



Volume 33, Number 35 Thursday, September 7, 2017

# THE BEAUTY OF THE BLACK HILLS

by Andrew Tallackson



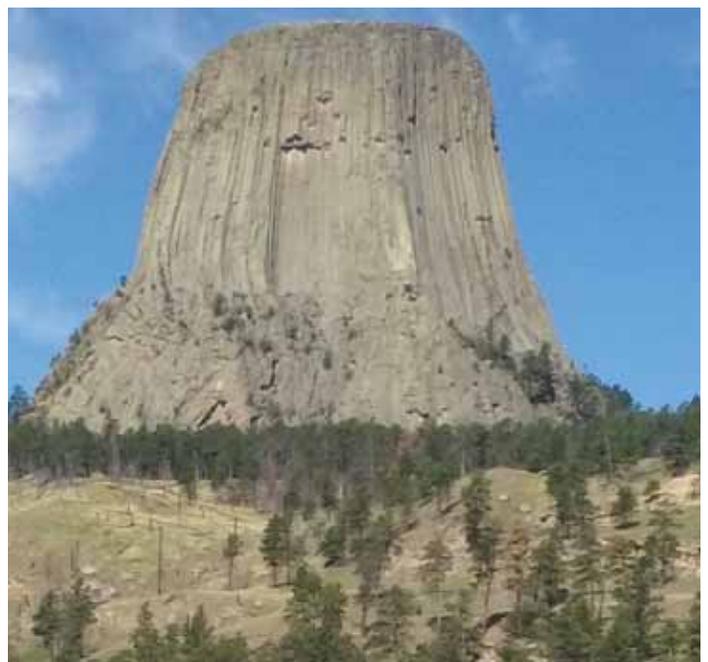
My attempt to capture Will in a “presidential” pose next to Mount Rushmore.

In the Black Hills, much of the landscape remains untouched by civilization. Man’s presence is virtually absent along the distant horizon. The roads that carve through the earth are the only signs of modern progress. No homesteads, no farming, no industrialization. It is as close to God’s country as you can get.

A family trip to the Black Hills was years in the making. The dilemma — how to pull it off? Summer is *The Beacher’s* stealth season. Advertising spikes, page counts increase. Mornings and afternoons careen forward at a dizzying pace.

Time, ironically, was my ally. Four summers under my belt with *The Beacher* had sculpted a routine to survive the daily rigmarole. And by giving advertisers advance notice, we wrapped up the ensuing week’s edition early, plenty of time before the flight out of O’Hare International Airport.

Excluding additional travel by rented vehicle, my family — wife (Alice), son (Will), parents (Steve and Judi) — crammed more adventures into four days than the average person does in two to three weeks. In the process, the Black Hills cast its spell over us.



Devils Tower, as seen from the entrance near the trading post.

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## CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL

The stoic face of Crazy Horse looms over the land like a sentinel for the Lakota people, sculpted high into the mountains of Custer County, S.D. Visible by car long before arriving at the memorial's entrance, its majesty — unfinished, yet powerful nonetheless — inspires an awe that rivals its popular neighbor, Mount Rushmore.

Crazy Horse, a member of the Teton Sioux tribe, helped rally Lakota fighters against Gen. Custer's Seventh U.S. Cavalry battalion amid The Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876. It was a blow to the ego of the American cavalry, which dismissed the tribes as simpletons and savages. One year later, at only 34, an American-Indian soldier killed Crazy Horse...amid a truce, no less.

In the late 1940s, Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear turned to Korczak Ziolkowski, a Polish-American sculptor, to create a granite likeness of Crazy Horse not only as a symbol of his legacy, but also to the Lakota traditions and culture. Today, four of Ziolkowski's 10 children, and many of the 23 grandchildren, still work on the project. More than one million people visit the site each year. It is funded solely by admissions and donations. Thus, it is expected the endeavor will take another 50 years to complete.

A reverential silence blankets the complex at the base of the mountain. Guides request visitors first view a movie on Crazy Horse, Henry Standing Bear, the Ziolkowskis and the memorial's mission. The brief, yet fascinating documentary arms guests with a healthy understanding not just of history, but of the passionate embrace of the memorial by the Ziolkowski family.

The museum carefully charts the history of the

Lakota people, the conflicts thrust upon them by the American government and their persistence amid unfathomable obstacles.

(Statistics about the decline in bison over the years are unsettling.)

A guided bus tour ushers guests to the base of



Look closely, and workers can be seen atop Crazy Horse Memorial.

the memorial. The mountain commands a respect and admiration not only for the past, but also for the land itself. The entire work in progress is 641 feet long and 563 feet high. Eyes gaze upward, taking in the immensity of the project. Very little chatter is heard among tourists. It is as if the memorial humbles visitors into a state of melancholy reflection, born out of respect for lives lost and legacies preserved.

I left with the seed planted to better understand the Lakota people and their rightful place in history, beyond what earns scant mention in school textbooks. It came to me later in the guise of Joseph Marshall III's [The Day the World Ended at Little Bighorn: A Lakota History](#). Enlightening, to say the least.

# MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL



Crowds mull about at the entrance to Mount Rushmore.

My first encounter with Mount Rushmore arrived 32 years ago. An evening program, commencing as the ski dissolved from moderate blues to pitch-black darkness, charted the history of the monument then, as lights illuminated it, the triumphant strains of “Simple Gifts” from Aaron Copland’s “Appalachian Spring” boomed through the speakers. It remains the most patriotic moment of my life.

This trip, though, was more about Will, La Porte County’s heir apparent to Macey Hensley, the pint-sized presidential expert and regular guest on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show.” Seriously, the kid could give Macey a run for her money. His presidential prowess is staggering. It’s his ambition to become our nation’s commander in chief at 35.

So when we arrived at Mount Rushmore, the 10-year-old boy who typically can’t stop blabbering was atypically silent: awed and humbled by the sheer scope of it. Will quietly took everything in. At one point, I staged a photo of him to the left of the monument, looking as presidential as a 10-year-old possibly can.

The evening program impressed him as well. When the lights powered on, illuminating the monument amid a stark night sky, he squeezed my hand tightly, a huge smile on his face.

What struck me about Mount Rushmore, this time as an adult, was the purity of it. It was the only word that came to my mind. Whatever your persuasion — Democrat, Republican, Independent — most would agree the political climate these days is rather vexing. Mount Rushmore, with the imposing faces of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt and George Washington, symbolizes America as a nation of ideals, hope and freedom.

Continued on Page 4

## REAL ESTATE MARKET UP FEBRUARY-AUGUST COMPARISONS

First, the numbers for Indiana Lakefront (1)

Year 2/1-7/31	Units	Med Price	Total \$Volume
2011	44	\$251k	\$15.4 M
2015	66	\$347k	\$27.4 M
2016	73	\$330k	\$26.8 M
2017	78	\$383k	\$33.3 M

If you have been trying to buy or sell in Harbor Country west of Interstate 94, you know that inventory is shrinking and prices are going up for the last six months compared to last year.

We do not have square-foot sales prices to give us reliable information about price increases in the Indiana MLS, but we can read the tea leaves from the data we have here.

2011 was pathetic in every way. It was the bottom of the crash in units sold, median sale price and \$Volume. I could bore you with explaining the 2011 data, but it is enough to just see what we survived.

By 2015, we could say things were recovering nicely. The February to end of July 2016 showed some growth at the bottom end of the market, as demonstrated by the increase in number of sales, decrease in median sale price and level \$Volume year over year.

The period of the last six months of the current year shows more sales, jump in median sale price and a healthy (24%) rise in total \$Volume. I read the 2017 numbers to say that the market improved most at the high end (greater increase in median price and \$Volume than in units sold).

(1) Indiana Lakefront is from the steel mills to the Michigan line lakeward of U.S. 12.

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## PRAIRIE DOGS AND BISON

There is a segment of the tourist population that blissfully disregards warnings attached to certain animals of the Great Plains.

Take prairie dogs, for instance. They dot the wide-open terrain like excitable pets, peering from their holes in feverish anticipation of visitors. The effect is comical, like the carnival game where you whop each object that pops up with an inflatable hammer before it drops down again.

However, when the signs say, "Please don't feed the prairie dogs," most tourists slip into autopilot, as if seduced by prairie dog voodoo, gingerly approaching these creatures with a Saltine or bit of beef jerky. One young woman inched awfully close to a prairie dog, the animal eyeballing her with microscopic intensity. For a brief moment, I envisioned

the tiny thing behaving like the killer rabbits in "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," pouncing on her with vampire-like precision. My laughter at the thought of it spooked the prairie dog, which retreated to its hole in the blink of an eye. With treat still in hand, the young woman's entire body sagged downward. She threw eye daggers in my direction for spoiling the fun.

Brazen behavior is worse when it comes to bison.

Our first encounter arrived in Custer State Park. Some 1,300 of these majestic, 2,000-pound animals roam through the park. To locate them, we traveled along Needles Highway, a winding, twisting configuration with breathtaking views of pine and spruce forests. The most striking stop is a rugged granite formation called "Needle's Eye," a marvel of nature carved by wind, rain and other elements. It felt sur-



The rock formations at Needle's Eye in Custer State Park.

distance from the animals, yet none appeared for the viewing...until we hit gridlock. Car after car after car, stopped as if ensnared by the morning work commute. My father and I exited our vehicle, venturing around a bend in the road...and into throngs of tourists taking photos of a herd of bison in the middle of the road. A few of these creatures moved about, but at a leisurely pace, as if content with staying put.

We kept our distance, pacified with admiring the



A young woman attempts to feed a prairie dog, moments before my laughter scared the animal away.

real, like the set of an exotic movie. Others felt the same way, parking their cars and standing, silent, amid the towering formations.

The bison, however, kept to themselves, unseen for long stretches of the park's 18-mile Wildlife Loop Road. Signs posted along the journey asked visitors to keep their

distance from the animals, yet none appeared for the viewing...until we hit gridlock. Car after car after car, stopped as if ensnared by the morning work commute. My father and I exited our vehicle, venturing around a bend in the road...and into throngs of tourists taking photos of a herd of bison in the middle of the road. A few of these creatures moved about, but at a leisurely pace, as if content with staying put.

We kept our distance, pacified with admiring the hulking beasts from afar. Others threw caution to the wind. A boy of no more than 10 or 11 sauntered up to one of the bison and began snapping photos with a cell phone. The animal stomped its foot and emitted a snort and a huff of moderate annoyance.

What transpired resembled one of those crowd scenes in a Roland Emmerich disaster picture. Screams filled the air. Parents grabbed children and ran. The beast that caused the panic issued no further warnings, content with the initial exhortation. As the mass exodus intensified, a park ranger arrived by pickup truck to quell the chaos. A woman speaking into a cell phone she held flat in the palm of one hand shoved her daughter into the back seat of her car with the other hand, then, matter-of-factly, said to whomever she was speaking, "Gotta go. One of the bison is getting a little bitchy."

# WALL DRUG

Days before our flight, I made a facebook post taking suggestions from friends as to "must see" stops in the Black Hills. A varying degree of replies came back, but there was one constant.

Wall Drug.

Where to begin.

There is nothing quite like Wall Drug.

Dominating an entire city block in Wall, S.D., with promises of free ice water, and a marketing campaign with more signs and billboards than Brian Urlacher's hair-regrowth campaign near O'Hare, Wall Drug is a cornucopia of *stuff*. That's the best way to put it. A bonkers assembly of everything. A restaurant. Pharmacy. Backyard with "jackalope." Shopping. Shopping. Shopping. More Shopping.



Will, seated atop the "jackalope" at Wall Drug.

It's all connected. The sensation is akin to mice placed in scientific-study mazes, motivated by that lofty prize of a chunk of cheese to maneuver through the tricky passageways from start to finish.

Wall Drug's website touts its daily traffic as averaging about 20,000. *Believe the figures*. All 20,000 might have crammed in there that day as we sheepishly inched from room to room, our vision dominated by a sea of T-shirts, caps, trinkets, ornaments, jewelry, leather and ceramics.

Did we purchase anything? Images from that day are a hazy blur. Great maple donuts, though. That, I recall. And the free water? Ice cold, indeed.

Continued on Page 6



Alice and Will, enjoying their free "ice cold water" at Wall Drug.



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# THE BADLANDS

*“Snakes. Why’d it have to be snakes?”*

Archaeologist Indiana Jones  
in “Raiders of the Lost Ark”

The Badlands are a geological wonder, but a typical Tallackson family experience where the *idea* of something is more appealing than the *reality* of it.

Badlands National Park is but minutes away from Wall Drug (one of that attraction’s nicknames, in fact, is “Gateway to the Badlands”). People will tell you not to worry about summer temperatures in the Black Hills region. It is a dry heat, they say.

snake slithered toward me along the hiking path. I froze, petrified. My mother scooped me up, carrying me back to the car. She was equally frightened.

From then on — *zero* tolerance for snakes.

In The Badlands, though, my family showed no fear, barreling toward an expansive view of a rust-colored Badland canyon. Abandoned by the curb, I hesitantly made my way toward them, eyes darting back and forth, left to right, ears on full alert for any rattling sound. The journey took a minute or two.

And for a brief moment, the grandeur of the canyon before us, the undeniable beauty and vastness



The glorious view of a canyon within the Badlands.

*Not* the afternoon we arrived at Badlands National Park. It was 106 degrees. Exiting our vehicle was like someone wrapping their hands around your throat, choking out every last breath.

As we adjusted to the stifling heat, a sign stopped me dead in my tracks.

“Beware of rattlesnakes.”

Snakes.

I *loathe* snakes.

As a toddler, my mother took me on a hike through West Beach. As the story goes, a harmless garter

of it, captured my gaze.

Then, the faint whisper of a rattle captured Alice’s attention. Was it her mind playing tricks on her? I did not stay put to find out.

And that is how The Badlands proceeded. Drive. Stop. View. Race back to car. Eventually, it was the heat that did us in. So oppressive, in fact, Will’s breathy sentiment ideally encapsulated the experience: “Wow. This is awesome. When can we leave?”

Continued on Page 8



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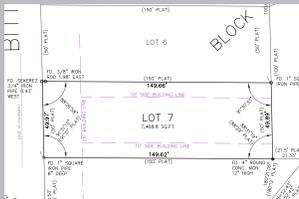
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# DEVILS TOWER NATIONAL MONUMENT

It rises like a monolith in the horizon, carving through the powder-blue sky as if intent on reaching the heavens. Save for copses of trees that dot the land around it, there is little to distract one's gaze from its magnificent presence.

The closer you get, the deeper its pull, a compulsion that prompts motorists to pull over on the side of the road, capturing it from as many angles as possible.

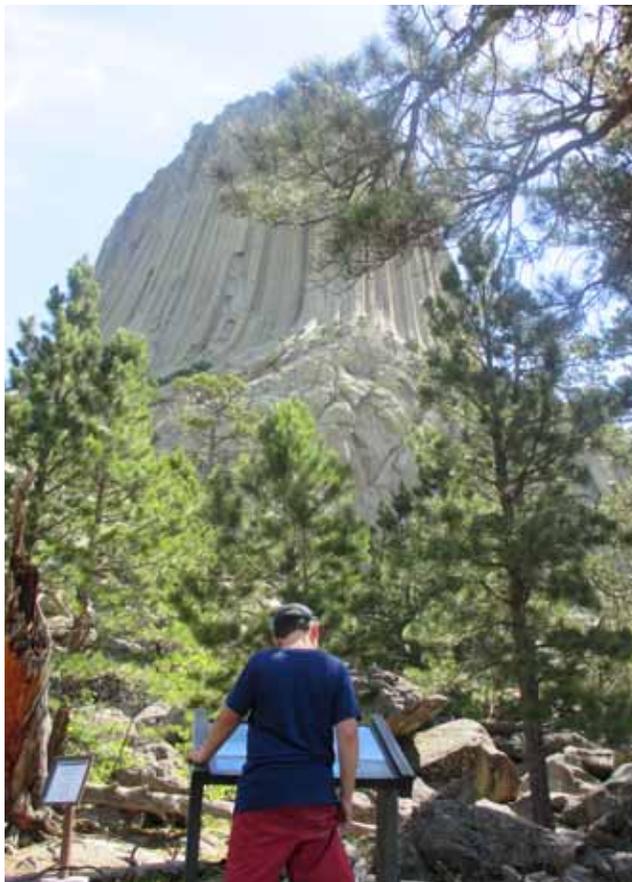
Devils Tower National Monument.

A bucket list item since early childhood, Devils Tower has fascinated me since 1977, when Steven Spielberg imprinted its allure on moviegoers in "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" (1977). President Teddy Roosevelt declared it the first U.S. national monument in 1906. Composed of igneous rock, it stands 867 feet tall, its summit 5,112 feet above sea level.

A relatively easy, mile-long path encircles the monument, affording visitors ample opportunity to view it at a leisurely pace. When taking photos of loved ones, carefully framed with Devils Tower behind them, the sheer enormity of it dwarfs everything in its presence. You feel infinitesimal amid nature's grand scheme.

The deep grooves along the side fascinate me. There is a legend among the Lakota and Kiowa that giant bears once chased a group of girls, who sought refuge atop a rock and prayed for help. The Great Spirit came to their aid, the rock rising to the sky. The bears, trying to reach them, clawed at the rock from all sides. The girls ultimately reached the sky, becoming the stars of the Pleiades.

No doubt there is a perfect geological explanation for the shape and marks along the side of Devils



Will reads informational signs posted along the Devils Tower trail route.

Tower. I prefer the Lakota-Kiowa version...

Shortly before leaving, we stopped by the trading post at the outskirts of the monument's entrance, curious to see what "Close Encounters" memorabilia might be for sale. Sure enough, the store was bursting with kitsch, the forte being rubbery space aliens. A Devils Tower shirt and cap caught my attention...but what set my pulse racing was the box with vintage "Close Encounters" trading cards. The wrapper touted them as originally selling for 10 cents. A sign above the box listed them for \$9. Boy, I thought, these must be in mint condition. Turning one package over, however, the cards had been shoved into the original wrapper, haphazardly Scotch-taped into place. *Of course*. A hasty attempt to bilk tourists out of

a few extra bucks. Tossing the package back into the box, I bought the shirt and cap.





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# WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK

It was fitting our propulsive journey through the Black Hills concluded with a bit of reflection within the hushed limestone confines of Wind Cave. Its passages venture some 137 miles, making it one of the longest caves in the world. Water continues to seep through the walls, creating these striking formations that resemble popcorn.

However, it was our Lakota guide, Sina Bear Eagle, who near the end of the tour asked for total silence — no questions, no cell phones, no cameras — as a sign of respect for the story she was about to tell.

It was what is known as the Lakota Emergence Story. People lived below ground, waiting for the earth above to be prepared for them. But eventually, through varying elements ranging from deception to a fall from grace, the people were transformed into great beasts above that became known as bison.

My paraphrase of our guide's tale is a pitiful at-



Our Lakota guide, Sina Bear Eagle, explains the striking formations within Wind Cave.

tempt to do it justice, nowhere near as eloquent as Sina's delivery. Suffice it to say, her poetic recount, amid the calm and blackness of Wind Cave, stirred something inside me: a deeper understanding, and appreciation of, the people who occupied the land long before we did.

## THE FLIGHT HOME

During the flight home, while taking a break from the book I'd begun reading, a sense of tranquility took hold. The vacation had had a restorative effect. The past few days had been some of the most wonderful in years...but I was eager for the creature comforts of home as well. My friends. My work fam-

ily. My church family. I missed them, eager to share tales of what we experienced in a place as extraordinary as the Black Hills.

*(Special thanks to Realtor Bobbie Cavic for providing me with a detailed list, including websites, of places to visit in the Black Hills.)*



# CRAFTSMAN FURNITURE

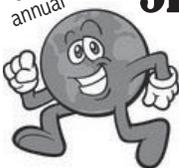


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## Original Musical Part of Three Oaks Sesquicentennial Celebration

by *Connie Kuzydym*

How did a quaint Michigan village come to be known as Three Oaks?

How did a cannon from the Spanish-American War, with the queen's monogram on its side, come to Dewey Park?

Why did President McKinley and his wife pay a visit to this small village? And who are Henry Chamberlain and Edward Warren?

Those questions and more are answered in "Three Oaks Against The World," an original play conceived for this year's Three Oaks sesquicentennial celebration.

The musical, which unfolds in a classroom setting, again unites Oscar-nominated director John Hancock ("Bang the Drum Slowly," "Prancer") and Allen Turner, who worked together on the independent film "The Looking Glass." They've assembled a cast of 25 actors from Chicago, Harbert and the surrounding Three Oaks area for a musical theater-style show that tells the village's history. The cast is backed by an orchestra directed by Garth Taylor.

Performances are Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9-10, at The Acorn Theatre, 107 Generations Drive, with the Saturday show already sold out.

The play begins with a catchy tune, "Happy To See You, Sorry To See You Go." It was inspired by a saying that appeared on a large highway sign greeting motorists to Three Oaks. The narrator then sets the stage for what is to come, telling the audience, "This is a journey through a portion of our collective memory."

"Three Oaks Against the World" then provides a glimpse into the people and events instrumental in developing and moving the village forward. Although it follows a timeframe format, that is not the feel at all. Turner weaves the telling of histori-

cal events with the right amount of dialogue, music and modern technology, allowing the history lesson to unfold as if you are there.

Turner, a Chicago businessman and philanthropist, also owns a 280-acre farm in Three Oaks. His homestead has a rich history of being a stagecoach stop in the 19th century.



Hancock



Turner

Throughout his life, he has served on numerous art and museum boards, and has significant experience in writing and performing musicals.

"When the opportunity arose to create a history play, I thought I could be helpful in organizing and writing," Turner said. "I did close to 80 hours of research in old newspapers and materials in the Three Oaks Library. The play and the music took four months to write."

For Hancock, who has shot films in and around the area since "Prancer" (1989), including "A Piece of Eden," "Suspended Animation" and "The Looking Glass," directing "Three Oaks Against The World" has been an honor.

"I would go to Three Oaks with my grandpa for sausage when I was a little boy," he said. "This is home, and to tell the history of your home in an entertaining way has been fun."

What does Hancock hope audiences take away from the show?

"Pride," he said. "Pride in their town and in their home. Come and enjoy it."

### If You Go

At press time, tickets were still available for the two performances Sunday, Sept. 10. Times are 1 and 5 p.m. EDT. Admission is free, but reservations are required at [acorntheatre.com](http://acorntheatre.com)

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**2948 MOUNT CLAIRE WAY, LONG BEACH**



Just a few blocks to the beach from this beautiful 4 bed/2.5 bath home, with a very nice 1 bed/1 bath carriage house - both with UPDATED INTERIORS, and on three lots totaling over an acre!

**13187 YUNGE AVENUE, NEW BUFFALO, MI**



This 3-bedroom home with open concept was built new from the foundation up in 2010. Main floor features high ceiling in living room, large kitchen with island and granite countertops. Located in a quiet location, yet close to New Buffalo.

**2925 ROSLYN TRAIL, LONG BEACH**



A MUST SEE! This well-maintained 4 bedroom/3 bath home has some nice updates and is only a few blocks to the beach. Fenced yard and lots of trees/foliage offer privacy with wooded views on 3 sides.

**710 WASHINGTON PARK BLVD., MICHIGAN CITY**



Affordable and cute 3-bedroom ranch home, less than a mile to the beach! Home sits on one lot, with a second lot included. Living room, eat-in kitchen, large family room, 2-car tandem garage.



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## Dunebrook's Dragon Boat Races Return to Stone Lake



Dragon boat racing returns to La Porte's Stone Lake for a fourth year, with proceeds helping make sure Dunebrook continues providing parent and family support.

Eighteen teams will compete for the title of Head Dragon and the dragon trophy Saturday, Sept. 9. The first heat is at 9 a.m., with the awards ceremony at around 2 p.m.

While dragon boat racing is relatively new to the United States, it is an ancient Chinese water sport.

"Dragon boats are 41 feet long...and each boat carries 16-21 team members and a steersman," Event Co-Chairman Tim Gartland said in a press release. "One team member is a drummer, whose drum beat keeps the team in sync."

The course is 300 meters across Stone Lake, and the boats compete close enough to the shoreline so beach spectators can view the action.

Additional activities include free face painting and children's craft activities, the Gutter Boat Race, a 50/50 raffle and food vendors.

Competing this year are:

- NIPSCO.
  - talk to ted's "Red Thunder."
  - ADS/Acme Communications.
  - CLH, P.C.
  - Journey Church Navigate Youth Group.
  - La Porte Hospital.
  - American Licorice.
  - American Renolit.
  - Applegate & Co. CPAs.
  - First Church of God.
  - Franciscan Health Michigan City.
  - UPS.
  - High schools: La Lumiere, Marquette, Michigan City, La Porte Choruses and La Porte Wrestling.
- Those watching from the beach can take beach chairs and sunblock. Parking is free.
- Event Co-Chairman Ted Perzanowski said Dunebrook's family strengthening programs are free, with proceeds from the event aiding that goal. Visit [www.dunebrook.org](http://www.dunebrook.org) and [www/facebook.com/dunebrookpages](http://www/facebook.com/dunebrookpages) for more details.

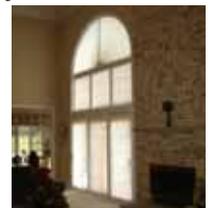
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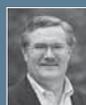
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## NB Library Community Forum

“Mental Health – Everybody Knows Someone” marks the next Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Sept. 12, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Christine Somervill of the National Alliance of Mental Illness will discuss the prevalence, warning signs, latest research and efforts to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness.

Future programs include: “Grave Matters: A History of Graveyards, Cemeteries, Markers, Monuments and Mausoleums” on Sept. 25; “Michiana’s Native Americans” on Oct. 3; and “Evidence Found: Explorations in Archeology” on Oct. 17.

Call the library at (269) 469-2933, follow the facebook link at [newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org](http://newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org) or email [new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com](mailto:new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com) for details.

## PNW Sinai Forum

The Purdue University Northwest Sinai Forum opens its 64th season with political analyst Joe Scarborough at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, in the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex, 1401 S. U.S. 421.

Doors open at 3 p.m.

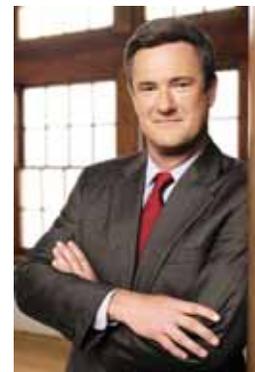
As the face of MSNBC’s “Morning Joe,” former U.S. Congressman Scarborough pulls from his experience in Republican politics to lead candid discussions on important issues. With off-the-cuff commentary, he offers a fast-paced perspective on the current political and media landscape.

A *New York Times* best-selling author, Scarborough wrote *The Right Path: From Ike to Reagan, How Republicans Once Mastered Politics – and Can Again, Rome Wasn’t Burnt in a Day* and *The Last Best Hope: Restoring Conservatism and America’s Promise*. He has been named to the “TIME 100” list of the world’s most influential people. He and his TV co-host, Mika Brzezinski, are listed in *Vanity Fair*’s top power players in the media.

A regular season ticket costs \$100 and includes general seating for all six programs. A patron season, which costs \$225, includes reserved section seating for all six programs and exclusive receptions with the speakers at 2:30 p.m. Students who show a valid high school or university I.D. may attend for free.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum](http://www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum) or at: Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., Michigan City; Kabelin Hardware, 512 Andrew Ave., La Porte; and the Porter County Community Foundation, 1401 Calumet Ave., Valparaiso.

The next speaker is Jason Riley at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24. He is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, a columnist for *The Wall Street Journal* and a Fox News commentator for more than a decade. In his topic, “The State Against Blacks,” he will shed light on his theory that government efforts to help the black underclass have a poor track record. He will discuss why many socio-economic gains that occurred among blacks in the first half of the 20th century have been stalled or reversed.



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## Replicas to Dock in Michigan City

The “Nina” and “Pinta,” replicas of Christopher Columbus’ ships, will be open to the public Wednesday through Monday, Sept. 6-11, at Michigan City Port Authority, 200 Heisman Harbor.



The replicas of the “Nina” and “Pinta.”

Both ships tour together as a new and enhanced “sailing museum” to educate the public and school children on the “caravel,” a Portuguese ship used by Columbus and many early explorers.

The “Nina” was built completely by hand and without power tools. *Archaeology* magazine called it “the most historically correct Columbus replica ever built.” In 2005, the “Pinta,” also a caravel, was launched in Brazil.

The ships arrive in Michigan City on Tuesday, Sept. 5. While in port, the public can take a self-guided tour. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$6 for students 5-16. Children 4 and younger are free. No reservations are necessary.

Teachers or organizations wishing to schedule a 30-minute guided tour should call (787) 672-2152 or email columfnd1492@gmail.com. A minimum of 15 people are required, and the cost is \$5 per person. Visit [www.ninapinta.org](http://www.ninapinta.org) for more information.

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## Lubeznik Center Fall Classes

Registration is under way for fall classes and workshops at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Offerings start as early as Sept. 16 through as late as Nov. 4. Classes fill quickly, so early registration is encouraged.

### Classes

Adult classes for students 15 and older in painting, drawing and bookmaking are available.

Discover a broad range of concepts, strategies and processes in “Abstract Painting.” The next-level class, “Abstract Painting II,” also is available.

“Drawing Bootcamp” is for artists of all levels, while new offerings include “Watercolor Plus” and the hands-on “Introduction to Bookmaking.”

### Workshops

Single-session workshops for people 15 and older are available.

“Relief Printmaking” gives students the knowledge and tools to create 4x6 relief prints. “Felted Vessel” involves merino wool fibers. “Wire Wrapped Jewelry” stresses the fundamentals of crafting jewelry from beach glass and wire wrapping. Jewelry also is the focus of the “Fused Glass” workshop.

New this season are “Decorative Papers” and “Nuno Felted Shawl Wrap.”

### Family Workshops

LCA Education Director Hannah Hammond-Hagman will lead a free family program, including a gallery tour of the exhibit “Home” and a hands-on art project, on Saturday, Sept. 16. Call LCA at (219) 874-4900 to register.

### Young Artists

LCA will offer a variety of classes for artists ages 7-12, including: “Stop Motion Animation,” “Printmaking for Teens” and “Papermaking with Household Objects.”

A full list of classes and registration can be accessed at [lubeznikcenter.org](http://lubeznikcenter.org)

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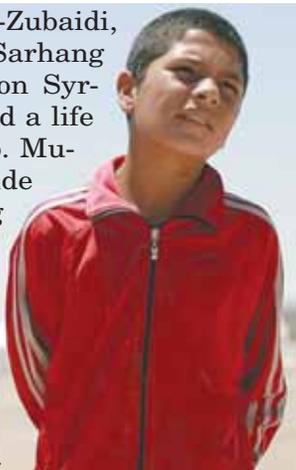
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## “Kawergosk: Home Made of Cloth”

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will host a free screening of a 30-minute documentary, “Kawergosk: Home Made of Cloth,” from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9.

Directed by Saddam Al-Zubaidi, Elizabeth Wuerffel and Sarhang Sherwany, the film centers on Syrian Kurds attempting to build a life in Kawergosk Refugee Camp. Music, food and education provide some comfort and meaning while struggling with camp conditions. Refugee stories and depiction of camp life illustrate the specific history of Syrian Kurds, as well as common needs of refugees, from a rap artist creating songs of resistance to a young woman who understands the power of education.



A scene from “Kawergosk: Home Made of Cloth.”

Tea and discussion with the filmmakers are planned after the screening. Visit [lubeznikcenter.org](http://lubeznikcenter.org) for details.

## Sinai Temple Sisterhood

Sinai Temple Sisterhood will host a “Lunch & Program” at noon Sunday, Sept. 10, at the temple, 2800 Franklin St.

The cost is \$10 at the door. After the business meeting, Jeffrey Baumgartner, Dunes Summer Theatre artistic director, will present the program “Deep in Characters,” becoming four distinctly different characters from popular plays. He also will offer insight into the character immersion process for actors.

Reservations can be made to Marilyn Rodman at (219) 879-0568 or [mjrodman@comcast.net](mailto:mjrodman@comcast.net), or Susan Barnes at (708) 243-6467 or [susanbarnes1@frontier.com](mailto:susanbarnes1@frontier.com)

## Door Village Harvest Festival

The Door Village Harvest Festival will mark its 25th anniversary when the event commences Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9-10, at Scipio Township Park on Joliet Road in Door Village.

Planning for the first festival began back in 1990 when Scipio Township School closed after 150 years at the same location. Following its demolition, a township park was developed. A small group of citizens organized the festival as a tribute to the community, with all profits benefitting the park.

The event includes many exhibits, booths, demonstrations and tours. Popular activities include the Historic Horse and Wagon Tours of Door Village, the Living Cemetery Tour, Civil War Camp, 1832 Settler Camp, Native American Indian Camp, arts and craft vendors and the Antique Autos, Trucks and Tractors display.

Entertainment includes musicians Phil and Dustin Anderson, Folk Grass, Good Timing Barber-shop Quartet, Rusty Strings and Homemade Jamm. Other highlights are the historic demonstrations and exhibits, such as Grandpa’s Woodshed and Barnyard, Grandma’s Parlor, Blue Spruce Alpacas, children’s games and face painting.

Saturday morning includes the pancake, French Toast and eggs breakfast, with chicken and noodles and ham and beans for lunch. Sunday is a pork chop dinner. A variety of food vendors are planned throughout the weekend.

## SSL Special for First Responders

To show appreciation, the South Shore Line invites first responders to ride the train for free Sunday through Saturday, Sept. 10-16, on off-peak weekday and weekend trains.

First responders must present ticket collectors with valid active duty identification. Included are police officers, firefighters, paramedics, dispatchers and emergency medical technicians

Throughout the year, the SSL has welcomed various groups to take advantage of free round-trip transportation on designated days. The train, for example, will offer free transportation for military veterans in honor of Veterans Day.

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## Harbor Country Hikers

What it takes to blaze a trail, then maintain it, is the focus of a Harbor Country Hikers trek through Robinson Woods at noon EDT Saturday, Sept. 9.

Chikaming Open Lands Executive Director Ryan Postema and Pat Fisher, New Buffalo Area Schools trailmaster and HCH president, will explain trail construction from conception to completion. The talk is planned during a hike through trails of three different vintages.

The 1 3/4-mile hike is rated moderate physical difficulty and lasts about 90 minutes. Robinson Woods is in Chikaming Township on East Road, one mile east of Red Arrow Highway. Parking is on the north side before the Interstate 94 overpass.

Prior to the trek, COL will hold its monthly Stewardship Workday from 10 a.m. to noon EDT at Robinson Woods. Contact Casey Struecker at (269) 405-1006 or [cstruecker@chikamingopenlands.org](mailto:cstruecker@chikamingopenlands.org) to get involved.

Harbor Country Hikers has scheduled an exploration of biodiversity versus invasives at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 16, at Hoadley Trail in Three Oaks, Mich., and an exploration of Galien River County Park at 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 21,

Although membership is encouraged, events are open to everyone, including children if accompanied by an adult. Membership costs \$20 for individuals or \$30 for families.

Email [harborcountryhikers@gmail.com](mailto:harborcountryhikers@gmail.com) or visit [harborcountryhikers.com](http://harborcountryhikers.com) for more information.

## Fernwood Volunteer Fair

Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich., will host an informational volunteer fair from 10 to 11:30 a.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 9.

Held in the visitor center, prospective volunteers will learn about the opportunities available: light gardening; leading group tours as garden docents; teaching; monitoring and maintaining trails; railway garden monitoring and train repair; administration and front desk support; and special events. Weekday and weekend opportunities are available.

Call (269) 695-6491 or visit [www.fernwoodbotanical.org](http://www.fernwoodbotanical.org) for more information.



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## A Project to Remember

by Kayla Weiss

The project has endured its share of detours, yet the students involved were thrilled to be part of it no matter the outcome.

A few years back, a former student in the Automotive Technology Program at La Porte County Career & Tech Education Center made a rather interesting donation: a 1996 BMW 318ti. An initial goal was to get it back in running order. Then, the class received another surprise donation: an engine from a full-sized Chevy truck.

So, instructor Steve Barnes said, the plan was to get the truck's engine working inside the BMW. From there sprang plans to enter the refurbished vehicle into the 24 Hours of LeMons, a tongue-in-cheek event held in different cities and focusing on endurance, not speed. Each team can only spend \$500 on the vehicle.

"However," Barnes said, "as the project progressed, we realized that the car wasn't going to meet the standards needed for the 24 Hours of LeMons race.

"So, instead, we're going to continue on the path to the SCCA (Sports Car Club of America), which holds races in South Bend."



Nonetheless, students arrived at class excited to work on the car, or whatever project Barnes had in store for them. They even showed up to work on the vehicle on days they were not scheduled to be there.

"It's great to be able to work hands-on and learn together as a class," student Seth Good said. "Being able to work on a project like the BMW is great, and I can't wait to learn and do more hands-on activities like this next

year."

The Automotive Technology program teaches students the ins and outs of maintaining cars and the daily operation of a mechanic shop. The goal is helping them become ASE-certified.

Students who recently graduated have great memories thanks to Barnes.

"Hands down, the best project in the class was the BMW," MCHS graduate Gabby Retseck said. "You were never just working on one thing. You were working on everything. It was great to be able to work and still have a great time with such a great teacher like Mr. Barnes."

Before the school year ended, students successfully placed



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the engine into the vehicle, even taking it to the Tuesday night car show in the Al's parking lot on Franklin Street, where Barnes realized the engine wasn't bolted down.

When students learned the car would not meet the standards for the 24 Hours of LeMons, they arrived at a new goal: Make the BMW drivable and burn the tires off it in the parking lot out back before the seniors graduated.

They succeeded.

*(The Beacher's Paul Kemiel took all the photos of instructor Steve Barnes — pictured to the right — and his students.)*



## Through Tours and Lectures, Woman's "Mission" Helps Celebrate Cuba

by William Halliar

It all began with a simple phone call in 2001, spurred by a great curiosity and a longing to go home again, if only by way of a telephone call.



Miriam Levinson, photographed by William Halliar on Aug. 27 at Sinai Temple.

Miriam Levinson picked up her home phone and dialed the number familiar to her as a child. As expected, no one answered. There was only the monotone recorded voice, telling her the number she dialed with trembling hand and racing heart was no longer in service.

Miriam was living in Chicago. Her childhood home was in faraway Cuba. She wanted to go home.

Miriam came to Sinai Temple on Aug. 27 to speak of her love for her homeland, the history of a people and their struggle to survive and, indeed, prosper under governments led by decades of despots.

She grew up in a society in revolt. Born in Cuba in the 1950s, she recalls her father, who owned a shop in Havana, coming home more than once saying he locked and boarded up the store, then doing the same with their house. "It's just another revolution," he would say, and the family would wait a few days until the sound of gunfire in the streets ended. Then, he would go back to work. A new government would be in charge of their lives.

This was a way of life for the family.

Miriam spoke of growing up the daughter of a poor shopkeeper, watchmaker and seller of grocer-

ies. The populace of the island was divided into two sections: the haves and the have nots, the very rich and the extremely poor. Children, however, attended school together.

Miriam's family is Polish. They moved from their homeland in the 1920s to the tropical island of Cuba, a place Christopher Columbus proclaimed as "the prettiest island that human eyes have seen." Miriam's family's, however, left the country for New York in the 1950s, then settled in Chicago.

After hours of searching through telephone books, Miriam finally tracked down the present owners of the home in which she grew up in Cuba. They remembered her father and welcomed her into their family with open arms. "This home will always be yours," they said.

Today, Miriam is president of Great Time Tours, headquartered in Hoffman Estates, Ill. She has made it her life's work to share her love of her Cuban homeland with folks from the United States through lectures and tours of the island. She speaks from personal knowledge of the struggles of Cuba, and the uniqueness of its heritage and people.

Since 2002, when she first returned to Cuba after growing up in the U.S., she has led more than 230 tour groups to the island. The architecture, automobiles and lifestyle seem frozen in time, not changing much since the 1950s, when Castro rose to the head of government.

Today, she calls her tours "missions" and sees her followers as ambassadors of America, showing all those islanders, with whom her groups come into contact, the best side of American life. Much effort is spent repairing gravesites. People from all over the world, and from every race, have lived and died in Cuba, and Miriam enlists the help of her tour

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groups to clean and beautify gravesites, especially those of children.

“Cemeteries,” she says, “and how they are cared for tell a lot about people.”

In Cuba today, most folks are too poor to worry about the conditions of their dead. The government supplies food, education and health care, but because of the shortage of money and medicine, the poor lead a threadbare, tenuous existence.

Until the fall of the Soviet Union, much monetary support came from that quarter of the world. Today, most Cuban families rely heavily on money sent to them from working relatives who escaped to the U.S. People will survive even if forced to set up systems of their own, outside of the government, to obtain the goods and services needed to live. Black markets tend to thrive in Cuba. Miriam says “the Cuban economy is difficult to navigate,” what with the Cuban Peso, American dollar and black market wheeling and dealing all in the mix.

But the Cuban people are more than simply survivors of their governmental struggles. They have risen above their difficult situation and celebrate



Miriam speaks to the Sinai Temple audience.

life in music and the arts. The people love their coffee and love to dance. Young and old alike join in this joy of movement and song.

Because of the uncertainty of their history, the people of Cuba tend to live for the present, rather than dwelling in the past or hoping for a better future. The poverty causes family groupings to live together in multi generational homes. Married children move home with their parents and siblings. Curiously, and perhaps because of their “live for today” lifestyle, Miriam says the young people of Cuba do not believe love lasts forever. The younger generation does not believe in marriage, but simply enjoys a relationship “as long as it lasts.”

Above all, Miriam says, the Cuban people want to be our friends, and they welcome American tourists to their island. She encourages all who can to make a trip to the island paradise,

to take a step back to a simpler time and enjoy simply “being” and living for the day. She regularly organizes tours and enjoys sharing the history and culture of her island with many new friends. Information about Great Time Tours can be obtained from [Miriam@great-time-tours.com](mailto:Miriam@great-time-tours.com)



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## Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Teen Library Council from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7, 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, Sept. 7, 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.

• **Lego Club from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, at the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children build around a different theme using the library's Legos. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Sunday Matinee: "The Zookeeper's Wife" at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**



The movie is Rated PG-13. Free popcorn will be served.

• **Tinker, Create, Invent and Have Fun! from 3:30 to 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 11, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Classes revolve around science, design, engineering and art through hands-on, project-based work. Space is limited to 12 children, and registration is

required for each month's session. Parents may sign up for the following month's session when attending a current month.

• **Intro to the Ukulele from 3:45 to 4:15 p.m. Sept. 11, 13, 18, 20, 25 and 27 at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

No experience is necessary. The hands-on introduction to the ukulele involves learning basic chords, rhythm and ukulele history. The library will provide instruments; however, those who have one can take it to class and should indicate so when registering. Space is limited, so register at the library's children's department or call (219) 926-7696.

• **Popular Books at 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 11, at the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus is Madeleine Albright's "Prague Winter."

• **Bifocal Bookies at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, at Hageman Library.**

The focus is Kate Andersen Brower's "First Women: The Grace and Power of America's Modern First Ladies." Copies are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

• **The Alzheimer's Association will present "Dementia Conversations" from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The program is designed to help people talk with their entire family, including the person with signs of dementia, about challenging, often uncomfortable topics related to Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

• **Mad About Mysteries at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Indiana University-Northwest Biology Professor Angel Gochee-Goins will discuss DNA, how it is used in criminal investigations and why it is important — key factors in today's crime novels. Light refreshments will be served.

• **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.



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### Civil War Exhibit, Walking Tours

The public can explore Indiana’s Civil War history through events hosted in September by Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.

Mansion staff have partnered with the Indiana Historical Society to display the traveling exhibit “Faces of the Civil War.”



T.J. Kalin leads a city history tour.

The free display, open in the mansion’s remodeled basement space from 5 to 8 p.m. Sept. 8, 15 and 16, memorializes Hoosiers whose lives were touched, and in some cases taken, by the Civil War. Not all are well-known or revered. Many were everyday citizens fulfilling their duties to their friends, family, state and country.

Rather than focusing on statistics and large-scale battles, the exhibit illustrates how regular people coped with the tragic experiences of the day — all from an Indiana perspective. Nearly all the images come from the IHS collections. Hands-on, interactive elements have been added.

Also, mansion staff will lead walking tours through Michigan City.

“Footsteps of 1865” will feature interpreters who highlight the growing town’s involvement in the war, stories of factory life and industry, and dreams of hopes for the future.

The tour, which lasts one hour and covers less than one mile, departs from Barker Mansion at 6 p.m. Sept. 8, 15 and 16. It is meant to enhance the exhibit, which participants are encouraged to view before or after the tour.

While the exhibit is free, the tour costs \$10 per adult and \$5 per youth. Reservations can be made on Eventbrite or by calling the mansion at (219) 873-1520. Visit [www.barkermansion.com](http://www.barkermansion.com) for details.



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## Barker Encourages the Next Generation of Space Scientists

Barker Middle School participated in an all-school interdisciplinary study unit surrounding the Aug. 21 total solar eclipse.

Students were engaged in activities such as:

- Mapping the path of totality.
- Experiencing basic information about solar eclipses.
- Myths about them.
- Designing pictures to depict myths.
- Studying parts of the eye, and hazardous effects of solar eclipse viewing without eye protection.
- Creating invitations to view the solar eclipse.
- Math challenges related to the event.

NASA's live stream was viewed to experience the path of totality in different parts of the U.S.

Students with parent permission went out in groups to view the partial solar eclipse with ISO 12312-2 safety certified glasses.



Valerie Mecklenburg's science class engages in a solar eclipse activity before the eclipse.



A class views the solar eclipse.



Maria Surma's science class uses a pinhole viewer during the eclipse.

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## Syzlac Golf Outing

The Syzlac Golf Outing-DeCamp's Band of Brothers, where proceeds help revitalize Clarke Park Field, is Saturday, Sept. 9, at Beechwood Golf Course, 2222 Woodlawn Drive, La Porte.

Registration is at 11:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. The \$360 cost per team includes lunch, beverages and prizes. There also are \$100 hole sponsors.

The DeCamp's Band of Brothers Fund was started in 2014 by friends of Jeff DeCamp, who died in 2013. He loved and played all sports, and was on the 1987 La Porte High School baseball team that won the Indiana State Championship.

Contact Mike Riehle at [riehles@comcast.net](mailto:riehles@comcast.net) or (219) 575-2038 for details. To make a donation, visit [tinyurl.com/ybefn349](http://tinyurl.com/ybefn349)

## Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

*The following programs are available at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:*

- **Sunset Paddles at Marquette Lagoons from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays.**

Take a kayak or canoe, life jacket and paddle for the leisurely sunset paddle with a park ranger, co-sponsored by the Miller Spotlight Access Committee. The program includes a visit to a beaver lodge. Meet at the Marquette Park Lagoon parking lot near the stairs north of the Marquette Pavilion. Marquette Park is located about two miles north of U.S. 12 in Gary's Miller neighborhood.

- **Evening Mount Baldy Hike from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept 8.**

The Mount Baldy parking lot and beach are open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily after being closed for the last several years. The dune, however, is still closed for general public use, so the ranger-led hike offers the chance to experience the dune as much as is possible. The parking lot is located off U.S. 12.

- **Beginning Birding Tours from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays at Great Marsh Trail.**

No experience is required. A spotting scope and binoculars are provided. The program starts at the southern gravel parking lot, followed by a short hike to the Great Marsh observation deck to look for herons, egrets, ducks and other birds. Anyone arriving late should hike to the observation deck.

The trail south parking lot is on Broadway, about 1/4 mile north of U.S. 12 in Beverly Shores.

- **Junior Wildland Firefighter Program at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at Dunewood Campground.**

Meet the IDNL's fire crew and learn about their jobs and equipment. Children receive a Junior Wildland Firefighter activity book and patch. The campground is at 645 Broadway Ave., Beverly Shores.

- **Pinhook Bog Open House from noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays through Sept. 23.**

Tour the bog and talk to rangers stationed along the trail who explain the unique area filled with carnivorous plants. Arrive by 2 p.m. to allow about one hour to walk the trail and tour the bog. The bog parking lot is located at 700 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City.

*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 programs are offered:*

- **History Comes Alive Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9-10.**

Visit [tinyurl.com/y7e763xa](http://tinyurl.com/y7e763xa) for details.

*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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## Made in La Porte County

The Economic Development Corp. Michigan City and Greater La Porte Economic Development Corp. will host Made in La Porte County from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, at 4295 Ohio St. in Michigan City.

The county-wide event, co-sponsored by Unity Foundation of La Porte County, Center for Workforce Innovations and the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board, unites numerous La Porte County companies that will showcase the products they manufacture and/or distribute.

Area students also can get acquainted with local industries, their products, career opportunities and required skills.

In the past, as many as 50 employers have participated. Manufacturers and distributors interested in having a booth can contact Katie Eaton at keaton@edcmc.com

## Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Artist Robert Smith at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, in the library meeting room.**

Local artist Robert Smith will share his art and talk about the train stations of La Porte County.

• **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 12, 19 and 26, and 10 a.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 13, 20 and 27, in the library meeting room.**

Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.

• **Happy Birthday, Roald Dahl! at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, in the library meeting room.**



In celebration of the 101st anniversary of the author's birth, the library will show "The Witches" (1990). Light refreshments will be served. Children 18 and younger are eligible to win a copy of the movie, and must arrive by 4 p.m. to do so.

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

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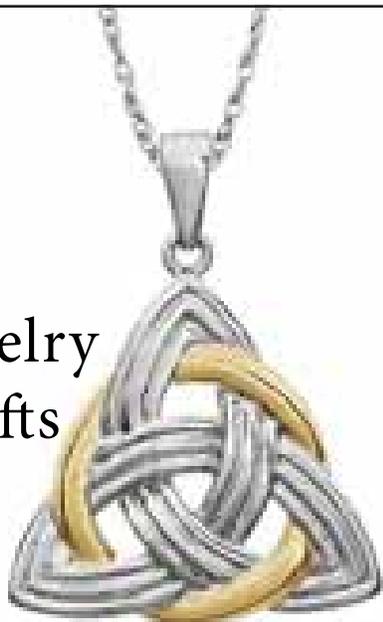
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## JROTC Starts New School Year With Service to Others

After performing more than 800 hours of community service during the summer, Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps did not break stride as they continued to support the school district and community.



The Color Guard presents the colors prior to the first home football game.

The Color Guard presented the American and Marine Corps flags as Choir Director Michelle Howisen sang The National Anthem before Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins' address to Michigan City Area Schools staff to start the school year. The following day, they assisted MCHS staff and incoming freshmen for Freshmen Orientation.

The first Friday of the school year opened the football season, so the Color Guard presented the colors as the MCHS band played The National Anthem. Cadets also supported a Veterans Jamboree at Fox Park on Aug. 26.

Cadets have started preparing for the upcoming military drill competition season.



Cpl. Conner Gresser (left) and Lance Cpl. Ricardo Pina work on throwing and catching rifles while Rob Rodriguez coaches.

MCHS hosted an armed exhibition drill clinic. In an armed exhibition, routine and movements are left up to the cadets' imagination and initiative. The only restriction is that it must have a military flavor. It therefore lends itself to the spinning and throwing of rifles, along with movements not normally done in military drill.

The primary instructor was Rob Rodriguez, a former Marine who, while stationed in Hawaii, moonlighted with the famous Kings Guard, an armed exhibition drill team that performed for tourists and were paid by the state's Bureau of Tourism. As a cadet at Portage High School, he led its armed exhibition platoon that finished third at the National JROTC Drill Competition. This was the second time Rodriguez instructed a clinic at MCHS.

September events cadets have, or will, support include: the MCHS Open House on Sept. 6, all home football games, including Homecoming on Sept. 15, and the Veteran of the Year Dinner in La Porte on Sunday, Sept. 10. The first competition is the Raider Challenge on Oct. 14 at Hobart High School.



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### “Power for Good” Grants

Unity Foundation of La Porte County will support more than 80 local nonprofit projects by awarding more than \$135,000 in grants during its annual update luncheon Wednesday, Sept. 13.

Community “Power for Good” grant applications were received in the areas of: human services; youth development; community development; environment; food and nutrition; housing and shelter; health, education and literacy; arts and culture; animal care; and employment services. The grants are evaluated by a committee of members from throughout La Porte County.

The support is possible due to donors who left unrestricted funds to Unity. They include: American Association of University Women; Backer Family; Fred and Helen Brust; John and Anne Daley; Ernest and Mildred Delco; Pauline Dent; Randy and Jane Dorman; Charles and Pauline Dye; Mark Esling; Sanford Friedman; David Gardner; Young Family; Kabelin Family; Ruth Pollingue; Purdue Federal Credit Union; Tom and Judy Ringo; Phillip Sprague; and John and Jean Vail.

Additional funding came from: the Kay Franklin Commemorative Fund; La Porte County Mental Health Fund; Polad Animal Care Endowment Fund; La Porte County Educational Advancement Fund; and Charles Westcott Youth Fund.

Also at the luncheon, in the lower-level banquet hall at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., Unity President Maggi Spartz will share a year in review, and highlight milestone events that occurred with Unity’s help in 2016-2017. She also will share information about La Porte County GIVES – Unity’s Give Day in October. During La Porte County GIVES, participating Unity funds will vie for \$25,000 in prizes! More details are available at [www.laportecountygives.net](http://www.laportecountygives.net)

Visit [www.uflc.net](http://www.uflc.net) to register for the luncheon.

### Grant to Aid Creek Ridge Project

The La Porte County Parks Department has received a Great Lakes Commission grant for an ongoing project at Creek Ridge County Park.

In 2016, the park department received an \$80,000 grant through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake and River Enhancement Program to design and install structures that will stabilize stream banks, reduce erosion and provide fish habitat. The Great Lakes Commission, Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program grant provided another \$50,000 so the park department can complete all designed work that will stabilize 600 lineal feet of stream bank at Creek Ridge.

The construction began Aug. 28 and should be completed within a month.

End of Summer

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## Restoration in Action at Taltree

With the help of volunteers, Taltree Arboretum & Gardens will remove invasive species on Conservation Reserve Program land.

The set days are 9 to 11:30 a.m. Sept. 13, 14 and 21 on areas surrounding the Woodcock and Pheasant trails.



A Taltree volunteer helps maintain the arboretum by helping allow species to be protected.

Signed into law by President Ronald Reagan, CRP land has improved water quality, reduced soil erosion and increased habitat for endangered and threatened species. During these removal days, the main focus will be Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*). Once the area is free of it and prepared for restoration, it will be replanted into a pollinator habitat.

To prepare for the day, volunteers should take water, sunscreen, bug spray, long pants and sturdy shoes. Taltree will provide the necessary tools. Email programs manager Ellen Kapitan at [EKapitan@taltree.org](mailto:EKapitan@taltree.org) with availability if interested.

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

## 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](http://www.laportecountyparks.org) for more details.

### Northern Indiana Walk for PKD

The two-mile walk is Saturday, Sept. 9, at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North.

Check-in is at 10 a.m., with the walk at 11:10 a.m. Register at [www.walkforpkd.org/northernindiana](http://www.walkforpkd.org/northernindiana). Email [northernindianawalk@pkdcure.org](mailto:northernindianawalk@pkdcure.org) or visit [www.pkdcure.org](http://www.pkdcure.org) for more details.

### Senior Lifestyles

Join the free 55+ Club, a social club designed for adults 55 and older to learn and explore various types of nature. Free coffee is served. The group meets from 9 to 10 a.m. at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call at least one week in advance to register.

The schedule is:

- Sept. 13 — Fall Flowers, seeds for the future, soil health, composting and fall cleanup, Sacha Geeburns, La Porte County Solid Waste District.
- Oct. 4 — “Understanding Medicare Parts A, B, C and D,” and the upcoming annual enrollment period, John Williams, State Health Insurance Assistance Program medicare specialist.
- Nov. 1 — Foot and ankle care, health and education, Dr. Christopher Grandfield.

### 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. Oct. 16 and 23 (wear a Halloween costume and take treats to share), 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:

- Oct. 11 — Wiggly Workers.
- Oct. 18 — Tree Treasurers.
- Nov. 1 — What's That Color.
- Nov. 15 — Hooting Good Time.

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### LP Chamber Luncheon

The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will host a seminar luncheon, “Best Places to Work and Creating a Great Quality of Life in the Workplace,” on Wednesday, Sept. 13, at Mama T’s Diner, 607 Lincolnway, La Porte.

Centier Bank will provide information on how it became a “Best Place to Work,” and give tips on improving workplace culture.

Registration starts at 11:15 a.m., followed by the program at 11:30 a.m. General admission is \$21, or \$16 for members. Register at [tinyurl.com/ybv39cmn](http://tinyurl.com/ybv39cmn) or call the Chamber at (219) 362-3178.

### Duneland Weavers Guild

Duneland Weavers Guild will hold its first monthly meeting for 2017-2018 at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at Westchester Public Library’s Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

In addition to “show ‘n tell” of summer projects, Elizabeth Pilley will present “Topography: Using Our Creative Past to Map our Creative Future.”

Meetings are open to guests who are fiber artists of any kind, or who would like to be. Visit [dunelandweaversguild.org](http://dunelandweaversguild.org) for more details, including information on a three-shaft weaves workshop Oct. 6-8.

### Taltree Golf Cart Tours

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens now offers golf cart tours every Friday through Oct. 27.



The golf cart tours are designed to help visitors experience Taltree Arboretum & Gardens in a new way.

The naturalist-lead tour focuses on Taltree’s three main ecosystems — the woodland, wetland and prairie — as well as four formal gardens: Adventure Garden, Welcome Garden, Rose Gardens and Meyer Memorial Pavilion.

The cost is \$5 per person in addition to admission. Tours are from 10 to 11 a.m. and start at the Railway Depot. They are weather dependent, with golf carts that can seat five attendants at a time.

Registration, required by the Wednesday before the desired Friday, can be done by emailing [ekapitan@taltree.org](mailto:ekapitan@taltree.org) or calling (219) 742-8147.

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

## 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.



### Free Guided Hikes, Luncheon

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host its annual Appreciation Hike and Luncheon on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Meadowbrook Nature Preserve, 109 W. County Road 700 North, Valparaiso.



Visitors participate in a hike included in the 2016 appreciation hike and luncheon.

RSVPs are requested no later than Friday, Sept. 8, to Bonnie Hawksworth at bhawksworth@heinzetrust.org or by calling (219) 242-8558. An online RSVP form is available at [www.heinzetrust.org](http://www.heinzetrust.org)

Guided hikes begin at 10:30 a.m. and occur every 15 minutes, with the last departure at 11:30 a.m. A free luncheon is at noon in the Meadowbrook lodge, complete with homemade chili, salads and desserts, followed by the presentation of the "Bringing Nature Home" native landscaping awards.

Meadowbrook Nature Preserve is a 224-acre property in Liberty Township. Home to the Shirley Heinze Land Trust headquarters, a portion of the preserve is a former Girl Scout Camp. The property includes five miles of trails that traverse woods, wetlands, streams, prairie pockets and an area of former agricultural land that has been planted with more than 20,000 trees as part of a project to restore the moraine forest that once grew here.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust has been protecting and preserving natural land since 1981.

### Elkhart Juried Regional Show

The Midwest Museum of American Art has issued a "call for entries" to the 39th Elkhart Juried Regional Art Exhibition, which runs Oct. 7-Dec. 4.

The event, sponsored by Elkhart County Conventions & Visitors Bureau, is open to artists 18 and older who live in Allen, DeKalb, Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Kosciusko, Lake, La Grange, La Porte, Marshall, Newton, Noble, Porter, Pulaski, St. Joseph, Starke, Steuben or Whitley counties in Indiana, and Berrien, Branch, Cass or St. Joseph counties in Michigan.

Each entrant may submit one work in any media for \$25. A \$40 fee will be charged for two works. Art must be original in concept and execution, created within the last two years, not completed under instruction and not previously exhibited at the museum or any other Michiana-area competition. Entries must be hand delivered and prepared for installation.

Awards are more than \$27,000. A prospectus containing rules and the entry form is available at [MidwestMuseum.US](http://MidwestMuseum.US) (click on the Elkhart Juried Regional tab), or from the Midwest Museum of American Art. Call (574) 293-6660, or write to MMAA; 429 S. Main St., Elkhart, IN 46516.



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

- La Porte High School, 602 F St., 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, La Porte, noon to 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 11.
- Blue Chip Casino, 777 Blue Chip Drive, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12

All presenting donors at blood drives through Sept. 10 receive a \$5 Target eGiftCard. 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](http://redcrossblood.org) for more details.



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Friday, Oct 6<sup>th</sup>  
**Aspen Studios**  
& Open Arms Animal Rescue

**LBCC Women's Golf Leagues  
18-Hole League**



*Aug. 22, 2017*

*Event: Regular Golf*

**"A" Flight**

**Low Gross:** Eunie Nondorf  
**Low Net:** Jane Irvine  
**Low Putts:** Kathy Kenefick

**"B" Flight**

**Low Gross:** Jean Guerin  
**Low Net:** Susan Keeley  
**Low Putts:** Joan Carey

**"C" Flight**

**Low Gross:** Rima Binder  
**Low Net:** Mary Weithers  
**Low Putts:** Nancy Reinert

**Sunken Approach**

Melanie Davis Hole 16  
Joan Carey Hole 14  
Jean Guerin Hole 3  
Nancy Reinert Hole 5  
Nancy Reinert Hole 11

*Aug. 29, 2017*

*Event: Beat the Pro*

**"A" Flight**

**Low Gross:** Peg King, Donna Hennard  
**Low Net:** Kathy Kenefick  
**Low Putts:** Carol Excel

**"B" Flight**

**Low Gross:** Janet Andreotti  
**Low Net:** June Salmon  
**Low Putts:** Melanie Davis

**"C" Flight**

**Low Gross:** Gloria McMahon  
**Low Net:** Barbara Beardslee  
**Low Putts:** Kathie Mole

**Sunken Approach**

Melanie Davis Hole 8

**Birdies**

Carol Excel Hole 5  
Donna Hennard Hole 5  
Jane Irvine Hole 5

**9-Hole League**

*Aug. 24, 2017*

*Event: Blind Partners*

**First Place:** Catherine Kelly, June Salmon  
**Second Place:** Eunie Nondorf, Mary Weithers  
**Third Place (tie):** Cindy Pontius/T. Fitzsimmons  
Peg King/Kathie Mole  
**Fifth Place:** Donna Hennard, Sally Allen

**Low Putts**

**A Flight:** Kathy Kenefick, Peg King  
**B Flight:** June Salmon  
**C Flight:** Mary Weithers  
**D Flight:** Alison Kolb  
**Birdies:** Pat Kelley  
**Sunken Approach:** Pat Kelley, Alison Kolb, Tommy Fitzsimmons, Carol Sullivan, Murf Ryan

**Chesterton Art Center**

*The following programs are through Chesterton Art Center, 11 5 S. Fourth St.:*

• **The Illiana Artists 17th Annual Regional Juried Exhibit runs through Sept. 29, with an opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10.**

The exhibit is held every other year, highlighting artists from Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. Awards will be given at the reception.

• **Leslie Cefali will teach "Origami Boxes for Fidget Spinners" from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16.**

Students will fold a traditional masu box with a decorative top designed to hold any item. The class is designed for children in grades three and older.

The cost is \$15, plus a \$2 materials fee (center members receive a \$3 discount).

• **Andrew Biancardi will teach a Beginning Pen & Ink workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16.**

Biancardi will provide a broad introduction to using ink with brushes, pen nibs and ink wash. Students don't need to know how to draw. A template will be provided, making it easier to learn techniques.

The cost is \$70, with members receiving a \$20 discount. A supply list will be provided when registering.

*Visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) for more details.*

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## Activities to Explore

### In the Area:

**Sept. 6-11** — “Nina”/“Pinta” replicas, Michigan City Port Authority, 200 Heisman Harbor. Admission: \$8/adults, \$7/seniors, \$6/students 5-16, children 4 & younger/free. Info: (787) 672 2152.

**Sept. 8** — Ranger-led Mount Baldy hike, 5-6:30 p.m., parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**Sept. 8, 15 & 16** — “Faces of the Civil War,” 5-8 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Tour: 6 p.m. Tour cost: \$10/adult, \$5/youth. Reservations: Eventbrite, (219) 873-1520.

**Sept. 8-13** — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* “Brigsby Bear.” Rated PG-13. Times: 6:15 p.m. Fri.-Mon., 7 p.m. Tues.-Wed. *Also:* “The Big Sick.” Rated R. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Mon., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: [vickerstheatre.com](http://vickerstheatre.com)

**Sept. 9** — 10th Annual Ride the Wave Regatta, Washington Park. Info: [www.ridethewaveregatta.com](http://www.ridethewaveregatta.com)

**Sept. 9** — Dunebrook Dragon Boat Races, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Stone Lake, La Porte.

**Sept. 9** — Northern Indiana Walk for PKD, Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North. Check-in/10 a.m., walk/11:10 a.m. Registration: [www.walkforpkd.org/northernindiana](http://www.walkforpkd.org/northernindiana)

**Sept. 9** — Duneland Weavers Guild, 10 a.m., Westchester Public Library’s Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**Sept. 9** — Free screening, “Kawergosk: Home Made of Cloth,” 10-11 a.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: [lubeznikcenter.org](http://lubeznikcenter.org)

**Sept. 9** — Hoosier Star (La Porte County Symphony Orchestra fundraiser), La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., La Porte. Doors open @ 6 p.m. Info: [www.hoosierstar.com](http://www.hoosierstar.com)

**Sept. 9-10** — Garwood Apple Fest, Garwood Orchards, 5911 W. County Road 50 South, La Porte. Info: (219) 362-4385.

**Sept. 9-10** — History Comes Alive Weekend, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Sept. 9-10** — Photo display, Rhonda Mullen & Barbara Kirby, noon-5 p.m. EDT, The Courtyard Gallery, 813 E. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich. Info: (800) 291-9287.

**Sept. 9-10** — “Three Oaks Against the World,” sesquicentennial play, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Free. Times: Sept. 9 sold out/1 & 5 p.m. EDT Sept. 10. Info: [www.acorntheater.com](http://www.acorntheater.com), (269) 756-3879.

**Sept. 10** — Sinai Temple Sisterhood, “Lunch & Program,” noon, Sinai Temple, 2800 Franklin St. Cost: \$10 @ door. Reservations: (219) 879-0568, (708) 243-6467.

**Sept. 10** — Sunday Matinee: “The Zookeeper’s Wife,” 1:30 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**Sept. 10** — Sinai Forum, Joe Scarborough, 4

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p.m., PNW James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex, 1401 S. U.S. 421. Tickets/info: [www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum](http://www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum)

**Sept. 10** — Artist Robert Smith, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Sept. 11** — Popular Books, Madeleine Albright's "Prague Winter," 2 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**Sept. 12** — Happy Birthday, Roald Dahl!, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Includes showing of "The Witches." Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Sept. 12** — Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum, "Mental Health – Everybody Knows Someone," 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**Saturdays** — St. Stanislaus Catholic Church farmers market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., parking lot next to tennis courts. Info: [ssmcfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:ssmcfarmersmarket@gmail.com), (219) 851-1785.

**Saturdays** — La Porte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway & Monroe. Info: [www.facebook.com/laportefarmersmarket](http://www.facebook.com/laportefarmersmarket)

**Saturdays** — Pinhook Bog Open House, noon-3 p.m., 700 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City. Through Sept. 23. Info: (219) 395-1882.

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

**In the Region**

**Sept. 8-17** — "Finishing School," Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vista St. Times (Eastern): 7:30 p.m. Sept. 8-9, 15-16/3 p.m. Sept. 10, 17. Tickets: \$21/adults, \$19/students & seniors 62+. Reservations: (574) 848-4116, [www.elkhartcivictheatre.org](http://www.elkhartcivictheatre.org)

**Sept. 9** — Harbor Country Hikers, noon EDT, Robinson Woods, East Road, one mile east of Red Arrow Highway. Info: [harborcountryhikers.com](http://harborcountryhikers.com)

**Sept. 9** — Free studio open house, "Superheroes Unite!," 11 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org)

**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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**FULL TIME POSITION AVAILABLE** for self-starting, reliable employee. Duties to include outdoor maintenance, vehicle upkeep, light lifting, delivery & general cleaning. Benefits included. Please send resume to: Attn. Diane, 911 Franklin St, Michigan City, IN 46360

**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](mailto:jwhite@marquette-hs.org)**

### **GARAGE SALES, ESTATE SALES, ETC.**

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

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#### **CHARTER BOAT POSSIBILITY-PURSUIT 2460 DENALI.**

Only 800 eng hrs. Original owner. Factory trailer w/brakes. Volvo 5.7 GSI, 280 HP, elec. ignition. Fuel injected, dual prop drive. Stainless props w/ spares. 2 Garmin GPS sounders, VHF & CD Stereo AM/FM, marine head, Cannon Elec. Downriggers, Cannon Rod Holder System. All factory options. Always stored inside w/temp. control. \$28,000. (312) 320-5744  
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#### **COMMERCIAL – RENTALS/LEASE/SELL**

**2,000-4,000 square foot prime retail space for lease in Uptown Arts District. 624 Franklin St. Call Carol at (773) 663-8678.**

**Office space available:** newly renovated in Uptown Arts District, 215 W. Eighth St., 1,000 square feet. \$1,000/mo., includes utilities.  
Call (219) 873-6837.

### **RENTALS INDIANA**

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

**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](mailto:cmppsusan@gmail.com)**

**Work/live on a houseboat! Pioneer Pier, dry docked, river view, brand new. 1BR. \$875/mo. Call Dan at (219) 898-8871.**

#### **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.

**Spacious 1BR in quiet setting. Newly painted/carpeted. All appliances & W/D in MC apt. \$700/mo. Call Pat @ (708) 404-9482.**

**Stop 30 4BR/3BA furnished two story with 2-car garage. Available Sept. 15-end of May. \$1,100/mo + utilities. Call/text Cari @ Merrion Realty @ (219) 898-5412**

**Stop 30 2BR/1BA ranch. \$1,000/mo + utilities. 1-year lease. Call/text Cari @ Merrion Realty @ (219) 898-5412.**

**Stop 16, 4BR/2BA 2-story home. \$1,350/mo + utilities. 1-year lease. Call/text Cari @ Merrion Realty @ (219) 898-5412.**

**RELISTED: Just one block from the lake! 3BR/1BA year-round apartment in Sheridan Beach. Lake facing deck, in-unit laundry, ample parking, A/C. No smoking/pets. \$800/mo. + utilities. Call Tom at (773) 339-8141.**

**For Sale: Large ranch with 3BR/2BA in La Crosse. Hardwood floors, huge living room, kitchen w/many cabinets, all situated on 1+ acre right in town. Priced at \$159,000.**

**Call Gloria at (219) 406-5925 — Coldwell Banker Real Estate.**

**Furnished 3BR/2BA house at Stop 1. Nov.-April or May, fully stocked, \$1,300/mo. (includes utilities, cable). References required/credit check. Call (708) 383-2635.**

**Sheridan Beach furnished rentals 1/2 block to beach. Available 9/15/17-5/15/18. 3BR/1.5BA is \$1,200/mo and 1BR/1BA is \$800/mo, utilities included. Shared W/D and off-street parking.**

**Contact Jill @ (317) 691-9293 or [jhouston@tds.net](mailto:jhouston@tds.net).**

**LONG BEACH WINTER RENTAL: Executive home, 4BR/4BA. Call (708) 205-5100**

## **Studio Open House**

“Superheroes Unite!,” a free studio open house, is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 9, at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

Children can make art about a favorite super hero or invent one. Art activities will be in every studio, including super-hero cartooning, clay figurines and a scavenger hunt. Snacks will be served.

Visit [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org) for details.



## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**Fierce Kingdom by Gin Phillips** (hardcover, \$25 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

Joan takes her 4-year-old son, Lincoln, to the zoo every week. It's a special time, walking among the beautifully arranged animal enclosures that transport visitors to different parts of the world. They might also take a ride on the carousel or grab a sandwich at one of the cafes around the grounds. But one fateful afternoon will change all that forever...and all in the space of three hours.

It's near closing time for the zoo. Joan and Lincoln are slow to make the move toward the gate. Then, Joan hears a series of popping noises. Balloons? Firecrackers? In the distance, Joan sees something littering the walkway — did the scarecrows along the path fall over? No, what she sees are bodies... none moving.

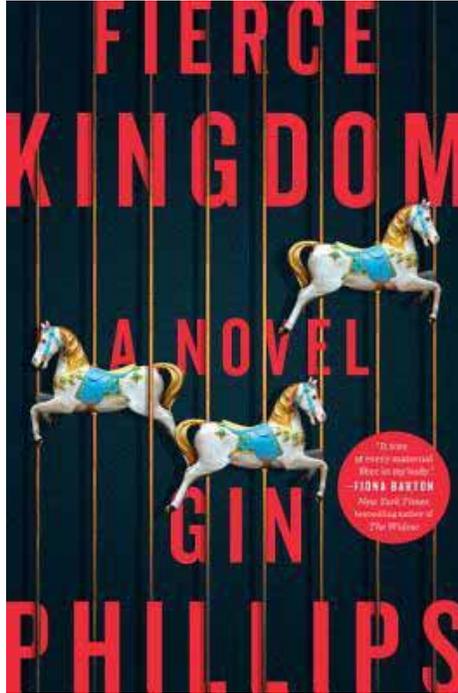
She grabs Lincoln and heads back into the zoo. She knows now what she heard was gunfire near the zoo's entrance. Her first instinct is to flee back to the safety of a secluded wooded area where they can hide until they find out what is happening and can be rescued.

As the sun goes down, Joan calls her husband. Police still don't know what is going on. It isn't long before Joan sees two men carrying guns. She falls back deeper into the zoo. As the sun fades, she soon finds herself and Lincoln in a dark, scary world, hardly able to see a foot in front of them. She converses quietly with the boy, explaining just enough for his 4-year-old mind to comprehend he must stay *very* quiet.

The beauty of this story is how easily the author puts you in the position of "what would you do?" Joan knows that without her son, she would act differently, but with him the whole situation becomes protecting her child at any cost. Lincoln is very smart for his age and listens carefully to his mother. She knows instinctively how to keep him involved with his action figures, how he loves to make up stories about them.

Joan knows this is a cat-and-mouse game with the shooters. If she can keep herself and Lincoln unseen, that means they will live until police come.

Tension escalates with each step they take. Joan's intimate knowledge of the zoo's layout is a big help, but it's also hindered by the darkness. Directions



become confused, and I found myself breathing quietly and turning pages carefully as if that would help! That's how much of an interaction you have with this story. It's impossible to read Phillips' description of finding your way through the zoo after dark without becoming involved. The fear of making yourself known is palpable. How can you avoid making any noise when you can't see a foot in front of you?

Descriptions of how the zoo looks after dark, with only a few lights on in certain areas and music still blaring from the loud speakers, are all too real. It must be Halloween time as the author describes giant, softly lit spider webs and other holiday themed things that make the area spookier than ever.

The simplest thing, like not stepping on fallen leaves or tripping over roots, becomes an exercise in jungle warfare. And what if they run into other people? There could be more, like Joan and Lincoln, also trapped, not knowing where the police are. And then how would Joan react? Would that hinder Joan's ability to protect Lincoln? Helping others is an innate response, but protecting your child is in your DNA. No contest as to which comes first.

Joan's constant worry about being shot and leaving Lincoln alone becomes even more heart-breaking and only ratchets up her determination to outwit the men and save her son.

The shooters are not the focus of the story. They are on the sideline: the bogeymen in the shadows. What is emphasized here is that primal bond a mother has with her child. All else becomes superficial when it comes down to that child's life. I can't remember reading a book that brought home that universal truth more than in this story, especially when Lincoln looks at Joan and says, "*Will you be my mommy forever?*"

Of course she will.

*Booklist* (starred review): "Fans of literary page-turners won't want to miss this."

*Publishers Weekly* (starred review): "A searing exploration of motherhood at its most basic."

Phillips is the award-winning author of [The Well and the Mine](#) and [Come In and Cover Me](#). She lives in Birmingham, Ala. Website: [www.ginphillips.com](http://www.ginphillips.com); FB: [ginphillips123](#); Twitter: [GinPhillips17](#)

Till next time, happy reading!



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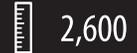
3603 Lake Shore Drive | Michiana Shores | \$1,650,000



Custom built stucco & Wisconsin limestone home. Open concept kitchen, dining & living room. Custom Wenge wood cabinets in kitchen with 14' granite island. All high end appliances. Carlisle wide plank Oak flooring on main level and second floor landing/hall. Master bedroom suite has tray ceiling, walk in closet, en suite luxurious bath. In floor hydronic heating on all three levels. Rec room in lower level with kitchenette. Large show/multi-purpose room in lower level. Unobstructed tri-state lake views and buried utility lines. Garage parking for 5.5 cars. A MUST SEE!



240 Maplewood Trail | Shoreland Hills | \$419,000



PRISTINE & PRICED to Sell! This stunning 2004 A Frame is boasting of walls of windows, 28 ft. vaulted ceilings, wrap around deck, oversized garage and wood burning fireplace. Upper level master suite includes walk-in closets, Jacuzzi tub, and separate shower. Kitchen is updated with stainless steel appliances, breakfast bar, granite countertops & maple cabinets. Brick and stone patio to entertain. Lower level family room and full bath. 2 car garage, low maintenance landscaping and an easy walk to the private Shoreland Hills beach at Stop 31. Strong rental history!



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

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.



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

Sell your lawnmower and move right in! 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.



### 233 Island Drive, Michigan City • \$265,000

Living is easy in The Shores! Gorgeous views of Lake Clare, and located within a stroll to the beach. This unit has a wonderful floorplan with two bedrooms, a den in between and two full baths. Private patio with sliding glass doors off the living room and master bedroom. Two-car garage features cedar storage closets. Many new updates, including new dock and deck. Single level living!



### 805 Birch Tree Lane, Michigan City • \$179,500

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.



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