



Volume 35, Number 14 Thursday, April 11, 2019

What Lies Beneath

by William Halliar, with research by Brady Vanes and Fern Eddy Schultz

Graveyards.

A link to those who came before us.

On the one hand, we are fascinated by their stories and legends. On the other, we shiver at the reminder of our own mortality.

Nonetheless, cemeteries are an integral part of our lives and landscapes. More than 100,000 cemeteries exist in Indiana, with more than 85 in LaPorte County alone. Michigan City's old burial ground is a forgotten plot, a memorial to our earliest citizens. It has been paved and built over by a modern city, yet what remains buried there is part who we are. Though mostly forgotten, it was one of Indiana's oldest cemeteries.

Imagine traveling back to spring 1880.

The scene: a neglected burial ground.

Headstones pushed over or broken, half covered in windswept dunes, some of which tower to a height of 20 feet over the silent

graves. The decorative fence that surrounds the cemetery is broken down in many places. Animals graze on the weeds growing over long-buried dead. Perhaps most disturbing is the fact that many of the gravestones have been vandalized by lawless "marauders," as the locals called them: young people with no respect for property or the dead.

A small group of citizens makes the trek from Michigan City's town center, near the lakeshore, to the public burial ground. The terrain between the city built on the lakefront to what was referred to as the "City of the Dead" located southeast of the city center is difficult, blocked by many a high sandhill and marsh. It is spring, and one can imagine black

carriages pulled by spirited stamp-

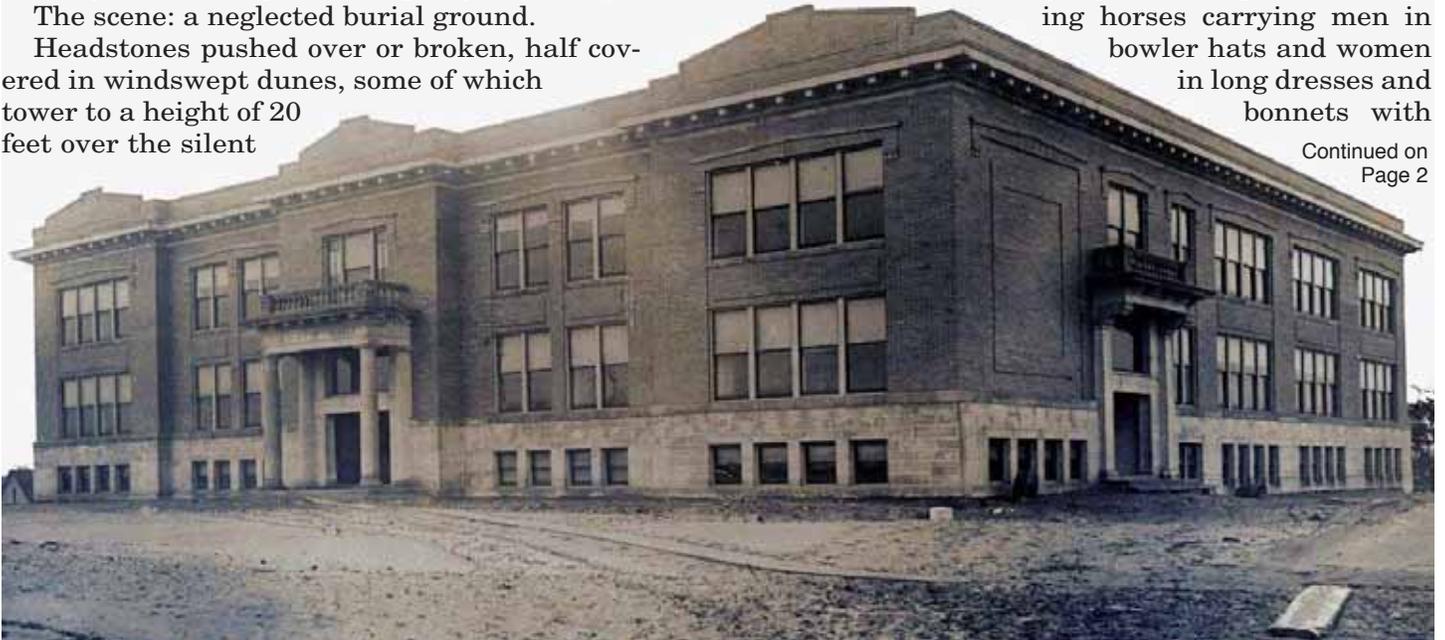
ing horses carrying men in

bowler hats and women

in long dresses and

bonnets with

Continued on
Page 2



Elston High School in 1910. The exterior was completed, but not the landscaping.

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ribbons blowing in the cool breeze as they search out the old cemetery.

Their frightening excursion was reported in the next day's *Michigan City Dispatch* (Thursday, May 20, 1880), under the headline "Graveyard Ghastriness." The article stated: "After travelling over mountain after mountain of sand we reached the perspective destination and the sight presented was sufficient to fill the most cold hearted human with feelings of horror and sympathy."

Broken headstones and molding bones were all that remained of some of the most influential citizens of Michigan City's past. Many rows of graves were completely obscured by mountains of blowing sand.

The article continued.

"The thought would naturally take possession of the observer that there should be a sufficient amount of humanity left in the living to see that their graves and the grounds surrounding them should at least be kept in respectable condition."

The old burial ground was set aside by Isaac C. Elston back in 1835 when Michigan City was laid out. The original plat specified that one acre of ground on the southeast corner of Section 29 be set aside for public burials, and the gravesites origi-

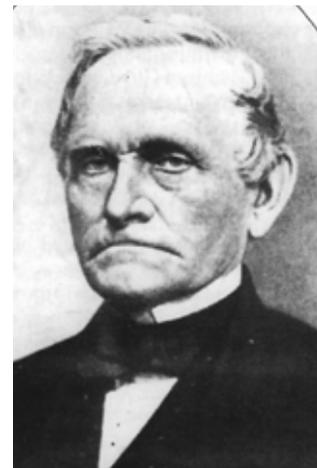
nally were free to citizens of the town for burial of their dead. There has been some speculation the site was chosen because it was the location of an ancient Native American burial ground, but no evidence has been produced beyond the legend.

It can be imagined when Elston and the early city fathers first laid out the city, this parcel seemed far enough away from the center of the business district to keep the specter of death and its accompanying decay shielded from daily lives, yet near enough that horse-drawn funeral processions could reach it without undo physical exertion.

After their tour of the burial grounds, the group summed up their finds by observing that, "It would be a good idea for the churches of the city to let up for the time being in transmitting so much money to the Fiji Islands, and other places of the same ilk and invest the same in removing the remains of their late members to Greenwood."

There were several other burial grounds in Michigan City, including the Old Prison Graveyard and St. Mary's graveyard, on which the existing church was eventually built. Greenwood Cemetery was established in 1864. Twenty acres were purchased at Greenwood in 1863, and in 1864 an ordinance was passed that no more bodies could be buried at the old cemetery.

According to "LaPorte County Genealogical Society Tour of Graves Moved from Old Burial Ground..." (June 10, 2008), on Dec. 11, 1882, the Common Council passed a resolution stating the old burial ground be vacated, and that on April 1, 1883, the council will exhume



Isaac C. Elston



An overview of Michigan City in its earliest days, as platted by Isaac Elston.

the remains there.

By this time, it is estimated perhaps 500 or more bodies were buried in the old burial ground. There were few, if any, records of who was buried in the old graveyard, so families were asked, when they could be found, to determine who was buried where. James Triggs (or Tigg), a board of health member, was given the task of removing the graves.

As he worked, Triggs reported "*fearful and horrible discoveries*," including at least two people who had apparently been buried alive, found face down in their coffins. In a Thursday, May 31, 1883, article titled "Graves give up their secrets," *The Herald Chronicle* of LaPorte reported that "*a corpse of a woman who had evidently been buried for years was taken up and the workmen discovered a small round hole in the right temple.*" A .38-caliber bullet was found rattling around in her skull when the workmen lifted it from the grave. A sad footnote mentions a ribbon placed around her neck at the time of her death was well-preserved, as well as parts of her dress.

In the late 1800s, forensic science was in its infancy, so while such discoveries were noted by local newspapers, not much more was done to discover who had been buried in the cemetery for the past 50 years. The primary effort was to exhume the remains and rebury them as soon as possible at Greenwood: certainly a horrible task accomplished with hand tools.



Elston High School, at Detroit and Lafayette streets, in 1913.

Of the 500 or so people buried in the old burial ground, only 188 were identified through their headstones, many of which, as reported in the 2008 Genealogical Society pamphlet, were amazingly legible. Many more headstones were missing or their engravings barely readable. Still, an additional 32 bodies were recognized from newspaper articles written at the time of their death.

By the end of May 1883, *The LaPorte Herald Chronicle* reported that, "*The removal of the majority of the bodies has been accomplished with but little trouble, while others which had been buried for so many years but little remained to be removed.*" What remains were found were re-interred at Greenwood.

Continued on Page 4

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Over the years, bodies were buried outside of the original acre set aside by Elston, spilling into neighboring acreage. Many of these burials were not recorded. The headstones were broken or removed, and perhaps still more bones lie forgotten under city streets and building foundations. The old burial ground was not even 50 years old when it was officially closed, yet it had been filled to capacity and overflowing. It had become the resting place for people small and great in the community, attesting to the fact that the pioneer town was a prosperous thriving community early in Indiana history.

James Triggs and his crew did the best they could, digging through drifting sand and with few records to guide them. And by mid-year 1883, the old cemetery was no more.

The land lay fallow for 26 years as the city grew away from the shores of Lake Michigan. Homes began to spring up around the forgotten burial ground. In 1909, the "SE corner of Section 29" was acquired by the Michigan City Board of Education and Issac C. Elston High School was built on the site. It must be imagined that bits and pieces of the old graveyard must have turned up during construction of that building, although no reports were recorded.

Every now and again, evidence that the land had once been a graveyard came to the fore. *The Michigan City Evening News* reported in its Oct. 24 1906, edition that a headstone was uncovered in the schoolyard that bore the inscription, "*Margaret Stewart, died 1844, aged 36 years; Infant son, one day old buried same day.*"

In 1925, the old high school building became Issac C. Elston Junior High School, and in 1980 the original building was razed to make room for the new performing arts center, which was completed in 1981.

Each time spade was sunk into that once-sacred ground, evidence was discovered that the graveyard would not easily give up its claim on the land. In the 1920s, when construction on the high school began, bones were found. A tombstone was found in the high school yard that bore evidence it had been carved by a LaPorte stone-mason. It was reported workers laying sewer pipe in the street found bones. When the performing arts center was constructed, human bones were discovered.

Once again, in 2003, while constructing the new junior high cafeteria, work was halted when human remains were uncovered 5 to 6 feet underground by a backhoe digging a sewer trench. *The News-Dispatch* on Sunday, April 12, 2003, reported that "school officials were not allowed to dig until an archeologist was hired to monitor the excavation."

A combined team of archeologists from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne was



In 2003, work on the new junior high cafeteria was halted when human remains were uncovered by a backhoe digging a sewer trench.



called in to study the bones, which were determined to be "very old." The persisting rumor that this location had once been a Native American burial ground emerged, and modern forensic tools would be involved to determine the veracity of this claim among the newly discovered bones.

The team prepared an extensive report, listing all of their finds and the locations of each burial site. In all, at least 15 graves had been unearthed by workers on the construction site. Some of the graves were intact, while other bodies had been scattered over the years by various construction projects, as well as the hasty work of James Triggs and his team working with their hand tools.

The archeologists' report mentioned bodies were discovered now and then over the years, as the land on which the graveyard originally was constructed and surrounding areas were improved with paved streets and home sites.

What the archeologist found in 2003 told a story about early Michigan City and the folks who were our early neighbors. Items discovered were cataloged and curated. A number of buttons from pieces of clothing that still clung to ancient and dried bones were unearthed, as well as combs and hairpins.

The status of the person in each burial could be seen in the uses of finer hardwoods on some coffins or pine for the less affluent. Decorations and fancy

handles were sometimes found on coffins that were shaped like those often seen in the old western movies: wider at the shoulders, narrow at the head and feet. Each inner coffin was encased in an outer coffin made of less expensive woods. The archeologist surmised that these outside boxes were used to keep the sandy soil around the dug grave from caving in before the burial could be completed.

One woman of unusual height was discovered, and at least one woman with gold dental work that indicated a degree of affluence in her lifestyle.

No Native American remains.

One discovery, though, captured a belief sculpted by faith. Of the bodies discovered, all of the coffins were situated with the feet of the deceased facing west towards Jerusalem, indicating the hope of those who lived in Michigan City's distant past for a future resurrection of loved ones now absent from their daily lives.

The discovery was a reminder that cemeteries are a means of closure, for the living and the dead, warranting reverence and respect for lives once lived, now brought to eternal rest.

(Special thanks to local archivist Michael Fleming for providing many of the photos used with this article.)



The Detroit Street side of the Elston building today.



Portions of the Elston building today house the LaPorte County YMCA Elston Branch and Young People's Theatre Company.



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“Belshazzar’s Feast”

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra will present its Mainstage Season finale, “Belshazzar’s Feast,” at 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, April 14, at Howard Performing Arts Center.



The Southwest Michigan Symphony Chorus.

Encompassing multiple collaborative efforts, the concert features William Walton’s “Belshazzar’s Feast” featuring the SMSO Chorus and baritone Jonathan Beyer.



Beyer

It tells of Babylon’s fall due to King Belshazzar’s sacrilegious behavior at a feast. Also included is the side-by-side piece “Bacchanale” from “Samson et Dalila” with the Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra, and the world premiere of original composition “Michigan Mosaic” by SMSO bassoonist Alan Palider. That piece

is the result of a 2017 Brad and Betsy Wong Professional Development Grant that Palider received.

Tickets are:

- Zone A: adult, \$35; full-time students, \$5.
- Zone B: adult, \$20; full-time students, \$5.

Howard Performing Arts Center is located at 4160 E. Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs, Mich. More information and tickets are available by calling (269) 982-4030 or visiting www.smso.org



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Campground/Picnic Shelter System

The National Park Service is proposing a reservation system for 11 picnic shelters and 34 campsites at Indiana Dunes National Park.

The system would allow visitors to plan camping trips and picnics up to six months in advance.

Currently, all picnic shelters in the park and all campsites at Dunewood Campground are on a first-come, first-served basis. Under the new system, half the campsites would be reservable and half on a first-come basis. Picnic shelters at West Beach and Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm will be on a reservation system, while other shelters in the park will remain first-come, first-served.

No fee increase is planned for any Dunewood Campground site. All campsites will remain \$25 per night. However, there is a proposed fee for reserving picnic shelters. A \$25 cost would be charged for each of West Beach’s eight shelters. At Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, the two small shelters would cost \$25 and the larger one with electrical power \$50. Any shelter that is not reserved would still be available at no cost on a first-come basis.

If approved, the system may be in place during the spring or early summer. Reservations would be made online at www.recreation.gov.

The National Park Service is seeking comments by April 30 to INDU_Communications@nps.gov or by writing the superintendent at 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN 46304.

ArtBash Gala

Tickets are available for Lubeznik Center for the Arts’ annual ArtBash gala, which is Saturday, June 29, at Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa.

The fundraiser plays a critical role in supporting programming. The theme is “Paint the Town,” with guests asked to wear brightly colored clothing. Festivities include dancing, a free photo booth, silent auction and buffet with open bar. NBC 5 Chicago’s Mary Ann Bergerson Ahern returns as emcee.

Tickets can be purchased at www.lubeznikcenter.org, then go to Special Events in the What’s Happening option. A discount for individual and table tickets must be made before June 17. Corporate sponsorships are available through April 15. Contact Development Director Michelle Shirk at (219) 874-4900 or email mshirk@lubeznikcenter.org for details.



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“Pet Sematary” is a Slap in the Face to Stephen King Fans

by Andrew Tallackson

“Pet Sematary” may be the Stephen King tale Hollywood can’t get right.

The 1983 book, a queasy nightmare of a page-turner, exploited every parent’s worst fear – the death of a child – by triggering a Pandora’s box of dreadful consequences. King, himself, scripted a faithful 1989 adaptation, but it was drab, like a gory TV movie, with acting so lifeless and plastic, they should have just cast department store mannequins.

This remake, by the duo Kevin Kölsch and Dennis Widmyer, arrives amid hype suggesting it rises to the level of superior Stephen King adaptations like 2017’s “It.” Had true masters of the genre, like Guillermo del Toro or Jordan Peele, taken a crack at it, that might have been true. And to the unknowing, this update is passable. For fans, it is another example of Hollywood taking a dump on the author’s work.

It starts well. The Creed family leaves Boston for tranquil life in southern Maine. Louis (Jason Clarke) is a doctor and Rachel (Amy Seimetz) a stay-at-home mom to their children: Ellie (Jeté Laurence), who is smart, kind and loving, and their toddler son, Gage (twins Hugo and Lucas Lavoie), who has a way of wandering off, as youngsters are prone to do.

The great John Lithgow is kindly neighbor Jud Crandall, who introduces Louis to the Native American burial ground behind the nearby pet cemetery, one whose dark secret is that it brings the dead back to life.

(The story’s title, by the way, is intentionally misspelled, a reference to children beholden to the burial site.)

You don’t have to be a genius, nor have read King’s book, to predict that the Creed family pet, a scruffy

cat named Church, is not long for this Earth, his trip to the pet cemetery booked from the word go. What breathes life into the early passages, though, are the performances, each superior to their equivalents in the 1989 film. Clarke and Seimetz create believable spouses, with Clarke, in particular, deftly conveying Louis’ descent into despair with eyes ablaze with madness. Lithgow again reminds us

how subtle an actor he is, achieving an air of grandfatherly kindness by delivering a stern warning, followed by gentle, paternal comfort.

The big change from the novel, foolishly spoiled by the film’s trailers, is that it is Elle, not Gage, who meets a fateful end at the hands of a speeding truck, is then buried by Louis in the pet cemetery and subsequently brought back to life. The twist is forgivable, though, because Laurence, as Elle, is a wow, demonstrating maturity way beyond her years. She is the film’s secret weapon: its creepiest element.

No, the troubles arise when Kölsch and Widmyer, working from a script by Matt Greenberg, scrap the last act of King’s work entirely. What they concoct is so ridiculously, laughably, outrageously stupid, it doesn’t work as drama, as satisfying closure, even as twisted horror.

What is it that convinces Hollywood it can one-up King with his own stories? The reason “It” was a sensation – it is the highest grossing horror film of all time, and the most financially successful Stephen King adaptation to date – is that director Andy Muschietti remained true to the author’s vision.

The team behind “Pet Sematary,” by tinkering with the story, bit off more than they could chew, achieving an epic fail in the process.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



John Lithgow and Jeté Laurence star in “Pet Sematary.”

★ 1/2

“Pet Sematary”

Running time: 101 minutes. Rated R for
horror violence, bloody images and some language

“Shazam!” is Loaded with Unexpected Delights

by Andrew Tallackson

Save for 2017’s “Wonder Woman,” that marvelous piece of pulp moviemaking, I was convinced everyone at DC Films should be issued their pink slips. Pronto.

Not Christopher Nolan, mind you, whose “Dark Knight” trilogy is considered cannon in the Batman universe. No, I’m referring to the rest of the lot: “Man of Steel,” “Batman vs. Superman,” “Suicide Squad,” “Justice League” and “Aquaman.” Not necessarily terrible. Watchable, entertaining to a degree, but joyless, the effects relentless, bombastic.

Thank heavens, then, for “Shazam!” It’s *all* heart, buoyed not just by the endless good cheer of Zachary Levi in the title role, but also by the light touch. This is a super hero movie that delights in its own silliness.

At the center is 15-year-old Billy Batson (Asher Angel), who bounces from one foster home to the next, his latest stop a middle-class Philadelphia couple (Cooper Andrews, Jerry from “The Walking Dead,” and Marta Milans) with five youngsters in their care. This is the movie’s greatest invention: there is so much warmth and love in this house, each foster child its own jumble of eccentricities. The one most drawn to Billy is Freddy, played by Jack Dylan Grazer (“It”) in a wonderful performance. Walking with a cane, bullied at school, he’s desperate for a friend. Grazer has a killer deadpan, his dialogue carefully delivered zingers.

Through means too complicated to explain, Billy comes into a contact with a wizard (Djimon Hounsou, looking insanely silly) who bestows upon him

the power to become Shazam (Levi) just by saying the name aloud.

Much of the laughs come from Freddy and Billy discovering Shazam’s powers, all of it uploaded to YouTube, of course. It is no coincidence, too, that an oversized keyboard factors in the action, as the gentle air of the Tom Hanks classic “Big” (1988) looms over the laughs.

There is a villain, played by go-to baddie Mark Strong (“Sherlock Holmes,” “Kick-Ass”), who came across the same wizard as a child and now wants more power for himself. Strong means business: the film earns its PG-13 rating during a brutal confrontation with family that may be too unsettling for children 10 and younger. The fun of “Shazam!,” though, comes not from the subsequent fireworks, but in how Billy draws his newfound family into the action, each foster child uncovering supernatural strengths. That togetherness elevates the climax beyond being a series of smackdowns.

A movie like this sinks or swims on the actor cast as Shazam, and Levi does something unexpected. He doesn’t play Shazam as an overgrown man-child. Sure, adolescent ego is an issue, but having this new alter ego allows Billy to discover where, exactly, he fits in his world, and that journey, propelled with loopy sincerity by Levi, is heartfelt and moving.

“Shazam!” was directed by David F. Sandberg (“Lights Out”) and written by Henry Gayden (2007’s “Spider-Man 3”). How these two with varied backgrounds achieved something this sweet is a mystery, but we are grateful. The change of pace achieved an unexpected delight

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Zachary Levi stars in “Shazam!”

★ ★ ★^{1/2}

“Shazam!”

Running time: 132 minutes. Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of action, language and suggestive material

Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 11.**

The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.

- **Needle Arts League at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, April 11, 18 and 25.**

Membership to the group, formerly known as the Knit Club, is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome.

- **Bookmarks at 2 p.m. Friday, April 12.**

Veronica Earley will review Esi Edugyan's "Washington Black."

- **Legend of the Crystal Skull at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 13.**

The library will show "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," followed by a program from Bill Homann, owner and caretaker of the Mitchell-Hedges Crystal Skull, which inspired the film.

- **Pokemon Go Community Day from 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 13, in Youth Services.**

The library Pokestop will have a lure placed on it, while Pokemon-themed giveaways — while supplies last — are planned. The day will feature Bagon. Call Jonathan at (219) 873-3045 for details.

- **Story Time at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., at 11 a.m. Monday, April 15.**

The Story Time Crew presents stories, songs, activities and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive your child's name tag. The program is appropriate for children birth-5 accompanied by an adult.

- **Art Bots at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, in the Makerspace.**

Make a motorized art bot that scribbles and draws. Call Youth Services at (219) 873-3045 and ask for Dave for details.

- **CoderDojo at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 17.**

The free coding club for ages 8-18 explores programming such as Ozobots, Spheros, Chibi Chips



A free screening of Spike Lee's Oscar-winning "BlackKkklansman" is at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 14, at the library. The film is Rated R.

and 3-D modeling. Coding tools include Scratch, Hopscotch and MakeCode. Children 12 and younger must have a parent attend. Visit the library's CoderDojo page or contact Jonathan at jlovett@mclib.org for details.



- **Collector's Corner Breakfast tickets available.**

Tickets are on sale for the annual Collector's Corner Breakfast on Saturday, April 27, at Full Gospel Church of Deliverance, 2700 Ohio St. The cost is \$25, and each ticketholder can take one appraisal item for Martin Papke of Kathy's Antiques. Appraisals are intended for entertainment purposes only. No weapons will be appraised. Portofino Grill will cater the breakfast. Tickets are available at the library circulation desk or from Friends of the Library board members. No tickets will be sold at the door, and sales are limited to 75. Call (219) 873-3049 for more information.



- **Learning Center Volunteers Needed.**

The Learning Center needs volunteer tutors for children and adults. Students need assistance in: reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. All that's required are two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop by the center for more information.



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



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Sons of Norway



Michael Leland aboard the Hope.

Michael Leland decided in college that someday, he would sail his own boat to his ancestral home of Norway.



Leland

Leland will share stories and pictures from that trip with the Sons of Norway Scandiana Lodge on Friday, April 12, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

The presentation, "Hope's Viking Voyages," tells the odyssey that started in August 2017, taking Leland and his crew from Jamestown, R.I., to Nova Scotia, Ireland, and finally, Norway to Orust, where the

Hope was built in 2005. In 2018, the return trip following the ancient Viking route through Iceland and Greenland was completed.

Leland has captained the Hope to two first-place finishes in the Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac.

The meeting starts with a carry-in potluck at 5:30 p.m. Take table service and a dish to share. The program starts at 7 p.m.

Call (219) 877-7097 for details.

Gabis Arboretum Easter Egg Hunt

More than 9,000 stuffed Easter eggs will cover the ground Sunday, April 14, during Gabis Arboretum's third annual Easter Egg Hunt.

The festivities start at 10 a.m. with the Easter Bunny's arrival. Children 4 and younger can start their Easter egg hunt at 1 p.m. at the Side Track. Children ages 5-7 start at 1:30 p.m. at the Joseph E. Meyer Memorial Pavilion. Youth 8 and older start at 2 p.m. at the ArcelorMittal Adventure Garden.

Guests should take cameras to snap photos of their children with the Easter bunny from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Trains in the Railway Garden will run and, depending on the weather, a meet and greet is planned both days with the resident goats, rabbits and baby chicks.

Special admission both days is \$10 per non-member carload and free for members. Photos with the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt are free with admission. Registration is required for the hunt at gabisarboretumeaster.brownpapertickets.com/

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

Washington Park Easter Egg Hunt

The seventh annual Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 13, in Fedder's Alley in Washington Park.

The event is hosted by Police Chief Mark Swistek, Captain Ed (Beutner), Mayor Ron Meer and the Michigan City Police Department.

Captain Ed and Washington Park Zoo staff will entertain children at 11 a.m. The hunt starts at noon sharp, regardless of the weather. Those attending are encouraged to arrive early because traffic last year was backed up on Lake Shore Drive.



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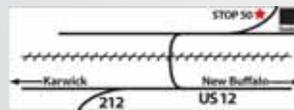
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Shirley Heinze Land Trust Nature Preserves Bus Tour

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host an educational bus tour of its nature preserves from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20.

The reservation deadline is Monday, April 15.

Participants learn about Northwest Indiana's ecology, geology and history, and hear the results of the latest land conservation, public access and restoration work. Eleven of the organization's nature preserves are included. The bus will make brief stops at six of them. It departs promptly at 8 a.m. from Meadowbrook Conservation Center and Nature Preserve, 109 W. County Road 700 North, Valparaiso.

The morning itinerary begins with a brief hike at John Merle Coulter Nature Preserve in Portage. The 94-acre state-dedicated nature preserve features oak savanna, sand prairie and interdunal wetlands. Despite a portion of the property being sand mined in the 1930s, it recovered and is home to native plants, wildflowers and wildlife.

The bus then heads to Ivanhoe South Nature Preserve in Gary for another short hike. The 50-acre property, tucked between a residential neighborhood and an industrial area, features globally rare dune and swale topography. Narrow rows of wet swales alongside sandy ridges of oak savanna provide habitat for a variety of native plants, wildflowers and wildlife. The black oak savanna natural community here has been significantly restored.

The bus then travels south to the Hobart Marsh conservation area. On the way, passengers view nature preserves located near Interstate 65, including Hidden Prairie/Ivory Wetlands on the west and Brinson/Bock Higgins prairies to the east. The bus will stop for a short hike at Gordon & Faith Greiner Nature Preserve, a 73-acre property that contains

sandy dunes, oak savanna, wetlands and a tallgrass prairie restoration.

The bus then will head back to Meadowbrook Conservation Center and Nature Preserve for lunch. Participants will walk a short distance to one of the old lodges for lunch, passing through the moraine forest and crossing a stream along the way. Early spring ephemeral wildflowers may be on display.

The tour's afternoon portion will focus on preserves in Porter and LaPorte counties. Along the way, participants will hear about the Little Calumet River Conservation Corridor project, and the restoration and public-access improvements at preserves along the river. The bus will drive past Wykes-Plampin Nature Preserve in Chesterton, where a kayak launch was installed last year, then stop for a brief hike at the recently-protected 165-acre



Dale B. Engquist Nature Preserve, located along the Little Calumet River adjacent to Indiana Dunes National Park's Heron Rookery. Spring wildflowers bloom on the forest floor, and migratory birds are attracted to its woods and wetlands.

From there, the bus will head to Hildebrand Lake in LaPorte County for a final short hike. The lake is not open to the public, so the trek is a rare opportunity to see the 49-acre complex of forest, kettle lake and marsh habitat.

On the final leg of the tour, the bus will take a drive through the Great Marsh in Beverly Shores. Herons, egrets and sandhill cranes can be seen.

The tour returns to Meadowbrook at 3:30 p.m. The \$40 cost includes lunch. Reservations are required online at www.heinzetrust.org/bus-tour.html or by calling (219) 242-8558. Seating is limited, so early reservations are advised.

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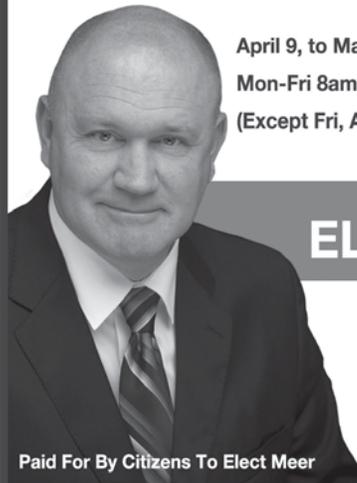
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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

- **NorthShore Health Center free blood-pressure screening from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 11, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Interested patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

- **Recycling Right at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 11, at Hageman Library.**

Donna Stuckert, Porter County Recycling public-education coordinator, will present what's recyclable in Northwest Indiana, helping attendees improve recycling skills. Seating is limited, so register by calling (219) 926-9080.

- **Bits & Bytes series, Android for Beginners, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11, in the Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

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

- **Music at the Museum from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11, at Westchester Township Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

The Flashbacks will perform. Members are: Suzanne Keldsen, playing guitar, recorders and fiddle; Julietta Raby, playing fiddle, mandolin and guitar; Nancy Cairns on dulcimer and ukulele; Paul Mache playing guitar and banjo; and Marti Pizzini on autoharp, dulcimer and guitar.

- **Lego Club from 4 to 5 p.m. Friday, April 12, 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.

- **Maker Mondays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 15, in the Thomas Library upstairs IT classroom.**

Local software engineer Adam Johnson will lead a hands-on program, appropriate for patrons 12 and older, about Arduino circuit devices.

- **Minecraft Meet-up at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, at Thomas Library.**

Registration is required and must be done in person. The WPL Gaming Policy and Rules of Conduct must be signed upon registration as well. Parents are welcome to attend, but required for youth 10 and younger.

- **"Spring Egg-Stravaganza" from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Children ages 6-11 will learn the science of how to dye eggs organically using everyday ingredients, then create a hat. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

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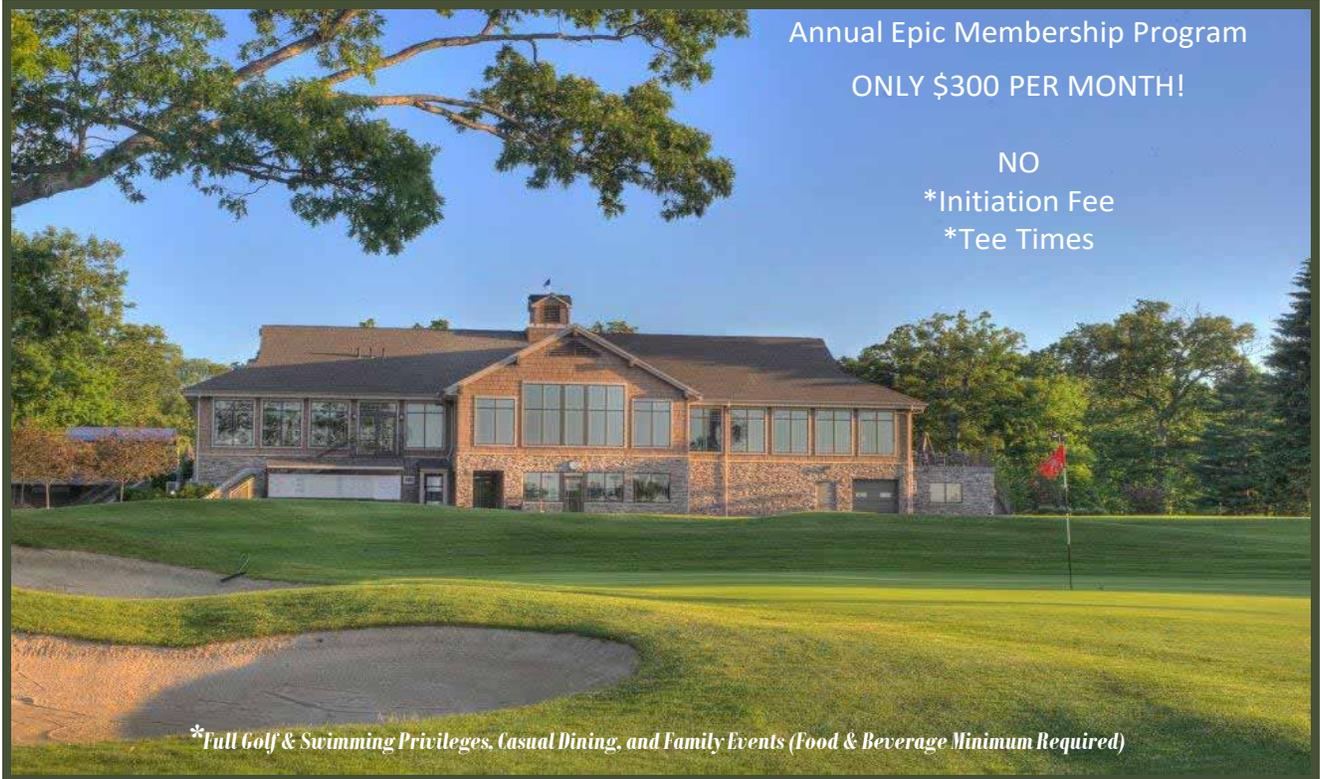


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World Creativity and Innovation Week

The kickoff breakfast for World Creativity and Innovation Week is at 8 a.m. Friday, April 12, at the A.K. Smith Career Center, 817 Lafayette St.

The Center for Creative Solutions is the local sponsor and host. This year's theme is "Celebrating Creativity in our Community."

The breakfast features speaker Seth Spencer, founder and CEO of SERA Solutions, a media company in Michigan City. Spencer serves as a board member for Junior Achievement in LaPorte County, through which he also teaches business and entrepreneurship skills to elementary students. He was Indiana Small Business Development Corporation's 2017 Young Entrepreneur of the Year.



Spencer

In conjunction with the B.R. Foundation, the center will present three Tej Ram Gupta scholarships to innovative A.K. Smith students. It also will announce this year's Creativity, Regional, Excellence and Originality recipient. The award goes to a "citizen or organization that encourages a culture of creativity and innovation in our communities," Pat Lain, Center for Creative Solutions board president, said in a press release.

Past recipients include:

- O'Merrial Butchee and John Davies (2014).
- Dr. Rakesh and Bina Gupta (2015).
- Leigh Morris (2016).
- LaPorte County Public Library Spark Labs (2017).
- Ben Konowitz, a LaPorte businessman, comedian and improv actor (2018).

RSVP by contacting Cynthia Hedge of the Center for Creative Solutions at creativity52@comcast.net or (219) 861-0955. The \$10 cost can be paid with cash, check or PayPal at the door or through the center's office.

Visit www.CenterforCreativeSolutions.com for more details.

Library Starts Streaming Service

LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., has launched Kanopy, a video-streaming service with access to more than 30,000 films from more than 800 filmmakers.

Around 200 to 250 titles are added each month. Kanopy's collection includes documentaries, foreign films, learning cinema, local content, cult classics and arthouse movies. Some of Kanopy's partners include The Criterion Collection, The Great Courses, Kino Lorber, PBS, First Run Features, Samuel Goldwyn Films and Paramount Classics.

Kanopy supports more apps than any other streaming service. Films also include embed tools, group showing rights, online comments, social media apps, captions/transcripts, ratings and real-time usage data. To watch titles specific to children, users should click the Kids link (near the login) to enter the kid-friendly zone of titles.

At this time, library customers are limited to 10 play credits per month. A "play credit" is incurred when a customer clicks Play or starts a film. Once a user play credit is logged, the customer has three full days to watch the film for unlimited uses. A customer can track their existing and past play credits from their user dashboard.

Customers can access Kanopy through the library website (laportelibrary.org). Customers without an account need to create one. Part of the account-creation process involves verifying the email and linking a library card number to the account. Call (219) 362-6156 for more details.

Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series returns with "The Cool School, Part 2" at 12:20 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 11, at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

Narrated by Jeff Bridges, the film focuses on Ferus Gallery, which groomed the L.A. art scene from beatniks into competitive artists, including Ed Kienholz, Ed Ruscha, Craig Kauffman, Wallace Berman, Ed Moses and Robert Irwin. The Ferus also served as a launching point for New York imports Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns and Roy Lichtenstein.

Admission is \$5. Members are free. Call (574) 293-6660 for details.

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Is that pain in your heel or bottom of your foot due to PLANTAR FASCIITIS?

FREE Heel and Foot Pain Workshop Reveals Natural Healing Secrets

Does your heel or bottom of your foot hurt:

- with the first few steps out of bed in the morning? Worse as the day progresses?
- when walking after prolonged sitting?
- when climbing stairs or standing on your toes?
- after standing for long periods?

Dear Fellow NW Indiana Resident,

Heel and foot pain is no joke. It can be debilitating...

You begin to dread getting out of bed in the morning...not a great way to start your day.

You get embarrassed with the way you walk after sitting for a while...you get curious glances from people.

You get frustrated...disappointed, sometimes even angry at yourself for not being able to do the things you love...like shopping, leisure walking or simply keeping up with your kids or grandkids.

What is plantar fasciitis?

Plantar fasciitis (say "PLAN-ter fash-ee-EYE-tus") is the most common cause of heel pain.

The plantar fascia is the flat band of tissue (ligament) that connects your heel bone to your toes. It supports the arch of your foot.

If you strain your plantar fascia, it gets weak, swollen and irritated (inflamed). Then, your heel or the bottom of your foot hurts when you stand or walk.

Repeated strain can cause tiny tears in the ligament. These can lead to pain and swelling. This is more likely to happen if:

- Your feet roll inward too much when you walk.
- You have high arches or flat feet.
- You walk, stand or run for long periods of time, especially on hard surfaces.
- You are overweight.
- You wear shoes that don't fit well or are worn out.

Here's the test...

Sit down on a comfortable chair. Cross the leg of the involved foot over the opposite knee.

With either thumb, press firmly on the bottom of the involved heel, towards the arch of the foot.

If you find that this spot is tender and painful to you pressing on it, then most likely you have plantar fasciitis.

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Now...using the hand on your affected side, take hold of your affected foot and pull your toes back towards the shin. This creates tension/stretch in the arch of the foot/plantar fascia.

Repeat on the other side for comparison.

If this step feels so much tighter on the affected side, then you most likely have plantar fasciitis.

Now you may be asking...can plantar fasciitis heal and pain subside without medications, injections, or surgery?

In most cases, yes...but it depends on, but not limited to, the following factors:

- Length of time you've been suffering.
- Things you're doing that is making the condition worse without you knowing it.
- Degree of swelling and tightness of the plantar fascia.

FREE Heel and Foot Pain Workshop

To help our valued clients dealing with heel and foot pain, Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists will host the FREE Heel and Foot Pain Workshop on the following dates and locations:

- **Tuesday, April 16, LaPorte office at 5 P.M.:** 1405 E. Lincolnway, Suite B (next to All Star Auto, same building as Hair Fitness)
- **Thursday, April 18, Valparaiso office at 6 P.M.:** 3125 Calumet Ave., Suite 8 (next to the Valpo YMCA)

Here's what you will learn at the workshop:

- The Top 2 most common causes of heel and foot pain
- Single biggest No. 1 mistake heel and foot pain sufferers make resulting in a condition that necessitates surgery
- How you can heal naturally without medications, injections or surgery
- Do-it-yourself techniques that will make you feeling better immediately after the workshop

This event is limited to 20 attendees only due to the interactive nature of this workshop. **To hold your spot, please call:**

- **(219) 380-0809 in LaPORTE**
- **(219) 202-2500 in VALPO**

See you at the workshop.

Sincerely,



Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC

Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

PS-Call NOW to hold your spot for the FREE Heel and Foot Pain Workshop on:

- *Tuesday, April 16, LaPorte (219-380-0809)*
- *Thursday, April 18, in Valpo (219-202-2500)*

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Indiana Dunes National Park

The following programs are planned:

- **Friends of Indiana Dunes Plant Sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The annual sale features native species.

- **Migration Birding Hike from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, April 13, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Brad Bumgardner, birding expert and Indiana Audubon Society executive director, leads the program that heads by carpool to the month's birding spot. Types of birds sighted can vary and are based on recent sightings of the previous week to determine what locations to visit. Take binoculars, and dress for the weather.

- **Quidditch Tournament from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at Chellberg Farm.**

Inspired by Harry Potter, the children's game is a cross between soccer, dodgeball and tag. No experience is necessary. All equipment, including "brooms," will be provided.

Chellberg Farm is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12 in Porter.

- **A ranger will lead a two-hour tour of IDNP in one of its 16-passenger buses from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 14.**

The free tour meets at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. After a brief introduction, participants board for the tour. Reservations are required by calling (219) 395-1882.

- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sundays through May 26 at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

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

- **Art in the National Park from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays through May 11 at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet local artists who use the dunes as inspiration to take photos, paint, draw or write. Programs may be inside or outside.



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.

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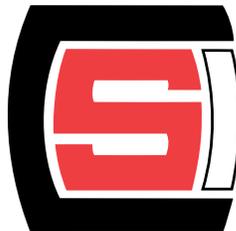
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TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Alley Katz <i>(Lenore Hadaway, Hollie Dres, Cindy Beck)</i>	35	17
2. Lady Strikers <i>(Nancy Klausner, Ellie Parkerson, Mary Lou McFadden)</i>	33.5	18.5
3. Queen Pins <i>(Tammy Nelmar, Margie Midkiff, Dottie Brinckman)</i>	32	20

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE
1. Dottie Brinckman	179
2. Cindy Beck	170
3. Mary McDonald	166
4. Mary Lou McFadden	160
5. Lenore Hadaway	152
6. Susan Kiefer	151
7. Nancy Kubath (series)	412
8. Carolyn Wiggins (series)	411
9. Margie Midkiff (series)	405
10. Polly Fletcher (series)	401

SPLITS	
Debbie Novak, Kathy Osborne	2-7
Nancy Kubath	5-10

STRIKES

Dottie Brinckman (4)
Mary McDonald, Barb Macudzinski and Dottie Brinckman (3)

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

Autism Forum

In celebration of Autism Awareness Month, the Michigan City Human Rights Commission will present a free Autism Forum from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 18, at Living Way Church, 2410 Duneland Drive.

The Autism Society of Indiana will explain what autism is and available resources in the state. Kristen Robson, director of The Autism Program at Ancilla College, will give an overview of the program, while Michigan City Area Schools staff will introduce the mission of a newly-formed Autism Team. Bridget Harrison, founder of Innovations in Learning, and Jessica Cleary, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Michigan City Clinic supervisor, will talk about Applied Behavior Analysis therapy and how it impacts the autism population. Laura Swanson of IN*SOURCE will discuss advocacy support available to families. Refreshments will be served, and parking is available.

Visit www.emichigancity.com/cityhall/departments/humanrights for more information.

A Little Boost



JoAnn Enquist of the Michigan City Commission for Women stopped by Barker Middle School on Friday, March 29, to present eighth-grader Alaina Kotaska with a special check. The money helped fund her travel to San Jose, Calif., for the Mathleague (INTER)^SECT National Championship on April 6. Kotaska qualified for nationals based on her performance in preliminary online rounds of the Mathleague competition.

LaPorte County Public Library

The following programs are at the main branch of LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave.:

• **Stories & More from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Fridays.**

Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities that include using iPads to build early literacy skills.

• **Fairy Garden Fun! from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 13.**

Hear a fairy story, then create a fairy garden to take home. Register at laportelibrary.org.

• **Tinker Tuesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays.**

Teens and adults can use the Cricut Maker, the complete Adobe Creative Cloud, including Photoshop, Illustrator, Spark and Lightroom, and the 3-D printer.



Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

Author Talk

“The Adventurous Journey of International Best Selling Author Catharine Lanigan” is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

Lanigan wrote the novelizations of the hit films “Romancing the Stone” and “Jewel of the Nile,” as well as movies for the Hallmark channel.



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Spring Cleanup Crew



A team of Krueger Middle School seventh- and eighth-graders participated in a "pre-cleanup" day March 29 at Friendship Botanic Gardens, helping prepare the grounds for spring.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **National Volunteer Week: Marram Grass Planting from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 13.**

Meet a naturalist and volunteers at the beach pavilion to head to the bird observation tower, where everyone will transplant native dune marram grass there. Dress for the weather, and take work gloves.

- **Bird Tower Bonanza at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 14.**

Meet at the beach pavilion for a one-mile trek to the bird viewing tower to learn about bird migration data collected there.

- **The J.D. Marshall Shipwreck at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 14.**

Meet at the Nature Center to learn about the sinking of the J.D. Marshall just offshore of Indiana Dunes State Park.



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.

Barker Mansion Guided Tours

After several months of renovation, Barker Mansion's first and second floors are open for tours.

The mansion is open Tuesdays-Saturdays for the 1 p.m. guided tour, as well as regularly scheduled specialty events. Discounted rates are \$3 for youth or seniors and \$5 for adults.

The mansion is located at 631 Washington St. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Director Emily Reth at ereth@emichigancity.com, or call (219) 873-1520. Visit www.barkermansion.com for details.

Krasl Art Center

Krasl Art Center will host the multi-media exhibit "Body Language" on April 12-May 26, with an opening party from 6 to 8 p.m. EDT Friday, April 12.

Curated by KAC Deputy Director/Curator Tami Miller, the exhibit features eight accepted artists, including three painters, two sculptors and two performance-based projects. They are: Sara Peak Convery, Jacklynn Kelsey, Lisa Krannichfeld, Mychaelyn Michalec, Alanna Huck-Scarry, KC Crow Maddux, Klaus Pinter and Rui Sha.

The artists address the questions: How is body language represented, depicted and interpreted? Is it readable? Is it natural or affected? Subliminal or known? Political? Historical?

The kickoff begins at 5 p.m. EDT with a volunteer appreciation party. At 5:30 p.m. EDT, Mike Nadolski, Mendell Center at Lake Michigan College executive director, will present "Every Body," an interactive improvisational session. The party begins at 6 p.m. EDT, with a live performance piece, "Trace," by Sha. Small bites and a cash bar are planned.

In conjunction with "Body Language" is "Movement Captures: A Screen Dance Series" in the artlab. Dance artist Carolyn Pampalone Rabbers will install multiple screenings of newly developed dance performances and body movements.

Rabbers is a member of Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers. She graduated from Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance and has performed for Coldplay, Omi, Royal Caribbean, Celebrity and Poet Theatricals. She will present a live performance at 2 and 2:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, May 18.

KAC is located at 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Visit krasl.org for details.

College Dean's List

Former Michigan City resident Max Zaccone, a freshman history major at Hillsdale College in Michigan, was named to the 2018 fall semester Dean's List.



Zaccone, a 2018 La Lumiere School graduate, is the son of Kevin and Gerti Zaccone, formerly of Valentine Court. He was among the Commended Students in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship program, one of two from La Lumiere. He also was a page for State Sen. Bohacek.

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Pokagon Fund Aids Girls on the Run

The Pokagon Fund will present a \$3,750 grant to Girls on the Run of Southwest Michigan, a physical activity-based youth program for girls in third through eighth grade.

The award will fund girls participation at New Buffalo Elementary and River Valley Middle School. During the course of the 10-week program, they will develop confidence, learn about building healthy relationships and participate in a community service project, all while becoming physically and emotionally prepared to complete a 5K.

Teams from New Buffalo Elementary, River Valley Middle School and additional Berrien County sites will participate in the Girls on the Run 5K on May 16, where the focus is mastery rather than competition.

The Pokagon Fund is a nonprofit private foundation supported by Four Winds Casino revenue.

Ugliest Lamp Contest

As part of upcoming Art Attack festivities, New Buffalo's Catherine & Co. is hosting an "Ugliest Lamp Contest" in which people have the chance to win a free lamp makeover.

Those interested can take any lamp they consider old, ugly or unwanted to the business, 900 W. Buffalo St., by Friday, April 26. Art Attack is Friday through Sunday, April 26-28, and those who stop by Catherine & Co. can vote for the lamp that receives the free makeover.

All contestants receive a 30 percent discount on lampshades.

During the Art Attack weekend, Catherine & Co. will be open from noon to 5 p.m. EDT. Call (269) 469-2742 for more details.





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Community Spell Bowl Winners

READ LaPorte County Inc. has announced the winners of its annual Community Spell Bowl held March 27 at Veterans of Foreign Wars in LaPorte.

They are:

- **First Place:** Alphabet Soup, a team from American Licorice consisting of Millie Bearickx, Charlotte Dodson, Karen Kopka and Della Lyle.
- **Second Place:** a team from LaPorte County Public Library consisting of Amanda Becker, Kristi Chadderdon and Michael Sheehan.
- **Spirit Award:** Elite 4, a team of community members consisting of Peg Gehrmann, Isaiah Owen, Mason Rhodes and Matt Rhodes.

Other organizations involved were Dunebrook, Exchange Club of LaPorte County, LaPorte Jaycees, and LaPorte Kiwanis Club.

Kids Heart Challenge

Barker Middle School students raised \$1,805 to support the American Heart Association through a “Kids Heart Challenge” fundraiser.

For a minimum \$5 donation, students reported to the gym during the last class period before spring break for heart-healthy activities. They played either dodgeball or “Omnikin ball,” which involves a giant ball on a volleyball court.

This year’s event was held Friday, March 29, and more than 200 students participated. Barker Student Council and teacher adviser Mariah Pol spearheaded and promoted the effort. Teacher Bruce Parker organized the gym activities.



Top fundraiser Madison Rabatine is photographed with student council advisor Mariah Pol.

Barker’s top fundraiser was seventh-grader Madison Rabatine, who brought in \$600. She says most of the funds were donated by relatives in memory of her father, Wallace Rabatine, who died of a heart condition when she was 7.

The fundraiser has become a school tradition on the final day before spring break. Over the past decade, Barker students have raised \$14,800 for the American Heart Association.



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

- St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, 818 Franklin St., 1:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11.
- LaPorte High School, 602 F St., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, April 12.

A limited quantity of “Game of Thrones” posters are available to donors, along with a chance to win a full-size iron throne. Visit rcblood.org/GoT for details. Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org for more details.

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Conservation Group Seeks Members

Pheasants Forever Chapter 556 is welcoming new members and sponsors.

The nonprofit chapter's objectives involve promoting responsible hunting and conservation of local wildlife. Active in Northwest Indiana for the past 20 years, Rodger Galloway has led the chapter for the past 13, using funds for placing food plots, habitat maintenance and outdoor youth activities.

The chapter is open to all genders and ages. Contact Galloway at (219) 393-9763 for details, or visit Northwest Indiana Pheasants Forever on Facebook.

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VU Student Art Exhibit

Valparaiso University's Juried Art Student Exhibition and Senior Showcase runs through May 12 at its Brauer Museum of Art.

The exhibits are free; however, donations are welcome. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and closed Mondays.

The museum is located at 1709 Chapel Drive. Visit valpo.edu/brauer-museum-of-art or call (219) 464-5276 for details.

Origami Presentation

Leslie Cefali will give a free presentation on how recent origami inspired technology, and other benefits of the art, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, at Valparaiso Public Library, 103 Jefferson St.

Cefali teaches origami at many venues and regularly attends national origami conventions.

Children are welcome to the program; however, it is geared at parents, educators and interested adults. It is not an origami folding class.

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Contact us at (219) 879-0088 with any additional questions.

Duneland Weavers Guild

Duneland Weavers Guild meets at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 13, at Hilltop Neighborhood House, 460 College Ave., Valparaiso.

Master dyer Jan Macklin will present a program on weaving with variegated yarn, followed by a workshop for those registered.

The program opens with Show ‘n Tell, and visitors are welcome.

Spaghetti Dinner

The youth at St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Coolspring Ave., will host a spaghetti dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 13.

The menu includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, beverages and dessert. A free-will offering will be taken, with proceeds aiding youth programs.

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Student Hunger Drive



Michigan City High School recently participated in the Northern Indiana Student Hunger Drive. Pictured are National Honor Society President Evangelea Dabagia (left) and Hunger Drive Chair Kasey Halfacre as they present a \$322.92 check, and a large number of canned goods, to Maj. Dale Simmons of The Salvation Army food pantry on Tuesday, March 26. The drive is a year-long initiative. Michigan City Area Schools generates more than two tons of food donations annually for the cause.



Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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

La Porte County Parks



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

Nature's Tiny Tots

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

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. April 15 and 22, June 3 and 17, July 1, 15 and 29, and Aug. 12 and 26 at Luhr County Park. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Make and Take Craft Weekends

The free program is from 1 to 4 p.m. April 20, May 25 and 26, June 8 and 9, July 20 and 21, and Aug. 17 and 18 at Luhr Park Nature Center.

No pre-registration is required. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Crafts are available while supplies last.

Family Fishing Nights

The free program is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. April 30, June 19 and July 18 at Luhr County Park.

All ages are welcome. A limited number of poles and bait are available. No fishing licenses are required, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance

Healthy Lifestyles

The free social club that emphasizes quality of life meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

Programs focus on health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing active lifestyles. Call at least one week in advance to sign up (the maximum allowed is 30). The schedule is:

- May — no class.
- June 5 — "A Journey into Health: a Plant Based Path," Marcy Daily.
- July 3 — "Three Habits of a Happy Confident Life," Wendy Taddeucci.
- Aug. 7 — "Healthy Cooking for One or Two," Katie Sarver, LaPorte Hospital Wellness Outreach.

Teachers-Groups-Scout Leaders

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



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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

April 12 — Bookmarks, Esi Edugyan's "Washington Black," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 12 — "Hope's Viking Voyages" (Sons of Norway Scandiana Lodge), The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Carry-in potluck/5:30 p.m., program/7 p.m. Info: (219) 877-7097.

April 12 — Damian McGinty — Young Forever Tour, 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theatre, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$35. Reservations: (269) 756-3879, www.acornlive.org

April 12-13 — Berrien County Greek Orthodox Church Women's Group Easter bake sale, The Hellenic Center, Behner Road, New Buffalo, Mich. Hours (Eastern): 11 a.m.-9 p.m. April 12/11 a.m.-5 p.m. April 13. Friday fish fry buffet: 2-9 p.m. EDT.

April 12-15 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Birds of Passage." Not Rated. In Spanish, Wayuu and English with subtitles. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. Also: "They Shall Not Grow Old." Rated R. Times: 3 & 9:15 p.m. Sat./3 p.m. Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

April 13 — Migration Birding Hike, 8-10 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

April 13 — Friends of Indiana Dunes Plant Sale, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

April 13 — Fairy Garden Fun!, 10 a.m.-noon, LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: laportelibrary.org

April 13 — Easter Egg Hunt, Fedder's Alley, Washington Park. Entertainment/11 a.m. Hunt/noon.

April 13 — Legend of the Crystal Skull, 1 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 13 — National Volunteer Week: Marram Grass Planting, 2-4 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 13 — Spaghetti dinner, 4:30-7 p.m., St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Coolspring Ave. Free-will offering.

April 14 — Bird Tower Bonanza, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 14 — Film screening, "BlackKklansman," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 16 — "The Adventurous Journey of International Best Selling Author Catherine Lanigan," 7 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

April 17 — "Spring Egg-Stravaganza," 6-7 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave.,

Chesterton. Registration: (219) 926-7696.

April 17 — CoderDojo, 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

In the Region

April 12 — Exhibit opening party, “Body Language,” 6-8 p.m. EDT, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: krasl.org

April 12 — Unwrapped at the Box, The Backups, 8:30 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10. Info: boxfactoryforthearts.org

April 12-14 — Neil Simon’s “Proposals,” Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (Eastern): 7:30 p.m. April 12-13/3 p.m. April 14. Tickets: \$21/adults, \$19/students & seniors (62+). Reservations: (574) 848-4116, elkhart-civictheatre.org

April 13 — Duneland Weavers Guild, 10 a.m., Hilltop Neighborhood House, 460 College Ave., Valparaiso.

April 14 — Meet-the-artist reception, Lee Bauman’s “Symphony of Color,” 1:30 p.m., The Village Gallery @ Pines Village Retirement Community, Valparaiso. Info: (219) 465-1591.

April 14 — Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra (“Belshazzar’s Feast”), 4 p.m. EDT, Howard Performing Arts Center, 4160 E. Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs, Mich. Tickets/info: (269) 982-4030, www.smsso.org

April 16 — Open Mic Night (Mike Struwin), 7-10 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Admission: performers/free, audience/\$5, \$1/youth 12 and younger. Info: boxfactoryforthearts.org

Through May 12 — Valparaiso University Juried Art Student Exhibition and Senior Showcase, Brauer Museum of Art, 1709 Chapel Drive. Info: (219) 464-5276, valpo.edu/brauer-museum-of-art

Sundays through May 26 — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, Lake Street, north of U.S. 12, Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

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 Hospital Clair of Assisi Room, 3500 Franciscan Way; 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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Chamber Coffee Talk

The Greater LaPorte Chamber of Commerce will present Coffee Talk, its morning networking event, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Tuesday, April 16, at People Ready, 1719 State St., Suite O

Attendees present a brief 30-second introduction about their business or organization, with time for networking after.

The event is free, with coffee provided. Register by calling (219) 324-8584.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Always Look On the Bright Side of Life: a Sortabiography by Eric Idle (*hardcover, \$27 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 270 pages*)

“Always look on the bright side of life.” Who doesn’t remember or know that cheerful little ditty? Eric Idle sang it while strapped to a wooden cross in Tunisia during “Life of Brian.” It’s no doubt Monty Python and the Flying Circus changed our view of humor starting in the late 1960s. Talk about thinking outside the box!

Instead of a Forward, Idle gives us an Apology: Writing the book at 75, he calls it “*the memoirs of a failed pessimist*.” He reminds us that old actors get “*Hamnesia*,” and that “*If this isn’t exactly what went down, it’s certainly how it should have happened*.”

After reading that, I was ready for anything. What I got was probably a lot more than I bargained for, or needed to know.

Once a comedian, always a comedian. The first thing he tells us is that Eric Idle is his full name. His parents just couldn’t afford a second name. What comes next is serious and sad...

His father was a Royal Air Force rear gunner/wireless operator on a bomber plane during World War II. In 1945, coming home after four years in the service, he was killed hitchhiking home. A truck driver offered him a lift, swerved to avoid an accident and Eric’s father ended up in the hospital, where he died on Christmas Eve. Eric was 3.

How about nature vs. nurture? Eric learned from his grandparents that his great-grandfather, Henry Bertrand, was a famous ringmaster and circus manager in the 1880s. Maybe that’s why Eric ended up in a circus? And a flying one, too!

At 7, his mother put him in the Royal School Wolverhampton, a boarding school for boys whose fathers died while serving the RAF. It was not a happy time. Bullying was a way of life there, but he discovered his best defense was to get the bullies to laugh!

His grandmother gave him a portable typewriter and he began writing stories. Reading and music were big influences in his life. By 19, he was accepted into Cambridge University. And now his future started to take shape...

Eric joined the Pembroke Players and through a series of chance meetings, the future members of Monty Python finally got together.

Here is where you have to be a devoted fan to follow all the people Eric met and worked with, and all the places and venues he played while Monty Python was cementing its style. That part bogged down for me: It was just too much information!

He did meet his first wife during this period, Lyn Ashley, an Australian actress. They had one child, a boy, Carey, born in 1973.

Eric admits when they went on tour to Canada, they were overwhelmed by fans. Drugs and alcohol were flowing, and he is frank about his descent into the partying life. Then, they flew down to L.A. and the partying continued.

From 1969-1983, Monty Python made five movies, 45 TV shows, five stage shows, five books and a number of records.

He’s quite a name-dropper, and that’s OK. Robin Williams was a close friend, as well as George Harrison (he of the Beatles, of course). His death hit Eric hard. *An aside*: it was George who found the money for Monty Python to film “The Life of Brian.” *Another aside*: George even dressed as a Mountie once and stood on stage with Monty Python as they sang “The Lumberjack Song.”

It’s hard to separate the Monty Python business from the Monty Python partiers: it was all combined into one crazy, funny, alcohol-fueled, adventure.

By 1975, his marriage to Lyn was over. In April 1976, New York City hosted four weeks of “Monty Python Live!” He even hosted two episodes of “Saturday Night Live.” It seems Monty Python also was a hit in Japan, only the translation came out “The Gay Dragon Boys Show.”

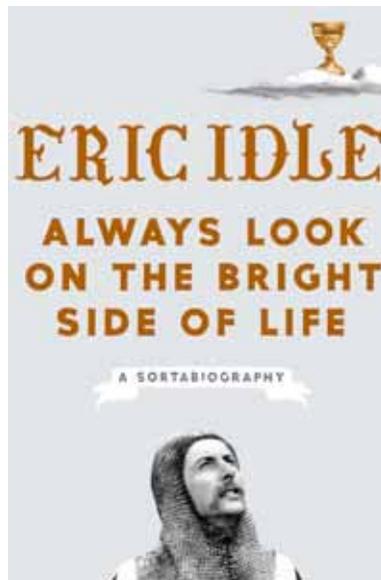
In January 1977, Eric met his second wife, Tania Kosevich, in New York City. They’ve been together ever since. They have a daughter, Lily.

As years go by, friends die, co-stars go their separate ways and Eric seems to settle into a more sedate life. The final Monty Python Reunion, called “The Last Laugh,” was held in July 2014 in London. They only did it to cover an old lawsuit.

The book has a nice full color section of photos in the middle, and many black-and-white photos are scattered throughout. Eric gets contemplative at the end, looking back at his life and that of his fellow actors. But in the final analysis, Eric, the comedian, ends on a note to make you smile:

*“Life has a very simple plot,
First you’re here
and then you’re not.”*

Till next time, happy reading!





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