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The World Below

by Andrew Tallackson



The spectacular entrance to Mammoth Cave during the "Discovery Tour."

Deep in the vast, cavernous reaches of Mammoth Cave, ranger Ethan Mefford invited throngs of visitors to take pause so he could recount a harrowing true story.

It was the early 1800s, Mefford began, dimming lights that had bathed the surroundings in a soft, orange glow. Carrying a lantern, his face was barely visible above the slight, but steady flame.

He continued his tale.

Stephen Bishop, one of the first and most revered slave guides at Mammoth Cave, a man who uncovered miles of undiscovered passageways, was leading a small tour when the nephew of a man of some prominence abandoned the group in search of a hat

he'd misplaced. He found it some feet away, but when he returned to where the group had stopped, they were gone.

No trace of their presence remained.

No light.

No sound.

Nothing.

And with that, Mefford smothered the flame, engulfing his tour in darkness. The very *definition* of darkness. A complete and utter absence of light. An unearthly darkness that gnawed away at any hope that light might return.

Mefford continued. The young man in his tale,

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Sunday, November 5th

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frozen with fear, sang to himself, banging rocks together to feebly stitch back together the tattered remains of his crumbling sanity.

It was Bishop who would return, coming to his rescue some 39 hours later. For 39 hours, the man lived in darkness, his life dangling in the balance.

The flame that had illuminated Mefford's lantern returned, the ranger heading back to the utility box, where the flick of a switch snapped the orange-hued lights back to life.

A collective sigh of relief rippled through the group. My son, clutching my arm, eased his grip.

Mefford's "performance," bold and theatrical, effectively captured the tantalizing hold caves possess over all who enter them. These fathomless and forboding spaces beneath the comforts of everyday life are *of* the earth, but do not feel as if they are of *this* earth. Passing through the entrance is like departing one world for the next, the mind boggled by spaces that couldn't possibly be crafted by man. Nature is the key culprit, guided as if by unseen forces to sculpt chambers and labyrinths that reduce visitors to a hushed sense of awe.



Alice, Will and my mother, Judi, eagerly await the start of the "Frozen Niagara" tour.



My father, Steve, with Will seated next to him, reviews maps available at the visitor's center before the "Frozen Niagara" tour commences.

Mammoth Cave, situated within the hilly expanses of south central Kentucky, is touted as the world's longest cave system. As of October, 412 miles have been discovered. How many miles exist? Conservative estimates place that figure at 1,000 to 1,200 miles...but the possibilities are infinite.

They say third time's the charm, and that old adage proved true when planning a Mammoth Cave trip. My family likes to embark on brief getaways that offer a respite from school and work. The cave ranked high on our bucket list. But two years ago, a sinus attack derailed my son's health, putting all preparations on hold. Last October saw the Cubs just notches away from the World Series, riveting us to our televisions.

Come hell or high water, 2017 would be the year we made it to Mammoth Cave...and make it, we did. My companions consisted of my wife, Alice, 11-year-old son, Will, and my parents, Steve and Judi. We booked rooms in Cave City, a cluster of hotels, fast food chains, mom-and-pop restaurants and novelty shops. The latter offered zero appeal. I've seen enough backwoods horror movies to know that behind every rock store and bait shop is a creepy banjo prodigy itching to make you his next Ned Beatty.

Instead, we confined our exploration to Mammoth Cave National Park. Rangers there will tell you October typically is a slow period, but with this fall's unseasonably warm temperatures — the highs

during the weekend we visited hovered in the upper 70s — nearly all the scheduled tours were sold out. Thankfully, we nabbed the few remaining tickets for the three most popular tours.

Each program adhered to a similar format. Park rangers introduced themselves, then offered brief explanations, and in some cases warnings, of what to expect. Each tour concluded by walking across bio-security mats — plush surfaces covered in soapy water — to reduce the spread of White-Nose Syndrome, a fungal disease that doesn't affect humans, but has wiped out 80 to 90 percent of the bat population at Mammoth Cave.



The spectacular dripstone formations in Mammoth Cave.

First up was the “Frozen Niagara” tour, a 75-minute excursion named as such because the spectacular dripstone formations resemble the famous churning waters near the Canadian border.

The group we joined came from all walks of life: families, college-aged men and women with telephoto lenses the size of cannons, even a Mennonite tour group.

“You’re going to see some really cool formations,” ranger Colleen Olson bellowed, murmurs of excitement fluttering through the group. Olson then issues a few stipulations. No flash photography. Don’t touch the walls. The human touch can stain them. Bats may be visible. Don’t touch them.

“Like anyone would,” I whispered to Alice, her eyes wide as saucers, the idea of seeing bats nowhere near her cup of tea.

The cave entrance was man made, debuting in 1924. A revolving door was added sometime later. The facade reminded me of the utility shed Laura Dern entered in “Jurassic Park,” the one where raptors tried to make dinosaur chow out of her.

We maneuvered through the revolving door and

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A stretch of the “Frozen Niagara” tour that reminded one youth of a desert landscape from “Star Wars.”

into a world of cooler temperatures, where the deeper we trekked, the tighter the passages became, the railings dense with moisture. A steady drip could be heard, like water trickling from a faucet.

Within 15 minutes, we had arrived at our destination: an area home to immense dripstones. Thick, bulbous and coated in rust-colored hues, they resembled waterfalls frozen in time, in the precise moment they careened over a cliff, yet never reached their bottomless destinations. A sea of cell phones were whipped out of pockets, many with flashes still on, prompting ranger Dana Zambrotta to repeatedly shout, “Flashes. Off. NOW!”

The group was permitted a good 10 minutes or so to admire these creations before embarking on the final leg of the tour. Passing one section illuminated by a series of lights, the cave resembled a sandy desert, albeit one long ignored by time.

“Mom,” a boy of 8 or 9 with sandy brown hair and wearing light blue jacket said, pointing. “This looks like ‘Star Wars.’”

The mother smiled. “It sure does. Like something on *Tattooine*.”

My ears perked up. Without thinking, I blurted out, “Any woman who can name the planets in ‘Star Wars’ —

that’s a keeper.”

The dad smiled, chuckling. “Well, she can’t help it. We’ve seen the movies eight million times.”

Minutes later, we emerged back in daylight. Warmer temperatures. Nary a cloud in the ocean-blue sky.

Eager for the next adventure.



The jawdropping “Rotunda” in Mammoth Cave.

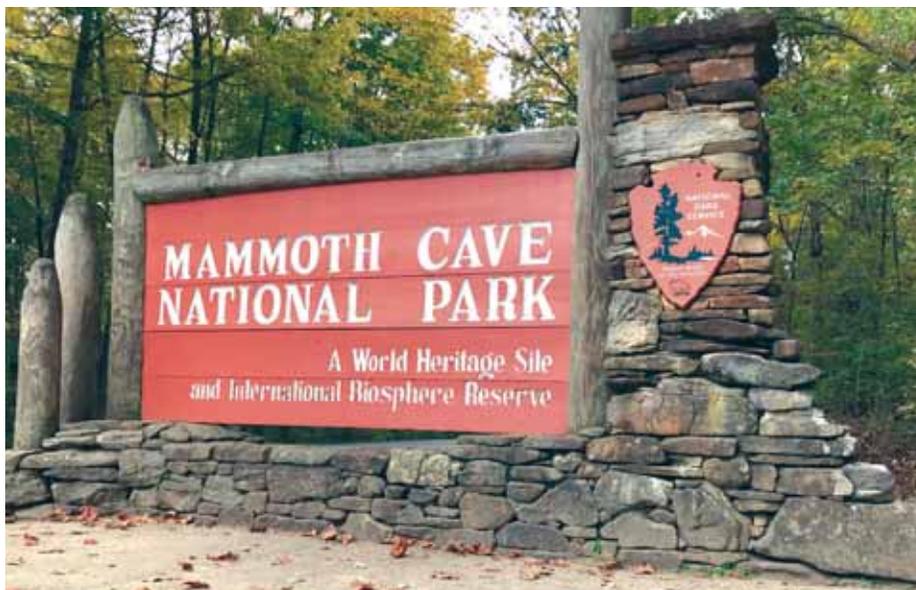
Four hours later, the next tour guide prepped a crowd of 50 to 60 people for the “Discovery Tour,” the highlight of which would be what’s called the Mammoth Cave Rotunda.

It takes a mighty personality to nearly upstage an ecological wonder like the Rotunda, but ranger Shannon Hurley came awfully close. A jovial, exceedingly good-natured fellow with a dry sense of a humor and thick Kentucky accent, he could disarm you with a sly quip when least expected. Case in point midway through the tour:

Visitor: “What that’s right over there?”

Hurley: “Right there? That’s a big hole.”

The entrance to the cave introduced itself in remarkable fashion, a frosty rush of air slicing through



The entrance to Mammoth Cave National Park.

the mid-afternoon warmth and prompting everyone to don jackets. The mouth of the cave, indeed, resembled just that: an ominous, oval-shaped mouth that might gobble up all who passed through its wide berth. Descending a flight of stairs, a steady stream of water cascading down into a pool at the base of the entrance, we

made our way along a relatively short path...and into the rotunda itself.

The word "breathtaking" gets bandied about regularly, but no other word encapsulates the majesty of the aptly named "room." Its boundless reach. The dome-like ceiling that all but warrants a Michelangelo masterpiece to complete the desired effect.

We would revisit the rotunda the following morning during the cave's popular, two-hour "Historic Tour." Many individuals on this excursion had not experienced it before.

"Is this kind of like what you'd expect a cave called Mammoth to look like?" Mefford, the ranger, asked. The collective response was peppered with gasps, laughter and heads nodding in agreement.

Later, Mefford guided us past a rock formation appropriately named "Giant's Coffin." Indeed, it resembled an oblong crate with a level top that just could, perhaps, house the remains of long-dead leviathan.



The remains of an old saltpeter mining operation.

As Mefford highlighted the remains of work completed amid saltpeter mining operations, my thoughts wandered to the individuals who performed such tasks in those early days of the 19th

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century. What were the men like? Did they have families, wives and children who feared for their safety? Did they, themselves, foster any concerns they might be trapped amid rock slides or cave-ins? So many stories to consider of lives carried out in this exact space.

Profound words. We live in a digital age. Cell phones connect us with virtually everything we need. Everything, that is, but the natural world around us, and the people connected to it.

As we traveled along a wooded path, a warm breeze forcing back the chill that escaped from the cave entrance, I was reminded of how fortunate we are to have Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in



The rock formation referred to as "Giant's Coffin."

Fifteen or 20 minutes later, we arrived at a passage of the cave with the unfavorable nickname of "Fat Man's Misery." Be prepared, Mefford warned, of an exceedingly tight passage that would require us to stoop, bend and possibly crawl.

The entrance to "Fat Man Misery's" was signified by a wooden plank worn and weathered by time. As we carefully eased ourselves into it, the walls closed in. Jagged rock formations reached out like tentacles. The route bent like a river, twisting and turning with every possible step.

Everyone carefully maneuvered through "Fat Man's Misery." For one brief second, claustrophobia set in before it was washed away by an exuberant return to a childhood state of euphoria, of encountering the unknown with untapped curiosity.

Minutes later, we had made safe passage through "Fat Man's Misery." The tour included one more spectacular site — a bottomless pit of staggering proportions — before a trek up a flight of steps that would reconnect us with the rotunda, then the journey back to the cave's entrance.

Before we ascended the stairs, Mefford thanked everyone for joining him.

"Don't let this be the last national park you visit," he advised. "Keep satisfying that need to explore that has been with us for thousands of years."

our own backyard, ecological wonders crying out to be discovered and, in many cases, rediscovered.

My family plunked down into the seats of our car. Tired, but in a good way. Satisfied by another memorable experience.

Ready for the journey home.



One of our final images of the trip: water cascading down an entrance into Mammoth Cave.

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Dune Struck Gala Celebrates Save the Dunes Anniversary

by M.D. Cunningham

In 1952, Dorothy Buell, a retired drama and speech teacher, invited more than 20 neighbors to her home for a discussion on saving the dunes.

Known equally for her polished appearance, white pearls, purse and gloves, and her penchant for Shakespeare, Buell is recognized today as the founder of Indiana's oldest environmental-advocacy group, Save the Dunes.



Dorothy Buell (far left) appears amid signs and politicians in the fight to save the dunes.

Buell embraced, and excelled at, grassroots organizing. Moving from her kitchen table, to the doors of neighbors, to halls of legislators, all with characteristic eloquence, she influenced people to embrace the beauty of the Indiana Dunes.

"There's an element of surprise when you meet a woman like that," Save the Dunes Board Member Nancy Moldenhauer said. "I can see her disarming a lot of people...Everything I do is because of what she did."

When many clamored for "jobs not sand," Buell and her partners felt a responsibility to voice the importance of protecting the area's natural legacy.

"I think she saw potential that with a national park and saving this place, you were creating a place where people wanted to live," Save the Dunes

Executive Director Natalie Johnson said.

"Save the Dunes is still continuing to bring people together to identify the threats that are really going to impact the dunes. But there's also the compromise and understanding that we know you don't choose between industry and the environment. There's a way that things can be developed in a smart way... we can live in harmony with the dunes."

Save the Dunes' forward-thinking approaches include studying climate change, emphasizing efforts to manage invasive species and collaborative partnerships.

Save the Dunes thrives because of its members, Johnson said.

"We are still here because there are people in the community who recognize that cause and want to support it," she said.

"We're celebrating 65 years of saving the dunes, something that probably will never end. We're determined to get everyone to embrace this magical place, to recognize this treasure in their own backyard and to find ways that we can protect it continuously."

If You Go

Save the Dunes' 65th anniversary gala, "Dune Struck," is from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, at The Uptown Center, 907 Franklin St.

Admission is \$50 per person. The event includes:

- Performances by The Patti Shaffner Jazz Trio, Victory Dog Productions and South Shore Dance Alliance.
- Guest speakers, including Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Superintendent Paul Labovitz.
- Silent auction.
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Turn Up the Lights to Benefit La Porte's Fox Park

by Andrew Tallackson

Every summer, families plant themselves along the hill that descends to the amphitheater at La Porte's Fox Park, eager to be entertained by the latest slate of Arts in the Park talent.

It is a jewel in La Porte's summer crown.

Delighted by the experience one evening was new La Porte resident Jenny Riddle. The founder of People & Songs ministry, which is located in the former Ruth Sabin home, Riddle is a cherished presence in the contemporary Christian music scene, her "Revelation Song" a standard for Sunday worship.

Riddle conveyed her experience with Arts in the Park to her family later that evening.

"My mom came home afterward and said, 'I want to do a big event that spurs all of us to empower each other and spread the gospel,' her son, Daniel, said.



Brothers Daniel (left) and Andrew Riddle have played an important role in organizing Turn Up the Lights.



Selah

It was the creative spark that led to Turn Up the Lights, a musical benefit for the Fox Park amphitheater on Saturday, Nov. 11, at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Acclaimed Christian trio Selah is the headliner.

The live recording festival, co-hosted by Arts in the Park and People & Songs, includes an artisan market and food court inside and food trucks outside. All proceeds benefit Fox Park to add permanent bathrooms, dressing rooms, concessions and expanded parking. People & Songs will donate 1,000 units of the CD recorded at the festival that, when sold, will raise \$10,000 for the project.

Arts in the Park is held Wednesday and Thursday nights each summer. Wednesday concerts feature the La Porte City Band. Thursday shows highlight area talent.

For the Nov. 11 concert, music starts at 1 p.m. With Nov. 11 being Veterans Day, a veterans salute with color guard flag ceremony is planned. The 2017 Hoosier Star adult winner Julia Campoli will sing The National Anthem.

The ever-popular Tom Milo Big Band will perform swing-era music, joined at one point for a duet by Gospel Music Association award-winning debut artists David Gentiles and May Angeles.

People & Songs musicians, indeed, will flesh out the afternoon, including area native Corey Voss, a widely known contemporary worship artist/writer with ties to Michigan City's First United Methodist Church.

Selah, whose radio single "I Got Saved" was co-written by Jenny Riddle, takes the stage at 8 p.m.

Over the years, the group has won eight Gospel Music Association Dove Awards, earned a gold-certified album and eight No. 1 singles.

Riddle's sons, Daniel and Andrew, have played a key role in planning the event. The groundswell of community support, they said, is overwhelming.

"My mother had a vision for this, that we are really going after this," Andrew said. "(As her sons), we just try to help make it happen."

If You Go

General admission tickets are \$35 for balcony seating, or \$30 each for groups of 10 or more. VIP seating at a table on the floor is \$85 per person for the full-day event. A discounted price of \$70 per person is available by purchasing a full table of 10 seats. VIP sponsor tables with a variety of perks, including the opportunity to meet the artists, start at \$1,000. The artists also will sit on the main floor and mingle with guests.

Volunteers are needed. Anyone interested can email artsintheparklaporte@yahoo.com. More information about festival can be found at www.turnupthelights.org. Tickets also are available through Eventbrite, as well as at many churches, La Porte's Roxy Music and the Civic.



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Community Support Flourishes for Remembering Our Veterans Events

by Andrew Tallackson

With each passing year, events orchestrated by Remembering Our Veterans Inc. have a more profound impact on the community.

Take, for instance, its affiliation with Wreaths Across America, which helps place wreaths at the grave sites of military veterans. During its first year, the group placed 75 wreaths, with assistance from 20 to 25 volunteers. The following year, 100 volunteers helped place 300 wreaths.

This year's goal is even more substantial: 500 wreaths honoring the lives of men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

First up, though, is the La Porte County Veterans Breakfast and Parade, which this year honors World War I veterans, on Saturday, Nov. 4.

"Please bring your kids to the parade," said Keith Harris, who founded Remembering Our Veterans with his wife, Donna. "This teaches them to honor and respect our veterans."

The breakfast is from 8 to 11 a.m. at Disabled American Veterans Chapter 23, 2301 Ohio St. All veterans and children 10 and younger eat for free. For everyone else, the cost is a \$5 contribution. A



local Brownie troop will assist with the breakfast, Keith said.

More volunteers are needed to help with the breakfast and Wreaths Across America, he continued, saying those interested can call (219) 229-2389.

The parade, which starts at noon, kicks off at 10th and Franklin streets, then heads north to Fourth Street. Michigan City High School's JROTC again will be one of the participants.

As for the nationwide Wreaths Across America, it was conceived by Morrill Worcester, the owner of Worcester Wreath Co. in Maine which, back in 1992, had excess wreaths at the holiday season. Worcester, aided by Maine Sen. Olympia Snowe,

placed the wreaths in an older section at Arlington Cemetery. By 2005, a photo of wreaths at Arlington went viral, drawing national attention and resulting in the group's incorporation as a non-profit entity in 2007.

For every two wreaths purchased, Wreaths Across America sends a third one for free. One wreath costs \$15. People can place their orders at www.wreath-sacrossamerica.org; however, those who schedule orders through Harris can have the wreaths placed on specific graves.

The goal is to place wreaths on all veterans graves at Greenwood Cemetery, including World War I, World II and Veterans of All Wars circles, as well as veterans graves at Swan Lake Memorial Gardens.

The effort culminates in a wreath presentation ceremony at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Greenwood Cemetery World War II Circle.

Increased community support each year, Keith said, has been incredibly reassuring.

"This reflects the honor and respect being shown to our veterans," Keith said.

(Keith Harris can be contacted at (219) 229-2389 or kharris@rememberingourveteransinc.com, or download information from www.rememberingourveteransinc.com)



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ANY PRICE RANGE SELLING BETTER?

REALTORS® frequently discuss whether certain price ranges are selling better than other price ranges. In this case, we are comparing the first nine months of 2016 with the first nine months of 2017 overall, then dividing up in price ranges of 0 to \$500K, \$501K to \$1 million, and more than \$1 Million. There are differences.

Overall, the market increased from 111 sales in 2016 to 113 in 2017. Average sale price increased from \$396K to \$430K. Median was up from \$350k to \$379K. Total \$Volume went from \$44.0M to \$49.5M. The number of sales was about the same year over year. But everything else looks stronger in 2017 than in 2016.

The \$0 to \$500K sales are not as positive as the overall marketplace. They were down from 87 sales in 2016 to 80 sales in 2017. The average price went up from \$289K to \$298K, but the median is down from \$316K to \$305K. \$Volume went up from \$23.8M to \$25.2M. There probably were a few higher end (closer to \$500K) sales in 2017 than in 2016. Overall, this segment was weaker than market.

The \$501,000 through \$1 million sales show an increase from 20 sales in 2016 to 27 sales in 2017. Average sale price saw no change at \$671,000 and \$670,000. The median was up slightly from \$640K in 2016 to \$650K in 17. Total \$Volume was up, from \$13.5 million in 2016 to \$18.1M in 2017. A good market for a number of sales \$Volume, but flat in terms of price increases.

Finally, the \$1M+ is so small, it is hard to compare anything but the number of sales and total \$Volume: 4 sales in 2016 and 6 in 2017. The total \$Volume of \$5.0M in 2016 increased to \$7.5M in 2017. These are good numbers. It is interesting to note the highest price in 2016 was \$1,650K, but only \$1.225K in 2017. A mixed bag, but the high-end market overall was slightly better in 2017 than in 2016.

Final Conclusions: Market overall is healthy and up modestly for the first nine months year over year. The lower priced (under \$500K) market was comparatively weak. The middle market (\$501K to \$1,000K) was up significantly in number of sales, but much less improved in prices. The top end of the market was slightly better year over year.

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First Friday @ First UMC

First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St., will showcase fine art photography by husband-and-wife team Brett and Kristin Woodruff-Maniscalco during the First Friday Art Walk, which is from 5 to 8 p.m. Nov. 3.

Brett not only is a photographer, but also a watercolorist and graphic artist originally from St. Joseph, Mich., and now living in New Buffalo. His work is on permanent exhibit at Shady Creek Winery. He has exhibited and won many awards at places such as Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Midwest Museum of American Art, Southern Shore Art Association



Brett Maniscalco's "Summer Sisters."

and Box Factory for the Arts.

A Michigan City native, Kristin graduated from Indiana University with a bachelor's degree in music. She had a three-year stint in California's north coast, where she captured the gorgeous views through photography. She has exhibited and won awards at places such as Southern Shore Art Association, Midwest Museum of American Art and Box Factory for the Arts.

Also at First Friday, Krueger Middle School's Advanced Girls Chorus performs at 6 and 6:45 p.m.



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Scarecrow Surprise!



Tryon Farm residents made 10 scarecrows they secretly placed throughout the community. This one was discovered on the fishing pier. Thanks to Eve Noonan for submitting this photo.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

- **Gales of November Shipwreck Program from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Learn about the Great Lakes' treacherous side during the program on storms and shipwrecks of the past.

- **Playdate in the Nature Play Zone from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create nature art and feed the resident fish, turtles, snakes, toads and frogs. Dress for the weather.

- **National Lakeshore Anniversary Celebration from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Celebrate the 51st anniversary with presentations, speakers and cake.

- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.

- **Parents and toddlers can participate in the Nature Tots program from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Nov. 8, at the Paul H. Douglas Center.**

Children 2-4 will learn about nature through a ranger-led story time, crafts and outdoor activities.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following program is offered:

- **Saw-whet Owl Banding Demonstrations at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 2-4, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5.**

Indiana Audubon Society leads the programs where visitors learn about Indiana's smallest owl. The program is weather dependent. Visitors should call ahead to confirm banding will take place.

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



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Women in Leadership



Plesac

Master Certified Life Coach Leslie Plesac will discuss “Change: Resist or Grow, the Choice is Yours” during the annual Women in Leadership of La Porte County meeting.

The program is at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14, at Pottawattomie Country Club, 1900 Springland Ave.

Plesac will guide attendees through exploring personal and professional response to change.

She has been with Purdue University Northwest (formerly Purdue University-North Central) for more than 12 years. In January 2016, she was named Sinai Forum’s executive director.

The owner of Leslie Plesac Life Coaching, she has extensive communication experience and received a Master’s Degree in communications from Marquette University, Milwaukee, and an undergraduate degree in interdisciplinary studies from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

She is involved with several community organizations, including The Boys & Girls Clubs of Porter County, Valparaiso Rotary Club and the Valparaiso Tri Kappa chapter. She has worked closely with Porter County Community Foundation for many years and is a board member emeritus. She is involved with the Foundation’s Women’s Fund and chaired the Lilly Scholarship program for eight years.

November’s meeting is sponsored by Edward Jones Financial Adviser Sarah Bretzinger Brown. Open to the public, it also includes voting on the 2018 board of directors, the upcoming planning session and future initiatives.

Register at www.women-in-leadership.com/events, or visit the Women in Leadership of La Porte County Facebook page.

Virginia Phillips Documentary

WYIN Channel 56 will air the documentary “Virginia: The Courage to Create” at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, and 9 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 5.

The documentary tells the story of local artist Virginia Phillips, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and how she struggled with the challenges of the disease to create works of art. She was an artist, interior designer and co-owner of Marc T. Nielsen for nearly 40 years.

Producer/Director Rana Segal (“Shifting Sands: On the Path to Sustainability”) said work on the film began in 2011.

“When I first filmed Virginia, it was during her exhibit at the Southern Shore Art Association in Michigan City called ‘Expression in Color.’ The color in her paintings knocked my socks off!” she said.

“It was amazing to see the energy she had, fearlessly zooming around in her wheelchair deciding where all the paintings should hang.”

Phillips was diagnosed with Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis in 1998 and was no longer able to stand and paint. She was forced to find alternative ways to create her art, which she did until her death this past May. Examples of her work are on display at Valparaiso University in the Harre Student Union (second floor) through December. The display is free and open to the public. Visit www.virginiaphillips.com for more details.

Holiday Extravaganza

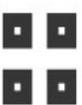
St. Stanislaus Convent Shop, 1501 Franklin St., will host its annual “Holiday Extravaganza,” with a kickoff from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5.

The sale, which continues through Saturday, Dec. 16, features holiday items on four floors. The shop also will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Cookies, cocoa and other holiday festivities are planned from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

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



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“Bang the Drum Slowly”

The non-profit Harbor Arts will present a benefit showing of John Hancock’s Oscar-nominated “Bang the Drum Slowly” at 8 p.m. EDT Saturday, Nov. 4, at Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich.



Robert De Niro stars in “Bang the Drum Slowly.”

The 1973 film, faithfully adapted by Mark Harris from his novel, helped make Robert De Niro a star in this tale of an unlikely friendship between two baseball players. Michael Moriarty plays the team’s ace pitcher and social charmer, while De Niro is the catcher, a Georgia farm boy.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Hancock will discuss the film after the screening, which marks the movie’s 44th anniversary. The event includes a silent auction, a door prize, free champagne and chocolates.

The benefit supports Harbor Arts. Seating is limited. Reservations can be made at www.harborarts.com

Fernwood Holiday Market

Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich., will present its 10th annual holiday market Saturday, Nov. 4.

The preview party is from 6 to 8 p.m. EDT Friday, Nov. 3. Food and drinks will be served as guests browse works by local artisans, specialty food vendors and plant material growers. A silent auction is planned, and shoppers may place orders for wreaths to be picked up at their convenience. Dean Ulrich will provide live holiday music.

Tickets are \$30, or \$50 per couple. Register by Nov. 2 at www.fernwoodbotanical.org or by calling (269) 695-6491.

The market, admission for which is free, is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT Saturday, Nov. 4. Offerings include jewelry, handmade kitchen items, ornaments and stuffed animals, pottery, handcrafted baskets, lavender products and specialty plants, textiles, original art, cards and food items.

Celebrating Nineteen Years Odyssey 2017-2018

New Sculptors

- Eric Fuertes
- Herbert George
- Oakley Gregory
- Terrence Karpowicz
- Richard Kiebdaj
- Andrew Light
- Teresa Lind
- David Noguchi
- S. Thomas Scarff
- Sam Spiczka
- Eric Stephenson
- William Vannerson

New Artists

- Dr. William & Mrs. Susan Kleinman Collection
- Tom Brand
- Frank Dudley
- Winifred Godfrey
- John Himmelfarb
- Lialia Kuchma
- Sandra Perlow
- Christine Perri
- Corey Postiglione
- Jim Przydia
- Kay Smith
- Robert Stanley
- Carole Stodder
- Bobby Talamine
- Mel Theobald
- Lee Tracy
- Andrei Troshkov
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- John Pitman Weber

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Water by Teresa Lind



Crossing Borders by Jim Przydia



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www.pnw.edu/arts-culture/odyssey



BOO AT THE ZOO

Washington Park Zoo's annual Halloween trick-or-treat event, Boo at the Zoo, did not disappoint as thousands of families turned out for candy available at stations throughout the local attraction.

All photos by Paul Kemiell



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Major Grants Benefit MCAS



Michigan City Area Schools staff recently celebrated two major grants that will bolster social services and counseling for students. The grants include a four-year \$555,800 Comprehensive Counseling Initiative implementation grant from Lily Endowment, and a one-year \$200,000 School Social Services grant from the Indiana Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Pictured are a few of the grants' community supporters: (from left) Sherri Silcox of Safe Harbor; Joseph Bunch, N.O.V.A. coordinator; Micki Webb, MCAS data and grant specialist; and Joan Ganschow, La Porte County Drug Free Partnership and the Michigan City Commission on the Social Status of African-American Males.



(Left to right front row) Amanda Perez, Tristan Allee, Kendall Shinn
(Left to right back row) Taylor Gatzka, Esther Qualkenbush.

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Chesterton Art Center

The following programs are available at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.:

• **Local painter Mark VanderVinne will host Critique Night at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1.**

Guests are welcome, with no registration required. All levels and styles can attend. While VanderVinne is a painter, he can advise artists in other mediums. Guests may sit and listen; however, participation is encouraged. Artists can take work at any stage, from conception to the final version. VanderVinne and others will provide advice and insight into the effectiveness of the work or artistic concept.

• **Mary Acton will host two dates for Holiday Pysanky Egg Classes.**

Students will learn the art of *Pysanky* egg dyeing using wax to control the various dyes. Participants may choose from a variety of patterns or design their own. By the end of the class, each person will have completed an egg or two.

Class sizes are limited to 10 to provide individual attention. Held for adults and children 10 and older, they meet from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 4. Each class cost \$50, with members receiving a \$5 discount.

• **Leslie Cefali will teach a four-week Quilt-ing Gone Wrong class starting from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2.**

Big stitches and knots will be encouraged to create fiber pieces full of texture and color. No previous sewing experience is required. A materials list will be provided.

The cost is \$75, with members receiving a \$20 discount. Class will not meet Thursday, Nov. 23 (Thanksgiving Day). Instead, the last session is Thursday, Nov. 30.

• **Jayde McAloon will teach two jewelry classes Saturday, Nov. 4.**

The first is Beginning Wire Wrapping Jewelry from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Participants finish class with a wire-wrapped pendant using beach glass or a crystal. Supplies are included, but students can take their own.

The second class is Wire Earring from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Supplies are included, with nickel-free ear wires provided for each pair.

The cost of each class is \$40, with members receiving a \$10 discount. Students interested in taking both classes receive a \$5 discount.

McAloon owns Pieces of Jayde Fine Art Wire Jewelry, Chesterton.



Call (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com for details.

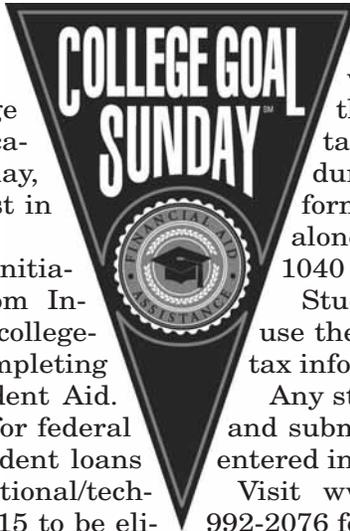
The Beacher — Your Local Connection!

College Goal Sunday

Applying for college financial aid is not complex and can be extremely beneficial.

That's the message behind College Goal Sunday, a free, financial-aid application-assistance program at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at Purdue University Northwest in Room 265 of the Technology Building.

College Goal Sunday is a statewide initiative where financial professionals from Indiana colleges and universities assist college-bound students and their families in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The form is required to be considered for federal and state grants, scholarships and student loans at most colleges, universities and vocational/technical schools. It must be filed by April 15 to be eli-



gible.

Students 23 or younger should attend with a parent(s) or guardian(s) and take their family's completed 2016 IRS 1040 tax return or a draft. Students who worked during 2016 should take their income information. Students 24 or older may attend alone and take their completed 2016 IRS 1040 tax return/draft.

Students and parents also are encouraged to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to obtain 2016 tax information.

Any student who attends College Goal Sunday and submits a completed evaluation form will be entered in a drawing for a scholarship.

Visit www.collegegoalsunday.org or call (800) 992-2076 for details.

PNW Odyssey Exhibit Debut

Purdue University Northwest will celebrate the opening of its 19th Odyssey Sculpture and Art Exhibit with a public reception and debut at 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, in the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex.

Informal viewing of the work, hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will precede the traditional formal remarks and visual program by Judy Jacobi, assistant vice chancellor for University Art Collections. Remarks begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Great Room, with a special welcome by Chancellor Thomas Keon. Those who come early can take self-guided tours of the sculptures, some of which are clearly visible from the DSAC.

The DSAC, itself, features more than 30 works of sculpture, painting, photographs and a tapestry.

Information on group tours is available by contacting Jacobi at (219) 785-5593 or Coordinator of University Art Collections Liz Bernel at (219) 785-5719. *The Beacher's* art critic, Robert Stanley, will attend the public reception, providing full coverage in an upcoming edition.

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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Knit Wits and Pearls of Wisdom at 9 a.m. Thursdays, Nov. 2, 9, 16 and 30, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

The weekly meeting is open to the skilled and novices, with no registration required.

• **Community Conversations at 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Annetta Jones of Purdue Extension Porter County leads the educational class on healthy nutrition and lifestyle choices that reduce cancer risks.

• **Teen Library Council from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Teens in grades 6-12 can recommend library programs, books and other programs for Teen Services. Community service hours are available.

• **Chesterton Writing Group at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

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

• **Make N Take Kids Craft Time on Saturday, Nov. 4, at Thomas Library.**

Children can stop by the Children's Department anytime during the day (while supplies last) to make turkey napkin rings for Thanksgiving dinner celebrations.

• **"Miss Electricity" at 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**



Premier Theatre members include Jimmy O'Connor (from left), Theresa Connors, Caitlin Kovalan, Dylan Leavitt, Lauren Bolla and Paige Moore.

Premier Theatre, a division of the local Premier Performance, will present the 40-minute show. Participating actors range in age from 12-14 and are predominantly from Duneland-area schools. Students are trained by professional musical theater performers and taught proper stage techniques.

• **Breakfast Club Nerf Battle for Teens from 10 a.m. to noon Sunday, Nov. 5, at Thomas Library.**

Teens in grades 6-12 are invited. Breakfast snacks will be provided. Registration is required, and a parent permission slip must be filled out. The library provides all materials. Contact Julia or Marta at (219) 926-7696 for details or to register.

• **Knitting Together from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Area knitters, and those who crochet or do needlework, are invited.

• **Popular Books at 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6, at the Thomas Branch Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus is Michael Sheldon's "Young Titan: The Making of Winston Churchill."

• **Adult Coloring Program from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, at Hageman Library.**

This month will feature large ornament signs to color. Ornaments and coloring materials will be provided. Registration can be done in person or by phone at (219) 926-9080.

• **Crochet Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Nov. 28 at Thomas Library.**

Attendees learn beginning crochet from instructor Sadie Steciuch. Children are asked to take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium-weight yarn to each session. Class size is limited, so registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Mad About Mysteries at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Cliff Goins will present "Murder in the North Woods," a discussion of books by William Kent Krueger and Paul Doiron. Light refreshments will be served.

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Salvation Army Red Kettle Kickoff

Pretty soon, people will see red kettles on street corners and outside grocery stores, accompanied by the jingle of ringing bells.

These kettles and bells mark the launch of the annual Christmas campaign for The Salvation Army of Michigan City. The local corps hopes to raise \$100,000 through donations and other gifts.



The campaign officially begins Thursday, Nov. 9, as The Salvation Army again partners with McDonald's Restaurants of La Porte County for the annual kickoff. The event is from 7 to 10 a.m. at McDonald's, 3507 Franklin St., with a ceremony and "Big Check" presentation at 8 a.m.

As always, the kickoff includes a Celebrity Coffee Pour. Already confirmed are: Adam Parkhouse of *The News-Dispatch*; Katie Eaton of Economic Development Corp. Michigan City; Charlie Roberts of Bank of England; Sharon Wright of Horizon Bank; Kesha Pate, city special events and marketing director; Anne Gustin of Lakeshore Coffee; Marty Corley of the Michigan City Police Department; Don Babcock of NIPSCO; Andy Hynek of the La Porte County Sheriff's Office; Councilwoman Pat Boy; *Beacher* Editor Drew Tallackson; and Erika Lubeznik of Purdue University Northwest.

Michigan City police and fire departments will participate, helping collect donations throughout the morning. This year, Fire Chief Randy Novak and his wife, Debbie, will serve as the 2017 Christmas Chair family.

Long Beach Fall Cleanup

Long Beach's fall cleanup, which includes daily rounds of leaf pickup (weather permitting), runs through Dec. 1.

Rake leaves often to the street's edge, but not in the roads, nor near hydrants or covering street storm drains. Do not put rocks, plant clumps or twigs in the piles.

To be guaranteed final leaf pickup service, the last day to have leaves at the street is Monday, Nov. 27. For beach stop cleanup, Nov. 1 is the deadline to clean all items from the town beach stops.

There is always a silver lining to the change of season:

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Artist Returns to Elementary School

Michigan City-based artist Kenny Smith recently visited fifth- and sixth-grade students at Coolspring Elementary School.



Kenny Smith is surrounded by Coolspring Elementary School students and their artwork.

A Michigan City High School graduate and Coolspring alum, Smith spoke about his school experiences, which included serving as captain of the wrestling team. He discussed the evolution of his artwork from middle school to present, showing students examples of his work over time.

Smith, who lives at Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, also guided students through drawing a pencil sketch of an eye.

“The students were impressed with how realistic their drawings came out,” art teacher Rita Cochran said. “He explained that to gain knowledge they had to practice, not fear failure and be humble.”

Coolspring teacher Kylee Caudle, who had Smith as a student at Barker Middle School, coordinated his visit.

Coolspring is celebrating its 80th school year and invites other alumni to visit and share their experiences. Contact the school office at (219) 873-2073.

Big Comedy La Porte

Big Comedy La Porte will present “Down in Front,” a benefit for La Porte Seamless Charity, at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St.

The event will resemble “Mystery Science Theater 3000,” with John Cessna, Ben Konowitz, and Brad Oman making fun of the movie “Super Mario Brothers.” The evening includes a full cash bar, popcorn and candy.

Tickets are \$12. Visit downinfront.brownpaper-tickets.com for reservations.

Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Aeroponic Tower Gardening at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2.**

Margie Williams will help people explore a new vertical gardening technique using a tower garden (aeroponic system), and how to garden inside and outside all year long without weeding or watering worries. The program is aimed at people wishing to use tower gardening in their home for fall/winter produce, then transition to growing produce outside in the warmer months.

• **Classical Guitarist Peter Aglinskas at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5.**

Aglinskas, an Indiana University Northwest faculty member, returns for a solo concert featuring original fingerstyle arrangements from his CDs “Sepia Session” and “South Shore Soul,” as well as his arrangements of 1970s rock classics.

Aglinskas is the recipient of the Chicago Cultural Department’s “Artists International” Award.

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

Native Landscaping Class

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens will host a native landscaping class with botanist Nathanael Pilla at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 10.

Pilla, a field trip coordinator for the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society North Chapter, said the class will be important to people wanting more knowledge about removing the negative pressure to the natural environment in their backyards.

The class, located in the Depot, costs \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers.

Taltree is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso. Call (219) 250-0585 or visit www.taltree.org to register or for more information.

Free Airplane Rides

The Michigan City Aviators, EAA Chapter 966, will host its “Young Eagles” event from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 4, at Michigan City Municipal Airport, 1300 Indiana 212 North.

The program includes a short ground-school orientation on aviation procedures and a 20-minute ride in an aircraft over the area. For youth, a parent or legal guardian must attend to sign a waiver.

Michigan City Aviators has been sponsoring the event several times a year for 25 years, with some of the pilots having more than 500 rides to their credit.

The event is free, but reservations are required by contacting the airport at (219) 872-0121.

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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 details.

Fall into Wellness with Essential Oils

Amelia Lasky will discuss the health and lifestyle benefits of essential oils from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte.

A minimum of five people and a maximum of 25 are required. The cost is \$16 for all three products. Pre-registration and payment are required.

Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Nov. 6, 13 and 27, and Dec. 11 and 18 at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Call (219) 325-8315 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 Luhr 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:

- Nov. 15 — Hooting Good Time.
- Nov. 29 — Bat Basics.
- Dec. 13 — Winter Wonder Land.

Teachers-Groups-Scout Leaders

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

Shelter and Hall Reservations

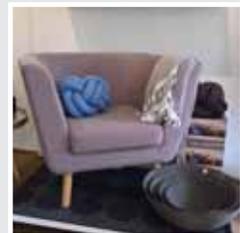
Call (219) 325-8315 to make reservations for one of many picnic shelters at any of the four county parks, or Pat Smith Hall at Red Mill County Park for a family function.

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Hurricane Relief Concert

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra has joined forces with The Livery to present a Puerto Rico Strong Hurricane Relief Concert from 3 to 7 p.m. EDT Sunday, Nov. 5.

The concert, held at The Livery Microbrewery, 190 Fifth St., Benton Harbor, Mich., will include live music, silent-auction items from local microbreweries and community businesses, and a special guest appearance by Danielle Colby, co-host of History's "American Pickers."



Danielle Colby

The entertainment lineup includes Southwest Michigan artists such as Morgan Ingle and Leslie Sypian, The Chuck Jägers and Leah Tirado of the Big Payback. Colby has spearheaded hurricane-relief efforts with the Berrien County Tirado family. She will speak about the devastation from Hurricane Maria and needed relief efforts, and be available for autographs.

Donation jars have been placed throughout Southwest Michigan to allow further relief effort options for community members.

Organizers and participants are donating their time and efforts so all proceeds support relief efforts. Funds will aid *El Hospital Pediatrico del Centro Medico* in Puerto Rico, and the local chapter of the Puerto Rican Boys & Girls Club, which is delivering food, water, water purification and other critical supplies to residents.

Food and beverages will be sold at the concert. Limited tickets are available for \$20 and can be purchased by calling the SMSO at (269) 982-4030 or online at www.smso.org. Tickets are considered tax-deductible.

Ogden Dunes Women's Club

Ogden Dunes Women's Club will host its Arts, Crafts and Food Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at the town's community church, 116 Hillcrest Road.

This is the club's second biggest annual charitable fundraiser. Offerings include: bohemian jewelry; bath soaps, body butters and natural household cleaners; watercolor and oil paintings; hand-sewn purses and clothes; shibori/indigo wall hangings on vintage Belgian and French linen; chocolates; paper crafts; baby gifts; and pottery. Also planned is a demonstration on a Japanese technique for wrapping gifts in cloth rather than disposable paper.

Homemade baked goods, chili, soups and hand-crafted chili cheese dogs will be sold to take home or eat there.

Proceeds benefit local charities and projects. In 2016, the club contributed to more than 20 area organizations, including Dunes Learning Center, Boys & Girls Club of Portage, Opportunity Enterprises, Gabriel's Horn, Breast Cancer Society, Porter County Animal Shelter, Save the Dunes and a number of Ogden Dunes nonprofit organizations.

NB Library Community Forum

"Charles A. Lindbergh: An American First" is the topic of the next Friends of the Library Community Forum at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Nov. 7, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Tim Moore of Lake Michigan College will recall the adulation following Lindbergh's nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic, the kidnapping of his 10-month-old son and his alleged sympathies for Hitler's Germany.

Other free FOL forums include: a discussion on The Reformation on Nov. 27; "The Evolution of Local Ecosystems" on Dec. 4; and the annual afternoon of holiday caroling on Dec. 10.

The series is underwritten in part by The Pokagon Fund. Call New Buffalo Township Library at (269) 469-2933, follow the Facebook link at newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org or email new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com for details.

Eco Art Show

La Porte County Solid Waste District has united with Michigan City's Rising Phoenix Gallery to present "Eco Art Show" on Nov. 3-26.

Exhibit organizers sought local and regional artists of all mediums to submit works made from at least 75 percent recyclable materials, items that normally would go into curbside recycling bins.

Rising Phoenix Gallery is located at 2803 Franklin St. An opening reception is during the First Friday Art Walk, which is from 5 to 8 p.m. Nov. 3.

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Moonlight Serenade Wine Cruise

Enjoy songs that sing of moonlight serenades when David Lahm, Steve Champagne and Mary Rapier present "Moonlight Serenade Wine Cruise" from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday Nov. 11, at Shady Creek Winery, 2030 Tryon Road.

The evening also includes wine and buffet-style dining.

Lahm is a jazz pianist, songwriter and accompanist who divides his time between New York City and his Harbor Country home. He and his late wife, Judy Kreston, has a successful cabaret act in New York. He also has conceived and produced a couple of recordings: "Medlefyng: a Centennial tribute to Richard Rodgers," and two CDs featuring "Jazz Takes on Joni Mitchell."

Rapier has been singing for more than three decades. The Kankakee Area Music Awards named her and Champagne Best Acoustic Duo in 2015. For more than 20 years, she also has been a guest vocalist with Kankakee Municipal Band.

Champagne has dedicated his life to perfecting his knowledge of the Beatles and other favorites. He has been singing and playing guitar since his earliest memory.

Reserved tickets range from \$38 to \$48. No tickets will be sold after noon Wednesday, Nov. 8. Visit tinyurl.com/yd8wweby for reservations.

Educator Awards

The Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce has begun a new initiative to recognize people for outstanding contributions to local education.

The "Educators of the Year" Awards Dinner & Program is at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, at Blue Chip Casino Stardust Event Center.

Chamber President Mary Jo Orlowski said nominations were received for Outstanding Educator, Lifetime Achievement and Shining Light, which recognizes an innovative program or class.

The outstanding educators for 2017 are: Jennifer Gracyalny (Michigan City High School Spanish teacher), Rachel Ward (Knapp Elementary School sixth-grade teacher), Amy Wojasinski-Labis (MCHS Student Support Services teacher) and Sharon Arndt (Pine Elementary School first-grade teacher).

Jan Radford, MCAS director of curriculum, will receive the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Lake Hills Elementary School STEM Program is the winner of the 2017 Shining Light Award, which recognizes innovative programs in education.

Individual tickets, which cost \$35, and tables of eight are available, as well as sponsorship opportunities. Visit MichiganCityChamber.com to buy tickets, or call (219) 874-6221.

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Women Supporting Girls



Women in Leadership of La Porte County recently presented a \$500 check to the La Porte County Career and Technical Education program for the Non-Traditional Employment for Women conference. The annual event, which introduces area middle-school girls to careers in which women are typically under-represented, was held Oct. 17 at the A.K. Smith Center in Michigan City. Pictured are: Women in Leadership board members (from left) President-elect Sherri Waddle-Cummings; Jerra Barnes, La Porte County CTE counselor; board member Fonda Owens; Secretary Nancy Robinson; Treasurer Kim Presley; and President Nancy Nelson-Taylor.

Krasl Art Center

Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich., will host a reception for two exhibits, “The Art Next Door: Chicago’s Exemplars” and “Hive Expanded,” from 6 to 8 p.m. EDT Friday, Nov. 3.

“The Art Next Door” features works by Chicago artists known for how they have impacted, responded and enmeshed themselves within their community. Represented are Dawoud Bey, Michelle Grabner, the Homan Square Project, Read/Write Library, Aram Han Sifuentes, Tony Tasset and Sadie Woods. Art ranges from painting, photography and sculpture to sound, installation and social practices.

With “Hive Expanded,” Arizona-based artist Susan Beiner pushes the boundaries of ceramics in her full-scale gallery installation.

The opening reception will feature Chicago house music, small bites and a cash bar. Both exhibits run through Jan. 14.

The program “Grassroots Research with Read/Write Library Chicago” is at 7 p.m. EDT Thursday, Nov. 2, at Benton Harbor Public Library, 213 E. Wall St., and noon EDT Saturday, Nov. 4, at KAC. The two-part workshop is free. Also, Coffee with the Curator is at 9 a.m. EDT Monday, Nov. 6.

Visit www.krasl.org or call (269) 983-0271 for more details.



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Submit the photo to The Beacher by 5 p.m. each Wednesday. We'll contact you by 5 p.m. Thursday if the photo is chosen to appear on our facebook page by noon Friday.



Grand Prix Sets Record High

As the popularity of Michigan City's Great Lakes Grand Prix powerboat race grows, so does its impact on the local economy, with this year's event bringing in the most people and dollars yet.

That's according to a report released by Visit Michigan City La Porte Convention & Visitors Bureau. The four-day event, held Aug. 3-6, generated more than \$10.7 million for La Porte County's economy from non-local visitors alone, with three-quarters of expenditures going to food, beverages, shopping and transportation.

Those figures come from Certec Inc., a marketing analysis group based in Lexington, Ky., that compiles the report each year for the tourism bureau.

Total attendance, compiled from a variety of sources, was estimated at more than 150,000 for all the weekend events, with 80,000 people attending the races alone.

The Certec report showed economic benefits reached a large cross-section of La Porte County. Jobs generated by the event provided nearly \$2.4 million in wages to local workers. More than \$500,000 in tax revenues generated by visitors went into local coffers.

In addition, the study noted, "Great Lakes Grand Prix visitor spending stimulates non-tourist businesses." Increased demand for hotel rooms, restaurant meals and other services brings added business to areas such as agriculture, food processing, brewing and distilling, the report stated.

New Buffalo Public Library

New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson St., will offer a quilting class taught by Kathy Martus and Joan Putzke.

The two will reveal how to properly use a rotary cutter, cut fabric and sew exact seams. Signups are on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants should take a sewing machine in good working condition, and have a basic knowledge of how to use it. They also should take basic supplies such as pins, needles, thread and a rotary cutter (45mm). Participants can buy a package of fabric for \$10.

Two class times will be offered, with a limited availability for each time. They are (all times Eastern): 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Call (269) 469-2933 for details.

Also, Martus has created a quilt that will go to a veteran of any war.

Berrien County veterans can go to the library's front circulation desk and complete a registration form. The deadline is Thursday, Nov. 9. The recipient will be randomly chosen in a drawing, the quilt awarded on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

The quilt will be on display in the lobby, along with history on the Quilt of Valor Foundation.



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Long Beach Women's Bowling

Oct. 17, 2017

TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Striking Beauties	17.5	6.5
2. Alley Katz	16	8
3. Queen Pins	15.5	8.5

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Nancy Kubath	179
2. Polly Fletcher	174
3. Mary Lou McFadden	164
4. Linda Neulieb	160
5. Kathy Osborne	158
6. Peg King	156
7. Barb McCorkel (series)	411
8. Dottie Brinkman (series)	400

SPLITS

June Salmon	4-5-7
Mary McDonald	1-5-7
Sue OConor	4-7-10
Kathy Osborne	3-6-7

THREE STRIKES

Kathy Osborne (2)
Polly Fletcher

Oct. 24, 2017

TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Striking Beauties	20.5	7.5
2. Alley Katz	19	9
3. Queen Pins	18.5	9.5

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Dottie Brinckman	202
2. Cindy Beck	178
3. Sue Luegers	162
4. Barb Macudzinski	154
5. Peg King	153
6. Linda Neulieb (series)	411
7. Bina Gupta (series)	406

THREE STRIKES

Barb McCorkel (3)
Sue Luegers (2)
Dottie Brinckman
Cindy Beck



More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.



American Red Cross

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

- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, Michigan City, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7.
- Midwest Warehousing Co., 3999 Hupp Road, Building R-5-2, Kingsbury, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8.

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 details.

Young Professionals Night

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce and La Porte Jaycees will present Young Professionals Night from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, at Thaddeus C. Gallery, 822 Lincolnway, La Porte.

The free, quarterly event gives young professionals the change to engage with the La Porte community and chamber. There is no age limit to attend.

The program includes a discussion with a representative from The Pax Center and Salvation Army of La Porte. Attendees are encouraged to take shampoo, toilet paper, toothpaste or deodorant, or Thanksgiving items such as stuffing, gravy mix or cake mix, as donations.

Visit tinyurl.com/y7s75b7e to register.

Interwoven Expressions

Interwoven Expressions will present the 33rd annual juried sale and exhibit by Midwest fiber artists from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at Sand Creek Country Club, Chesterton.

Works are created by weavers, dyers, felters, seamstresses and basketmakers, all by hand. Participation was limited to residents of states bordering Lake Michigan.

Admission and parking are free. Visit www.InterwovenExpressions.com for more details.



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In Memoriam

Shirley Christopher Driggs lost her battle with scleroderma on Friday, Sept. 29, 2017, in San Diego.

She was born June 24, 1934, in Cincinnati. She graduated from The University of Cincinnati, where she met her husband, Hal Driggs, who survives. They were married Oct. 7, 1955.



She is survived by four children: Abbe Driggs Hocter (Robert), Jennifer Driggs Shipley (Carl), Matthew Driggs (Staci) and Christopher Driggs (Erin); six grandchildren: Ryan and MacKenzie Hocter, Nicholas and Madeline Shipley, Aidan and Alexis Driggs; and one great-granddaughter, Rory Hocter.

After four years traveling with Hal in the Air Force, they settled in Duneland Beach for 26 years, where they raised their family. They then relocated to Sedona, Ariz., for 27 years, where Shirley's love of travel took them all over the world. As a travel agent, she loved planning events for her friends, church travel group and family.

To rekindle their love of the beach lifestyle, they began visiting the San Diego area several years ago. More recently, they relocated there to enjoy the lifestyle full time.

Donations can be made in memory of Shirley Driggs at www.scleroderma.org

In Memoriam

A memorial luncheon open to friends and relatives of the late Marianne Gossweiler is Sunday, Nov. 19, at Michiana (Mich.) Village Hall, 4000 Cherokee Drive. The gathering starts at 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at noon. All times are Central. Reservations are required by Nov. 12 to Jenny at (815) 727-1650 or (815) 409-6366.

Gossweiler, the widow of Richard Gossweiler, died Dec. 20, 2015, in Michigan City at age 85. She was the publisher of *Dunebeat*, a regional magazine serving the Indiana Dunes area between 1978 and 1985. She also cowrote numerous articles with her husband that were published in *The Chicago Tribune*, *Kiwanis Magazine* and *Lions Magazine*.

She participated in a wide range of volunteer activities, such as campaigns for Paul H. Douglas, Adlai Stevenson and John F. Kennedy. Later, she volunteered with Meals on Wheels, the John G. Blank Center for the Arts and Save the Dunes. She was the Beach Garden Club president and attained Master Naturalist Certification with Indiana Master Naturalist Advisory Council Agencies.

Writing assignments took Marianne and her husband, a freelance writer, to many places, including Japan, Peru, Mexico and most European countries. She also was active in local politics as chairwoman of the Michiana Zoning Commission for 11 years.

She is survived by one niece and many cousins.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Nov. 2 — Aeroponic Tower Gardening, 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Nov. 3 — First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Uptown Arts District (downtown Michigan City).

Nov. 3 — Opening reception, “Fragile Codes,” 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: (219) 874-4900. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

Nov. 3 — Exhibit opening, “Your Place or Mine,” 5:30-7:30 p.m., Blink Contemporary Art, 1709 Franklin St. Reading by Mary Dean Cason from new novel/6:30 p.m. Info: (219) 879-2994.

Nov. 3 — “Eco Art Show,” 5 p.m., Rising Phoenix Gallery, 2803 Franklin St.

Nov. 3 — Fine art photography, Brett & Kristin Woodruff-Maniscalco, 5-8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

Nov. 3-6 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* “Lucky.” Not Rated. Times: 6:15 p.m. Fri., 12:30 p.m. Sat., 6:15 p.m. Sun.-Mon. *Also:* “Year by the Sea.” Not Rated. Times: 9 p.m. Fri., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

Nov. 4 — Michigan City Aviators “Young Eagles” event, 8 a.m.-noon, Michigan City Municipal Airport, 1300 Indiana 212 North. Free. Reservations: (219) 872-0121.

Nov. 4 — Interwoven Expressions 33rd annual juried sale and exhibit, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sand Creek Country Club, Chesterton. Info: www.Interwoven-Expressions.com

Nov. 4 — Fall into Wellness with Essential Oils, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Registration: (219) 325-8315.

Nov. 4 — Gales of November Shipwreck Program, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Nov. 4 — Premier Theatre, “Miss Electricity,” 4 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Nov. 4 — Purdue University Northwest Odyssey Sculpture and Art Exhibit public reception/debut, 5 p.m., James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex. Info: (219) 785-5593.

Nov. 4 — Big Comedy La Porte benefit, “Down in Front,” 7 p.m., La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Tickets: \$12. Reservations: downinfront.brown-papertickets.com

Nov. 4 — Harbor Arts benefit showing, “Bang the Drum Slowly,” 8 p.m. EDT, Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Reservations: www.harborarts.com

Nov. 5 — **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS.**

Nov. 5 — Breakfast Club Nerf Battle for Teens, 10 a.m.-noon, Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Nov. 5 — Holiday Extravaganza, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Stanislaus Convent Shop, 1501 Franklin St.

Nov. 5 — National Lakeshore Anniversary Celebration, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Nov. 5 — Classical Guitarist Peter Aglinskas, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Nov. 6 — Popular Books, Michael Sheldon's "Young Titan: The Making of Winston Churchill," 2 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Nov. 7 — Friends of the Library Community Forum, "Charles A. Lindbergh: An American First," 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Nov. 8 — Mad About Mysteries, 2 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Through December — World War I exhibit, La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportecountyhistory.org, (219) 324-6767.

In the Region

Nov. 3 — Opening reception, "The Art Next Door: Chicago's Exemplars"/Hive Expanded," 6-8 p.m. EDT, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.krasl.org, (269) 983-0271.

Nov. 4 — Ogden Dunes Women's Club Arts, Crafts and Food Fair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., the town's community church, 116 Hillcrest Road.

Nov. 4 — Holiday market, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Free admission. Preview party: 6-8 p.m. EDT Nov. 3. Tickets: \$30/\$50 per couple. Register by Nov. 2 @ www.fernwoodbotanical.org, (269) 695-6491.

Nov. 5 — Puerto Rico Strong Hurricane Relief Concert, 3-7 p.m. EDT, The Livery Microbrewery, 190 Fifth St., Benton Harbor, Mich. Limited tickets: \$20. Reservations: (269) 982-4030

Support Groups

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

Mondays, Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan St. Anthony Health, 301 W. Homer St., 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: <https://oa.org>, (219) 879-0300.

Wednesdays — Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers, 2 p.m., third Wednesday of each month, Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Info: (888) 303-0180.

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



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**THIS
WEEK
IN
HISTORY**



On November 2, 1920, Pittsburg's station KDKA began the nation's first regular radio broadcasts, reporting the Harding-Cox election returns.

On November 2, 1947, Howard Hughes' massive wooden airplane, the "Spruce Goose," made its first (and only) flight. The 200-ton aircraft, which is now a major exhibit at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Ore., flew for about one minute over Long Beach Harbor.

On November 2, 1948, President Harry S. Truman confounded the pollsters when the Truman-Barkley ticket captured 303 electoral votes and 28 states, while the Dewey-Warren ticket won 189 electoral votes and 16 states. The day before the election, most commentators and pollsters agreed that New York's Republican Thomas E. Dewey would defeat President Truman by a landslide.

On November 2, 1959, Charles Van Doren admitted that he had been given the answers in advance before his appearance on the popular NBC-TV game show "Twenty One."

On November 2, 2000, Eva Morris, recognized in March by the *Guinness Book of Records* as the world's oldest woman, died, in London, six days short of her 115th birthday.

On November 3, 1837, Illinois housewives were up in arms over the cost of living. A pound of butter cost 8 cents, eggs were 6 cents a dozen, beef was 3 cents a pound, pork was 2 cents, coffee was 20 cents a pound and sugar was 10 cents a pound.

On November 3, 1900, the nation's first automobile show opened in New York's Madison Square Garden.

On November 3, 1957, the *Sputnik 2* satellite was launched by the Soviet Union. On board was a dog named Laika that was sacrificed in the experiment.

On November 3, 1992, Carol Moseley Braun, Democrat from Chicago, became the first black woman to be elected to the U.S. Senate.

November 4, 1825, the first boat reached New York City via the Erie Canal, nine days after leaving the Great Lakes port of Buffalo.

On November 4, 1880, the cornerstone was laid for Chicago's Michael Reese Hospital.

On November 4, 1890, the city of Chicago annexed the villages of West Roseland and Washington Heights.

On November 4, 1939, the first completely air-conditioned car (a Packard) went on exhibit at the Chicago Automobile Show.

On November 5, 1733, publisher John Peter Zenger began printing *The New York Weekly*, the colony's first political newspaper.

On November 5, 1857, McVicker's Theater, built at an \$85,000 cost, opened on Chicago's Madison Street.

On November 5, 1872, suffragist Susan B. Anthony was fined \$100 for attempting to vote in the presidential election. She adamantly refused to pay it.

On November 6, 1833, with Chicago's population at 150, the Board of Trustees extended the town's boundaries to Jackson Street on the south, Jefferson and Cook Streets on the west, and Ohio Street on the north.

On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln defeated three other candidates for the office of President of the United States.

On November 6, 1869, in the first official intercollegiate football game played in the United States, Rutgers defeated Princeton by a score of 6-4.

On November 6, 1928, presidential election results were flashed on an electronic sign on *The New York Times* building, reporting the results of Herbert Hoover's victory over Alfred Smith.

On November 7, 1805, explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark first sighted the Pacific Ocean while standing at the mouth of Oregon's Columbia River.

On November 7, 1874, in a cartoon drawn by Thomas Nast, which was published in *Harper's Weekly*, the elephant was used for the first time as the symbol for the Republican Party.

On November 7, 1893, Colorado granted women the right to vote.

On November 7, 1929, the Museum of Modern Art in New York opened.

On November 7, 1998, John Glenn, the 77-year-old senator and former astronaut, returned to Earth aboard the space shuttle Discovery after a nine-day mission.

On November 7, 1999, Tiger Woods became the first golfer since Ben Hogan in 1953 to win four straight tournaments.

On November 8, 1793, the "Louvre" in Paris was first opened to the public.

On November 8, 1837, Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, Americas' first college for women, opened in South Hadley, Mass.

On November 8, 1950, the world's first all-jet battle took place when North Korean MIGs engaged United States fighter planes.

On November 8, 1965, the soap opera "Days of Our Lives" premiered on NBC.

On November 8, 1983, Martha Layne Collins was elected governor of Kentucky, the first woman to be so honored.



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Miller Pizza By the Beach, 1012 N. Karwick Road, is taking applications for employment. Apply within. No phone calls, please.

Marquette Catholic High School has immediate opening for a handyman for the Marquette Foreign Exchange Company (on campus). Hourly pay. Email Principal Jim White at jwhite@marquette-hs.org

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The Girlfriend Sale is hosting a Give Back Sale on Sat., Nov. 4, from 10 a.m.-noon. Proceeds will benefit one of Michigan City's gems: Friendship Botanic Gardens. More than 100 participants have generously agreed to contribute their remaining consignment items to this event sale. As a bonus and thank you for your support, the more you buy, the deeper your discount will be on your purchases. This is a CASH ONLY sale. Look for exciting details to follow on our up and coming Designer Jewelry Sale tentatively scheduled for Dec. 2-3. It's going to be spectacular.
Long Beach Community Center, Studio 11,
2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach.

Thinking of having an estate sale? Jackpot has 45 years in the estate-sale business. The folks at Jackpot will give you an honest opinion free of charge on what can be done to clear out your home.

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Call Pete at (219) 561-0066.

Dunescape Condo, 4th Floor, 2BR/2BA, available Nov.-May. \$1,100/mo + utilities. Call/text Cari @ Merrion Realty @ (219) 898-5412.

AVAILABLE JANUARY-APRIL 30: Furnished 5BR/2BA 2-story Sheridan Beach home. \$900/mo + utilities. TEXT/Call Cari @ Merrion Realty @ (219) 898-5412.

Furnished 1BR/1BA coachhouse, quiet wooded setting among \$500K homes, granite, hardwood floors, shared pool, tennis, basketball. Kitchenette. Heat, air, WiFi included. \$800, 1-yr lease, no smoking, no pets. (312) 399-5341.

RELISTED: Just one block from the lake! 2BR/1BA year-round apartment in Sheridan Beach. In-unit laundry, ample parking, A/C. No smoking/pets. \$700/mo. + utilities. Call Tom at (773) 339-8141.

Beautiful, totally remodeled apartments for 6-month lease, Nov. to May. Completely furnished turn-key, all utilities included (electric/gas/water/sewer) plus TV & WiFi. 2BR/\$850, 1BR/\$800. Great location. Directly across from Lighthouse Place at 402 W. Eighth St. Rents in summer for \$110 or \$150 per night. Call Darlene at (954) 816-7765.

UPSCALE LOFT FOR RENT: 1 huge bedroom with walk-in closet, W/D, large deck, off-street parking, wood floors. Just steps from 11th Street South Shore station. \$750/mo. + utilities. Call (219) 872-9111, Ext. 201. Newly carpeted, freshly painted 1BR apt. All appl., including W/D, in Michigan City. \$695/mo. Call (708) 404-5647

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Children's Art Classes

Jennifer Martin will host children's art classes at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Each month, a different artist is featured. November centers on Georgia O'Keefe, who is recognized as the "Mother of American Modernism" and known for her flower paintings.

The goal is to introduce children to various artists, their styles and techniques, with projects reflecting what they are learning. Classes meet weekly and are open to all ages and skill levels. Several mediums will be used, including drawing, painting, papier mache, mosaic, sculpture and collage.

The schedule is:

- Monday, 1-2 p.m., preschool, 4- to 5 year-olds.
- Monday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (beginner), 5- to 8-year-olds.
- Tuesday, 1-2 p.m., preschool, 3- to 4-year-olds.
- Tuesday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (intermediate), 6- to 9-year-olds.
- Wednesday, 11 a.m.-noon, preschool, 4-5 year-olds.
- Wednesday, 1-2:30 p.m., homeschool, 8- to 15-year-olds.
- Wednesday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (intermediate), 6- to 9-year-olds.
- Thursday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (advanced), 8- to 12-year-olds.
- Thursday, 5:15-6:45 p.m., after school (advanced Painting), 10- to 16-year-olds.

Tuition is \$90 per month for after-school and home-school students (the member rate is \$70), and \$75 for preschool students (the member rate is \$55). Supplies and a snack are included. Students must be registered and paid for before the start of each month. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com to register or more details.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Book of Speculation by Erika Swyler (paperback, \$15.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

Perusing one of my dusty bookcases, I found this hardcover book I bought, shelved and promptly forgot about a few years back. It looked like the perfect read for this time of year. I love the serendipity of finding just the right book at the right time. So, I grabbed a cup of coffee, curled up in my recliner and am now happy to pass this one along to you. This was one of BuzzFeed's 24 Best Fiction Books of 2015 and is now available in paperback.

Ready for some folklore, family curses and a little bit of magic? Here goes...

Our narrator is Simon Matson. He lives in a crumbling house on Long Island Sound, N.Y. *"Like many Napawset houses, mine is a true colonial, built in the late 1700s."*

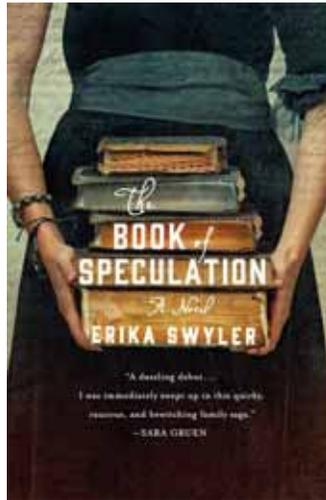
Yes, his house is literally falling down the hill toward the ocean. Once, it was a happy house filled with him, his parents and sister, Enola. His mother was a circus performer. She could hold her breath under water for 10 minutes, headlining as the Mermaid. Simon thought his family was like any other. But then one July 24th, his mother drowned herself in the ocean. Why? That was the question no one could answer.

After that, his father wasted away, not touching the house or repairing anything until he died and the house was in its present sad decay. Enola ran away to the circus as soon as she was old enough and, even though a strong swimmer, became a fortune teller. Simon hardly heard from her anymore.

So, it is a pretty June day when a package appears on Simon's porch. It is an old book sent from Martin Churchwarry, an antiquarian bookseller from Iowa. It appears to be several hundred years old. Dates in the book go back to the late 18th century. Martin says he bought the book on speculation, but water damage in the back made it unsellable. Further research, he says, ties names in the book to Simon's family. The old leather-bound volume was the record book of a traveling circus owned by Hermelius Peabody. It is obvious the back of the book suffered much water damage. Some pages are illegible. Maybe it was lost in a flood? But one name in the book is the biggest surprise...

"Verona Bonn. What my grandmother's name would be doing inside this book is beyond me."

Simon is a research librarian for the Grainger Library in town, so the many questions brought up by



the book fuel his historical and personal interest. However, several things happen that will take Simon on a 200-year-old trip that may prove to be more than he can take emotionally.

First, Enola calls to say she's coming home for a visit. Second, Simon is called into the library office, told his job has been cut due to budget cuts. What to do now? He doesn't have the money to fix his house, and now, he is jobless.

The story divides into two different threads that each could be books on their own. One goes back to the late 1700s and the Peabody Circus. You hear of circus people referring to their fellow performers as "family." Peabody is

certainly the patriarch of this family, making sure everyone is taken care of, especially his newest acquisitions, a mute boy he bills as the "wild boy" and a runaway girl who can swim and becomes his mermaid. The recorded years pass by, and some interesting changes and losses are duly noted in the book. Some explainable, some not...

The second story is Simon's account as he searches for his family roots and what happened to his mother. A big surprise comes when he finds the women in his family all seem to drown, and always on July 24. Creepy? Of course! Simon begins to think there is a curse on his family. Is Enola the next in line to drown, and can he find out its origin before July 24, which is only days away?

This is an entertaining read, perfect for the autumn season. Pages fly by as you want to see how and when the Peabody Circus and Simon's family intersect, and who on the family tree has secrets to hide...maybe it's all in the Tarot cards...

NPR.org: "Swyler has a tale to spin, and she does so with directness and wit."

Oprah.com: "Mermaids, tarot card readers, a wild man and other carnival characters work their literary magic in this debut novel...packed with fresh, unexpected marvels."

Publishers Weekly: "Whimsically dark...a fully formed mythos chock full of curses, omens and coincidences."

Swyler, a New York University graduate, is a writer and playwright whose work has appeared in literary journals and anthologies. She was born and raised on Long Island's North Shore. She learned to swim before she could walk. She is a baker and photographer with a following on Tumblr: Cookie Dough & Regret: Baking and shame (ieatbutter.tumblr.com)

Till next time, happy reading!

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2 Bed/1.75 Bath/1,132 sq.ft.



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JUST LISTED - Very desirable 2-story end unit in Indian Ridge Condominium with a beautiful view of the woods from the sliding glass doors, which lead to a deck. Main floor features an open kitchen, living room, dining room and a bonus sun-room/office. Two spacious bedrooms, a full bathroom and a finished laundry room complete the upper level. Motivated Seller!

322 Ramion Avenue | Michigan City, IN | \$69,900

2 Bed/1 Bath/884 sq.ft.



New Listing



JUST LISTED - First-time buyers OR first-time investors looking to start your rental portfolio. Darling ranch located in the Knapp School district. Two bedrooms plus an office/possible 3rd bedroom, 1 bath, freshly painted interior, new carpet, eat-in kitchen, detached 2-car garage, and fenced rear yard. Bonus patio area great for outdoor dining or entertaining!



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Jamie Follmer	219.851.2164	Karen Kmiecik-Pavy, GRI	219.210.0494	Pat Tym*, ABR, CRS, GRI, SRES	219.210.0324

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8757 W. Joliet Road, Westville • \$259,000

This magnificent 3-bedroom 2.5-bath home is graced with country charm, spatial front porch and 1.25 acres of privacy! Most of the interior is built from reclaimed barn wood and beams. New oak floors and ceramic tile throughout the house. Sprawling entertaining spaces flow from the great room to outdoor patio to stunning acreage. Wonderful studio/she/he shed with heat and air conditioning in tranquil setting. Full unfinished basement and large 2-car garage. Schools right down the street!



805 Birch Tree Lane, Michigan City • \$176,000

Best of both worlds! Enjoy low-maintenance 3-bedroom 3-bath condo living within a beach community! Only one of four units this size. Wonderful amenities include garage, private patio and pool area. Beautiful common area. Association fee includes gas, trash, water, grass, snow removal and all of the pool maintenance.



2707 Belle Plaine Trail, Long Beach \$495,000

The Crooked Cottage is a cozy 100-year-old hideaway with everything you need for your Classic Mediterranean-style Long Beach home. Built in 1927, this historic gem has retained its original charm. Four bedrooms, 2 baths on two levels of living space. Golf course views, enclosed porch and more than 3/4 of an acre make this a magnificent retreat from the real world.



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