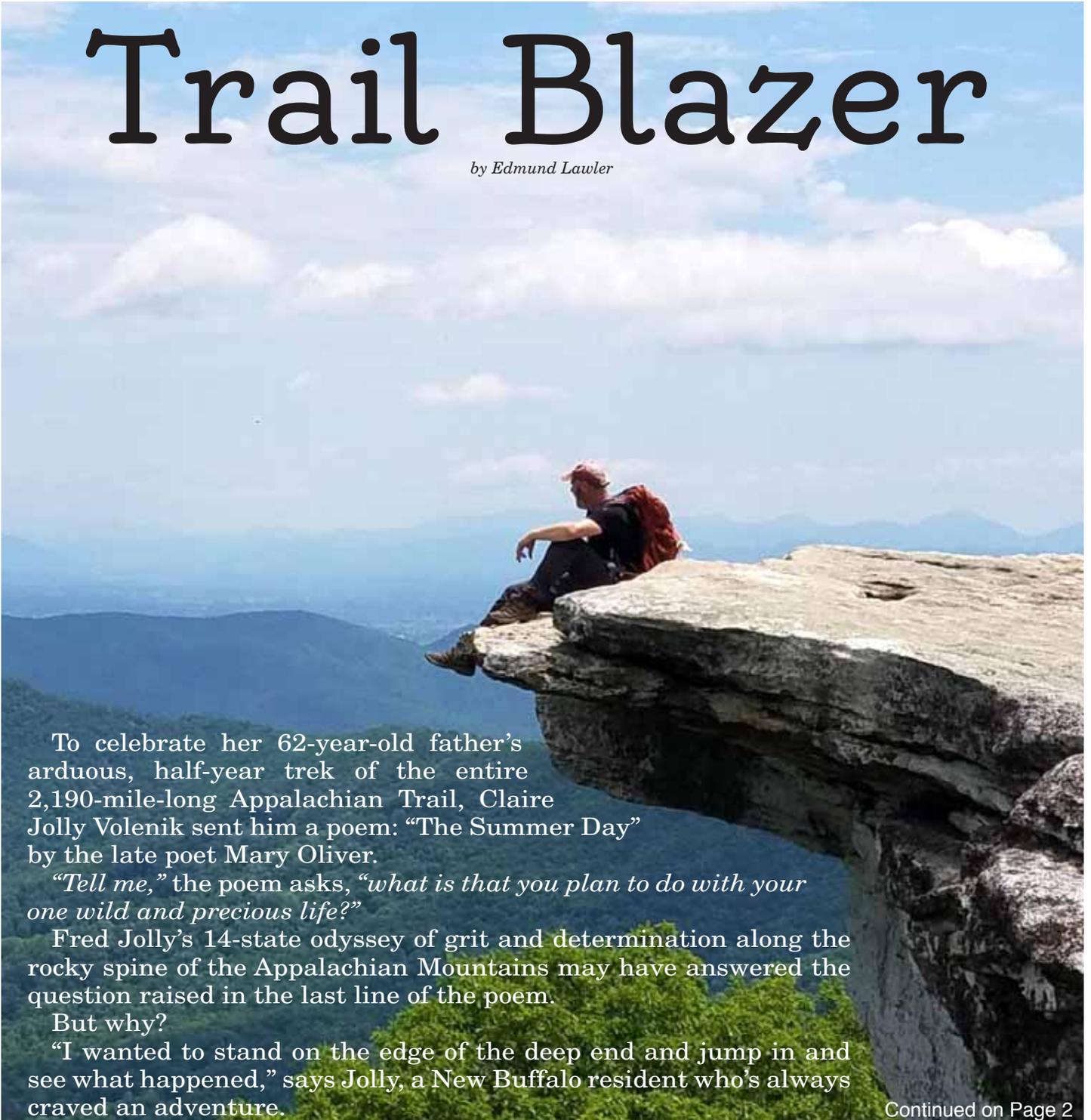




Volume 35, Number 10 Thursday, March 14, 2019

Trail Blazer

by Edmund Lawler



To celebrate her 62-year-old father's arduous, half-year trek of the entire 2,190-mile-long Appalachian Trail, Claire Jolly Volenik sent him a poem: "The Summer Day" by the late poet Mary Oliver.

"Tell me," the poem asks, "what is that you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

Fred Jolly's 14-state odyssey of grit and determination along the rocky spine of the Appalachian Mountains may have answered the question raised in the last line of the poem.

But why?

"I wanted to stand on the edge of the deep end and jump in and see what happened," says Jolly, a New Buffalo resident who's always craved an adventure.

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Trail Blazer

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Raised on a Central Illinois farm, he knew life there couldn't contain his ambitions. After graduating from high school, he joined the Navy, spending the last year of a six-year tour of duty on a guided missile cruiser stationed in Italy. Then college, then a successful career as a banker in Chicago. In 2006, when he turned 50, Jolly and a small group of cyclists pedaled from the Pacific to the Atlantic in only 27 days — averaging 115 miles a day. When he retired in 2012, he took to the road again, this time in a 30-foot motor home with his wife, Laura.

Over the next 2 1/2 years, the two drove more than 80,000 miles. They covered all 50 states and visiting all (at the time) 59 national parks, as well as more than 100 other national park sites such as memorials, monuments, historic sites, battlegrounds and lakeshores. And no worries if nearby Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is reclassified as a national park. He's been there, too.

It was while visiting Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania that Jolly had the wild-eyed idea of an Appalachian Trail adventure. A road sign in Gettysburg indicated the trail was not far.

"I was always curious about it, so we drove over and walked along the trail for about a mile," he recalls of that moment of inspiration. "I stopped at one point and said to myself, 'I'm going to walk this trail from one end to the other.'"

Humbled and awestruck by the haunting beauty of the national parks, Jolly also realized his Appalachian Trail hike would be a way to repay his country by raising money for the National Park Foundation: the charitable partner of the National Park Service. To date, he's raised more than \$26,000.

"The national parks are our country's greatest national trea-

Appalachian Trail Stats

- 2,190 miles — the trail's estimated length.
- 14 states — the number of states the trail traverses.
- 5.5 months — the average length of time it takes to hike the trail.
- 1 in 4 — the percent of hikers who successfully complete the trail.
- 5 million — the estimated steps it takes to hike the trail.
- 5K+ calories — the estimate a hiker needs each day for the hike.
- 29 — the median age of successful hikers.
- 464,464 feet — the elevation gain on the hike.
- Fewer than 700 — the number of people 60 and older who successfully completed the trail.
- 29 percent — The number of women who successfully completed the trail.



Fred Jolly is photographed atop Mount Katahdin on Oct. 5, the culmination of his incredible journey.

(Cover Photo) Fred Jolly takes in the view at McAfee Knob — right at the 730-mile point on the trail — on June 1, 2018.

sure, and they need our help,” Jolly says.

After he and Laura completed their tour of America’s national parks, Jolly began planning his epic traverse over the rocks and roots of the Appalachian Trail’s rugged terrain. He studied the history of the trail, read hiking guides about the world-famous footpath, started stockpiling gear and trained by taking day hikes in Warren Dunes and Warren Woods state parks. In the dunes, he’d charge up Tower Hill to build strength and endurance.

“Some days, Laura would drive me up to the Buchanan area and, like a homing pigeon, I’d find my way back on foot to New Buffalo with a 38-pound pack on my back,” Jolly says.

He’d often put cartons of sand in his backpack to approximate the weight of the gear he’d bear for the actual trek.



Fred Jolly was 30 pounds lighter as his journey neared its end.

But Jolly never camped with his gear or took any long-distance, multi-day hiking trips to prepare for what lay ahead. Friends warned he was making a serious mistake by not taking test runs with full gear. But that was almost by design, Jolly says.

“If I had done anything like that in advance, I honestly don’t think I would have ever actually hiked the Appalachian Trail,” he says. “I know myself too well. And I knew this would be beyond anything I could actually imagine or contemplate.”

Continued on Page 4

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Trail Blazer

Continued from Page 3

Especially when you're nearing the age when people can begin drawing Social Security.

The average age of so-called "thru-hikers," those who've navigated the trail's entire length in less than a year, is 29. Since the trail's completion in 1937, only about 700 people in their 60s have earned the right to call themselves "2,000-milers." Only a quarter of those of any age who attempt a thru-hike complete their quest.

Jolly never once thought about quitting.

"But there were many times that I just hated it: the poor conditions of the trail," he says. "It was cold. I was soaking wet for days."

There were venomous snakes and poisonous insects along the way. Bears were a threat, although he only encountered them at safe distances.

On March 25, 2018, Jolly's 62nd birthday, he stepped off on his marathon to Maine from the summit of Springer Mountain in Georgia. On his back were his tent, clothes, three liters of water, energy bars and pre-packaged dehydrated meals, cooking equipment, extra pairs of boots, his phone and precious mementos from home. All told: about 38 pounds. In his hands were his hiking poles.

By the end of his first day on the trail, he was tired. Dog tired.

Sturdy and fit by nature, Jolly battled fatigue for the next 194 days on the trail — something he did not expect.

"For the rest of the hike, I was exhausted," he says. "I didn't physically recover until a month and a half after I returned home to New Buffalo."

On rare occasions, he'd take a "zero day," a respite from the trail.

Only 400 miles into the journey, his right knee began to ache. He didn't attribute the soreness to any of the early slips and falls he experienced...with many more to come. Whatever the cause, his knee hurt, and he could barely bend it by the end of each day.

But onward. Some days, he walked 26 miles; most days, closer to 15 — bum knee and all. At night, he usually pitched his tent. Other nights, he'd take refuge in one of the 270 lean-to shelters that dot the trail. But the shelters can only accommodate a handful of hikers, and they're first-come, first-served.

A few times, he'd leave the trail to spend the night in a hostel or cheap motel to enjoy the charms of a hot shower, indoor plumbing and a real bed. But he'd always resume his hike at the exact spot he left the trail.

It was on the trail, or on the roads that occasion-

ally intersected with the trail, that he encountered something else he had not expected: the remarkable milk of Appalachian kindness.

"They call it 'Trail Magic,' where these 'Trail Angels' will have water, soft drinks, food or candy for you," he says. "It was always free."

Another example: "If I was walking or hitchhiking along the road to a nearby small town and a car would be driving in the opposite direction, the driver would turn around and pull over and ask if I needed a ride.

"They always went out of their way," he says. "In the words of a fellow hiker: 'It's really about the people, not the path.'"

But the winding, undulating footpath through the wilderness and its breathtaking landscapes of forests, mountains, valleys and streams produced its own unforgettable rewards.

In the small towns, he'd stop by the local post office to collect a package of provisions sent by Laura: his CLO, or chief logistics officer. Via text, they would work out the time and place where he could pick up fresh supplies, including pre-packaged food to fuel the

next leg of his journey. For water, Jolly was on his own, having to find and filter water from streams, ponds and springs.

Soldiering through each day's hike and mulling the logistics for the next day consumed most of his thoughts. Texts and other messages of encouragement along the way from family and friends would sometimes bring him to tears. He almost always hiked alone.

Toward the end — by now 30 pounds lighter, on his fourth pair of boots and sporting a beard that would be the envy of an Old Testament prophet — Jolly would occasionally hike with or rendezvous about sunset with a pair of hikers he befriended along the way. They went by the trail names: "Easy Bake" and "Wingman."

Jolly's trail name was "Santiago," the hard-luck Cuban fisherman from Hemingway's novella "The Old Man and the Sea." But unlike Santiago, Jolly — the old man of the trail — brought home his big fish.

On Oct. 5, he summited Mount Katahdin, the 5,269-foot peak in central Maine, the northern terminus of the national scenic trail. The Penobscot Indians named it Katahdin, or "The Greatest Mountain."

Savoring the glory of the mile-high vista as tears creased his cheeks, Jolly was joined on the mountaintop by Laura, Wingman, Easy Bake and a photographer who shared the crowning moment of his "one wild and precious life."

(Visit www.athike.jollyoutthere.com for more information about Fred Jolly's hike, and to donate to the National Park Foundation.)



Fred, photographed by *The Beacher's* Edmund Lawler, in New Buffalo.

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Big Laughs, Huge Heart Make “Captain Marvel” a Winner

by Andrew Tallackson

Twenty minutes into “Captain Marvel,” alarm bells sound that Marvel Studios has lost its mojo. The action is hectic, and we’re not sure who is fighting whom and why, culminating in rapid flashbacks where it feels like we’ve accidentally arrived in the theater 30 minutes after the movie started.

The effect is disorienting, discouraging.

Turns out – *insert huge sigh of relief* – Marvel knows precisely what it’s doing. We sometimes take for granted how eagerly the studio playfully reinvents itself, even having a laugh at its own expense. And since 2008’s “Iron Man,” its track record is largely unblemished, save for occasional signs of fatigue (“Venom”) or disastrous behind-the-scenes tinkering (2015’s “Fantastic Four”).

Turns out, “Captain Marvel” is a witty, crafty piece of jigsaw puzzle storytelling, with a pitch-perfect cast, big laughs and an incredible heart. All the twists, once revealed, make you want to see the film again, to appreciate just how carefully constructed the story is, and how it seamlessly fleshes out the Marvel universe.

Trying to encapsulate “Captain Marvel” without tripping over spoilers ain’t easy. Suffice it to say, Captain Marvel/Carol Danvers (Oscar-winner Brie Larson) arrives on Earth in 1995, plagued by memories that make zero sense, shape-shifting aliens hot on her trail and two Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. – Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) and Phil Coulson (Clark Gregg) – coming to her aid.

The screenplay, co-written by directors Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, milks plenty of laughs out of dated 1990s technology – thank God for fast Internet – and taps into unexpected comic relief from Ben Mendelsohn as shape-shifting alien Talos. The Australian actor,

once forever doomed to play the heavy (“Rogue One,” “Ready Player One”), is reborn as the gifted straight man to his playful co-stars.

We appreciate as well how the story trusts our intelligence so that the bits and pieces of Carol’s past are revealed to form a cohesive whole, all while toying with expectations as to who the real villains are.

The CGI used to strip Jackson and Gregg of time and age is astonishing, but in watching the crackling chemistry between Larson and Jackson, the truth is, the best special effect of a Sam Jackson movie is Sam Jackson himself: the booming, fast-placed motor mouth who cracks wise at the drop of a hat. Larson, who first worked with the actor in 2017’s agreeably silly “Kong: Skull Island,” knows how to keep up with him. These two have a relaxed comic rhythm that invigorates the action at precisely the right moments.

In fact, Larson — boldly confident, richly comic, especially when offering the late great Stan Lee a sly wink on a moving train — clicks with all her cast members, especially Lashana Lynch, wonderful and moving as Maria Rambeau, her oldest friend. Their story is the core of the picture: sisterhood with no trace of condescension or beefed up masculinity. In fact, the richly symbolic moment when we see Carol, from childhood to adult, knocked down, yet repeatedly rise back up, is the film’s most empowering message.

Hopefully, I haven’t given the impression “Captain Marvel” switches gears to become a serious-minded message picture. This is still an exceptionally made pop-

corn movie, and a gleefully silly one to boot, where a scene-stealing cat has the last laugh, all the way to the very end.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Oscar-winner Brie Larson stars as the title super hero in “Captain Marvel.”

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“Captain Marvel”

Running time: 124 minutes. Rated PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi violence and action, and brief suggestive language



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CSX Donates Vintage Caboose to New Buffalo Railroad Museum

CSX Transportation, an early supporter of New Buffalo Railroad Museum since it opened in the 1980s, will donate the CO 904126 Caboose in "as is" condition.

Acquiring a caboose has long been a museum goal. The Pokagon Fund board of directors has granted a conditional \$5,000 grant to support the relocation and refurbishment costs. The funds are a matching grant in which the museum must raise \$5,000 in new donations from in-



A Pokagon Fund \$5,000 matching grant will help relocate and refurbish the caboose.

dividuals and businesses.

The goal is to relocate the caboose to the museum in April, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in May.

Admission to the museum is free. Hours are noon-5 p.m. EDT Saturdays and Sundays, April 6-Oct. 27.

Contact the museum, 530 S. Whittaker St., Suite B, at ask@the-new-buffalo-railroad-museum.org or call Katha Kissman at (202) 669-4423 with inquiries. Visit new-buffalo-railroad-museum.org for additional information.



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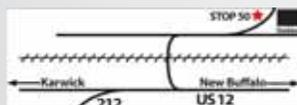
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Essay Competition

The topic of this year's Polish Heritage Association of Michigan City essay competition is, "What was Haller's Army (a.k.a. Blue Army) and Why Was it Important?"

The submission deadline is March 31.

Now in its seventh year, the contest raises awareness about Poland, Poles and Polish Americans among local high school and college students, and aids them in their studies.

Applicants should submit an essay of no more than three pages if single spaced and six pages if double spaced. They then are eligible for first place (\$1,000), second place (\$500) or third place (\$250).

The contest is open to high-school or college students living in Northwest Indiana (Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Starke and St. Joseph counties). They do not need to be of Polish ancestry.

Essay rules and required application forms are available by contacting Professor Janusz Duzinkiewicz at jduzinkiewicz@pnw.edu

Duneland Historical Society

Duneland Historical Society will view a film made for Duneland School Corp.'s 50th anniversary at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 21, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Tom Smith will present the film made by Chesterton High School students with support from teachers and community members. It features interviews with former DSC teachers, staff and others involved in the corporation's formation and early years, including Bertha Still, Pat Mitchell, Jim Ross, Tom Smith, Dan Keilman and Jim Ton.

Meetings are free and open to the public. Call (219) 983-9715 for details.



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“Amazing Amadeus”

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra will present “Amazing Amadeus” at 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, March 17, at Howard Performing Arts Center in Berrien Springs, Mich.



Borisov

The concert features pieces for a chamber-sized orchestra, highlighted by SMSO principal clarinetist Georgiy Borisov performing Mozart’s “Clarinet Concerto.” “Symphony No. 29” only employs strings, oboe and horn. Brahms’ “Serenade No. 2” was written without any part for violin. The result produces a richer, darker sound.

Tickets cost:

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

The performance includes a pre-concert conversation at 3 p.m. EDT and a post-concert reception in the lobby. Additionally, The Symphony League of Southwest Michigan is offering a special post-concert dinner at Tabor Hill Winery & Restaurant, 185 Mount Tabor Road, Buchanan, Mich. A Meet & Mingle begins at 6:30 p.m. EDT, with dinner served at 7 p.m. EDT. Dinners costs \$50 (\$25 is tax deductible).

Howard Performing Arts Center is located at 4160 E. Campus Circle Drive. Call (269) 982-4030 or visit www.smso.org for reservations.

Student Awards Competition

Monday Musicale is accepting applications for its annual Student Awards Competition, which is at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 14, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

The following areas are recognized:

- keyboard (piano or organ).
- instrumental (string or wind).
- vocal.
- musical theater (choreographed vocal presentation).

Applicants must live or attend school in LaPorte County, or take private lessons from a LaPorte County resident or Monday Musicale member. Students in grades 4-12 (or the home-schooled equivalent) can apply through April 6.

A \$100 cash award goes to the highest scoring Junior Division candidate (grades 4-8). Senior Division participants (grades 9-12) are eligible for monetary awards of \$300-\$500 given in the categories of solo performance, accompaniment and/or musical improvisation.

The James J. Guerrucci Music Achievement Award (\$300) is open to any LaPorte County resident, fourth grade through adult. It goes to a keyboard player who must perform a self-selected solo and demonstrate improvisational skills on a hymn chosen by the Monday Musicale Scholarship Committee. New this year, any pianist (fourth grade through adult) wishing to try organ lessons may apply for one of two \$300 organ grants for pianists.

Contact Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 or susan.cassler@comcast.net for an application and a complete list of rules. Visit the club’s Facebook page at Monday Musicale Michigan City for more details.

Sailing Seminar

Michigan City Yacht Club, 12 ½ on the Lake, will host a seminar with sailing expert Perry Lewis at noon Saturday, March 16.

The presentation, which starts at 1 p.m., is on how to trim sails for the best results. Lewis, of North Sails, Chicago, is a professional racer and sailor. He races on boats ranging from 24 feet to 70 feet.

All sailing skill levels are welcome. Lunch and drinks can be ordered from Bartlett’s “Fish Camp” restaurant. Email VCsail@meyc.com or call (219) 879-3363 for reservations.

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Women's History Month

Purdue University Northwest will celebrate Women's History Month with programs addressing significant social issues of the last few years.

The programs are supported by a grant from the Indiana Humanities in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Upcoming events at the Westville campus are:



DiCaro

- **Women in Sports:** Julie DiCaro from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, in the Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 002.

DiCaro is a Peabody Award-winning journalist, sports radio host, freelance columnist and national speaker. She writes and reports on women's issues in sports

as a former attorney and current update anchor at 670 AM-The Score in Chicago.

- **Brave, Not Perfect:** Breaking the Glass Ceiling from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, March 27-28, in the Great Hall of The James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex. Visit www.pnw.edu for more details.




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Community Spell Bowl

READ LaPorte County Inc. will host its annual Community Spell Bowl at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1130, 181 McClung Road, LaPorte.

Teams of four are invited to compete in the event where all words are spelled on paper and handed in privately. Study lists are provided; however, being a good speller is not necessary. Teams instead may go for the spirit award and decorate their table and clothing with a theme appropriate to their organization or literacy. Sponsors also are being solicited.

Teams may enter as early as 6 p.m. to set up. Free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar are available. Prizes to the winning teams will be awarded.

Registration and sponsorship forms are available at www.readlaportecounty.org.

READ LaPorte County, Inc. is a United Way agency that provides free tutoring to children, teens and adults in reading, math, English and digital literacy. Visit the website or call (219) 325-0875 to become a student or volunteer tutor.

Chili Cook-Off & Walk

Stroll through downtown Buchanan, Mich., tasting various chili recipes and voting for favorites during the 13th Annual Chili Cook-Off & Walk.

The event is from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, March 21, starting at Lehman's Orchard Brewery & Farmhouse, 204 Red Bud Trail North.

Costs are a \$20 team entry fee and \$2 for a tasting spoon and map. Part of the proceeds go to the Buchanan High School choir.

Visit events.r20.constantcontact.com and search for the 13th Annual Chili Cook-Off & Walk to register.



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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Makerspace: open lab hours from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursdays in March.**

Youth ages 6-18 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.

• **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, March 14.**

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

• **Needle Arts League at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, March 14, 21 and 28.**

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.

• **Meet the Artist: Photographer Joel Brussell at 4 p.m. Friday, March 15.**

Brussell has lived in New Buffalo, Mich., for more than 20 years, and all images in the show were shot within five miles of the library.

• **Ah Tu Performs Your Irish Favorites at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 16.**

The Michiana vocal-instrumental ensemble will perform a full Irish repertoire to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Members are: Dot Pakan, accordion/keyboards; Dan Moser, banjo, mandolin and double bass; Debra Sawyer, Celtic harp; and Ron Spears, guitar. They will be joined by 14-year-old harpist Haley Elrick of Three Oaks, Mich.

• **Films on DVD Series: "Crazy Rich Asians" at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 17.**

The film, Rated PG-13, is a collaboration with the Purdue Northwest Odyssey Arts and Cultural program.

• **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesdays, March 19 and 26, and 10 a.m. Wednesdays, March 20 and 27.**

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

• **Tinkercad at 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, in the Makerspace.**

Registration is required for the program that involves Tinkercad, a free online collection of software tools. This session, for children 10-18, serves as an introduction to 3-D design, art and printing. No experience is necessary. All registered participants receive a 3-D print of his/her creations. Register at the Youth Services desk or call (219) 873-3045 for more info. Space is limited. MCPL 3-D printing rules apply, and the printing fee is waived for this program.

• **CoderDojo at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 20.**

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

• **Registration is under way for the genealogy bus trip to Allen County Public Library.**

The annual trip, cosponsored by the library and LaPorte County Genealogical Society, is Wednesday, April 24. The center has an extensive collection of North American genealogy resources. The \$21 cost is due by April 1. Send a check payable to LaPorte County Genealogical Society, c/o Patricia Harris, 504 Greenwood Ave., Michigan City, IN 46360.

Pickup is at 7 a.m. at Marquette Mall by the former Marquette Theatre. It will arrive at Kabelein's Ace Hardware in LaPorte at 7:30 a.m. The bus leaves the library for the trip back at 4 p.m.

• **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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Honoring a Hero's Sacrifice

by Edmund Lawler

To Karen Bruce Gallaher, Danny was the free-spirited, fun-to-be-around older brother who loved playing Tarzan with her and their three younger brothers in the woods near their Beverly Shores home.

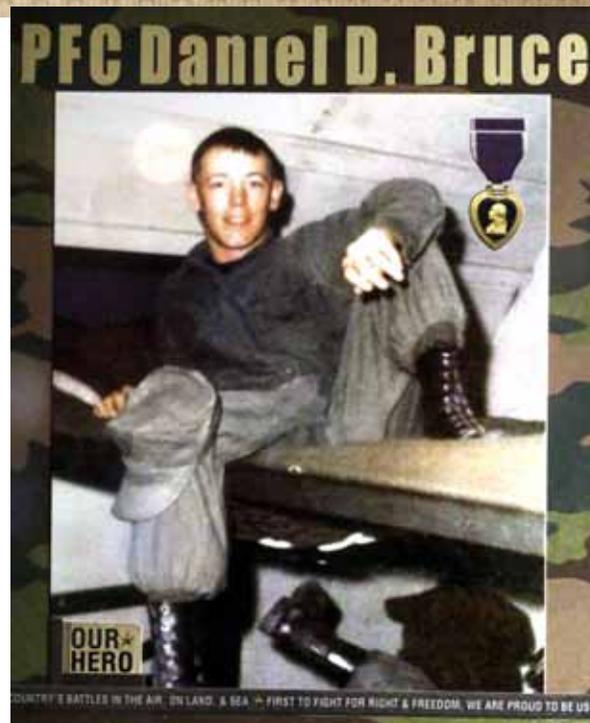
To Carol Bruce Will, Danny was her handsome high school sweetheart at Elston High School, whom she described as “a good, kind-hearted guy who always stood up for the underdog.”

To Stacey Bruce Nolan, Danny is her father, killed in combat the day before she was born, but whose heroic spirit shines on in her and in the lives of her four children.

And to the United States of America, he is USMC Private 1st Class Daniel Dean Bruce — posthumous recipient of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest and most prestigious military decoration. His name graces a mess hall at the famous Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia, as it does Panel 31 W, Line 99, of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

March 1, 1969. Danny Bruce was only 18. He had been in Vietnam just shy of two months. He died that day, saving the lives of three fellow Marines by intercepting and racing away with a satchel of lethal explosives tossed by the enemy into their bunker in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam.

On the 50th anniversary of



the day he perished, Danny Bruce's life was celebrated with the unveiling of a memorial to his valor. The glass-enclosed display case at Disabled American Veterans Post 23, 2301 Ohio St., named in Danny's honor, features the military accomplishments of his short, but gallant life. With a JROTC Color Guard positioned in the foreground, Danny's twin 18-year-old granddaughters — Emma and Sophia Nolan, who just led the Marquette Blazers to a second straight state basketball title — peeled away the display's wrapping to the wild applause of the standing-room-only crowd.

Dennis Schultz and Meyer Glass & Mirror donated the glass, while Ray and Anna Miller donated the display's American flag backdrop. Ex-Marine Matthew Siegmund highlighted the various medals and elements of the museum-quality display that include Danny's Medal of Honor, his Purple Heart and his Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Star.

Siegmund pointed out a sample of soil from Fire Support Base Tomahawk, near where Danny died when the explosive-laden satchel he'd pressed to his body detonated, killing him instantly. Soil samples from historic World I and World II battlefields where the Marines proved their mettle are included.



wounds from losing him can still stop her in mid-sentence to sweep away tears. But his final act of heroism was no surprise to her. She recalls how at 16, Danny plunged into Pine Lake while at a church camp to rescue a fellow camper foundering in the water. Others came to the boy's rescue, but were forced to retreat because of exhaustion.

Danny, strong and determined, stayed with him, fighting ferociously to save the boy's life. Sadly, the boy

At the center of the display is Danny's formal USMC portrait, and in the upper left is a snapshot of the mortarman relaxing in his fatigues atop a bunk. His face, awash with a warm smile, was that of a teenager on the cusp of adulthood. As U.S. Air Force veteran and DAV member Steve Moore so poignantly put it, "Danny gave up two lives that day — his life and the life he could have lived."

Karen Bruce Gallaher says her brother's death was a devastating shock. A half century later, the

drowned. Danny was praised for his bravery, but seemed haunted by the boy's death, despairing that he couldn't do enough to save him, his sister said.

But Danny Bruce's heroism is the stuff of legend.

For Stacey Dean Nolan, her father's selflessness serves as a teachable moment.

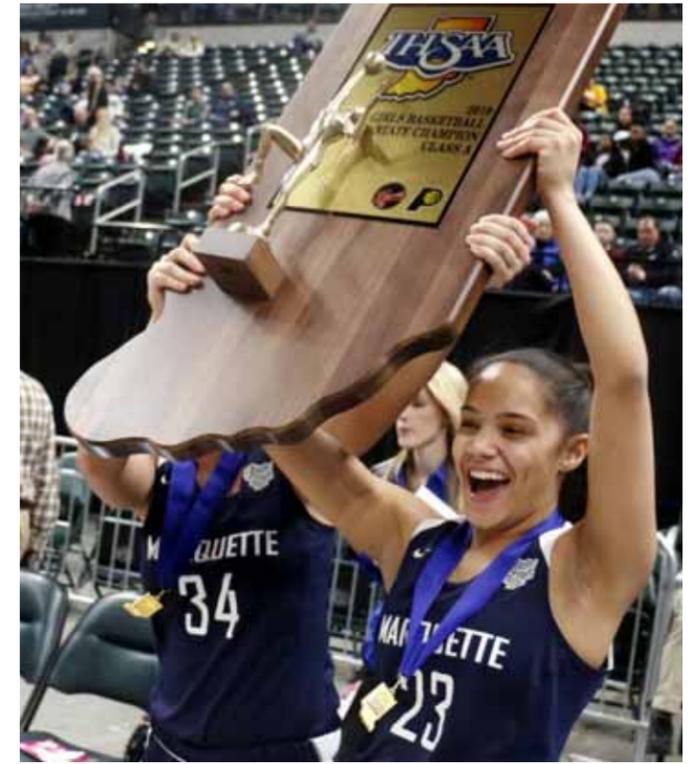
"Anytime the twins get discouraged or begin to act 'teenagery,'" she said, "I simply remind them that a hero's blood runs through your veins."

(All photos by Bob Wellinski.)



All Hail the Champs

The Lady Blazers defeated Vincennes Rivet 57-36 on Feb. 23 in the Class A championship game at Bankers Life Fieldhouse. It was the school's second consecutive state title, having beaten Rivet both times. *The Beacher's* Bob Wellinski was there to capture all the Marquette basketball glory.



How would your Spring look like if you didn't have to deal with your pain and injury, or your balance and unsteadiness?

**FREE Natural Healing Health Fair
All Day Event in LaPorte
Saturday, March 30, 2019 • 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM**

Dear NW Indiana Neighbor,

It was a sunlit day in mid-spring and the sky held a soft blue glow. Green grass everywhere with specks of color from flowers like tulips, crocuses, and daffodils. Robins chirping and tweeting filled the air. And the unmistakable smell of the fresh spring air. Spring was surely a great time for you last year.



But that was last year...this year is looking to be different. Something else is on your mind, something worrying you...

...your back pain
...your unsteadiness, your dizziness, your fear of falling
...your shoulder issues ...you ordeal with pain and injury

And what's worse, there's something deeper that concerns you...

...what if you keep missing out on family activities.
...in the process disappointing your spouse, your kids, or grandkids.
...you start gaining weight as you can't be as active as you were.
...you start taking more pain pills than you care to admit just to get by.

And therein lies another problem...

...you've tried all kinds of solutions to no avail...
...multiple medications, maybe even injections...
...and now you're entertaining thoughts of surgery.
And you find yourself screaming in your head...

...NO not surgery!

...enough with the pain pills!

..."I just want to handle this naturally and get back to normal!"

The above story is an all too frequent story we encounter with our patients every day. We understand how difficult it can be...especially when you read stories like this from our patients.

continued ...

"When I started therapy for my sciatica, I could barely walk and was taking Prednisone and 2400 mg of Ibuprofen daily. I could barely do the exercises. I am now off all medication and mostly pain-free. I am able to work on doing most of my former activities."

– E.C., Valparaiso

CALL 219-380-0809 TODAY TO ATTEND!

continued ...

These are the topics that will be covered during the all-day event.

- How to conquer lower back and sciatica naturally without relying on medications, injections, or surgery.
- Top exercise tips for the back, the core, neck, shoulders, hips, knees, and foot.
- Balance and Fall Prevention including top exercises to get you steady on your feet
- How to heal naturally from rotator cuff tears and get rid of your shoulder pain for good
- How LASER helps injured tissues heal naturally
- And much more...

Venue for the Event: **LAPORTE: Call 219-380-0809**
Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists (LaPorte Office)
 1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B (across Route 2 from Walmart)

So what's the RISK you're taking on for not attending?

1. Long-term side effects of pain-killers and medications
2. Unnecessary surgery
3. Loss of mobility and independence
4. Remain "grouchy"
5. Wasted Spring, even Summer, and maybe the rest of 2019

Be the Super Grandma or Grandpa you've always been! Your family deserves to get back that fun person like you used to be!

So call now to reserve your spot for The FREE Natural Healing Health Fair All Day Event. Limited to only 70 badges for each class. You may attend more than one class.

Call 219-380-0809 for the LaPorte FREE Natural Healing Health Fair

- Tell our phone reps you want to register for the Health Fair
- Our phone representatives will ask you what classes you want to attend
- You will then get a confirmation email and a confirmation letter in the mail.

See you at the Health Fair!

Sincerely,



Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC
 Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists



Orthopedic & Balance
 Therapy Specialists

PS – Call **219-380-0809** to hold your spot for The FREE Natural Healing Health Fair All Day Event in La Porte. Call and let us know what classes you want to attend.

PSS – Bonus door prizes, and FREE food and healthy snacks for the event.

How Much Is It to Attend?
This Health Fair is absolutely FREE...but call 219-380-0809 now to register as we are taking only 70 attendees for each class.

**SCHEDULE...
 SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019**

9:00 AM — Defy Aging Through Exercises
 Presented by Jimmy Triezenberg, Fitness Coach

10:00 AM — How to Heal Naturally from the Top 3 Causes of Low Back Pain Presented by Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC

11:00 AM — Understanding Good Joint Alignment in Helping Your Pain Presented by Dr. Timothy Gurrola, DC

12:00 NOON — Refreshment Break

12:30 — Don't Fall in 2019...Simple Techniques to Strengthen the 3 Components of Balance Control Presented by Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC

1:30 PM — The Gift of Healthy Shoulders: Top 3 Tips for Natural Healing Presented by Jane Alburo, PT, MTC, and Dr. Diane Rich, PT, DPT

2:30 PM — Understanding CBD Oil by Marcia Henning from the Natural Life Health Food Store

CALL 219-380-0809 TODAY TO ATTEND!

Fernwood to Present Spring Symposium



von Gal



Morici



Kelaidis



Woods

Fernwood Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve will host a group of experts during its 2019 Spring Symposium on Saturday, March 23.

The event, held in the new Sims Education Center, includes the following speakers:

- Edwina von Gal, president of the Perfect Earth Project in N.Y.C.
- Phillip Morici, founder of fleurdetroit in Detroit.
- Panayoti Kelaidis, senior curator and director of outreach at Denver Botanic Gardens.
- Chris Woods, founding director of Chanticleer in Pennsylvania and author of *Gardenlust*.

The daylong symposium explores a variety of topics, including:

- Eco Anxiety and how to kick the landscape chemical habit.
- Art and architecture in the garden.

- Lessons from garden masters.
 - A botanical tour of the world's best new gardens.
- Lunch is included, as well as a guided tour of Fernwood. Speakers will be available to sign their books.

An early registration special through March 15 offers tickets at \$100 (\$80 for members). Registration March 16–22 costs \$115 (\$92 for members).

VIP tickets include reserved seating and a private lunch with speakers. Tickets are \$126 (\$105 for members), with a registration deadline of March 15. Registrations can be done by calling (269) 695-6491 or at www.fernwoodbotanical.org

The symposium is presented in partnership with Chicagoland Gardening, Inovateus Solar, Stonehouse Nursery and Vite Greenhouses.

Fernwood is located at 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Michigan.

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Wolf Pack Roundup

Michigan City High School, and Barker and Krueger middle schools, will host middle and elementary school families during “Wolf Pack Roundup” at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14.

The event, which features presentations, tours and exhibits, lets families meet teachers, counselors and administrators. Information about the Michigan City Promise Scholarship is available.

Students in grades seven and eight and their families can visit Michigan City High School, 8466 W. Paks Road, for information on Dual Credit and AP programs, Early College, Honors College, Career and Technical opportunities and extracurricular activities.

An Athletics Open House is planned, letting students meet coaches and learn about playing sports. A Port-a-Pit chicken dinner is from 3 to 7 p.m. Advance tickets are available for \$10 from the MCHS office, Athletic Office or any student athlete.

Students in grades five and six and their families can visit the middle schools in their attendance areas. Both emphasize core classes and specific themes:

- Barker Middle School, 319 E. Barker Road, is an Indiana-certified STEM school incorporating the Project Lead the Way pre-engineering program and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics enrichment.
- Krueger Middle School, 2001 Springland Ave., is an award-winning Outdoor Environmental Science Center. Its 100-acre campus serves as a hand-on learning lab, where students perform experiments and conduct tours relating to Indiana history and environmental science.

Wolf Pack Roundup is open to all students: public, private, charter and homeschool.

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What: A Taste of Wellness

When: Thursday, March 21 • 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Where: La Porte Hospital Cafeteria
1007 Lincolnway, La Porte

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La Porte Hospital





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Indiana Dunes National Park

The following programs are planned:

- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 15, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.

- **Drop-In Volunteer Program from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 16.**

Projects focus on preserving the park's natural and cultural resources. Dress for the weather, and be prepared to walk off trail. All equipment and protective gear, including gloves and eye protection, are provided. Meet at The Park Connection volunteer office, which is adjacent to the main Chellberg Farm parking lot.

- **Playdate in the Nature Play Zone from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

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

- **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.

- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 17, at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

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



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.

LaPorte County Public Library

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

- **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.

- **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.



Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

Dance With Me

In celebration of Disability Awareness Month, Michigan City Human Rights Commission announced its continued partnership with Studio M to offer "Dance with Me," a creative movement class for people with disabilities.



Larry Payne works with a group of youngsters in the "Dance With Me" program.

Classes run from 6:20 to 7:05 p.m. Tuesdays through April 16 at Studio M, 703 Pearl St. (behind Michigan City Police Department). The partnership was built with the disability community in mind, but is open to everyone.

Caretakers, respite workers and parents are required to accompany dancers and stay the length of the program each week.

The cost is \$50, with classes led by Larry Payne.

Contact Joanne Tedesco at Tedescofamily@outlook.com or (573) 355-7855 for details.



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

- St. John Kanty, 7012 N. County Road 600 East, Rolling Prairie, 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, March 19.

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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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

• **Running with the Irish 5K at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 16.**

The competitive run and non-competitive walk travel through the park. Park roads will be congested before and during the event. Call the Nature Center to register.

• **Spring Craftin' from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 16.**

Meet at the Nature Center auditorium for a nature-themed make it-take-it craft.

• **Leprechaun Hunt at 10 a.m. Sunday, March 17.**

Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center to hunt for signs of green. Visitors are encouraged to wear green.

• **The J.D. Marshall Shipwreck at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 17.**

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.

St. Paddy's Day Bowling Bash

LaPorte Jaycees' St. Paddy's Day Bowling Bash is from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Casey's Lanes, 610 Colfax Ave., LaPorte.

Planned are three rounds of 9-pin, no tap bowling. Cash prizes are awarded for first-, second- and third-place teams. A prize goes to the team with the most green spirit.

Team check-in begins at 1 p.m.

Lenten Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus will host its annual Lenten Fish Fries from 4 to 7 p.m. Fridays, March 15-April 12, in the Queen of All Saints School cafeteria, 1715 E. Barker Ave.

The cost is \$10, and reservations are not needed. Proceeds are donated to charity. Good Friday is the only date when the fish fry won't be held.



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St. Patrick's Day Exhibit



A St. Patrick's Day exhibit runs through the end of the month at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Period rooms are decked out with Irish linens, literature, crystal and other items. Call (219) 324-6767 for more information.

River Valley Garden Club

River Valley Garden Club will present "Vegetables in the Garden" on Tuesday, March 19, at Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich.

The featured speakers are Lani and Garth Woodruth, owners and designers at RootBound, a landscape design studio. They will discuss incorporating vegetables into existing beds and garden spaces.

The meeting begins at 1 p.m. EDT with a social hour and business portion. The speakers are at 2 p.m. Meetings are open to the public.

Contact Elizabeth Palulis at evpalulis@yahoo.com or visit www.rivervalleygardenclub.org for more details.

The Collective Artisan Market

The Collective Artisan Market, which features handcrafted and upcycled finds, is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

Admission costs \$5. Live music is planned, with craft beer by Burn 'Em Brewing and food by Olga's Place Pizzeria and Restaurant. A portion of admission fees will be donated to Lakeshore PAWS, which will have adoptable dogs on site.

Email thecollective1115@gmail.com for details.

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TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Gutter Busters	23.5	12.5
2. Lady Strikers	22.5	13.5
3. Diagonal Divas	22	14

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Nancy Kubath	173
2. Margie Midkiff	171
3. Linda Neulieb	168
4. Shelley Dunleavy	160
5. Mary Lou McFadden	157
6. Lenore Hadaway	155
6. Cindy Beck	155
7. Sue Lavbovitz	151
7. Barb Macudzinski	151
8. June Salmon (series)	413

SPLITS

Jill Jankowski	4-5
Cindy Beck	2-7

THREE STRIKES

Margie Midkiff, Mary Lou McFadden



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

Author Talk

Tim Smith, author of *Gospel Gold*, will speak at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, March 19, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Smith is a Lake Michigan College professor and St. Joseph Catholic Church director of religious education. The book focuses on links between the New and Old Testaments.

Visit www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org or call (269) 469-2933 for details.

National Park Prescribed Fires

Eight prescribed fires are planned this spring in Indiana Dunes National Park, the focus being approximately 1,800 acres.

Fire is part of the long-term restoration of natural habitats and hazard fuel-reduction efforts.

In Gary, 599 acres are to be burned in four sections. The first is 16 acres in the Miller Beach neighborhood to reduce the threat of wildfire to Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

More than 300 acres will be burned on either side of Grand Boulevard and along the Marquette Trail, all the way east to County Line Road. These likely will be burned in two separate burn units. South of U.S. 12, 274 acres of the Tolleston Dunes are scheduled to be burned just west of Inland Manor.

In Porter, just west of the National Park headquarters, fire crews plan to burn portions of the 193-acre Mnoke Prairie. Another 551 acres just north of park headquarters, and directly east of Dune Acres, will be burned in the Howes Prairie/Lupine Lane Prescribed Fire.

Two burns are planned near Beverly Shores. The 285-acre Dune Ridge Trail Prescribed Fire will be between East State Park Road and Broadway, north of Beverly Drive to Lake Front Drive. On the east side of town, the 196-acre Kansas Avenue area will be burned north of Beverly Drive and just west of Central Beach.

The prescribed fire program is conducted by trained and experienced NPS fire personnel. Smoke dispersal is a primary concern, and park staff will do everything possible to limit smoke in the area by monitoring wind and atmospheric conditions. However, smoke drifting in and around park lands and roadways is possible.

Additionally, the National Park announces prescribed fire activity on its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNPS.

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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **An Afternoon Celebrating Georgia O’Keeffe at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Artist Marsha Browne will discuss O’Keeffe’s style of rendering flowers. Seating is limited, and registration is required by calling (219) 926-9080.

• **Music at the Museum from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14, 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.

• **Saturday Crafternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. March 16 at Hageman Library.**

Children ages 2-5 can make a seasonal craft with Miss Ronnie.

• **Knitting Together from 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays, March 17 and 31, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

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

• **Maker Mondays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 18, in the Thomas Library upstairs IT classroom, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

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

• **Teen Scene: Kool-Aid from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, at Thomas Library’s Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Teens in grades 6-12 are invited. Parental permission is required.

• **Minecraft Meet-up at 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, 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, but required for youth 10 and younger.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

March 14 — An Afternoon Celebrating Georgia O'Keeffe, 1 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

March 15 — Meet the Artist: Photographer Joel Brussell, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 15 — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

March 15-17 — "The Secret Garden," Marquette Catholic High School Rudy Hart Theatre, 306 W. 10th St. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat./2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$8/students & seniors, \$5/children 12 & younger.

March 15-18 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Stan & Ollie." Rated PG. Times: 6:15 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* The Coastline Children's Film Festival, "Jim Button and Luke the Engine Driver." Not Rated. Supported by The Pokagon Fund. Suggested donation: \$1. Time: noon Sat. *Also:* "Vice." Rated R. Times: 2:45 & 9 p.m. Sat./2:45 p.m. Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

March 16 — Running with the Irish 5K, 8:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Registration: (219) 926-1390.

March 16 — Collective Artisan Market, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Admission: \$5. Info: thecollective1115@gmail.com

March 16 — Ah Tu Performs Your Irish Favorites, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 16 — LaPorte Jaycees' St. Paddy's Day Bowling Bash, 2-6 p.m., Casey's Lanes, 610 Colfax Ave., LaPorte.

March 16 — Open Mic Night (host The Two Phils/emcee Esther Ikoro), 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theatre, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Free. Registration: Sandra@acornlive.org

March 17 — **ST. PATRICK'S DAY.**

March 17 — Leprechaun Hunt, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

March 17 — Films on DVD Series: "Crazy Rich Asians," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 19 — Tinkercad, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 19 — Author talk (Tim Smith & Gospel Gold), 6 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org, (269) 469-2933.

March 20, 27 — Heritage interpreter presentations, 6 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Free. Info: barkermansion.com, (219) 873-1520.

Through April 1 — Display, Great Lakes Museum of Military History memorabilia, Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau, Franklin Street next to Planet Fitness. Info: (219) 872-5055.

In the Region

March 15 — Unwrapped at the Box Concert Series, 7 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10. Reservations: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

March 16 — Indoor flea market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free admission. Info: (773) 803-9773.

March 17 — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center, Lake Street, north of U.S. 12 in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

March 17 — Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, "Amazing Amadeus," 4 p.m. EDT, Howard Performing Arts Center, 4160 E. Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs, Mich. Reservations: (269) 982-4030, www.smso.org

March 19 — River Valley Garden Club, "Vegetables in the Garden," 1 p.m. EDT, Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich. Info: www.rivervalleygardenclub.org, evpalulis@yahoo.com

March 19 — Open Mic Night with host Morgan Ingle, 7-10 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Signup: 6:30 p.m. EDT. Admission: free/performers, \$5/audience (12 & younger/\$1). Info: boxfactoryforthearts.org, (269) 983-3688.

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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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. March 18 and April 1 and 15 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Meditation

Classes, which include guided meditation, are from 6 to 7 p.m. March 18 and 25 and April 1 and 8 at Luhr County Park.

The cost is \$15 per class. Payment and registration are due no later than one week in advance at the Red Mill office.

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:

- March 20 — A Hopping Good Time.
- April 10 — Scavenger Hunt Fun.

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:

- April 3 — Spring cleaning, container gardening and recycling, Sacha Gee-Burns of LaPorte County Solid Waste District.

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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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Dark Sacred Night by Michael Connelly (hardcover, \$29 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 433 pages.)

When an author sells more than 74 million copies worldwide, you tend to sit up and take notice.

Michael Connelly fits that bill. He has been hailed as one of America's best crime-fiction writers. And this book, on *The New York Times* bestseller list for many weeks, proves he has earned that status.

In the latest episode of Harry Bosch's life, he is retired from the Los Angeles P.D. and working as a reserve officer for the San Fernando P.D., but can't forget an unsolved murder from his days with the LAPD...

Her name was Daisy Clayton, 15 years old when she disappeared nine years ago. Her body showed up several days later in an alley, left like garbage in a dumpster. Bosch felt sorry for her mother, Elizabeth, a recovering addict with nowhere to go. Bosch took her in and gave her a room in his house while he tried to solving Daisy's murder. He thought it was a temporary situation, but no one was arrested, Elizabeth never left and their relationship remains plutonic — mostly because Bosch feels responsible for not solving the case.

Meanwhile, Renee Ballard has been transferred to the midnight shift at the LAPD. She's a detective, but too young to have worked with Bosch during his years as a storied detective.

One night, she arrives at her office to find Bosch leafing through another detective's case files. The department gives him a lot of latitude for coming and going since he is a good source for investigating old unsolved cases. Ballard introduces herself and becomes interested after Bosch tells her about the Clayton case. Bosch is a top-notch detective, but this time, the killer or killers have remained at large — a situation with which he cannot abide.

Ballard is intrigued, and having a chance to work with a man who was one of the best detectives on the force prompts her to offer herself as his working partner — on her own time, of course. Like attracts like as Ballard is as complicated as Bosch is, and he sees something of himself in her. He accepts her offer of help.

Bosch harbors guilt at the death of a fellow cop.

He feels at fault, and Ballard's accusation of another cop's unwanted advancements caused her reassignment to the midnight shift — a warning she should learn to keep her mouth shut. So, all in all, they feel they are the outsiders and do better on their own. But do either of them really want a partner?

This is an old-fashioned police story, so much so I felt my mind was seeing black-and-white photos while following both detectives around the dark, dirty streets of L.A. No punches pulled here, just the facts, ma'am.

The Clayton case must wait as Ballard gets her first call of the night: an elderly woman is found dead in her home following a wellness call. First officers on the scene declare it a robbery and murder because she has a wound on the back of her head.

Ballard, like Bosch, has a knack for assessing a crime scene better than most. She declares that the old woman fell about three days ago and her cat, hungry, chewed off part of her face! The smell has everyone gagging. This was not a murder, just an old woman who fell and hit her head. Next call...

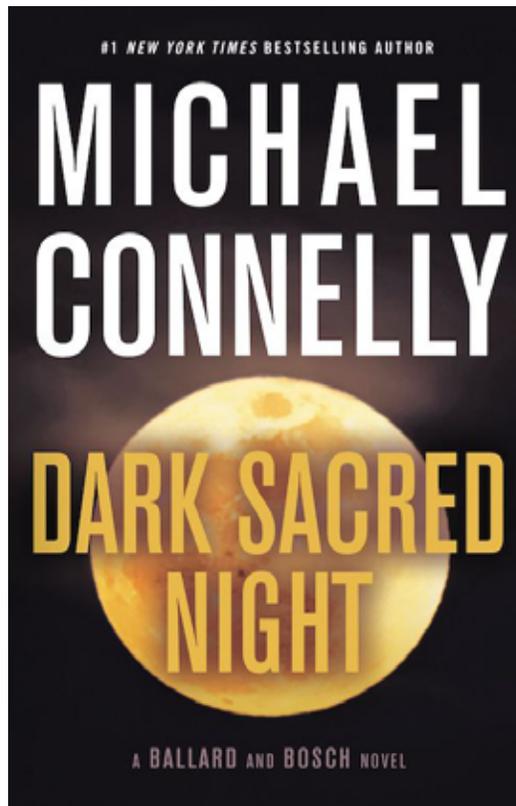
The old woman's neighbor takes three valuable prints from her house after the police leave because he wants to "keep them safe." Really? Nice try, buddy! Imagine his shock at being arrested for theft. Next case...

Police department politics are covered, as well as sexual bias (the real reason Ballard gets the midnight shift), L.A. gangs and a whole lot of paperwork, followed by footwork that just might lead to something Ballard and Bosch don't see coming. There's also an exploration of what makes the pair tick, both as individual cops and as a team.

All is going well — leads are followed, people talked to, locations revisited — until it all goes wrong...

Connelly knows how to keep you reading and guessing. Here's a solid storyline and good lead-in to a promising new series as long as Bosch and Ballard can learn to put down their guard and trust each other. Not an easy thing for each of these Type-A personalities.

It's another winner for Connelly. No doubt. Till next time, happy reading!



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