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It's a Wonderful Life

by M.D. Cunningham and Andrew Tallackson

In 1997, Dan Meyer ran into a friend from Rogers High School who asked what he'd been up to.

Meyer mentioned "The Locusts," a film he appeared in, set in the 1950s, about a drifter who finds work at a cattle ranch, then becomes mixed up in a dangerous love triangle. His co-stars? Vince Vaughn, Kate Capshaw, Ashley Judd and Paul Rudd.

Having not spoken in years, Meyer's friend thought he'd lost his mind...that is, until he saw "The Locusts" a few months later in Chicago.

Meyer jokes he is Michigan City's second most famous Dan Meyer. If you Google the name, you may come across the other Dan, a sword swallower. Meyer, who has a cool calm about him, laughs easily and jokes often. He made the decision to pursue acting when he was a 20-something living in Chicago.

"So, people are like, so what do you do?" he says. "You're like, oh, I write, and they're like, oh, what do you write? You know, I write movies. Anything I might have seen? And, I'm like no. Not that you would have seen yet, but I got this movie coming out and then people are like, that's cool."



Dan Meyer is photographed at the premiere for "Pottersville."
Photo by Travis W. Keyes.



"A lot of time, the followup to that is, 'Dude, I got a story for yah. I got your next movie. You want to hear a story?' It's like, I would never write my own ideas if I listened to everyone else's."

Meyer's own leap of faith, along with relationships he's made and a die-hard work ethic, are paying off.

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The latest project for the Michigan City native, “Pottersville,” which he wrote and is directed by Seth Henrikson, stars no less than Michael Shannon, a two-time Oscar nominee for “Revolutionary Road” and “Nocturnal Animals,” Christina Hendricks (TV’s “Mad Men”), Ron Perlman (“Hellboy”), Judy Greer (“Ant-Man”), Ian McShane (“Deadwood”) and Thomas Lennon (TV’s “Reno 911!”). The PG-13 comedy, released by Echo Bridge, opened in limited release Nov. 10 in New York, Los Angeles, Kansas City, Miami, Dallas, Cleveland and San Francisco. It airs on Netflix on Friday, Dec. 15.

Not bad for a guy who, while at Rogers, had no interest in the drama club, although, he adds with tongue firmly planted in cheek, “I did break dance once at a talent show, and that went over fairly well.”

Meyer says what inspired him to pursue writing was the success of Jon Favreau and Vince Vaughn with 1996’s indie sleeper hit “Swingers.” These were guys Meyer knew from the Chicago acting scene and made it big when they wrote a movie for themselves.

“Pottersville” stars Shannon as Maynard, a small-town businessman mistaken for Bigfoot after barreling through town drunk in a gorilla getup.

That sparks a media craze, and a boost in tourism, for the small American town.

Shannon happens to be Meyer’s best friend. They met at what became Meyer’s first paid acting gig when a 16-year-old Shannon persuaded a professional theater he was 19.

“I’ll never forget. They mailed me these contracts. They were gonna pay me \$150 a week, and I was over the moon,” Meyer said. “I couldn’t believe someone was gonna pay me to act.”

Meyer and Shannon became good friends, collaborating often, including running their own theater company for a couple years.

These days, Shannon often portrays villains on screen, like General Zod in “Man of Steel” (2013). With “Pottersville,” Meyer wanted to provide Shannon with something different.

The idea for the film emerged after Shannon told Meyer he was thankful for his career, but lamented being cast as psychos, killers, weirdos — the bad guy. So, Meyer said it was natural for him to create this part for Shannon, since he’s one of the funniest people he knows.

The “Pottersville” title is a reference to “It’s a Wonderful Life” (1939), but beyond that, there are no other direct ties to the Frank Capra classic.

“That’s really a theme in the movie, just that there’s this idea that there’s hope that there’s some-



Michael Shannon appears with co-star Judy Greer in “Pottersville.”

thing out there that's bigger than us," Meyer said.

"The other thing for me is that Mike is a great guy, a funny guy, a smart guy, but he's also a really generous guy. Mike has made a career out of playing these monsters, but then will turn around and take care of and help the people that he loves and cares about. It's very akin to his role in the movie, just on a much smaller scale."



Dan as a youngster growing up in Michigan City.

It's taken two years for "Pottersville" to become a reality, Meyer estimates, which is quick by industry standards, and "pretty awesome," he said, adding it could easily have gone another way, which is to say, it may not have happened.

The movie was shot partly in Hamilton, N.Y., with principal photography ending in May 2016.

Things nearly fell apart, however. Meyer, who not only wrote the film, but was responsible for arranging financing, getting Shannon involved and staying after people to make the project a reality, developed an irregular heartbeat during the process.



Dan Meyer (left) chats with Ron Perlman (center) and Michael Shannon on the set of "Pottersville."

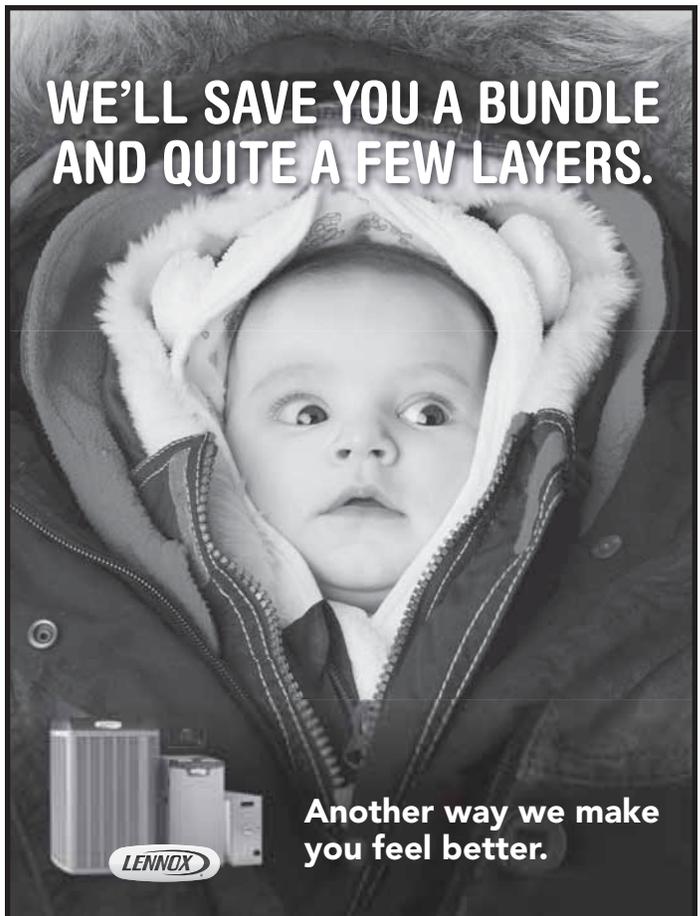
Some of Meyer's friends, though, weren't surprised "Pottersville" was made, saying they always knew he was going to make it.

"I was like, really? Because I was pretty scared there for awhile," he said. "You have a business that so many people want to be a part of, and so many people end up not being a part of it."

Now that the film is out in theaters, Meyer can

Continued on Page 4

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It's a Wonderful Life Continued from Page 3

take a step back from it and embrace the learning curve that comes with a new venture.

"I think the biggest takeaway is what not to do on the next one," he said. "Learning from your mistakes. My issues with the film are glaringly obvious to me, and now I have a better idea of what mistakes not to make moving forward.



Dan and his nephew, Robb Rice, on the set of "Pottersville." Rice worked on the film and has a small role in it.

"Pottersville" currently has a 78 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes. Reviews have been mixed, with *The Hollywood Reporter* calling it "a good-hearted but overly broad and underwhelming debut."

Save for a review through the school paper at Colgate University in Hamilton, where the film was shot, Meyer hasn't read any of the reviews.

"They're either gonna tell you how great you are or how terrible you are," Meyer said. "Why put yourself through that? I know how I feel about the movie, and that's good enough for me."

In the past, Meyer has tended bar and worked in construction during career lulls. Independent movies are hard to get made, he said, but even when nothing seemed to be happening, Meyer's confidence in the material he generated remained strong.

Some of the best advice he received came from none other than Larry David (HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm"). Meyer was staying at David's guest house in Los Angeles through a casting agent he'd met that took an interest in him. "Seinfeld," of which David was one of the writers, had just finished its first season. It wasn't a hit yet, Meyer said.

"Larry would come home every day from work and say, 'Kid, they're going to cancel the show. They don't get what I'm doing,'" Meyer recalled.

David then told Meyer, "I'll tell you something. I'm 45, and I've never made a nickel in this business. This is the first time I've ever made any money. It's taken me all this time. I hear you're talented, kid, but I don't know how long it's going to take you. It could be a week. It could be a year. It could be 10 years. It could be when you're 45, but just stick with it. That's the best piece of advice that I can give you. The only way you're not going to make it is if you quit."

After briefly staying in Los Angeles, Meyer's desire for fame gave way to a desire to learn more about the acting craft. He returned to Chicago. The

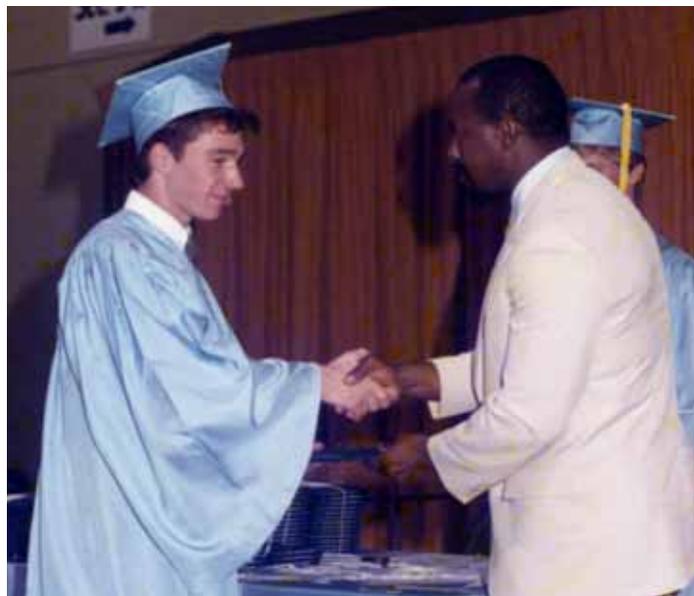


Dan during the filming of "The Locusts," one of the first movies he appeared in as an actor.

first script he wrote about a decade ago is set to become a film next year.

Meyer has since returned to Los Angeles and divvies time between New York and Chicago. In the competitive and unpredictable world of entertainment, it's certain that Dan Meyer will keep plugging away.

And when time allows it, he can return to Michigan City, eager to spend time with his mother, Sandy, and the friends he made over the years.



Dan Meyer during commencement ceremonies at Rogers High School in the mid-1980s.

"I think with growing up in most small towns, the fondest memories are of family and friends," he said. "Certainly, as I've gotten older, I've developed a much deeper appreciation for Michigan City.

"Again, it mostly goes back to friends and family. My mom lives here, and I have some dear friends in town. Those are the main reasons I enjoy coming back, but I also love the slowed down pace of things. With age, I find my visits to Michigan City calming and relaxing."



Michael Shannon, a two-time Oscar nominee and Dan Meyer's good friend, leads the all-star cast of "Pottersville."

Christmas Display Returns to Barker Mansion

An annual holiday tradition is back at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., which opens its decorated rooms to the community from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1.

Hours and events vary by day through Dec. 31, which marks the close of the mansion's Christmas season. Popular traditions return throughout the month, including musical performances with locals Lee Meyer and Elizabeth Weigand, cookie decorating with Uptown Cakery and kids' crafts. Standard Christmas admission is \$8 per adult and \$5 per youth 15 and younger.

The mansion again has been decorated by local non-profit groups and volunteers. Each room takes a different theme chosen by the groups. Everything from "Bells of Salvation" to "Angels of Hope" is depicted. Visitors can view a working train set assembled in the ballroom by Hesston Steam Museum to the theme of "All Aboard for the Holidays." The display features the smallest functional steam engine in Hesston's collection.

"We were very happy to see the community involved in Barker Mansion's Christmas activities," Director Jessica Rosier said. "It has been wonderful to have the non-profit groups bring their ideas and creativity to



the mansion, especially those groups that brought children to help decorate."

Highlights of the Christmas season include two Behind the Scenes Tours at 6 p.m. Fridays, Dec. 8 and 15. Guides will delve into the nooks and crannies of the 160-year-old mansion, alongside holiday traditions of the Victorian era. The cost is \$15 per adult and \$10 per youth. Reservations are required by calling (219) 873-1520 or through Eventbrite.

The popular Glowing Lights Nights returns, with additional dates added. During the self-guided tours, which are from 4 to 6 p.m. Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 30,

visitors wander the mansion, with the only illumination coming from glowing Christmas tree lights. Standard admission charges apply, and reservations are not needed.

The mansion's Christmas schedule varies by week. Visit www.barkermansion.com for a printable calendar or call (219) 873-1520 for details. The mansion is only open during advertised dates and times; it is closed Mondays and also Sunday, Dec. 24. Those interested in volunteering throughout the month can email jrosier@emichiganity.com



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“Mudbound” is a Raw, Powerful Experience

by Andrew Tallackson



Jason Mitchell (left) and Garrett Hedlund give remarkable performances in “Mudbound.”

“Mudbound” spins an exceptionally tricky tale, weaving through nearly a dozen lives wed to land that bleeds them dry. What’s astonishing is how each character emerges fully realized. We know their hopes, dreams, desires and crushing failures.

Indeed, the film, based on Hillary Jordan’s 2008 novel, unfolds like a good book, with writer-director Dee Rees, remarkably assured in only her second feature, carefully exploring the world these people inhabit with salt and vinegar.

A lot of vinegar.

“Mudbound” is painful, bruising. It’s not the kind of picture where you say you “liked” it, but more that you admire its bold rawness.

The critical darling at this year’s Sundance Film Festival, the movie is gaining momentum amid the awards circuit, playing in a few theaters for Oscar consideration. It’s also streaming off Netflix.

The story unravels in a slippery period of racial tension in American history: the days in and around World War II, as two families — white and black — find themselves linked by the same tract of land in the Mississippi delta.

The patriarch of the black family, Hap Jackson (Rob Morgan), is a tenant farmer, his ancestors having worked the grounds as slaves. The land owner, Henry McAllan (Jason Clarke), is neither wise nor savvy. Hap and his family may not be slaves, but in Henry’s eyes, they may as well be, their obligation legitimate only by Henry’s vision of entitlement as a white man.

We meet the families of these men, and it is here

the most compelling drama of “Mudbound” surfaces.

Carey Mulligan (“The Great Gatsby”), no longer mousey eye candy, plays Henry’s wife Laura, who knows she’s married out of convenience, yet stands her ground amid his blunders. Singer Mary J. Blige is Hap’s wife Florence, the performance a quiet study in muted anger and unflinching love.

Where “Mudbound” derives its power is in the bond between the Jacksons’ eldest son Ronsel (Jason Mitchell) and Henry’s younger brother Jamie (Garrett Hedlund), both suffering from PTSD after serving abroad during World War II. In a cast crackling with awards-worthy performances, Mitchell and Hedlund are the most remarkable. With the shared experience of combat, the line between black and white dissolves. These are two men who can’t find their place in the world. Overseas, Ronsel helped liberate white Europeans, yet, in the film’s single most devastating image, is relegated to second-class status back home, forced to sit in the back of the bus. And Hedlund’s Jamie, whose swagger flourishes only when drunk, shares with Ronsel a defining moment: saved as an Army Air Corps pilot by the Tuskegee Airmen. That image is conveyed in a moment of poetic beauty.

“Mudbound” is not for everyone. Relentlessly bleak, with a hideous act of racial violence near the end, it’s made endurable through the flickers of hope that fray the seams of despair for these characters.

Enter this world, and you won’t likely forget it, long after the screen fades to black.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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Washington Park's Festival of Lights Continues to Grow

by M.D. Cunningham



Maintenance Supervisor Sandy Kalinowski (center) and members of her crew are photographed in Washington Park.

For the Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department, the Festival of Lights in Washington Park is a proud tradition that requires preparation well before the display is unveiled the first Saturday in December.

Repairs to lights — totaling hundreds of work hours — begin as early as September for the tradition that began in 1990. Park Department Maintenance Supervisor Sandy Kalinowski said another 500 or so work hours are spent installing displays and putting lights up before hundreds more hours are spent making sure everything is connected and running smoothly.

“Seeing how much people enjoy it makes all the work worthwhile,” said Kalinowski, who began as a seasonal laborer with Washington Park Zoo in 2009. “There really is a lot of pride. My mom and 6-year-old son take pride in knowing mommy did it.”

The park department maintenance team, which also is responsible for leaf removal during much of this time, is a lean crew comprised of seven full-time and five part-time workers. That is a low number compared to years past, and Kalinowski says the city has made progress with the small group.

The lights, 80,000 of which are placed in trees

every year, will be lit Dec. 2 and maintained through Jan. 7. The December electric bill increases about \$2,500 to \$3,000 for the month, she said.

Every year, the number of decorations, which started with only a handful, has grown. There are 106 smaller displays of reindeer and Santas, 46 medium to large ones consisting of bigger snowmen, fire trucks and police cars, and four extra large displays that are lifted with a pay loader.

“The most exciting part for me,” Kalinowski said, “is seeing all the people that go through the park and knowing that there are so many people that enjoy it.”

Kalinowski’s family usually forms a mini-caravan of three to four carloads to drive through the display. Everyone in her family looks forward to the beauty of it, but also take additional pride that someone they know is responsible for making it all come to life.



Washington Park's Festival of Lights is a highlight of the holiday season. Photos by Paul Kemiell

There isn't a precise measure of how many people view the Festival of Lights since it's free and open to the public, but Kalinowski estimates it must be close to 25,000.

“My 86-year old mom enjoys it as much as my 6-year old,” she said. “It brings back that childhood part of Christmas.”

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Seasonal Comedy on Tap at Footlight Theatre

The seasonal comedy "My Three Angels" marks the third production in Footlight Players' 68th season, with performances on Dec. 1-3 and 7-10 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The comedy unfolds at Christmas time in French Guiana, when the poor Ducotel family needs a miracle to save the family business, and mend the broken heart of their daughter, Marie Louise (Nikki Szymkowski, La Porte).

Enter three convicts from Devil's Island: Joseph (David Mikolajczyk, Chesterton), Jules (Joe Blanchard, Portage) and Alfred (Alexander Bonner, Michigan City). The trio learns of Felix Ducotel (Ken Siegfried, Michigan City), whose cousin and business partner, Henri (Tony J. Thomas, Michigan City), plans to take the business from him, and how his nephew, Paul (Anthony G. Holt, Michigan City), aims to jilt his daughter for an heiress.



The three convicts in "My Three Angels."

The cast also includes Dee Piotrowski (Hanna) and Nasem Shwaiki (Michigan City). The director is Leslie Evans (Highland), with assistance from Emma Blanchard (Portage).

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15, or \$10 on Thursday and for children 12 and younger.

Call (219) 874-4035 or visit www.FootlightPlayers.org for reservations. The website also includes a coupon.

The featured local artists are students from Cheri Whitler's Michigan City High School class. The group also is collecting non-perishable food items and toiletries for the food pantry.

Auditions for "Twelve Angry Jurors"

Footlight Players will have auditions for its February production, "Twelve Angry Jurors," an adaptation of the award-winning "Twelve Angry Men," from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Dec. 3-4, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Director Steve Rohe and Assistant Director Bobbi Lauritsen seek 13 adults to portray the courtroom drama's jury and guard.

No experience is necessary. Show dates are Feb. 2-4 and 8-11. Visit www.FootlightPlayers.org or call the theater at (219) 874-4035 for details.

Snowflake Parade

Michigan City's Snowflake Parade returns to the Uptown Arts District at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2.

The parade, which includes the Wolves football team, starts at 10th Street and heads north to Michigan City Public Library on Fourth Street, where caroling is planned around the tree, complete with high school choir students. Families should take canned food donations.

Free hay rides courtesy of the La Porte County Draft Horse Association will be available.

Santa's Chalet, normally at Seventh and Franklin streets, will be in the parking lot near the courthouse until 7 p.m. From then on, the chalet will be at its regular location Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2-3, 9-10 and 16-17. Youngsters should bring letters to Santa.

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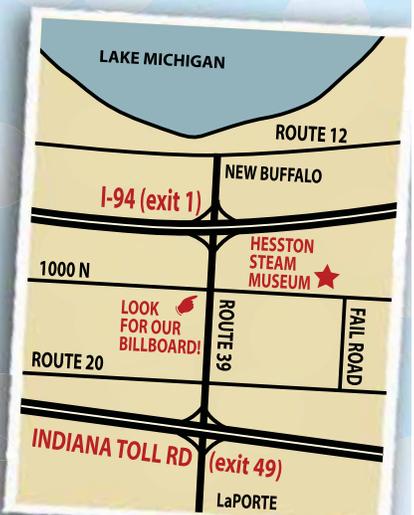
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Power Squadron Honors One of Its Own

by William Halliar

Marion Roskowski has the weathered look of a seasoned sailor.

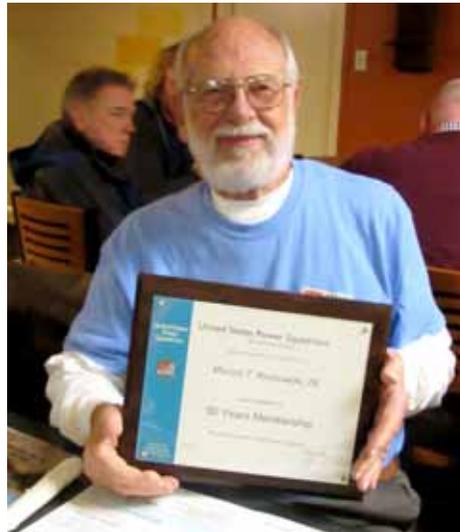
His visage is enhanced by wisps of white hair and the hoary beard of a sage. A stranger might take him as either a college professor or a pirate. Curiously, his business card reads, “Revolutions started, uprisings quelled, bombs detonated”...and for good measure, “fashion consultant.”

Perhaps the most telling annotation on his card is this: “Wood Boats Bought, Sold, Admired and Restored.”

Roskowski may have spent many years laboring in one of the region’s largest steel mills, but his heart and soul have been invested in wooden boats, sharing that passion with his family and, of course, members of the Michigan City Power Squadron, of which he is a 50-year member. He was honored for that milestone at a dinner hosted by squadron members Nov. 16 at Swingbelly’s, 3101 U.S. 12.

Michigan City’s Power Squadron represents a proud history, and a mission of education in maritime safety. The U.S. Power Squadron, of which our Michigan City squadron is a chapter, was founded as a not-profit organization in 1914. Founder John Upton said of his organization that the educational opportunities would lead to the “improvement in the navigating ability of power boat owners.” Also, the training of power boat owners could lead to “possible use to the Navy in time of war so that they might be received as volunteers should they so desire.” Social gatherings also are an important aspect of membership.

Roskowski’s love of power boating began in the 1940s when he learned to enjoy the water on Cedar



Marion Roskowski holds the certificate he received honoring his 50-year membership with the Michigan City Power Squadron.

Lake in Lake County. He built his first boat — a hydroplane — while still in high school, and an iceboat that could reach speeds upwards of 60 mph. He joined Michigan City’s Power Squadron in 1969, not long after it was chartered in 1961.

During his many years as a squadron member, Roskowski gained an impressive number of certifications through U.S. Power Squadron educational programs. He also taught some of these programs over the years. He belongs to the Antique and Classic Boat Society and is a former president of the Century Boat Club.

The National Marine Manufacturers Association awarded him the honor of “Indiana Boating Family of the Year” in the late 1980s. Over the years, he has owned 21 boats and boasts that, through many a storm and gale, including adventures in Lake Michigan’s North Channel, he “never broke a propeller.”

Indeed, Roskowski speaks of fond memories of time spent cruising Lake Michigan with his family. All of his boats, in fact, were made of wood, except for one small dingy. He jokes that he never saw anything of substance made from a “fiberglass tree.” The current occupation of his dreams is his 34’ mahogany hulled and brass trimmed “Enchantress,” which he describes as “classy.”

During the recognition dinner, Roskowski received a certificate for his many years of active and dedicated service to the power squadron, and a special lapel pin presented by George Prescott, Chicago Sail & Power Squadron, District 20, bridge officer.

(Visit Michigan City Power Squadron on facebook, or call past commander and public contact Bill Jenkins at (219) 928-6118 for more information on the squadron.)



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WHERE DOGS PLAY

Big Comedy La Porte

La Porte Seamless Charity (Big Comedy La Porte) will present “Santa’s Ball” from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

The ball is a 21-and-older cash bar charity event, with all proceeds benefitting La Porte Drug Court.

Big Comedy La Porte is known for popular events such as “Big Comedy at the Little Theatre,” “Two Enormous Inappropriate Trivias” and “The 80’s Prom.”

General admission tickets are \$20, with full table seating for 10 costing \$150. Visit www.santasball.com for reservations.

Stuff-a-Sleigh

To give families in need a Merry Christmas, The Salvation Army will present the annual Stuff-A-Sleigh from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Al's on Franklin Street and in Karwick Plaza.

Customers can buy a pre-packed bag of groceries at the checkout for \$5. These bags contain pantry essentials such as pasta and sauce, vegetables and soup. The bags will be distributed through The Salvation Army food pantry.

Also available for purchase are meat vouchers in \$5 denominations.

WEFM 95.9 will broadcast live from Al's Karwick Plaza. Call (219) 874-6885 or visit www.samichigan.org for more details.

River Valley Drama Club

River Valley Drama Club will present "Oz" on Friday through Sunday, Dec. 1-3.

Performances are at 7 p.m. EST Friday and Saturday at River Valley Middle/High School's auditorium, 15480 Three Oaks Road, and 4 p.m. EST Sunday at The Acorn Theatre, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich.

The show is similar to "The Wizard of Oz," but with unusual twists. Tickets at the door cost \$5.

Read-a-Thon Tour



Michigan City High School students in theater and advanced theater classes took their act on the road Nov. 15, heading to three local elementary schools for a "Read-a-Thon" tour. The 30 high-schoolers, often dressed in character and with a prop or two, read a variety of books to children at Marsh, Springfield and Joy schools. Kelly Martin-Fargo, MCHS speech and theater teacher, hopes to incorporate a Read-a-Thon tour for her theater classes each semester.

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Candy Cane Express

Santa's Candy Cane Express runs Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2-3 and 9-10, at Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, La Porte.



Visitors can ride the Candy Cane Express in open or enclosed railroad coaches on a 2 1/2-mile railway line through the woods and past lakes and farm fields. Meanwhile, Santa waits for children in a vintage 1900s caboose. Families can take photos with him at no charge.

Doc's Soda Fountain will be open for breakfast at 9 a.m. Trains start running at noon and continue through 5 p.m. Fares are \$5 for adults, while children 3-12 cost \$3. Children 3 and younger are free.

To support the U.S. Marine Corps, visitors can bring a new unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots drive and receive a free train ride.

Visit www.hesston.org or call (219) 778-2783 for additional information.



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

• **Make Your Fishing Tackle Workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 2, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

A park ranger guides children during the free program. All materials are provided.

• **Playdate in the Nature Play Zone from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, 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.

• **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, 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.



The Paul H. Douglas Center will be closed for construction Dec. 1-March 17.

During this time, the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system will be replaced with a "greener" footprint, making the building more comfortable and efficient.

Visitors can use the Miller Woods Trail for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, birding and other outdoor activities. However, there will be no recreational equipment checkout while construction is under way, so visitors will have to provide their own gear. The parking lots will remain open, but restrooms will not be accessible.

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.

Harbor Country Book Club

Harbor Country Book Club will discuss Ray Oldenburg's "The Great Good Place" at 6:30 p.m. EST Thursday, Nov. 30, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Meetings are open to the public. The club does not meet December through February.

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Final Sinai Forum of Season



Purdue University Northwest Sinai Forum concludes its 64th season with author/researcher David Epstein at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, in the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex.

Doors open at 3 p.m.

As a writer covering science, medicine and sports, and frequently combining all three in the same project, Epstein will share the story of his book, *The Sports Gene*, which discusses the effects of genetics and sports training on human athleticism. Research, conversations with leading scientists and Olympic champions, along with interviews with athletes with rare genetic mutations or physical traits, helped Epstein take a different look at the nature of athleticism.

As writer for *ProPublica*, an online investigative news source, and a former senior writer for *Sports Illustrated*, Epstein co-wrote the 2009 report that Yankees third-baseman Alex Rodriguez used steroids. *The Sports Gene* is a *New York Times* bestseller.

Tickets, which cost \$30, can be purchased at the door by cash, check or credit card. Students who show a valid high school or university I.D. may attend for free.

Patron-level ticketholders can attend the speaker reception before the program at 2:30 p.m. More details are available at www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum

Winter WellnessLand

The Crossing of La Porte Hospital, 1203 Washington St., again will host its free Winter WellnessLand, complete with a visit from Santa and family activities, from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6

Pictures with Santa are planned, with a suggested donation of one non-perishable food item to be donated to local food pantries. Prints will be mailed to families after the event. Guests, however, can take their own photos.

Other activities include hot cocoa and cookies, holiday crafts, cookie decorating, holiday games and a Winter Wellness Indoor Scavenger Hunt.

Call (219) 326-2048 for more details.

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25 Days of Fitness

by Kevin Scott, Anytime Fitness general manager

It's the holiday season. With the whoop-de-do and hickory dock.

And all of the other wonderful things the holiday season brings.

Christmas tunes, decorations, festive lights, hot chocolate and, of course, the magnificent "25 Days of Christmas" on TV. Each year, on Freeform (previously ABC Family), Dec. 1 kicks off the "25 Days of Christmas." Each day, it shows a different Christmas movie that culminates on Christmas Day with 24 hours straight of

Ralphie, Randy and "A Christmas Story."

But this year, let's stir things up a bit. Grab a seat on the couch, but instead of the popcorn and soda, grab a workout towel and water bottle because we are changing it to the "25 Days of Fitness!"

Mix in some workouts to your favorite Christmas movies. Check out the calendar here. Smack this baby up on your fridge and get the whole family together for a good movie and a good workout! Challenge your family, challenge your friends and challenge yourself.

Have fun!

 Freeform 25 days of X-mas December 2017						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
See ** for each movie and what workout to do each time these things happen. For ALL movies, 10 Jumping Jacks for each time there is a commercial break!					1 National Lampoons Christmas @ 7:05pm **5 squats, 5 pushups & 10 Jumping jacks every advent opened	2 Elf @ 7pm **1 burpee every time "Elf" is said
3 How the Grinch Stole Christmas @ 6pm **5 Squats every "grinch" **1 Pushup each "who"	4 Elf @ 6:40pm **1 burpee every time "Elf" is said	5 Polar Express @ 8:55pm **10 high knees each time they say "Santa"	6 Willy Wonka @ 4:15pm **30 Second plank for each song they sing or is played	7 Toy Story @ 9pm **5 Burpees every time buzz or woody say their catchphrases	8 Toy Story 2 @ 6:50pm **20 Mountain Climbers when they say "Andy"	9 The Santa Claus @ 6:25pm **1 push up every time the mention the North Pole
10 National Lampoons Christmas @ 6:30pm **10 jumping jacks every commercial	11 Four Christmases @ 3:40pm **5 squats, 5 push ups, 20 sec. plank	12 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory @ 4pm **30 Second plank for each song they sing	13 Nightmare Before Christmas @ 12:10pm **15 squats for each song they sing	14 Four Christmases @ 6:45pm **Each new christmas: 5 squats, 5 push ups, 20 sec. plank	15 National Lampoons Christmas @ 7:10pm **5 squats, 5 pushups & 10 Jumping jacks every advent opened	16 How the Grinch Stole Christmas @ 9:15pm **5 Squats every "grinch" **1 Pushup each "who"
17 Frozen @ 8:15pm **1 squat for each time they say "cold" or "snow"	18 Elf @ 9pm **1 burpee every time "Elf" is said	19 National Lampoons Christmas @ 8:50pm **5 squats, 5 pushups & 10 Jumping jacks every advent opened	20 Santa Claus is Comin' to Town @ 3:30pm **15 calf raises each time they say "Kringie"	21 Polar Express @ 8:50pm **10 high knees each time they say "Santa"	22 Year Without a Santa Claus @ 2:20pm **30 second plank during each song	23 Nightmare Before Christmas @ 11:15am **15 squats for each song they sing
24/31 It's a Wonderful Life (Not on Freeform, but trust us, just watch it) ** Start a fire & make some hot chocolate	25 A Christmas Story (Not on Freeform) ** Just relax and enjoy time with loved ones	26	27	28	29	30

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Alinsky Excellence Award

The Michigan City Rotary Club is taking nominations for the Paul J. Alinsky Excellence Award.

The award is in honor of the late Paul Alinsky, who was a past chamber board chairman, Rotary Club president and founder of Sentinel Alarm Co.

The annual award goes to someone from the Michigan City community who exhibits dedication to community service and excellence, passion and innovation in their vocation/career.

Past recipients of the Rotary honor include Ron Benz, Jerry Karstens, Kathleen Lang, Glen Lubeznik, Duane Mertl, Les Radke, Burton "Bud" Ruby, Emerson Spartz, Jim Welborne, James Dworikin, Lisa Hendricks and Marty Corley. Last year, in honor of the club's 100th anniversary, the award recognized every Rotary Club member over the past century.

A memorial inscribed with the names of past recipients is on display at Michigan City Public Library. The recipient receives a replica of the Paul Alinsky memorial, along with a contribution to a charity of his/her choice. The award will be presented at Rotary's Jan. 25 meeting.

The submission deadline is Friday, Dec. 22. Visit www.mcrotaary.org for a nomination form.

Holidays at Taltree

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens has scheduled numerous events to celebrate the holiday season.

Santa is available for pictures from noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 2-3, 9-10 and 16-17. Then, Santa and Mrs. Claus will host guests from 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 16-17, with a holiday story and cookie decorating. Tickets start at \$10 and vary depending on the number of people in a family. Advance tickets are required at Taltree.org.



A model train runs through a spruce tree in Taltree's "Train Tree."

Families also can stop by the vintage Railway Depot and check out Taltree's signature train tree, which features three miniature tracks and trains running along the branches. Hot cocoa, holiday crafts and time to explore the arboretum itself round out the experience.

Taltree is at 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso. Visit www.taltree.org for more details.

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Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar

Valparaiso International Center, 309 E. Lincolnway, continues its annual Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar from noon to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1-2 and 8-9.

The bazaar features handmade products by craftsmen and farmers from developing countries.

“Fair Trade is a movement that directly benefits these producers by offering them fair prices and eliminating most middle man costs” said Frieda Davison, who directs the project for The VIC.



African basketry is available at Valparaiso International Center's Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar.

The bazaar offers a variety of items from around the world, including: drum art, chocolate and coffee from Haiti; clothing and handbags from India and Pakistan; African basketry; and jewelry from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Handcrafted decorative items produced by underprivileged women in Kenya will be available through the Grain of Rice Project. New items will arrive each week.

Visit www.valpovic.org or www.facebook.com/valpovic for more details.



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New Buffalo Streetscape Project

New Buffalo, in partnership with the New Buffalo Downtown Development Authority, is in the final phase of making improvements to the community's downtown area.

The work will result in the much-needed replacement of water and sewer lines, as well as a new streetscape.

New Buffalo DDA staff provided this information with answers to specific questions about the project:

Q: How much notification will building owners and businesses receive about water shut-off to their buildings, and when is this likely to occur?

Response: At least a 24-hour notification will be provided to North Whittaker Street building owners and businesses before water shutoffs. The water shutoffs are estimated to occur sometime in December, after which time the North Whittaker buildings will be connected to new water lines.

Q: What are the hours of construction during the day, and will construction work be done seven days per week?

Response: Construction work will comply with the city's typical working hours of 7 a.m.-5 p.m. EST weekdays. If additional hours are needed due to unforeseen conditions, they will be added on weeknights and/or weekends to accommodate the project's schedule.

To the extent feasible, the contractor is opening North Whittaker Street to vehicular and pedestrian traffic on weekends.

Jeans for Junior Achievement



Coolspring Elementary School students gathered Nov. 21 to present a \$986.61 check to Junior Achievement, the proceeds from a districtwide “Jeans for JA” day Oct. 27. Students and staff at all eight Michigan City Area Schools elementary buildings could wear jeans by donating \$1. Pictured are (holding check, from left) students Jason Picon, Jack Kuehl, Carmelo Mitchell and Kendra Zbell. The back row is Coolspring Secretary Kathy Schroll, student Toney Jones and JA Area Director Lisa Scheller.

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.

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. Dec. 11 and 18 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. 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:

- Dec. 13 — Winter Wonder Land.

Snowflake Break

Children 5-10 can make crafts, play games and have a snack during the free program from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

Dress for the weather because some activities are outside. Parents are not required to participate or stay during the program

A minimum of five children and maximum of 24 are required for the program.

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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“10 Inch Masterpiece”

Thaddeus C. Gallery, 822 Lincolnway, will celebrate 10 years in downtown La Porte with the return of the “10 Inch Masterpiece” fine-art exhibit Dec. 2-Jan. 13.

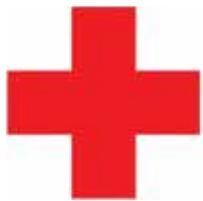


Thaddeus Cutler's oil on canvas, “Atlanta,” is part of the exhibit.

An opening reception is from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2. No work in the exhibit exceeds 10 inches in any direction. A variety of pieces from Indiana-based artists, as well as those from Chicago, Seattle, New York, France and Japan, will be on display. They include: Tom Torluemke, Sarah Takahashi, Alan Larkin, Gregg Hertz-

lieb, Fotios Zemenides, Laurel Iazard, Melissa Washburn, Linda Redman, Bradley Davenport, Jennifer Qian, Mikio Watanabe and gallery owners Thaddeus and Laura Cutler.

Call (219) 326-8626 or email info@thaddeusc.com for more details.



American Red Cross

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

- IU Health La Porte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, Michigan City, noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5.

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.

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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Free Gentle Flow Yoga at 12:15 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2.**

Certified yoga instructor Lauralee Sikorski emphasizes deep breathing and releasing stress. Take a mat and wear comfortable attire, and come on an empty stomach.

• **Beginning German and Spanish Classes at 9:10 a.m. Saturdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.**

Each class is eight weeks long. German starts at 9:10 a.m. and Spanish at 10:15 a.m. The German class will cover basic expressions, grammar and pronunciation. The Spanish class will cover greetings, words and phrases about family, home, hobbies, telling time and shopping. Call Al Tieken at (219) 878-8519 for details.

• **Visits from Santa at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, and 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6.**

Join the Story Time crew as they welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus. The program is for children birth to 10 accompanied by an adult.

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

Holiday Potpourri



Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St., will present its annual “Holiday Potpourri,” with art in all genres, through Dec. 30, with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1. Art ranges from oils, acrylics, watercolors and sculpture to photography, jewelry and wearable art. Pictured is a photo by Steve Bensing. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Visit www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com for more details.

Business After Hours

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours, hosted by Junior Achievement, is from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, at Bistro on the Greens, 299 W. Johnson Road, La Porte.

More than 5,400 young people across La Porte County participate in Junior Achievement.

Registration for Business After Hours is encouraged by calling the Chamber at (219) 362-3178, or visit tinyurl.com/yd7yku5r

Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra

Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra will present two concerts to complete its fall term.

The first concert is at 7 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 2, at South Haven High School's LC Mohr Auditorium, 600 Elkenburg St. It features LMYO's most advanced group, the Youth Symphony, a full orchestra with wind, brass, string and percussion students representing 12 schools in Southwest Michigan and northern Indiana. The lineup includes "Jupiter — the Bringer of Jollity" from "The Planets" by Holst and "Lord of the Rings — The Fellowship of the Ring" by Howard Shore.



The second concert is at 4 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Howard Performing Arts Center, 4160 E. Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs, Mich. It presents pieces by all three LMYO ensembles: Concert Strings, Encore Strings and Youth Symphony. Highlights include "Rosin Eating Zombies from Outer Space" by Meyer, and a special guest, professor Phillip Serna of Valparaiso University, performing the "Viola da Gamba Concertino" on the Viola da Gamba.

Tickets for each concert, available at the door, are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students/seniors. Call (269) 982-4030 or visit smso.org for more details.

Ready for Winter



More than 40 Krueger Middle School seventh- and eighth-graders assisted with cleanup and planting at Friendship Botanic Gardens on Nov. 21, just two days before the gardens' annual "Turkey Trot." The students helped FBG board members and other volunteers with end-of-season tasks such as raking, mulching roses and planting bulbs for spring. Krueger teachers Leslie Samelson and Janine Peo organized the trip.



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Fudge Sales to Benefit River Valley Senior Center Renovation

by Kayla Weiss



An architectural rendering of the updated River Valley Senior Center.

Every year, Jackie's Café in New Buffalo chooses an organization to sponsor for its yearly fudge fundraiser.

This year, it is the River Valley Senior Center renovation project. Paired with the Larry Bubb Endowment, Jackie's Café will donate all profits from fudge sales, matched by the endowment, to aid the center's three-stage renovation project.

Founded more than 50 years ago, River Valley Senior Center, located at 13321 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert, Mich., has been a staple in the community, providing residents 60 and older educational, recreational, social, transportation and referral services.

"We really pride ourselves on being able to provide our patrons with services they need and are not able to find anywhere else," Tim Hawkins, the center's executive director, said.

"We provide our patrons with tax services, social activities, presentations, knitting and quilting classes, craft classes, bus trips. At the end of the day, we want to provide them with services that are going to keep them happy, educated and active."

The renovation project emerged when Hawkins was hired four years ago, the board president indicating something needed to be done about the floors. Organized in three phases, Phase One will include a new facade for the front exterior, making it accessible for people with disabilities, including ramps and a sliding door, and upgrading the windows. Its completion will result in a new library, computer room and craft room.

Phase Two will address renovations to the upper level, including ripping out walls to make rooms and bathrooms more accessible. Phase Three addresses renovations to the lower level.

The target completion date is early 2019.

"So far, we have done everything we can to raise money for this \$500K project," Hawkins said. "We did a mail-out fundraiser, raising around \$100K. We have applied for as many grants as we possibly can, and continue to apply, but when Jackie stepped forward and chose us to be the beneficiary of the fudge sale, we were in shock.

"It has been a splendid experience so far, and we couldn't be happier with results. The response was overwhelming – to us – and we wanted to make sure we didn't overwhelm Jackie. In the first week alone, we sold 100 pounds of fudge."

More About the Fundraiser

One pound of fudge goes for \$14 at Jackie's Café. Matched by the endowment, that results in \$28 per pound of fudge sold. Started Nov. 1, it continues through Dec. 21. Orders can be made through Jackie's, 801 W. Buffalo St., or the senior center.

Visit www.rvseniorcenter.org for more information on River Valley Senior Center.

Visit www.jackieshencafe.com for more information on Jackie's Café and the fundraiser.

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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

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

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

• **The first Spelling Bee on Thursday, Nov. 30, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The event is open to the public, with spectators welcome. Prizes are awarded to the finalists. Advance registration is highly encouraged. Study guides are available for registered spellers that include rules, FAQs and words to study.

The two sessions are: one for teens (13-17) from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and one for adults 18 and older from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Pizza and refreshments will be served during the break from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Visit www.WPLspellingbee.Eventbrite.com, or call the Thomas Branch Reference Department at (219) 926-7696 and ask to speak to Marta for more information.

• **Friends Special Holiday Book Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, in the Thomas Branch Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Since the fall book sale, more than 25 boxes of books in excellent used condition have been donated. Many include best-selling authors, series and specialty books. Books will be sorted on tables by price: \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4 and up. Prices for newer and special books will be individually marked. Only books will be sold: no toys, DVDs, CDs or albums.

Proceeds aid the library's supplemental and special programming efforts, such as film series, children's programs, book discussions, educational classes and staff recognition events.

• **Knitting Together from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, 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, Dec. 4, at the Thomas Branch Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus is Meredith Jaeger's "The Dressmaker's Dowry."

• **Teen Nail Art from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Youth in grades 6-12 can learn new trends and techniques. Nail polish will be supplied, but teens can take some to share. This month's theme is reindeer. Registration is required in person or by calling (219) 926-7697.

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Barker Volunteers Honored

The staff at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., honored volunteers during an event Nov. 17.

Held in the Drawing Room, volunteers were recognized for their dedication, as well as their creativity in planning programs.

“We absolutely could not operate in this capacity without our volunteers,” Director Jessica Rosier said in a press release. “Volunteers are essential to everything we do, from leading school groups and tours to marketing to research.”



Barker Mansion's top 2017 volunteers, in term of hours, are (from left) Bruce and Pat Frankinburger, Anthony Holt, Sandy Komasiński and Carolyn Pahs.

The top five volunteers in 2017, in terms of hours, are:

- Carolyn Pahs, Michigan City (92.5 hours).
- Pat Frankinburger, La Porte (89 hours).
- Bruce Frankinburger, La Porte (60 hours).
- Sandy Komasiński, Beverly Shores (40.5 hours).
- Anthony Holt, Michigan City (32 hours).

Rosier stressed that any time commitment, whether it's once per week or once per year, is needed and appreciated.

Along with honoring volunteers, the casual event included dinner and games. Those interested in volunteering at the mansion can email jrosier@emichiganacity.com

NB Library Community Forum

The question, “What shaped the local landscape?,” will be answered during the next Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum at 6:30 p.m. EST Monday, Dec. 4, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Chikaming Open Lands Executive Director Ryan Potsema will lead a visual tour through Harbor Country, from the glaciers of thousands of years ago through changes in the area's lakes, rivers and species successions. The discussion will cover how native and European inhabitants and climate changes affected the local landscape over the past centuries.

The forum concludes its 2017 series with the annual afternoon of holiday caroling at 2:30 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 10. Led by musicians from the School of American Music, the family event includes holiday treats.

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 more details.

Metamorphosis Traveling Theatre



Metamorphosis Traveling Theatre will showcase “The Ballet Lady Presents Snow White & Sherman” at 10 a.m. Dec. 1 and 4 at the La Porte County Head Start campus (the former Neimann Elementary School). Helen Williams plays Snow White, Dana Chartier is Sherman (the eighth dwarf), Elizabeth Dekker is Girl, Judith Joseph is the evil Queen Queasy and Doug Moon is her brother, Quasi. Dirk Dekker assists as Big Brother Dwarf. All other roles are taken by school children, prepped before each show. Call MTT at (219) 872-4813 for more details.



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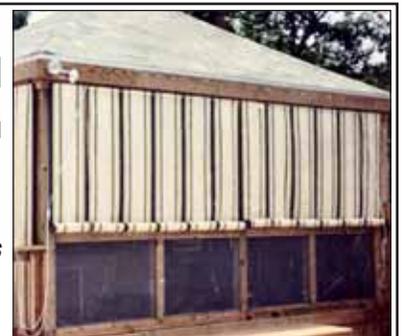
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Breakfast With St. Nicholas

In celebration of the upcoming Feast of St. Nicholas, St. Andrew's by-the-lake Episcopal Church, U.S. 12 and Moore Road, will host a "Breakfast with St. Nicholas" from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2. The event is designed for children age 3 to third grade and their families. A free breakfast starts at 9 a.m. Steve Costa, a professional Santa Claus, will make an appearance as St. Nicholas. Crafts, games and carols ensue. Call (219) 872-6984 for details. Pictured is Costa with Abby Haring.

Unity Tops \$360,000 During Event

Unity Foundation's La Porte County GIVES! raised more than \$360,000 on Oct. 6-7 to benefit local nonprofits and special projects.

In celebration of Unity's 25th anniversary, the foundation held a gala and GIVE day event. A group of donors provided \$125,000 to be used as a matching incentive for the participating funds, and Unity's board of directors approved \$25,000 in special grant prizes. The money, along with more than \$213,000 raised by participants, resulted in more than \$360,000 to support local non-profits and special projects.

Fifty nine of Unity's nonprofit and donor funds chose to participate and shared in \$150,000 in prizes and matching funds. The top five were:

- Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City Inc. — \$5,000 in prizes and \$21,788 in matching funds.
- Lindsey O'Brien Kesling Wishing Tree Foundation — \$7,800 in prizes and \$14,815 in matching funds.
- La Porte County Family YMCA-Michigan City Elston Branch — \$4,000 in prizes and \$8,611 in matching funds.
- Women's Care Center of Greater La Porte County — \$4,000 in prizes and \$8,933 in matching funds.
- The Salvation Army of Michigan City — \$1,000 in prizes and \$6,881 in matching funds.

Other funds showed a competitive spirit and won special prizes totaling \$10,000 during the 30 hours. Each participating group shared in a pro-rata amount of the \$125,000 in matching grants, with no one entity earning more than 25 percent of the total. Some funds raised will go into their endowment fund, and the rest can be used immediately.

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School of American Music

The School of American Music, Three Oaks, Mich., has named Donna Mitchell as its executive director.



Mitchell

Mitchell is a former classroom teacher of general music and choral director at schools in New Carlisle and La Porte. She is chairwoman of Michigan City's "Messiah" Steering Committee, and is involved with Michigan City Chamber Music Festival and Monday Musicales. She also is a member of Harbor Country Singers and the Valparaiso University Community Concert Band.

Mitchell's duties at SAM include administrative functions tied to the school's classroom teaching programs, developing and leading new classes and activities, and working with SAM's board and committees on publicity, scheduling, recruiting teachers and students, and other functions.

Mitchell replaces Priscilla Lee Hellenka, who retired from the position she held since 2013. Hellenka will continue to teach beginning ukulele and reading music for the school, and will head event planning. She also will work alongside Mitchell as she transitions into her new position.

The School of American Music offers lessons in guitar, piano, violin, bass, ukulele, voice and studio recording at Three Oaks Library and Three Oaks Arts & Education Center at 14 Maple St.



Hellenka

Supporting Catholic Charities



La Lumiere School students held a food drive to assist Catholic Charities, surprising even themselves by filling a bus with more than 600 pounds of food. Catholic Charities partners with local organizations to provide food for families in need so they can celebrate the holiday. Students now will focus on a Christmas gift drive for Toys for Tots.

Teacher Grants Awarded

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

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

Annual grants are awarded to fund projects and programs that enrich curriculum or enhance a teacher's ability to meet student needs. More than \$52,000 has been awarded thus far.

Twenty seven applications were received through Unity's online application process. The seven approved projects, involving 11 teachers and impacting more than 608 students, will receive a combined grant award of \$2,510.40.

The honored projects are:

- **Barker Middle School.** Valerie Mecklenburg: Student Centered Chemistry.
- **Coolspring Elementary School.** Brianne Covington and Luci Mazac: Meeting the Needs of Our Diverse Learners.
- **Edgewood Elementary School.** Melissa Glowski and Karen Marfise: Mindfulness.
- **Knapp Elementary School.** Elizabeth Law: TIME for Kids.
- **Marsh Elementary School.** Susan Shell and Erin Breen: Making Our Books Come Alive!
- **Notre Dame Catholic School.** Lindsey McFadden and Barbara Brandon: Music In Commotion.
- **St. Paul Lutheran School.** Melissa Bushnell: Skitt Kits.

Movable Art Feast

The "Movable Art Feast" returns for a four-gallery art pop-up event Sunday Dec. 3.

The schedule is:

- Blink Contemporary Art, 1709 Franklin St., 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- The Nest, 803 Franklin St., 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St., noon-5 p.m.
- Brabant Projects, 617 Franklin St., 12:30-5 p.m.

Pioneer Land Christmas Open House

Pioneer Land will host its Christmas Open House from 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2-3, at La Porte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

Pioneer Land will be decorated the way it would have been in the 1840s. All decorations are handmade and of the period. All of the buildings will be open, with draft horse rides available depending on the weather, and visits with Santa.

Trails Advisory Board Nominations

The Department of Natural Resources seeks nominations for six openings on the Indiana Trails Advisory Board.

The TAB discusses and advises the DNR director on important trail matters and shares news, best practices and resources with the trails community.

Openings are for representatives of trail-user or interest groups such as: bicyclists; off-road motorcyclists; parks and recreation agencies; water trail users; higher education/health; and equestrians.

Nominees should be involved with a local or state-wide trails-oriented organization.

TAB members serve a three-year term starting March 1, 2018, and attend quarterly meetings. The equestrian user-group representative will serve a one-year term to fill a resignation.

Meetings are the first Thursday in March, September and December, and the last Thursday in June. All meetings start at 3 p.m., and locations vary throughout the state.

Nominations will be accepted by the DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation from Dec. 1-30. Visit dnr.IN.gov/outdoor/4094.htm for more details.

Historical Society Calendars



La Porte County Historical Society's 2018 calendars are on sale at the museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. A theme is chosen each year concerning local history. This year, the calendar, titled "I Fall to Pieces," features La Porte County quilts from the Historical Society's collection. The oldest quilt featured is from 1815. The calendar, which costs \$12, is available at the museum's front desk. Call (219) 324-6767 or email info@laportecountyhistory.org for details.

First Friday @ FUMC

First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St., will host "Crafts Through the Ages" during First Friday Art Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 1.

The church will feature more than a dozen crafters, including weavers, spinners, tatters, basket making, potters, wood carvers, forged pewter metal, glass painting, decorative painting, period doll clothes and photography.

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JROTC Hosts Military Skills Event, Earns Awards



The Armed Platoon executes its drill card.

Eleven schools from across Indiana and the Chicago metropolitan area visited Michigan City High School on Nov. 18 to participate in a military skills competition hosted by the school's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Schools competed in military drill, physical fitness, academics and marksmanship. MCHS placed in every military drill category.

The events, place and commander of the respective units are:

- Armed Platoon, first, Lt. Tyler Stockley.
- Armed Exhibition, first, Stockley.
- Color Guard A, first, Gunnery Sgt. Griffin Williams.
- Unarmed Exhibition, second, Gunnery Sgt. Haley Williams.
- Color Guard B, second, Haley Williams.
- Armed Squad, second, Gunnery Sgt. Zach Benedict.
- First Year Squad, second, Staff Sgt. Nienah Langford.

- Unarmed Platoon, third, Capt. James Steinhagen.

Master Sgt. Jeff Benak, the Marine instructor, was complimentary of the cadets' performance, but cautioned that future competitions will get tougher.

"Our cadets performed very well today," he said, "but they know we have to continue to improve if we want to get to our ultimate goal of going to the national competition in April."

The cadets' next competition is Dec. 2 at the University of Illinois-Chicago. The following Saturday, they travel to West Lafayette to compete at Purdue University. They also will support school and community events, such as the Michigan City Area Schools "One City One Sound" Christmas concert and The Salvation Army food drive.



Cadets are photographed with the trophies earned at the meet.

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Stories, Photos Sought on Past Blizzards for Beacher Series

by Andrew Tallackson

The last thing anyone wants to think about right now is snow, correct? Halloween decorations were put away last month. Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Why factor treacherous blizzards into the equation?

Here's why.

January 2018 commences a milestone year. It marks the 60th anniversary of the 1958 blizzard and the 40th anniversary of the 1978 one. Both virtually shut down the region.

The Beacher's Bill Halliar is working on a two-part series about each storm that will run in early January 2018. The first installment will fo-



Joe Fiege delivers milk amid mounds of snow in 1958 at Seventh and Washington streets. Photo courtesy of Mike Flemin

cus on 1958 and the second on 1978. Anyone with memories and photos they're willing to share about either storm, please contact me at (219) 879-0088 or drew@thebeacher.com. We can scan in your photos and return them to you. The deadline to contact us is noon Thursday, Dec. 7.

We have a fair amount of photos from the 1958 storm courtesy of our go-to archivist, Mike Fleming. However, we are sorely lacking in pictures from 1978. Your memories and photos of either storm will help paint a complete

picture for our readers.

So think about it. We'd love to hear from you!

Photo of the Week Contest

Help Us Capture Life Along the Beach!

Snap a high-resolution photo of a friend or family member, place, event...even the beautiful scenery. Include the day, time and location of the photo.

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.



Email high-resolution photos to drew@thebeacher.com



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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Nov. 30 — Comic Book and Pop Culture Club, noon-6 p.m., Ivy Tech, 3714 Franklin St. Speaker: Tom Sullivan, makeup/special effects/stop-motion animation artist.

Nov. 30 — Harbor Country Book Club, Ray Oldenburg's "The Great Good Place," 6:30 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Dec. 1 — First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Uptown Arts District (downtown Michigan City).

Dec. 1 — "Crafts Through the Ages," 5-8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

Dec. 1 — Opening reception, "Holiday Potpourri," 5-8 p.m., Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St. Info: www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com

Dec. 1 — First Friday with multi-instrumentalist Gerry Hundt, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

Dec. 1 — First Friday @ The Rising Phoenix Gallery, 5-8 p.m., 2803 Franklin St.

Dec. 1 — Holiday display unveiling, 5-8 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Admission: \$8/adults, \$5/15 & younger. Info: (219) 873-1520.

Dec. 1 — Old-fashioned Christmas carol sing, 5-8 p.m., Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park.

Dec. 1 — La Porte Seamless Charity (Big Comedy La Porte) "Santa's Ball," 7-11 p.m., La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. General admission: \$20. Table seating for 10: \$150. Reservations: www.santasball.com

Dec. 1-2 — "The Fantasticks," The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Times (Eastern): 7 p.m. Fri./1 & 7 p.m. Sat. Tickets: \$8. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

Dec. 1-3 — River Valley Drama Club, "Oz." Times: 7 p.m. EST Fri.-Sat. @ River Valley Middle/High School's auditorium, 15480 Three Oaks Road/4 p.m. EST Sun. @ The Acorn Theatre, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$5.

Dec. 1-3, 7-10 — "My Three Angels," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Sat./2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15, \$10 on Thursday & children 12 & younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.FootlightPlayers.org

Dec. 1-4 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Marshall." Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "Battle of the Sexes." Rated PG-13. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

Dec. 2 — Friends Special Holiday Book Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Dec. 2 — Snowflake Parade, 4 p.m., Michigan City's Uptown Arts District. Starts @ 10th Street.

Dec. 2 — Opening reception, "10 Inch Masterpiece," 5-8 p.m., Thaddeus C. Gallery, 822 Lincolnway, La Porte. Info: info@thaddeusc.com, (219) 326-8626,

Dec. 2-3 — Pioneer Land Christmas Open House, 3-8 p.m., La Porte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

Dec. 2-3, 9-10 — Candy Cane Express, Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, La Porte. Cost: adults/\$5, children 3-12/\$3, children 3 & younger/free. Info: www.hesston.org, (219) 778-2783.

Dec. 3 — Movable Art Feast @ four galleries: Blink Contemporary Art, The Nest, Southern Shore Art Association, Brabant Projects. Times: Info: thenestmichigancity@gmail.com

Dec. 3 — Purdue University Northwest Sinai Forum, author/researcher David Epstein, 4 p.m., James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex. Tickets: \$30 @ door. Info: www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum

Dec. 3 — “A Night in Bethlehem,” 4:30-6 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

Dec. 4 — New Buffalo Library Community Forum, “What shaped the local landscape?,” 6:30 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Dec. 4 — Popular Books, Meredith Jaeger’s “The Dressmaker’s Dowry,” 2 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Dec. 5-6 — Visits from Santa, Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Hours: 5:30 p.m. Dec. 5/10 a.m. Dec. 6. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Dec. 6 — Winter WellnessLand, 4-6 p.m., The Crossing of La Porte Hospital, 1203 Washington St., Free. Info: (219) 326-2048.

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

December-March — Works by La Porte artist Ginny Scott, Arturo’s Baked Goods & More, 2613 E. U.S. 12. Info: (219) 874-2253.

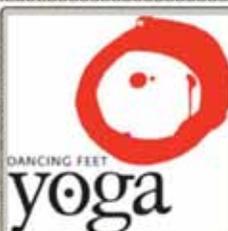
In the Region

Dec. 1-2, 8-9 — Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar, noon-7 p.m., Valparaiso International Center, 309 E. Lincolnway.

Dec. 2 — Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra, 7 p.m. EST, South Haven High School’s LC Mohr Auditorium, 600 Elkenburg St. Tickets: \$5/adults, \$3/students & seniors. Info: (269) 982-4030, smso.org

Dec. 2 — Holiday Festival, 6-9:30 EST, Burnison Galleries, 14560 Red Arrow Highway, Lakeside, Mich. Cost: \$75. Proceeds aid Court Appointed Special Advocates in Berrien County. Info: (312) 282-4486.

Dec. 3 — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.



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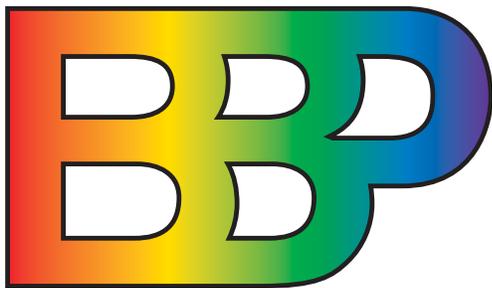
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**THIS
WEEK
IN
HISTORY**



On November 30, 1835, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, was born in Florida, Mo.

On November 30, 1887, the first reported game of softball, a game invented by George Hancock, was played at Chicago's Farragut Boat Club.

On November 30, 1900, at the age of 46, Irish author Oscar Wilde died in Paris. His last remark, a comment concerning his distaste for the wallpaper in his room, was, "One of us has to go."

On November 30, 1993, President Bill Clinton signed into law the Brady Bill, which requires a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases and background checks of prospective buyers.

On November 30, 2004, "Jeopardy!" fans got to see Ken Jennings end his 74 game winning streak as he lost to real estate agent Nancy Zerg.

On December 1, 1880, the first telephone was installed in the White House.

On December 1, 1913, in Pittsburg, the Gulf Refining Co. opened the world's first drive-in gasoline station. Motorists, up until that time, were accustomed to buying gas in garages and livery stables.

On December 1, 1927, Chicago's first contract air-mail plane landed at Municipal (now Midway) Airport.

On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Ala., black seamstress Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give a white man her seat on a city bus. As a result of her arrest, the law requiring blacks to sit in the back of buses was eventually struck down by the United States Supreme Court.

On December 1, 1957, the last wood and steel transit car was taken off the Chicago Rapid Transit lines.

On December 2, 1816, the first savings bank to operate in the United States opened for business under the name of the "Philadelphia Savings Fund Society."

On December 2, 1823, President James Monroe, in his annual message to Congress, enunciated the doctrine that bears his name, "...In the wars of the European powers in matters relating to themselves we have never taken any part...we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety."

On December 2, 1834, the Chicago Lyceum, the forerunner of Chicago's library system, was formed by a group of book intellectuals.

On December 2, 1942, below the football stadium

at the University of Chicago, a group of scientists, led by Enrico Fermi, for the first time demonstrated a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction.

On December 2, 1973, rare Greek and Roman coins valued at more than \$1 million were stolen from Harvard University's Fogg Museum.

On December 3, 1818, Illinois became the 21st state to join the Union.

On December 3, 1833, Ohio's Oberlin College opened, becoming the first coeducational college in the United States.

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

On December 3, 1973, *Pioneer 10* passed within 81,000 miles of Jupiter for man's first "close-up" look at the giant planet.

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

On December 4, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson sailed for France to attend a peace conference at Versailles, becoming the first sitting United States president to visit Europe.

On December 4, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the dismantling of the Works Progress Administration, which had been created to provide jobs during the Depression.

On December 5, 1776, 50 men at Virginia's "College of William and Mary" organized Phi Beta Kappa, the first scholastic fraternity in America.

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

On December 6, 342, Saint Nicholas, an archbishop of Myra, is reported to have died at the age of 38 or 39. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of Russia, mariners, youth, and virgins. From earliest times he has been one of the saints most often pictured, and is especially noted for his charity. Santa Claus, and the presentation of yuletide gifts, derived from the works of Saint Nicholas.

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

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

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

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

FOR SALE

Ashley Signature white chest and night stand, Baker Mahogany desk, various canvas Christmas framed pictures, 3 original Ken Gosh watercolors framed. Best offer, call (219) 898-7494 to view.

GARAGE SALES, ESTATE SALES, ETC.

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The Girlfriend Sale presents an extraordinary "Designer Jewelry Sale" Fri., Dec. 8, 4-7 p.m. & Sat., Dec. 9, 10-2 p.m.

Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail

You will find the most amazing collections of new, artist-made and designer jewelry, including rings, earrings, necklaces and bracelets, along with embroidered handbags, beautiful silk painted scarves and other specialty items just perfect for treating yourself and for gift giving. This sale is going to be spectacular, with more items expected to arrive daily, and as always priced just right. Look for more details in next week's classified Beacher ad, and be sure to check out The Girlfriend Sale Facebook page for photos posted just before the sale date. Both sale days and times are open to the public, although Friday evening always feels a bit more like a party. Come join the fun. Looking forward to seeing you there!

WANT TO BUY

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

REAL ESTATE

COMMERCIAL – RENTALS/LEASE/SELL

Beachwalk Resort at STOP 7 has fully furnished homes, ranging from studio to 5 bedrooms available for monthly rent between Sept. 15 and May 15. Monthly rates \$800 to \$2,500, INCLUDES utilities, cable and Internet. Please call (800) 814-7501 or email Julia@beachwalkresort.com for more information.

REAL ESTATE INVESTING

Investment property for sale in Michigan City. 4 occupied units, signed leases, yearly gross income \$30,000. **(219) 879-2198 or text (219) 877-8177.**

RENTALS INDIANA

Stop 31: Lovely, newly renovated, 2BR/1BA ranch with 1-car attached garage. No smoke, no pets, references required. Sept. 15-May 15, 2018. \$800/mo + utilities. **Contact cmppsusan@gmail.com**

Monthly rentals – Extended Stay!

Furnished, housekeeping, cable, WiFi, waterfront, at Pioneer Pier.

1BR with kitchenette, \$825.

2BR with kitchenette, \$1,025.

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.

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

Stop 39 3BR/2BA home, no smoking/no pets, references required. Sept. 15-May 15, 2018. \$1,200/mo.+utiities. Call (708) 254-2102.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Escape the city and enjoy the charming small-town living with low taxes, square footage of 2,000, this retro-style ranch home on 1.2 acres is move-in ready with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Call Gloria Notaro @Coldwell Banker: (219) 406-5925.



Long Beach Women's Bowling

Nov. 21, 2017

TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Queen Pins	29.5	14.5
2. Wrecking Balls	29	15
3. Alley Katz	28	16

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Sue Labovitz	186
2. Mary Lou McFadden	184
3. Peg King	165
4. Margie Midkiff (series)	403

FOUR STRIKES IN A ROW

Sue Labovitz



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

Old Lighthouse Museum

An old-fashioned Christmas carol sing is from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, at Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park.

Admission is free. *The Beacher's* Bill Halliar will play the 1910 pump organ, with Jan Hoepfner on dual keyboards.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Two Kinds of Truth by Michael Connelly (hardcover, \$29 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

Harry Bosch is America's favorite fictional police detective, as witnessed by the fact that this is book No. 20 in the series. His stories are fresh and new, never stale nor copycats. Bosch has evolved over the years, but never wavered from his almost suicidal need to right the wrong and capture the guilty parties. Reading his stories, you feel as if Harry is a flesh-and-blood person, not a flat, two-dimensional character. Having said that, let me introduce you to Harry's latest pursuits...

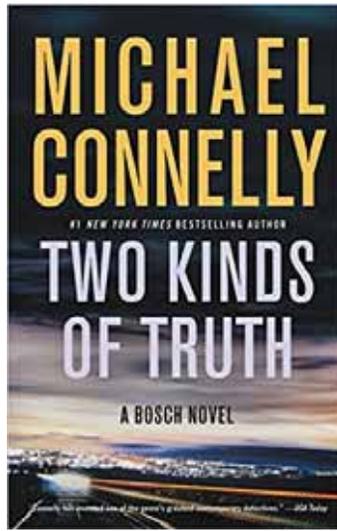
Harry now is working for the San Fernando Police Department, seeking new information to close cold cases. So far, his track record is good. He left the Los Angeles Police Department after 30-odd years of service, not in the best of ways, but that's another story. He's happy in this new job now that he is 60-something-years old. Solving cold cases has its own reward, and besides, he has a daughter still in college to provide for.

But one case, a missing wife and mother of an infant, Esme Tavares, has left the department stymied for some 15 years, making Harry all the more eager to find out what happened. Problem is, what happens next will put this investigation on hold...

San Fernando is a small town surrounded by Los Angeles, with a police force whose detective bureau has only three detectives and a captain. He's surprised one day when one of the detectives, Bella Lourdes, sends him a message that "*LAPD and the DA are heading your way.*" What could they possibly want? In marches Harry's former partner, Lucia Soto, her new partner, LAPD detective Bob Tapscott and deputy D.A. Alex Kennedy...It's not good news.

Thirty years ago, Harry put away Preston Borders for the rape and murder of Danielle Skyler. Now, Border's new attorney has come forward to say evidence in the case (the victim's necklace) was planted by Bosch, and DNA on Skyler's clothes from another rapist, Lucas John Olmer, was overlooked. Supposedly, Olmer confessed to the attorney before he died that he was the one who killed Skyler. Bosch plant evidence? He is incensed. He can't believe his former colleagues at LAPD could think he is capable of such an act.

Bosch hardly has time to wrap his head around this astounding accusation when he is called out to a double murder in a local pharmacy. The pharmacist and his son are robbed and shot in cold blood.



This investigation leads Bosch to believe the killing is more personal than just a pill and money heist. Leading the SFPD detectives, Bosch goes undercover to infiltrate an organized crime gang that uses junkies to buy narcotics on stolen prescription pads, then resell them at a much higher price on the street. The junkies are flown away to a hiding place at a deserted airport and given just enough pills to keep them under control.

A hair-raising fight on a plane between Bosch and one of the killers is enough to make your jaw drop, but I leave that part of the story for you to enjoy. Making his way back to L.A. (it

isn't an easy trip!), Bosch must go to court to clear his good name. This court fight might not be a physical one, but a fight nonetheless to save his job and reputation.

It's a lot to take in, but Connelly does it better than most! The blending of Bosch's several dilemmas is nothing short of genius, and it's a fine look at how a cop's career can go south in a New York minute when faced with the strong accusations of a well paid attorney...good thing Bosch has the expertise of his half-brother, Micky Haller, one of L.A.'s most successful lawyers.

If you've never read Connelly before, you're in for a treat — police procedural, courtroom drama and a sobering look at the opioid epidemic make for great reading entertainment.

Booklist: "...Connelly remains atop a heap of contemporary crime writers thanks to his rare ability to combine master plotting and procedural detail with a literary novelist's feel for the inner lives of his or her characters. Both talents are in abundant display this time.

New York Times Book Review: "Harry Bosch is a one-of-a-kind hero who started out pretty wild when he returned from Vietnam to become a cop, but over the years he's developed into someone you want to ride with."

Connelly is the author of 30 previous novels, including No. 1 *New York Times* bestsellers [The Late Show](#), [The Wrong Side of Goodbye](#) and [The Crossing](#). His books, which include the Harry Bosch series and Lincoln Lawyer series, have sold more than 60 million copies worldwide. [The Lincoln Lawyer](#), featuring Harry's half-brother, was made into a film starring Matthew McConaughey.

Connelly is a former newspaper reporter who has won numerous awards for journalism and his novels.

Till next time, happy reading!



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3307 Calumet Trail, Duneland Beach • \$439,900

Wonderful 2-story residence on a double lot in desirable Duneland Beach. The floorplan encompasses four spacious bedrooms with plenty of storage, three bathrooms and a kitchen that flows to the eating area. The master bedroom is complete with walk-in closet and master bath. Large living room and rec room on main floor, finished basement. Wonderful screened-in porch overlooks expansive yard and deck with above ground pool. Perfect for a year-round family or as a summer retreat, this home is a 4-minute walk to the beach!



202 N. Lake Ave. #EW • \$1,076,000

Both of these units are for sale separatel, as well as the entire building. 202 N. Lake Ave. is a well-maintained beach compound with 2 separate townhomes: 202 East and 202 West. Each unit has 4 floors, private rooftops and views of Lake Michigan. West unit has 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and East unit has 3 bedrooms 4 baths. Each has parking for 4 (8 total spaces)!



302 Birch Tree Lane, Michigan City • \$119,000

This wonderful condo has updated kitchen, crown molding and tasteful neutral decor. Affordable living with many amenities! Enjoy the pool or trek on down to the beach! Association dues include heat, water and common area maintenance.



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