spotlight through the new fall display at La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte.



The assembly line at U.S. Slicing Machine Co. in La Porte.

Early economic growth in the community depended on hard-working men and women who made up the vast number of employees punching a time clock every day. “Clock In... Clock Out: A Look at Early La Porte County Industry,” which continues through November, sheds light on

everything from the economic effect Allis-Chalmers had on the community to the cough drops manufactured by Smith Bros.

Kingsford Heights was built to house Kingsbury Ordnance Plant employees. County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz will present a program on KOP at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at the museum.



Two employees sitting on a piece of machinery at Joy Manufacturing in Michigan City.

Throughout the duration of the exhibit, other programs will be presented, culminating in an Industry Day with different presenters explaining their favorite early La Porte County Industry.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Email info@laportecountyhistory.org, visit www.laportecountyhistory.org or call (219) 324-6767 for more information.

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Supporting ICS



William Higbie and Brenda Sheetz of the Porter County Community Foundation visited Independent Cat Society, Westville, on Sept. 10 to present a \$2,500 check for spay/neutering funding. While there, they visited the ICS' Rainbow Bridge Garden. Pictured are (from left) Roberta Jocius, ICS grant chair, Joan Hildebrand, ICS board member, Carol Albrecht, ICS corresponding secretary, and Higbie.

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.

Postage Stamp Show

The Southwest Michigan Stamp Club will hold its 29th annual "Stuck on Stamps" postage stamp show on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 26-27, at River Valley Senior Center, 13321 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.

Seven stamp dealers will buy and sell postage stamps and a variety of other philatelic-related materials.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT Sunday. Admission and parking are free.

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

- Immanuel Lutheran, 1237 E. Coolspring Ave., Michigan City, 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24.
- Anytime Fitness La Porte, 59 Pine Lake Ave., La Porte, 3 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25.
- IU Health La Porte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, La Porte, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25.
- Kroger La Porte, 55 Pine Lake Shopping Center, La Porte, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25.
- Marquette High School, 306 W. 10th St., Michigan City, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25.

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.

Sarett Nature Center

The following programs are available at Sarett Nature Center, 300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.:

- **Kayak the Kalamazoo River at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 26.**

The fee is \$25. Pre-registration is required.

- **Outdoor Adventure Club (for adults in their 20s) will explore Saugatuck Dunes State Park at 1 p.m. EDT Sunday, Sept. 27.**

The cost, which includes transportation and park admission, is \$10.

Call (269) 927-4832 to register for either program.

Dig the Dunes Art Exhibit

Dig the Dunes' first art exhibit is from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27, at TroyBuilt Fitness, 3440 W. U.S. 12, Michigan City.

The exhibit will feature 20 area "dunes loving" artists, all chosen after submitting samples of their work. Styles include photography, acrylic, watercolor, jewelry and craftwork. Some art will be for sale. Refreshments will be served.

Vendors Sought for Fall Fest

International Friendship Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, will have its annual Fall Fest from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18.

Vendors are sought to sell their wares. A suggested \$15 donation can be made. Reserve a spot by contacting Dennis Brittain at Dbrittain@gmail.com or International Friendship Gardens at (219) 878-9885.

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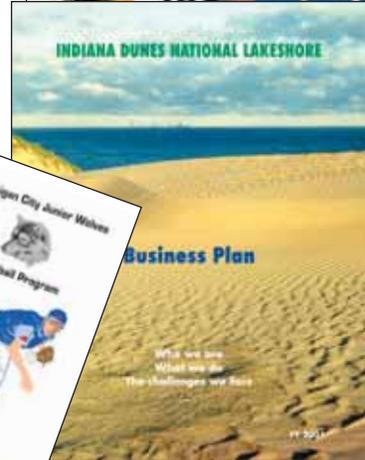
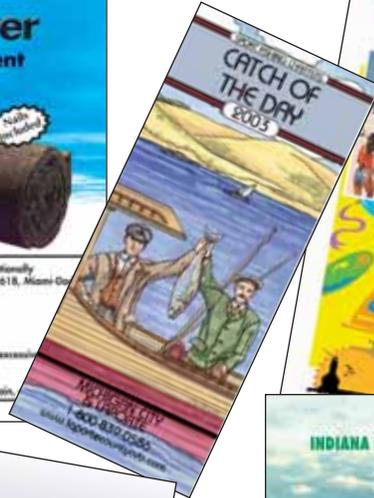
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“Colors of the Wind”

Substation No. 9, the downtown Hammond branch of South Shore Arts, will present the solo show “Colors of the Wind: Paintings by Elaine Oehmich” through Nov. 20.

Originally from Northwest Indiana, Oehmich specializes in painting sound. Multiple large-scale paintings with titles derived from Ajit Mookerjee’s “Tantra Asana” make up the exhibit. According to the feeling conveyed in a particular painting, Oehmich will choose a title for its concept. The title of one painting, “Kali,” for example, describes dense darkness, intensely concentrated light and phenomenal light forms that become visible.



Elaine Oehmich’s “Pranava.”

Oehmich received her Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University in 1978 and her Master of Fine Arts in painting from Savannah College of Art and Design in 2001. From 2001 to 2005, she taught art at Appalachian State University and received its ACT Award for a Strong Commitment to Service Learning. She lives in Cedar Lake, Ind., and is

an adjunct instructor of art at Purdue University-Calumet.

Substation No. 9 is located at 435 Fayette St. Regular viewing hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Visit www.southshoreartsonline.org for more information.

Beginning Drawing Class

MaryAnn Pals will teach a six-week Beginning Drawing Class starting from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Students learn the basics of drawing, from still-life objects to buildings in perspective to plants and trees. All necessary art supplies will be included, and students can keep them once class is finished.

Class size is limited to eight attendees in order to provide individual attention. The cost is \$75, with members receiving a \$5 discount. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 to register. Visit www.chestertonart.com for more information.

Watercolor Class

Dick Church will offer a six-week Beginning/Intermediate Watercolor Class starting from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Oct. 2, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Church will lead students through a variety of watercolor techniques. The cost is \$70, with members receiving a \$5 discount. There also is a \$10 board and pattern fee. Other supplies are not included. Church will discuss supplies with all beginners to start the class.

Call the center at (219) 926-4711 to register. Visit www.chestertonart.com for more information.

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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

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

Sept. 25-28 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* “Best of Enemies.” Rated R. Times: 6:15 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* “Phoenix.” Rated PG-13. In German and English with English subtitles. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Mon., 3:15 p.m. Sat.-Sun. *Also:* 18th Annual Manhattan Short Film Festival. Time: noon Sept. 26. Admission: \$12. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

Sept. 26 — Michigan City Mainstreet Association Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Eighth and Washington streets, through Oct. 31. Women of First Presbyterian Church bake sale, 8 a.m.-noon. Info: www.michigancityfarmersmarket.com

Sept. 26 — Homeward Bound's Epic Sidewalk Shopping Cart Walk, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, 818 Franklin Square. Registration: tinyurl.com/og7p4t8

Sept. 26 — Kayak Fishing with a Ranger, 7-11 a.m., Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, Indiana 249 north of Interstate 94. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Sept. 26 — National Public Lands Day, 9 a.m.-noon, Cowles Bog parking lot adjacent to Dune Acres, 100 yards north of U.S. 12 on Mineral Springs Road. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Sept. 26 — Saturday Morning Children's Movie: “Cinderella” (2015), 10:30 a.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Sept. 26 — National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, 1-5 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Sept. 26 — High Dunes Hiking, 10 a.m., campground shelter by site 113 @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 26 — Ribbon cutting ceremony, new ADA-compliant canoe-kayak launching point, 1 p.m., Michigan City's Hansen Park, 100 E St. Info: (219) 873-1506, season@emichigancity.com

Sept. 26 — County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz talk on Kingsbury Ordnance Plant, 1 p.m., La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Sept. 26 — Writing Out Loud: Author Shane Gericke, 7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 26-27 — Pioneer Days, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City. Admission: \$2/adults, \$1/children or seniors, free/children 4 & younger. Info: (219) 325-8315, www.laportecountyparks.org

Sept. 27 — Beach glass jewelry workshops, 10 a.m. & 2 p.m., Nature Center Auditorium @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 27 — Dig the Dunes art exhibit, 4-6 p.m., TroyBUILT Fitness, 3440 W. U.S. 12, Michigan City.

Sept. 27 — Annual Oktoberfest, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Ann of the Dunes, 433 E. Golfwood Road, Beverly Shores. Admission (including meal): \$8/adults, \$3/children 4-10. Info: (219) 879-7565.

Sept. 28 — Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum session, "Growing Orchids," 6:30 p.m. EDT, library's Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Sept. 29 — Trivial Pursuit Trivia Night, 7 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Sept. 29 — Open Mic Night with host Frances Luke Accord, 8 EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. No cover. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

Sept. 30 — Battles of the American Civil War, 6-8 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Through Oct. 22 — Solo exhibit, Melissa Washburn, The Village Gallery at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle (off Calumet Avenue just north of Cumberland Crossing) in Valparaiso. Info: (219) 465-1591.

Through May 2016 — "The Zhou Brothers Exhibit," appointment only, Purdue University-North Central Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 02. Appointments: (219) 785-5593.

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. 23-27 — 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

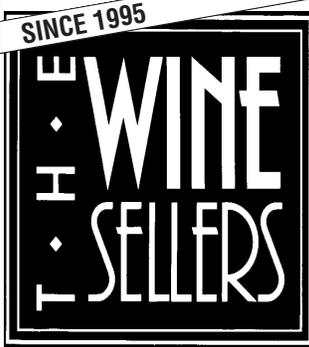
Sept. 26 — 11th Annual Museum Day Live!, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Free admission for two. Downloadable ticket: Smithsonian.com/museumday

Sept. 26 — Kayak the Kalamazoo River, 10 a.m. EDT, Sarett Nature Center, 300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Cost: \$25. Registration: (269) 927-4832.

Sept. 26 — Gemini and All God's Children Choir, 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

Through Nov. 20 — "Colors of the Wind: Paintings by Elaine Oehmich," South Shore Arts Substation No. 9, 435 Fayette St., Hammond. Info: www.southshoreartsonline.org

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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.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



On September 24, 1929, in the first "blind" (all-instrument) flight, Lt. James Doolittle piloted a Consolidated NY2 biplane over New York's Mitchell Field.

On September 24, 1934, at New York's Yankee Stadium, Babe Ruth (the Sultan of Swat) made his final appearance as a player with the New York Yankees.

On September 24, 1964, the sitcom "The Munsters" premiered on CBS.

On September 24, 1984, the Chicago Cubs clinched the National League's Eastern Division title by beating the Pittsburgh Pirates 4 to 1.

On September 25, 1493, Columbus set sail on his second voyage to the New World.

On September 25, 1690, the first American newspaper, *Publick Occurrences*, was published in Boston. The Royal Governor was not happy with the first edition; so a second one never appeared.

On September 25, 1789, the first United States Congress, meeting in New York, adopted twelve amendments to the Constitution and sent them to the states for ratification. Ten of the amendments became known as the "Bill of Rights."

On September 25, 1956, the first trans-Atlantic telephone cable went into service.

On September 25, 1979, the musical "Evita" opened on Broadway.

On September 25, 2001, Michael Jordan announced he was returning to basketball with the Washington Wizards.

On September 26, 1774, legendary folk hero Johnny "Appleseed" Chapman was born in the Massachusetts town of Leonminster.

On September 26, 1957, the long-running musical, "West Side Story," opened on Broadway.

On September 26, 1969, the album "Abbey Road" was released by The Beatles.

On September 26, 1990, the Motion Picture Association of America announced it had created a new rating, NC-17, designed to bar moviegoers under age 17 from certain films without the commercial stigma of the old X rating.

On September 27, 1954, "The Tonight Show," with Steve Allen as the host, made its television debut on NBC.

On September 27, 1972, the Nobel Committee announced that, in their opinion, no one qualified for their annual Nobel Peace Prize.

On September 27, 1999, Detroit's Tiger Stadium



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On September 27, 2000, Venus Williams became only the second player to win Wimbledon, the U.S. Open and the Olympics in the same year with her 6-2, 6-4 victory over Elena Dementieva. The first was Steffi Graf, in 1988.

On September 28, 490 B.C., the Greeks defeated the Persians in races held at Marathon. According to legend, a Greek soldier, dispatched to notify Athens of the victory, ran the entire 26 miles. It was from this that we derived the word "marathon."

On September 28, 1920, in what became known as the "Black Sox Scandal," eight members of the Chicago White Sox baseball team were indicted for allegedly "throwing" the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds.

On September 29, 1789, the United States War Department established the new nation's first army. It had a total authorized strength of several hundred men.

On September 29, 1829, London reorganized its police under the name of Scotland Yard.

On September 29, 1953, Chicago's Carson Pirie Scott & Company became the first department store to sell insurance.

On September 29, 1955, a one-act version of the Arthur Miller play "A View From the Bridge," opened in New York. Miller later turned it into a two-act play.

On September 29, 1988, the space shuttle Discovery blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, marking America's return to manned space flight following the Challenger disaster.

On September 29, 1989, actress Zsa Zsa Gabor was convicted of battery for slapping a Beverly Hills police officer after he had pulled over her Rolls Royce for expired license plates. Gabor eventually would serve 3 days in jail.

On September 30, 1791, "The Magic Flute," an opera by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, premiered in Vienna.

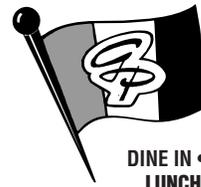
On September 30, 1949, the Berlin Airlift came to an end.

On September 30, 1954, the first atomic-powered vessel, the submarine Nautilus, was commissioned by the Navy.

On September 30, 1955, near Cholame, CA, 24-year old James Dean, star of the movies "Rebel Without a Cause," "East of Eden," and "Giant," was killed when his sports car collided with another car.

On September 30, 1976, California enacted the first euthanasia (right to die) law.

On September 30, 1999, the San Francisco Giants played the Los Angeles Dodgers in the final baseball game at Candlestick Park; the Dodgers won 9-4.



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

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

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Pottawattomie Country Club is now hiring experienced bartenders and servers. Please apply at 1900 Springland Ave., Michigan City, or online @ www.pottawattomie.com

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Email sona@powerdrive.com or call 872-3000.

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.

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 refig

washer/dryer, and other 1st class accessories. Cond.

EXCELLENT. \$65K. Call Tony @ (708) 927-9297.

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.

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

Miscellaneous items: Everything must go. Most items relatively new, including 8-month-old stacked washer/dryer, 6-month-old refrigerator and 1-year-old stove. Also lawn mower and snow blower. Call (612) 212-8085.

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.

WANT TO RENT/LEASE/SHARE

House share in spacious beautiful chalet in Michiana Shores, 0.2 miles from Lake Michigan beach (excludes finished basement). Private bedroom and bathroom, private access from bedroom to outdoor deck. Washer & dryer on premises shared access to 2-car garage. Free WiFi. \$650/month + utilities. One-month advance rent. No pets, non-smoker only, good credit & references required. Call/text Deborah @ (914) 805-0187.

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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 \$775/mo., 2BR \$975/mo. Sec. dep. Call Pete at (219) 871-9187.

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

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.

2817 Roslyn Trail, Long Beach, single family home for rent. 4BR/2.5BA, 2 blocks from Lake Michigan, front and back decks, central air, gas heat, hardwood floors, finished basement. Pictures on Zillow.com. Available Oct. 1. Call Ed at (708) 932-6669

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.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Blind Contessa's New Machine
by Carey Wallace (paperback; retail \$14,
available at bookstores and online, also
available as an eBook)

While it's true necessity usually is the mother of invention...this tale might just persuade you that it can also be love.

"On the day Contessa Carolina Fantoni was married, only one other living person knew that she was going blind, and he was not her groom."

We're in early 19th-century Italy for this novel that is small in size, but large in heart. It is poetry and prose all neatly wrapped up in a story that is as lyrical as any fairy tale.

Carolina's father had dammed a length of the river that flowed through their property for his wife, but she never liked the lake it formed, so he fixed it up for his daughter instead. Carolina loved the area, and eventually her father built a one-room cottage by the lake so Carolina could take refuge from the weather.

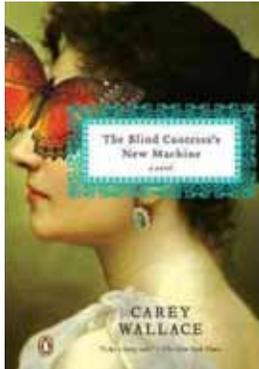
As she grew older, Carolina had a visitor to her little sanctuary--her neighbor, Turri. He was some 10 years older than her and a bit of an eccentric, full of fanciful flights of imagination and an inventor of all sorts of strange and wonderful things.

Carolina loved talking to him and observing his scientific discoveries. They were as brother and sister, but without the bickering. As the years went by, as they must, Carolina turned into a young woman of some beauty. The young men started noticing her at social events. Even Turri began to look at her differently.

Alas, it was Turri's fate to become engaged, but not so easily and not really to one of his choice...

"Turri, when the time to marry came, had been widely considered an unsuitable husband by the girls his age. For years, he had tormented them with his questions, pranks and inventions."

So, Turri's parents found him Sophia Conti: *"Completely unsuited for each other, Turri and Sophia were also each other's only hope for a suitable match within their small circle."* So, they marry and eventually have a son, but this doesn't keep Turri from Carolina.



Finding it harder and harder to hide their feelings for each other at county parties and dances, Turri and Carolina continue to meet at the small lake cottage, the two social misfits reveling in each other's discoveries and imagination as Carolina's sight slowly deteriorates to total blindness. But she discovers a whole new world in her dreams in which she can see and take flight to new heights of her imagination. Only with Turri does she share this world, and he becomes determined to find a way to help Carolina in her sightless daytime hours. Since correspondence between women of means is so important at this time, how about a machine that would allow her to continue that correspondence?

The Blind Contessa's New Machine is based on the true story of a 19th century inventor who made an interesting wooden machine to help a young woman through the dark days of her blindness. Wallace's imagination as a writer has conceived the most picturesque story from this one incident and made it come alive for the reader, but in a dreamy, surreal way. Was I reading fact, fiction or fantasy? It all blends so well together that it really doesn't matter. At 224 pages, this book is relatively short by today's standards, but the story is imaginative and inspirational.

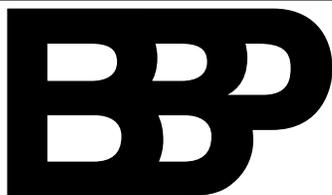
Publisher's Weekly wrote this is "a work of surprising insight, humor and heart."

Author Karen Harper said, "Reading The Blind Contessa's New Machine is like opening a treasure box from which spills a beautifully embellished fairy tale."

Great description!

Wallace lives in Brooklyn, but was raised in a small town in Michigan and has worked a variety of jobs that include waitress, art studio manager, private biographer and lady's maid to an automotive heiress. She even founded a retreat called The Hillbilly Underground that draws international artists to rural Michigan. Her varied career shows that all of us has a deep well of talent that lies within us--we just have to tap into that talent and see which way it takes us.

Till next time, happy reading!



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218 Loran Road • Lake Hills

\$195,000

4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Completely remodeled home with an open concept. New items include electrical, plumbing, insulation, windows, flooring, drywall, appliances, furnace & a/c, new water lines from the main & sewer lines to the main. Oversized two car garage. Move in ready on two lots.



NEW LISTING



2216 Island Drive • The Shores

\$159,000

2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Open living room/dining room with fireplace & sliders leading to a patio. Updates include new furnace & air conditioner, new stove, refrigerator, microwave, disposal, new garage door & storm door. This one level condo with water views is ready to go, just move right in & enjoy.

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4701 Westgate Way

This unassuming home is truly the definition of you have to see it to believe it. From the moment you enter, you are greeted by the warm glow of the hardwood floors. The sitting area gives you a lovely place for quiet contemplation, a little reading, or a conversation. The large, light and bright living room gives more gathering space. The basement is just waiting for you to put your spin on the space. Would you choose a game area, workshop, craft room? It's your call. Three bedrooms and two baths offer space for all.

\$319,500



1528 Lake Shore Drive

Solidly built 2 story brick home sits right on the water. Relax in the back yard and enjoy the 180 degree views and sound of the waves. Water views from every room, sit on the deck or closer to the water in your own gazebo that is wired for electric, phone and TV. Parking in the front is wide enough for 6 vehicles, and it has a two-car garage. Mature landscaping provides a barrier from the street.

\$1,250,000



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