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A Love That Endures This Valentine's Day

THE
Beacher

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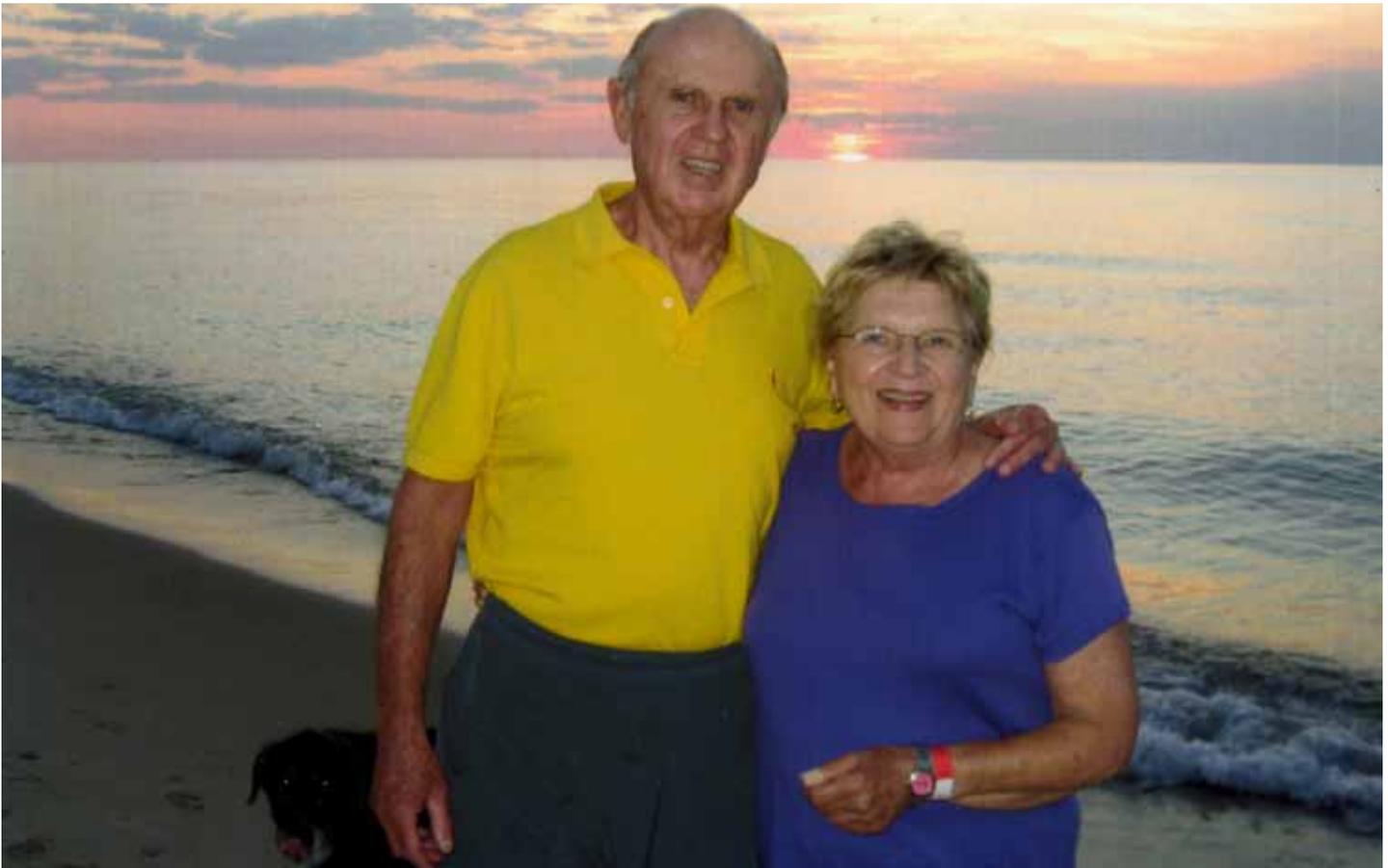


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A Life of Love and Laughter

by Andrew Tallackson



Bob and Bev Gallagher on the beach near their Stop 17 home in Long Beach.

When Dr. Bob Gallagher was drafted into the U.S. Army, he underwent an assessment to determine the type of military work best suited for his skill set.

The results came with a sage bit of advice.

“The guy going through my scores, he said, ‘Bob, you are an intelligent young man, and you will live to have a happy life...IF...you never look under the hood of your automobile.’”

Tough not to laugh as Bob recalls that conversation. However, he asks this interviewer to keep that story in mind as he recounts his second date with

his future wife, Beverly.

It was January. Suitably cold. The two attended a college basketball game at Loyola University Chicago. The game was nearly over. Loyola had a considerable lead, so Bob suggested the two leave early to beat the crowds. There was just one problem.

His car wouldn’t start.

Determined to solve the problem, Bob walked back to the game, only to encounter a hoard of screaming fans exiting the gym.

“So, I turn around,” Bob says, “walk back to the car, and you know what? She’s sitting behind the wheel, the car running.

“Right then and there, I said, this is a special per

son. This is a *really* special person.”

Bev, seated nearby and riddled with considerable laughter, shares her side of the story.

“My father was rather strict about driving,” she said. “His criteria was, if I could figure out everything under the hood in case something came up, and I could drive backwards with the car in Chicago’s alleys without hitting anything, then I could drive the car.”

Bob and Bev Gallagher. The yin to the other’s yang, they say. In June, they will celebrate 57 years of marriage. Fifty of those years, they’ve lived in Long Beach, a community they hold dear. Just a few weeks before Valentine’s Day, they shared stories, anecdotes and wisdom culled from their journey together as husband and wife, all while relaxing in the comforts of their home along Lake Shore Drive at Stop 17.



Bob and Bev are photographed on their wedding day, on June 22, 1963.

Bob and Bev are Chicago natives. He grew up in the Ravenswood neighborhood on the city’s North Side. She was a North-Sider, too, raised in a predominantly Italian and Polish neighborhood. After high school and college, each pursued fields within education: she as a speech-language pathologist, he as a teacher and, later, a school principal. Their paths crossed at James Russell Lowell School in Humboldt Park on Chicago’s West Side. He was a teacher at the time. As a speech-language pathologist, she would perform assessments on children to ascertain their needs.

Bev says she and Bob were interested in each other, with Bev trying to recall his humorous nickname for her.

“Oh, yes,” she says, smiling. “It was G.D.”

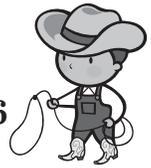
“Geographically Desirable,” Bob clarifies, tongue firmly planted in cheek. “She was about 14 1/2 minutes away from where I lived.”

That first date, they went to Elliott’s Pine Log Restaurant and Lounge, which was located in Skokie. After a light dinner, Bev says the two talked for

Continued on Page 4

Kindergarten (and Pre-K) Roundup Time!

If your child will be 5 (or 3) by October 1st, it's time to enroll!



Wednesday, February 26
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- Joy** – 1600 E Coolspring Avenue – 873-2090
- Knapp** – 321 Bolka Avenue – 873-2096
- Lake Hills** – 201 Ferguson Road – 873-2105
- Marsh** – 401 E Homer Street – 873-2102
- Pine** – 1660 County Line Road – 873-2114
- Springfield** – 3054 West 800 North – 873-2117



PreK programs offered by Imagination Station and the La Porte County YMCA also enrolling for fall! For information visit: www.EducateMC.net/preK

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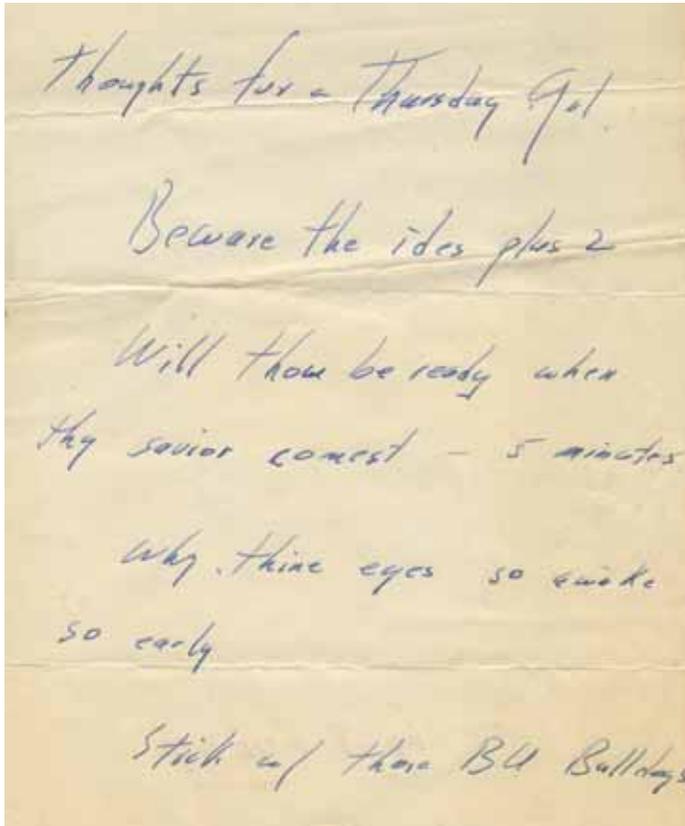


A life of love... Continued from Page 3

four or five hours. What subjects dominated the conversation? Again, Bob's playful humor comes into play.

"I was a good listener," he quips, eliciting a playful "don't get me started" laugh from Bev.

The relationship, however, quickly developed from there. Bob, in fact, frequently sent Bev notes and cartoons: wise sayings, or funny pictures with comments written on them. She still has about 12 of them, tucked away in a treasure chest in her home.



One of the notes Bob wrote that Bev saved all these years later, protected in a treasure chest in their home.

And with time, the two came to appreciate what they had in common.

"We had a lot of the same values," Bev said. "We were both Catholic, and we just had a lot of common interests. I thought he was very funny, but he knew how to be serious as well. I just enjoyed being with him. He was a person you felt very comfortable with right away."

(Another example of Bob's wit: As discussion centers on his notes to Bev, he inserts the following clarification: "I did this on my own time, not on Board of Education time.")

Bob and Bev were married on June 22, 1963, at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. Incidentally, it was where she attended elementary school.

They were introduced to the Long Beach community through friends with a home at Stop 16. The Gallaghers rented there for two summers. They

bought a home here in 1970.

"The area was marvelous," Bob says. "Marvelous school, friendly people. It was idyllic. It really was." Bev agreed.

"I'm a water person. I loved the water," she said. "We were able to walk to the beach with the children. I'd put them in a wagon and walk them to the beach.

"We had a grand time," she continued. "The kids would participate in the July 4th parade. It was a very happy time."



The Gallagher children, participating in a Long Beach July 4th parade.

The Gallagher family included one son, Sean, and two daughters, Jennifer and Rose. All graduated from Indiana University. Sean is a college professor, Jennifer a school psychologist and Rose a social worker and lawyer. Nineteen college degrees exist between the five of them.

Community became equally important to the family. Bev has played an active role in the Beach Garden Club, Philanthropic Educational Organization, League of Women Voters, Dunes Woman's Club and the John G. Blank Center for the Arts, which later became the Lubeznik Center for the Arts. Bob has been active in Long Beach committees ranging from the police commission and water board to the community center. Together, they were involved in the early days of the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival, and volunteered with men's homeless shelter efforts.

Bob, humble to the core, admits he gets uncomfortable discussing personal accomplishments.

"I was trained to do things and not say anything about it," he explained. "You just did it because it had to be done and that's it. Your reward would come some day later. You never bragged about what you did."

Bev is the same way, attributing their philosophy on life to having grown up during the Depression

and World War II they do what they have to do without seeking reward or acknowledgement for it.

As the couple saw their children bloom into young adults, they made a point to impart their own wisdom on them. But, Bev says, smiling, not in the traditional sense.

“Bob would have the kids, when they were high school age or in college, he would have them come into the room, close the door and it would be about the facts of life, but the facts of life were about finance,” Bev said, chuckling. “But what Bob did was impart the value of, what are you going to do, how are you going to do it and what will the outcome be?”

Did such conversations have the desired effect? Bob and Bev respond with an emphatic yes.

“I would call our kids good citizens,” she replied. “Incredible humanitarians. They are hard workers — ‘*extremely hard*,’ Bob interjects — and very tolerant of new ideas. I think they have a great concept of adaptability and flexibility.”

What wisdom would they offer young couples today, those just getting married? The two pause, reflecting a bit.

“Bob and I, we’re just ordinary individuals,” Bev says. “We have a commonality, and we always supported each other. Like if something came up, the



Generations of the Gallagher family photographed in 2018, with Bob and Bev seated in the front.

discussion was not in front of the children. We would talk about it in private so then we would have a common front.”

Bob’s advice is succinct. Direct.

“Take each day at a time,” he says. “Choose your battles. Don’t get upset. Don’t let the little things peeve you. It isn’t worth it. Just enjoy life.”

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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7⁰⁰ each

“Birds of Prey” Gives Harley Quinn the Crazy Movie She Deserves

by Andrew Tallackson

Loud, subversively trashy and frequently hilarious, “Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)” is everything you’d expect from a DC film as brashly titled as this.

The unfortunate many subjected to 2016’s tepid “Suicide Squad” will recall the breakout character was Margot Robbie’s candy-colored nutjob Harley Quinn. That movie, however, didn’t have a handle on her. She was giddily psychotic one minute, grimly realistic the next.

“Birds of Prey,” written, directed and produced by women, *gets* her. The tone of the character, and the movie, are more consistent so the result is gleeful chaos. That’s why the Harley Quinn character clicks with audiences. She is unabashed, unapologetic anarchy. Her insanity is her release. It liberates her to say and do as she pleases. She is pure impulse.

Unlike Marvel, which affords its super heroes origin films before banding them together, DC has an unfortunate way of introducing new characters all at once, in the same picture. “Justice League” (2018), for instance, took an hour’s worth of exposition before anything resembling a plot kicked in. “Birds of Prey,” by comparison, playfully zips back and forth through time, briskly conveying back stories so they don’t stall the momentum.

The story is pure comic-book hokum. Quinn, having been dumped by the Joker, finds herself targeted by Gotham Mafia, specifically Roman Sionis. He is played by Ewan McGregor in a performance that works less when he’s ridiculously flamboyant, more so when his anger gets the best of him. Roman wants to recover a diamond embedded with info on the Bertinelli family fortune. Quinn somehow finds herself in the middle of the mess.

Robbie now has two Oscar nominations under her belt (“I, Tonya,” “Bombshell”) since first playing this character. The performance has more oomph. Robbie is aggressively uproarious, dashing off quips on romance (“*Some have the Eiffel Tower...others Olive Garden*”) and halting Roman through a speech that pokes fun at bad guy jibber-jabber.

There is something liberating about watching

Quinn amass of team of kick-ass women, played by a delicious crew of character actresses clearly savoring the opportunity. They include: Rosie Perez, one of my favorite actresses, as Renee Montoya, a Gotham detective; Mary Elizabeth Winstead, solidifying her fanboy status as Huntress, who’s quick with a crossbow; and a ferocious Jurnee Smollett-Bell as Dinah Lance, who sings in Roman’s nightclub and



Margot Robbie (center) is treated to a killer supporting cast, including (from left) Rosie Perez, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Ella Jay Basco and Jurnee Smollett-Bell, in “Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn).”



“Birds of Prey”

Running time: 109 minutes. Rated R for strong violence and language throughout, and some sexual and drug material

becomes his driver.

Toss into the mix a young pickpocket, Cassandra Cain (Ella Jay Basco), who gets her hands on the diamond, and you have a film where women call the shots. No need for men to come to the rescue. Another sequel with these characters would be most welcome.

Director Cathy Yan, working from a tight script by Christina Hodson (“Bumblebee”), keeps everything silly and playful. It’s refreshing, actually. Zack Snyder’s Superman/Batman pictures have a way of feeling oppressive: bloated in length and bombastic with effects. “Birds of Prey,” however, is content with being a lark. A crazed, foul-mouthed lark, mind you, but a most agreeable one.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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The Obstacles of a Depressing Movie

by Andrew Tallackson



Sterling K. Brown is unbearably intense as a controlling father in "Waves."

"Waves" is a family drama mired in pain, loss and regret. The first half inches along with a creeping sense of dread, culminating in a shocking act of violence. The second act delves into the shattering aftermath, the fallout within the family.

In other words, the movie is horribly depressing: ideal cinema for those who felt "Beautiful Boy" and "Manchester By the Sea" were too perky.

What is the right way to absorb an exceedingly painful movie? Do we celebrate how it captures life's raw truths, rattles us from our comfort zones, makes us confront what we prefer *not* to confront? If the story leaves us hollow, are we entitled to dismiss it, that it's not our cup of tea?

That is an issue I've never been able to reconcile. As critics, we are supposed to champion cinema with a capital C. Art. Film that speaks of truth. But many of us are parents, too. Fathers and mothers whose children are near and dear to our hearts. When movies such as "Waves" or "Beautiful Boy" explore grief within families, the challenge as a critic is distancing the personal and the emotional so the review comes across as objective.

I fail in this arena. Miserably.

Let's consider "Waves," which had a limited release in November and arrived on blu-ray/DVD Feb. 4. It centers on an affluent black family in central Florida, particularly the son Tyler (Kelvin Harrison Jr., exceptional), who is on the high school wrestling team, has an adoring girlfriend (Alexa Demie) and appears ready for college. He's been pushed at

every turn, though, by his father, Ronald (Sterling K. Brown). The movie hints that Ronald's past may have something to do with it. He isn't just living through his son. Having been subjected to racism, he knows how the world works, why his son must excel to extremes beyond what any child should have to endure.

For Brown, "Waves" proves TV was too small a medium to contain his immeasurable talent. The "This Is Us" star is unbearably, relentlessly intense: eyes like penetrating lasers. You understand the insane pressure bearing down on Tyler. The cracks in him appear, a gradual, but steady descent into booze, drugs and painkillers.

Then, one night, it all collapses. No spoilers here, but suffice it to say, it's not what you think. However, Ronald, his wife, Catherine (Renée Elise Goldsberry), and daughter, Emily (Taylor Russell), must take a long, hard look at themselves: where they've been and how they might proceed into the future. The film's second half mostly centers on Emily's journey toward peace, largely through a boy at school who is wrestling with his own demons. He's played by Lucas Hedges who, with this film, "Ben Is Back," "Boy Erased" and "Manchester By the Sea" is now reigning king of the downbeat domestic drama.

So, a world of hurt here, in "Waves." Lives riddled with unbearable sadness. Calling the shots as director, writer and editor is Trey Edward Shults, whose 2017 psychological drama "It Comes at Night" was a snooze: a zombie-like thriller without the zombies.

He overdirects the first half of “Waves” with an excessive reliance on bizarre camera angles and hectic editing, as if hellbent on proving he’s created indie art. The second half, however, is calmer, more reflective.

It is human nature, though, with stories that hold no punches, to crave purpose. Not necessarily uplift: We don’t demand every story be wrapped in neat little bows by the end. We do, however, yearn for enlightenment, that we’ve endured this pain because it illuminates elements of the human experience. We embrace “Schindler’s List,” for example, because bravery emerges amid the unthinkable. We bear witness to domestic violence in “What’s Love Got to Do With It” because we know, by the end, Tina Turner will mop the floor with Ike’s ass. It’s only natural, to crave that “reward.” When we don’t get that from a movie, we are left to ponder, why suffer through it in the first place?

Are we to blame society for Tyler’s fate? Was Ronald just a mean S.O.B.? Or, is “Waves” really about mustering the courage to keep going when life comes to a crashing halt?

Maybe it is all of these things. Brown and Russell are phenomenal in their final moments. We get the sense by the closing scenes of “Waves” that it’s embracing the healing power of forgiveness...but good golly, at what a price!

The National Board of Review chose “Waves” as one of the year’s best films. It scored a slew of nominations from the Los Angeles Online Film Critics Society. Time may tell the impact “Waves” had on me. I hugged my son later, afterward. I also vowed never to see it again. Once was *more* than enough.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Tyler (Kelvin Harrison Jr.) and Alexis (Alexa Demie) relax at the beach in a scene from “Waves.”

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The Beacher Weekly Newspaper

Your Connection to the Arts!

LCA Broadens Reach Through Grant

Thanks to a Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte grant, Lubeznik Center for the Arts is expanding its service area to include LaPorte and children in LaPorte Community School Corp.

To maintain program quality during its expansion, LCA staff created a capacity building plan that would allow it to gradually develop and support new school partnerships. This past October, Laurel Izard came on board as education coordinator. Izard is a local artist and educator who has worked in LCA programs for more than a decade.

During the fall semester, LCA welcomed hundreds of students from Riley and Handley elementary schools for learning tours of "The Chicago Imagists: Before and After." In addition to discussing the artwork in galleries, students created their own art. Participant feedback was positive: One student

commented, "I liked that you interacted with us."

Offsite, LCA held an eight-session STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) camp for second- and third-graders at Kingsford Heights Elementary School. At the conclusion, all participants expressed interest in learning more about STEAM projects and topics. LCA also regularly participates in College and Career Readiness programs and events at LaPorte High School.

Since the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, nearly 600 LPCSC students and family members have been served through LCA programming.

"Students that have participated in school learning tours or other outreach programs are also attending our classes and summer camps and bringing their grownups to our free Family Days," Education Director Hannah Hammond-Hammond said in a press release.

The center is located at 101 W. Second St. Gallery weekday hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekend hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (219) 874-4900 or visit www.lubeznikcenter.org for more details.





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Wildlife Workshop for Educators

Registration is under way for a Project Wild Educator's Workshop, which is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29, at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

The workshop targets educators, naturalists, Scout leaders and other youth leaders who work with students in grades K-12.

Each participant who completes the full workshop receives a newly published Project Wild activity guide, which includes new and adapted activities, as well as field investigations. Guest presenter Eric Larsen, University of Chicago associate professor of biology, will discuss a project to census small mammal populations.

The \$35 registration fee covers lunch, the activity guide and supplemental materials. Formal educators can receive professional growth points for attending the workshop. Pre-registration is required by Feb. 21. Visit www.duneslearningcenter.org or call Dunes Learning Center at (219) 395-9555 to register or for more details.

The workshop is co-sponsored by Indiana Dunes National Park, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife, Great Lakes Research and Education Center and Dunes Learning Center, with support from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.



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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Drop-In Volunteer Program from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 15.**

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, will be 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, Feb. 15, 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.

- **Snowshoe hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet for a quick lesson, then hike through fields and woods surrounding the center. A regular hike will be offered if there is fewer than two inches of snow. A limited amount of equipment is available.

- **Movie Screenings at the Douglas Center from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.**

Join a ranger for a screening of a national park or outdoor-related documentary. Feb. 15-16 include one on a newer national park, African-American Burial Grounds National Monument, and the 1960s story "9 from Little Rock."

- **Stargazing from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, at the Kemil Beach parking area.**

Members from Chicago Astronomical Society, Michiana Astronomical Society and Calumet Astronomical Society will attend with telescopes. Dress for the weather. Take binoculars. The Kemil Beach parking lot is located at 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton.

- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.**

- **Sundays at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

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

- **A ranger will lead a two-hour tour of IDNP in one of the park's 16-passenger buses from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16.**

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.

- **Premiere, "Octave Chanute: Patron Saint of Flight," at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The 60-minute documentary highlights the flight pioneer whose experiments in the Indiana Dunes propelled development of the airplane. Chanute biographer Simine Short will give a brief talk and introduce filmmaker Paul Nelson before the screening. A Q&A session is planned afterward. Light refreshments will be provided.

- **Volunteers Sought for Sugar Maple Research.**

Dr. Joshua Rapp of Harvard Forest needs volunteers to collect data for a research project at Indiana Dunes National Park. The focus is how climate affects the culture and ecology of sugar maple trees.

The project needs individuals who live within a 30-minute drive of Porter, and are interested in collecting data on one or more afternoons each week through mid-March. No experience is necessary. Participants should wear boots and dress for the weather.

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



Indiana Dunes State Park

- **Morning Bird Walk at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15.**

Meet at the Nature Center for an easy stroll searching for different bird species and other wildlife. Take binoculars or borrow a pair from the park.

- **CSI: OWLS from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15.**

Meet at the Nature Center to investigate the remains of an owl's meal after being introduced to owls that call the dunes their winter home.

- **Snow Fun 101 at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16.**

Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for a craft and facts about snowflakes.

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

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Alinsky Award Winner

The Michigan City Rotary Club has named Cynthia “Cyndi” Davis this year’s Paul J. Alinsky Excellence Award winner.

Davis will receive the award, and a contribution to a charity of her choice, at the Rotary meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20, at Northern Indiana Education Foundation, 402 Franklin St. Open to the public, lunch costs \$12 per person.

The honor pays tribute to Paul Alinsky, a past Rotary Club president, past chamber of commerce board chairman and Sentinel Alarm Co. founder. He passed away in 1997. Recognized each year is someone from the community dedicated to service and excellence, and passion and innovation in his/her vocation/career. The selection committee included Rotarians and non-Rotarians who chose this year’s honoree from among five nominations.



Davis

Faye Moore and Willie Milsap, North Central Community Action Agency board members, nominated Davis. The nomination stated, “Cyndi was actively participating in meetings, fundraising drives, planning conferences and workshops on most the boards (and) ... has been behind the scenes at events in the community most of her adult life.”

Past award recipients include: Les Radke, Bud Ruby, Duane Mertl, Rotary Service volunteers, Ron Benz, Jerry Karstens, Emerson Spartz, Glen Lubeznik, James Welborne, Kathleen Lang, Bernie Scott, Jan Radford, Tom Ringo, Jim Dworkin, Dr. Lisa Hendricks, Marty Corley, Don Babcock, Rotary Club members, Allan Whitlow and Dion Campbell.

A memorial with the names of past recipients is on display at City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.

Legislature in Action

Leadership LaPorte County has united with the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, LaPorte Economic Advancement Partnership and Unity Foundation to provide an affordable opportunity to visit the state legislature Tuesday, Feb. 25.

The trip is ideal for individuals who have business with state officials, aspire to run for office or have never visited the state legislature. It is offered as part of Leadership LaPorte County’s 36th class. A few seats are available for community residents on a first-come, first served basis. High school students are invited.

The bus leaves LaPorte at 6 a.m. and returns around 6 p.m. Attendees can tour the Capitol building, visit committees and view the House and Senate, which are expected to be in session. A box lunch with local legislators is included. The \$30 cost includes bus transportation and lunch.

Contact Leadership LaPorte County at (219) 325-8223 or info@leadershiplaportecounty.com for reservations or more information.

Shelf Ice BrewFest

Shelf Ice BrewFest will highlight craft brewers from the Great Lakes area from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, in the Uptown Arts District.

Located on Franklin Street between Sixth and Eighth streets, the event also features artisan foods and ice carvers. Costs range from \$45 to \$65. Tickets are not sold at the gate. Visit www.theuptownartsdistrict.com for reservations.



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Interesting Individuals



This year marks the fifth decade Bill Landing has been involved with public-access television in Michigan City. He made his debut in 1984 and today still hosts "Interesting Individuals," which airs at 4:30 and 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays on Channel 99. For more than 20 years, he has been joined by John Baines (from left), Sue Copeland and Andy Steele, pictured here.

Behind-the-Scenes Tour

A Valentine's Day edition of the behind-the-scenes tour is from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.

View extensive archives, former servants' quarters, hidden closets, the boiler room and kitchen. Guests also learn about the history of Valentine's Day in the 19th century, and the 1893 marriage of John H. Barker, one of the Midwest's wealthiest millionaires, to Katherine Fitzgerald, an Irish schoolteacher in Michigan City.

The cost is \$15 per adult or \$10 per senior (65+) and youth (3-15). Reservations can be made on Eventbrite or by calling the mansion at (219) 873-1520. Visit barkermansion.com for more details.

Leeds to Spotlight Veterans

Leeds Public House will celebrate veterans through its Leeds Project Heart initiative with an event from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, at the restaurant, 401 Franklin St.

Aimed at 21 and older, the event will feature cocktails, dishes and giveaways. Leeds will donate 10 percent of the day's proceeds to The Wall Gang through Leeds Project Heart.

Visit leedspublichouse.com for details.



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LaPorte County Public Library

- **Fandom Fridays from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, at the main library.**

The theme is "Anti-Valentine's Day."

- **"Say Cheese!" from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, at the main library.**

Local expert photographers will share tips and tricks using lighting and posing.

- **Teen Advisory Board from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, at the main library.**

The board allows teens in seventh grade and older to share ideas and get involved. Volunteer opportunities include: teaching younger students in the Maker Lab during STEAM classes; recommending library services and materials by creating displays; creating social media content; helping serve after school snacks; proposing special projects.

- **STEAM Sandbox from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.**

Students in grades 3 and older can move through levels, earning a certificate for each completed level. They work independently and chart their progress while completing hands-on, interactive projects.

- **MAKE a Difference from 3 to 5 p.m. Mondays in February.**

The focus is fidget sleeves for Golden Living residents.



LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

Poet Laureate Submissions

Three Oaks' Poetry Board is seeking original poetry from candidates for its poet laureate post.

The appointee, who receives a \$500 honorarium, holds the position for the calendar year 2020-2021. Send three to five original works to: Harbor Arts, c/o Janet Blake, 12136 Tower Hill Road, Sawyer, MI 49125, or by email to info@harborarts.com. Include your name, address, email address and telephone number.

The submission deadline is April 1. The poetry board has the right to publish submitted works. Allen and Lynn Turner sponsor the post through Harbor Arts.

Craft Show and Garage Sale

A craft show and garage sale is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, at Queen of All Saints School, 1715 E. Barker Ave.

The event, held in the school cafeteria and gym, supports the Boy Scouts' summer camp fund. Visit www.qas.org for more details.

Michigan City Public Library

• **Makerspace: open lab hours at 3:30 p.m. Thursdays.**

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.

• **Valentine Craft for Kids at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13.**

Children 4 and older accompanied by an adult are invited. All materials are provided. Children must be present to receive craft supplies.

• **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13.**

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



• **Films on DVD Series: "The Peanut Butter Falcon" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16.**

The movie, Rated PG-13, centers on a young man with Down syndrome who teams up with an outlaw to travel across the southeast. The screening is in collaboration with the Purdue Northwest Odyssey Arts and Cultural program.

• **Tinkercad at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, in the Makerspace.**

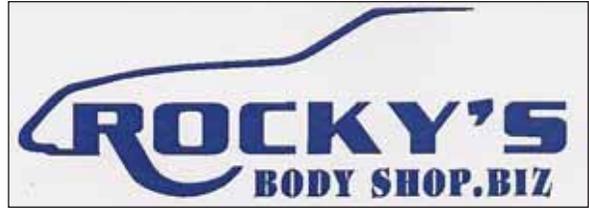
Registration is required for the program that involves the free online collection of software tools. This session, for children 10-18, serves as an introduction to 3-D design, art and printing. All registered participants receive a 3-D print of his/her creations. Register at the Youth Services desk or call (219) 873-3045 for more info. Space is limited. MCPL 3-D printing rules apply, and the printing fee is waived.

• **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.



Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.



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Westchester Public Library

- **NorthShore Health Center free blood-pressure screenings from 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, at Hageman Library.**

Interested patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

- **Bits & Bytes series, “iPhone & iPad for Beginners,” from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department.**

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, “Songs of the Heart,” from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

The Flashbacks will perform. Members are Lynn Edgemon, Jim Nelson, Suzanne Keldsen and Marti Pizzini.

- **Minecraft Meet-up at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, 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.

Hageman Library (219-926-9080) is located at 100 Francis St., Porter. Thomas Library (219-926-7696) is located at 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Westchester Township History Museum (219-983-9715) is located at 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. The Baugher Center is located at 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series continues with the 30-minute film “Kehinde Wiley: Economy of Grace” at 12:20 p.m. EDT Thursday, Feb. 13, at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

The movie follows Wiley as he steps out of his comfort zone to create a series of paintings of women. He casts his models on the streets of New York, then enlists Riccardo Tisci of Givenchy to create couture gowns for each woman.

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

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Women in Leadership

“Cultivating Female Leaders: How to Close the Gender Gap with Purpose, Passion and Permission” is the program of the next Women in Leadership of LaPorte County meeting.

The event is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, at the Purdue University Northwest James Dworkin Center, 1401 U.S. 421, Westville. Networking is from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

The speaker is Mary Elizabeth Sadd, senior client partner in the Global Industrial Practice of Korn Ferry-Atlanta office. She will discuss findings from “The CEO Pipeline Project,” a recent joint project between KF (a global organizational consulting firm) and the Rockefeller Foundation:



Sadd

- What it took for 57 women to make it to the top of some of the largest U.S. companies.
- Applying principles from their journeys to empower others to do the same.
- How to develop pipelines of highly potential women in companies and our communities.

Sadd has a Bachelor of Business Administration in international business from The University of Georgia and is fluent in Spanish.

Reservations can be made at www.women-in-leadership.com or on the WILL Facebook page.

Sons of Norway

The Sons of Norway Scandiana Lodge meets Thursday, Feb. 13, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

A potluck is at 5:30 p.m., followed by the program at 7 p.m. LaPorte’s Bruce Johnson will give the visual presentation “Sweden, Land of My Ancestors.” It includes images of Stockholm, including: the Royal Palace; Old and New Uppsala; the Gota Canal; Malmo; and farms, churches, lakes and forests.

Johnson is a retired teacher, singer, historian and photographer.

Polish-American Cultural Society

Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana meets at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, at the former St. Mary’s School, 321 W. 11th St.

The facilitator is the Rev. Walter Rakoczy. Membership is free and open to anyone interested in learning about the Polish language, culture and traditions.

Call Theresa Child at (219) 464-1369, email polamnwi@yahoo.com or visit “Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana” on Facebook (click “Join Group”) for more details.



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	SCORE	
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2. Cindy Beck	172	
3. Mary Lou McFadden	167	
4. Cindy Kalember	164	
5. Ann Bogart	160	
6. Tammy Nelmar	158	
7. Nancy Kubath	157	
8. Sue Luegers (series)	428	
9. Lenore Hadaway (series)	420	
10. Sue Labovitz (series)	410	
11. Dottie Brinckman (series)	405	
SPLITS		
Susan Kieffer	3-10	
Jean Bethany	5-6, 3-10	
Lenore Hadaway	3-10	
Holly Dres	3-10	
STRIKES		
Kathy Staninger	3	

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

Chesterton Art Center

• **Sue Vrska will teach a Mixed Media Flower Canvas Workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28.**

Students begin by creating individually designed papers. Then, they design the backdrop by painting and composing on canvas. Participants then fashion flowers to attach to the hand-painted canvases.

All supplies are provided. The cost is \$90, with members receiving a \$20 discount.

Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. Fourth St. Visit www.chestertonart.com for more details.

CASA Volunteer Training

The LaPorte County CASA Program will hold volunteer training at LaPorte County Library's Cool-spring Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North.

The times are:

- **Wednesdays:** Feb. 12 and 19, 4 to 7 p.m.
- **Saturdays:** Feb. 15, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Feb. 22, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Volunteers provide a voice for abused and neglected children. At this time, 64 children need help through CASA services. Call (219) 324-3385 or visit LPFamilyAdvocates.com for details.



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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

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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.

NPS Superintendent Public Meetings

Paul Labovitz, Indiana Dunes National Park superintendent, will hold public meetings seeking input on the park and its resources.

The meetings arrive one year after the local attraction switched its name from Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to Indiana Dunes National Park.



Labovitz

The schedule is:

- Thursday, Feb. 13, 5-7 p.m., Memorial Hall, 801 Liberty Trail, Michigan City.
- Thursday, March 5, 5-7 p.m., Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center, 1215 Indiana 49, Porter.
- Tuesday, March 10, 5-7 p.m., Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Drive.
- Thursday, March 19, 5-7 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary.

The program includes a short presentation, then an open-house format with Q&A. No reservations are required. Contact Dena Mourtos at (219) 395-1699 or constantina_mourtos@nps.gov for more details.

Art Fair Jury Selection Process

The public is invited to attend the 2020 jury process for the 59th annual Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Wednesday, Feb. 19, on the Mendel Center Mainstage at Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, Mich.

The fair is July 11-12 in Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph, Mich. Viewing the jury process is free.

The professional panel of jurors includes LaPorte's Laura Cutler, a studio artist, co-owner of Thaddeus C. Gallery, and a drawing and painting associate faculty member at Indiana University-South Bend. The other jurors include:



Cutler

- Bonnie Blandford, co-director of the Garage Sale Art Fair, Kalamazoo, Mich., jewelry artist and art-fair veteran for more than 40 years.
- John DeLapa, a studio artist, KAC faculty member and investor.
- John Gutoskey, an artist, designer, printmaker, collector and owner of JG Studio and the A2 Print Studio in Ann Arbor, Mich.
- Justin Rothshank, a studio potter working in Goshen since 2009.

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

Cookoff Registration Under Way

Friends of New Troy, the non-profit organization that owns and operates the New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, will celebrate its 15th anniversary with a chili cookoff, tours and movie premiere.

The celebration is Saturday, March 28, with tours beginning at 4:30 p.m., the cookoff at 6 p.m. and a movie at 7 p.m. All times are Eastern.

As part of the tour, photos and memorabilia of Friends of New Troy milestones, events and activities will be displayed. Contributions are invited. Prints will be scanned and returned. Digital images are welcome.

The movie provides a snapshot of New Troy in 1871, the year of the Great Chicago Fire. A bride's first years in town, a journal written during a family's wagon trip from Ohio, author Earl Reed's discovery of the village and the story of Hosea Tirrell, who in 1870 owned the Center of the World General Store. The lyrics of a song Tirrell wrote about his store have been put to music and performed by musicians from The School of American Music in Three Oaks, Mich. The song, "Claim to Fame," is part of the soundtrack.

The cookoff is limited to 20 pots. Email FriendsOfNewTroy@yahoo.com or contact Terry Hanover at (269) 369-1897 to register or for other details.

Proceeds from the event support the community center's Bathroom Renovation Fund. Donations to the fund also may be mailed to Friends of New Troy, Bathroom Renovation Fund, P.O. Box 125, New Troy, MI 49119. Donations also can be made at www.FriendsOfNewTroy.org

Indiana Dunes Birding Festival

Early registration begins March 1 for the sixth annual Indiana Dunes Birding Festival, which is May 14-17 and celebrates birdlife migration through the Indiana Dunes region.

The event features more than 150 individual trips, programs and workshops. Organized by the Indiana Audubon Society, it includes Indiana Dunes National Park and Indiana Dunes State Park as site hosts. Activities include guided field trips and carpool tours to view migrating birds, bird-related programs and workshops, live bird of prey presentations, a native plant sale and special art instructional workshops. Evening events include special excursions for owls and whippoorwills, an art exhibit open house and family friendly "birds and brews" social event

Discounted registration for priority Audubon Society members begins March 1, with general early-bird registration starting March 8. General registration costs for the entire festival run as low as \$45 for adults and \$35 for 18 and younger.

A Migration Marketplace will include national and local vendors representing bird-related products, including optics, field guides, bird feeding and bird related arts and crafts. Vendor applications are being taken at www.indunesbirdingfestival.com

More information is available at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Those interested can contact the information desk at (219) 395-1882 or the Indiana Audubon Society at (219) 928-6905.

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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 2 and 16, and April 6 and 27 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Call at least one week in advance to register.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first.

The schedule is:

- March 4: 1 Bird, 2 Bird.
- March 18: Water Everywhere.

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:

- March 4 — "Recycling: What Can I Recycle and Where It Goes" by Sacha Gee-Burns, LaPorte County Solid Waste District. The program includes a plastic bag exchange: receive a reusable bag for plastic bags.

Spa Day at the Park

The annual event is from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 14, at Red Mill County Park's Pat Smith Hall.

The first 50 attendees receive a swag bag. Vendor booths will have aromatherapy, makeup experts, chair massages, natural beauty care products and jewelry. No pre-registration is required.

Shelter and Hall Reservations

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



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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.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Feb. 13 — Music at the Museum, “Songs of the Heart,” 2-3:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. Info: (219) 983-9715.

Feb. 13 — Valentine Craft for Kids, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 13 — Sons of Norway Scandiana Lodge, The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Speaker: LaPorte’s Bruce Johnson, “Sweden, Land of My Ancestors.” Times: potluck/5:30 p.m., program/7 p.m.

Feb. 13 — Behind-the-scenes tour, Valentine’s Day edition, 7-9 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$15/adults, \$10/seniors (65+) & youth (3-15). Reservations: Eventbrite, (219) 873-1520.

Feb. 14 — VALENTINE’S DAY.

Feb. 14 — Fandom Fridays, “Anti-Valentine’s Day,” 3:45-4:45 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Feb. 14 — Valentine’s Day Open Mic, host act Adam Gawlikowski & Mark Fredrick, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Donations welcome. Info: acornlive.org

Feb. 15 — Craft show/garage sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Queen of All Saints School, 1715 E. Barker Ave. Info: www.qas.org

Feb. 15 — Shelf Ice BrewFest, 1-5 p.m., Uptown Arts District, Franklin Street b/w Sixth & Eighth streets. Tickets: \$45-\$65. Reservations: www.theuptownartsdistrict.com

Feb. 15 — Morning Bird Walk, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 15 — Stargazing, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Kemil Beach parking area, 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Feb. 16 — Films on DVD Series: “The Peanut Butter Falcon,” 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 16 — Bride Blu bridal fair, noon-3 p.m., Blue Chip Casino Stardust Event Center. Cost: free/pre-registered, \$5/door. Registration: www.nwitimes.com/brideblu/

Feb. 16 — Premiere, “Octave Chanute: Patron Saint of Flight,” 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Feb. 16 — Snow Fun 101, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 17 — PRESIDENT’S DAY.

Feb. 18 — “Say Cheese!” (photography program), 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

In the Region

Feb. 15 — Indoor flea market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST,

New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Info: (773) 803-9773. Map: Facebook page NewTroyFleaMarket

Feb. 15 — Great Backyard Bird Count, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EST, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Info: (269) 695-6491, www.fernwoodbotanical.org

Feb. 16 — Seed Starting, 2-3:30 p.m. EST, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Cost: \$20, \$16/members. Registration: www.fernwoodbotanical.org, (269) 695-6491.

Feb. 19 — 2020 jury process, 59th annual Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. EST, Mendel Center Mainstage @ Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, Mich. Info: krasl.org, (269) 983-0271.

Wednesdays — Musician jam sessions, 6-9 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Performer signup: Nicole Pierard @ anso91@yahoo.com. Audience donation: \$5.

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.

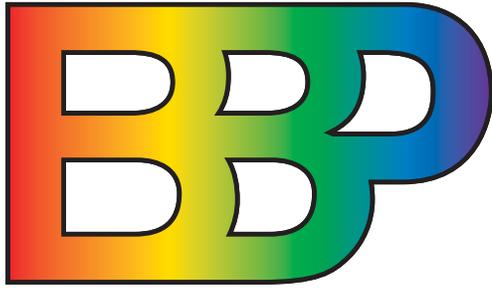
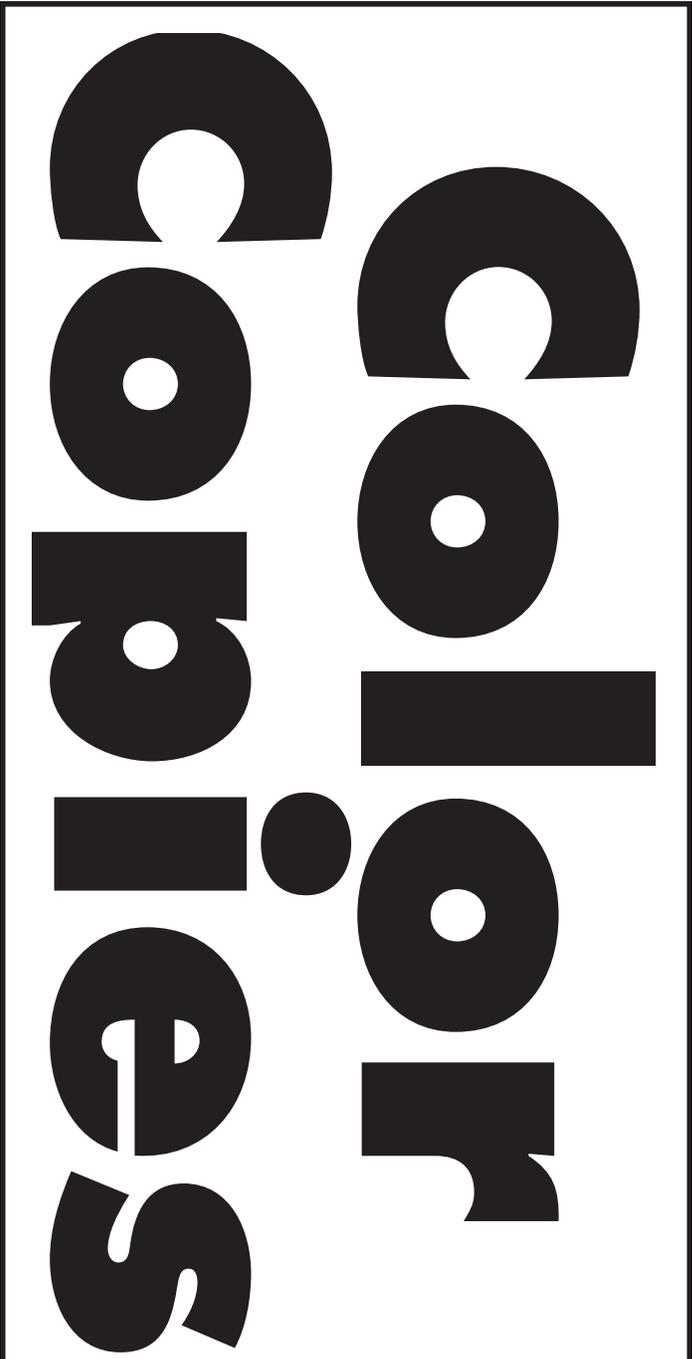
Thursdays — Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families, 6:15 p.m., Franciscan Health Michigan City, Maria Theresia Conference Room C, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: (219) 801-1296.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On February 13, 1633, Italian astronomer Galileo was arrested in Rome and charged with heresy.

On February 13, 1719, the first magazine published in America, *The American Weekly Mercury*, was printed in Philadelphia by Andrew Bradford.

On February 13, 1795, the University of North Carolina became the first U.S. state university to admit students with the arrival of Hinton James, who was the only student on campus for two weeks.

On February 13, 1974, newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst said it would be impossible for him to meet a multi-million dollar ransom demand for the liberation of his daughter, Patty.

On February 13, 2005, Ray Charles' final album, "Genius Loves Company," won eight Grammys.

On February 14, 496, Pope Gelasius changed the ancient Roman Lupercalia Festival (which was celebrated on Feb. 15) to Valentine's Day, and ordered it be celebrated on Feb. 14. The name of the day is derived from any one of three Saint Valentines, each of whom — in one way or another — was associated with Feb. 14.

On February 14, 1886, the first trainload of oranges left Los Angeles for the East Coast.

On February 14, 1899, President William McKinley signed legislation authorizing states to use voting machines for federal elections.

On February 14, 1920, the League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago; its first president was Maude Wood Park.

On February 14, 1931, Bela Lugosi's first "Dracula" was released. Dracula's rather unusual drinking problem was the basis for more than 100 vampire films that were to follow.

On February 14, 1962, First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy conducted a televised tour of the White House.

On February 15, 1764, St. Louis was established as a fur trading center.

On February 15, 1842, the first U.S. postage stamps with adhesive on the back were introduced by a private mail service in New York.

On February 15, 1933, President-elect Franklin Roosevelt escaped injury in an assassination attempt in Miami. Chicago's Mayor Anton Cermak, however, was killed by the assailant's bullets.

On February 15, 1958, Michigan City was "clobbered" by the biggest recorded snowfall in history. A

slow breeze, picking up moisture over the length of Lake Michigan, dumped its entire load on just a few square miles of land. Three to five feet of snow (depending on who did the measuring) paralyzed the area for several days.

On February 16, 1868, members of “The Jolly Corks,” a social and benevolent society, organized themselves into “The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.” The purpose of this new organization, as it is today, was to practice charity, justice, brotherly love and faithfulness.

On February 16, 1948, the first daily television news was broadcast on NBC.

On February 16, 1968, the nation’s first 911 emergency phone system was inaugurated in Haleyville, Ala.

On February 17, 1621, Miles Standish was named military captain of the Pilgrim colony at Plymouth, Mass.

On February 17, 1817, Baltimore became the first America city with gas street lights.

On February 17, 1865, the South Carolina city of Columbia was in flames as Confederate soldiers moved out and Union forces moved in. It has never been determined which side set the city on fire.

On February 17, 1876, Maine’s newspapers reported the first sardine was canned at Eastport. While not specifically mentioned, it is safe to assume that the second and third were canned on the same day.

On February 17, 1933, *Newsweek* was first published.

On February 18, 1735, the first opera presented in the United States, “Flora, or Hob in the Well,” was performed in Charleston, S.C.

On February 18, 1885, Mark Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* was published.

On February 18, 1945, during World War II, the Battle of Iwo Jima began.

On February 18, 1953, “Bwana Devil,” the movie that heralded the 3-D fad of the 1950s, opened in New York.

On February 18, 1953, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz received an \$8 million contract to continue their television show (“I Love Lucy”) through the 1955 season. This was the highest single TV contract to that date.

On February 19, 1878, Thomas A. Edison received a patent for his invention of the phonograph. His assistant, John Kreusi, who constructed the first working model from Edison’s drawings, received \$18.00 for his efforts.

On February 19, 1881, Prohibition went into effect in Kansas.

On February 19, 1994, American speedskater Bonnie Blair won the fourth Olympic gold medal of her career as she won the 500 meter race in Lillehammer, Norway.

ENVELOPES



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Fernwood Botanical Garden

• **Great Backyard Bird Count from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 15.**

Organized by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the annual event focuses on feeding and identifying common winter birds. Guests also help tally sightings for the day.

The program, held in the Sims Education Center, is free with admission.

• **Seed Starting from 2 to 3:30 p.m. EST Sunday, Feb. 16.**

Learn techniques of starting plants from seeds indoors. All seeds and supplies are provided, but visitors can take seeds of favorite plants. The cost is \$20, or \$16 for members. Register by Feb. 13.

Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve is located at 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Call (269) 695-6491 or visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org for more information and to confirm the status of classes.

4-H Clover Crop

Area scrapbookers/crafters are invited to the “4-H Clover Crop,” sponsored by LaPorte County 4-H Boosters and Alumni, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 7 at LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

The cost before Feb. 17 is \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. The cost for adults after Feb. 17 is \$30. The fee includes table space, breakfast, lunch, contests, prizes and goodie bags. The event offers classes, make ‘n takes, a silent auction and home-based businesses on site. All proceeds aid activities and scholarships to benefit local 4-H members.

Call Angela Lile at (574) 910-0404 or e-mail anrlile@gmail.com for more details.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Secrets We Kept by Lara Prescott (hard-cover, \$26.95 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 344 pages.)

The title immediately caught my eye. What secrets? Who is the “we”? I’m here to say, this debut by Lara Prescott, well-researched and atmospheric, will be tough for her to top. Here’s why...

“Secretary: a person entrusted with a secret. From the Latin secretus, secretum. We all typed, but some of us did more. We spoke no word of the work we did after we covered our typewriters each day. Unlike some of the men, we could keep our secrets.”

This story takes place during the Cold War — it’s the 1950s and Sen. McCarthy is busy accusing half the country of being Communists, while others are trying to root out the real spies trying to infiltrate the government.

The former OSS of World War II saw many young women as an important part of the war effort, but no longer needed afterward. Most went home, while some found jobs in typing rooms of the newly formed CIA. It is these women who are the subject of this finely researched, thoroughly engrossing story that falls under the category of “things you didn’t learn in history class.”

These women typed classified information every day and were told not to remember any of it, or pretend they didn’t remember. *“Fast fingers keep secrets.”* But a few girls who could speak foreign languages, especially Russian, received extra pay for work after hours. They were taught how to tail someone covertly, get close enough to overhear conversations in social settings, or pick up or pass information innocuously. It took a certain personality to pull this off, and the CIA just might have found their latest recruit as the story begins in 1957...

Irina Drozdova is looking for a job at the CIA. Her background? She is American by birth because her mother was already pregnant some 20 years earlier when they left the Soviet Union for the U.S.

To Irina’s surprise, two weeks later, she starts in the CIA typing pool. Maybe her ability to speak Russian has something to do with it? A part-time receptionist and full-time spy, Sally Forrester is soon introduced to Irina and assigned to train her for her new extra assignment — after-hours job and an extra \$50 on her paycheck to spy for the CIA.

The story then switches back to 1949 in the USSR where Soviet police storm a house, trash it and take away the daughter, Olga, to the infamous Lubyanka prison in Moscow for further questioning.

Olga is the mistress of Boris Pasternak, who is writing a novel the Soviets believe is subversive: pretty much bad press. It will be titled Doctor Zhivago. Olga is given five years in a re-education camp in the Gulag and sent 600 kilometers from Moscow and her daughter because she won’t divulge anything she knows about the book or Pasternak.

Olga is a woman who fulfilled the words of Tammy Wynette — she “stood by her man” — no matter the cost.



So, books are one part of this spy game I never considered: *“Back then, we believed books could be weapons — that literature could change the course of history...The tactic: to get cultural materials into the hands of Soviet citizens by any means.”*

Books used as weapons in a war of ideology? Soviets had no TVs, few radios, the newspaper run by the government, so a book would be something promoting a different point of view — a subtle work of art that could educate and indoctrinate the people of Russia. The Soviets would never allow the book to be published, hence the need to find the manuscript and destroy it. Enter the Americans...

Getting word of the book, the CIA jumps at the chance to get it published, then distributed to as many people in the USSR as possible. But how many other people, besides the Soviets and Americans, would like to get their hands on the book? You’ll be surprised.

Now the stages are set. Sally and Irina work together to get Doctor Zhivago out of the USSR, while alternating chapters explore the lifelong love affair between Olga and Pasternak.

Covert spying, a book for the ages, duty, loyalty, love and sacrifice — now there’s a winning combination that shows a history of strong-willed, clever women put in impossible situations who still come through stronger and more determined than ever.

What a book club choice this is! And a book to share with a friend. Imagine the discussions. Deep research went into writing this book by Lara Prescott. Lara — is that name just a coincidence? This story just might make you want to read Doctor Zhivago again, or maybe even for the first time.

Spoiler alert — Who would have guessed it would be an Italian who got to the manuscript first? Just another piece to this thoughtful, yet thrilling story of love that is nothing like the fairy tales we grew up with, where “they all lived happily ever after.”

Till next time, happy reading!

together, we can do anything.

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