



Volume 39, Number 40 Thursday, October 12, 2023

# A New Lease on Life

by Connie Kuzdym



Spouses Diane Grams and Tim Lace are among the second-floor tenants using space through St. Mary's Studios. Photo by Bob Wellinski.

**A**t 10th and Buffalo streets, nestled between Marquette Catholic High School and St. Mary the Immaculate Conception Parish, sits the former St. Mary's School.

The two-story building built as an educational facility also was designated as a bomb shelter. Solid, yet simple, a high, arched window entrance with double columns beckons one to enter. Natural light pours through the numerous windows surrounding the building. At its peak, a simple cross.

Standing before the building, one can envision the hustle and bustle of students, parents, teachers and visitors passing through the doors of the school that remained opened for 117 years.

What could have been an empty historic building in Michigan City has a new lease on life. All 19 rooms are occupied, a thrift shop using five of them. The remainder are filled with artists, collectively known as St. Mary's Studios, a nonprofit and small businesses.

The result embraces the sense of purpose, the vision, of those involved.

Back at the turn of the 21st century, though, with declining enrollment, the parish council and finance committee recommended to permanently close the grade-school doors before the 2003 fall session. Fortunately, the school did not sit empty long. Lease

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# A New Lease on Life

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agreements were made with a few entities to use a portion of the first-floor space.

In 2011, St. Mary's Clothing Resale Shop moved from the rectory to the first floor of the former grade school. Marquette High School, a separate entity from the St. Mary parish, briefly made use of the entire second floor.

Today, at the top of the second-floor staircase of St. Mary's Studios, looking from one end to the other, one notices many things: the expanse of the hallway dotted with doors, the windows at the end, another staircase, the cleanliness of the building. Taking it all in there is a vibrancy to the building, along with a feeling of peace and harmony. The building seems to be doing the unexplainable, calling its occupants to come.

Former St. Mary's pastor Kevin Huber was the driving force of what the building would become.

According to the Rev. David Kime, pastor at St. Mary's and Queen of All Saints Church since 2021,

the transition from elementary school to St. Mary's Studios happened organically. An artist friend of Huber's inquired about renting a room on the second floor. Word spread from there. By the start of this decade, the second floor was filling with creatives who loved the spacious rooms blessed with natural light and the chance to be with other like-minded people. Since an artist's workspace typically is referred to as a studio, renaming the space St. Mary's Studios was a natural.



The Rev. David Kime

Kime arrived right when the building was taking flight. He recalls being thrilled to see the progress.

"To be honest, initially, I did not realize how forward thinking the plan was," Kime said. "It was only after observing it that it became more evident to me the benefit of the whole program, the benefit of the building."

St. Mary's Studios would not be where it is today without the numerous Catholic volunteers who self-



All 19 rooms in the former St. Mary's School are occupied. Photo by Bob Wellinski

lessly give countless hours to the ministries or the actual building. As one would expect, the parish outreach, within the building, is of utmost importance.

“The thrift shop and the food pantry...are internal realities, certainly. Ministry and care for people are No. 1,” Kime said. “There’s a cooperative effort between the food pantry and the thrift shop to help people who need it.”

The thrift shop, started in 1976, has seen several homes throughout the years. Today, the thriving venture spans five rooms on the building’s first floor. The hall lined with furniture leads to rooms filled with clothing, household goods, a children’s section and other items.



St. Mary's Clothing Resale Shop is filled with volunteers and costumers. Photo by Bob Wellinski.

Generously supported by the community with reusable donations, the thrift shop not only passes on items to those in need, but also raise funds from the sale of such items, which goes back into the parish ministries.


The thrift shop is run by manager Mary Davis and a group of 30 dedicated volunteers. They all graciously help restock the donated items on tables and racks, maintaining an inviting space for customers to peruse.

In the lower level of St. Mary's Studios, low ceiling rooms have been transformed to house a special ministry that is growing. The Sacred Heart Food Pantry is open four hours twice a week. In August, alone, the small pantry served 300 families, totaling a thousand people.

Walking though the space, one immediately notices the extreme care to present a clean, inviting, respectable place. The feel is similar to shopping at a store. Clients receive nonperishable staples, fruits, veggies and dairy products.

The bulk of the project falls on a core group of dedicated Catholic individuals who, with the help

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Sacred Heart Food Pantry volunteer Steve Pearson looks over items being prepared for people in the community. Photo by Bob Wellinski.

of several volunteers, including Marquette High School students, are able to open and run the pantry weekly throughout the year.

There is a yearlong collection among parishioners from various Michigan City Catholic churches. Donated non-perishable items are placed in containers within each parish and picked up by volunteers.

“The food pantry is such a huge deal. It’s a lot of work,” Kime said. “The people are extremely generous who work it. They’re connected with businesses in the area that donate food, as well as the NWI Food Bank. There’s a lot of communication and co-operation in order to make that happen.”

The pantry also connects to the Open Door Health Center, which provides over-the-counter medicines,

like acetaminophen, that people in need find unaffordable.

“It’s been amazing,” Executive Assistant Jan Sypnieski said. “People are surprised and thrilled to be able to get over-the-counter meds.”

As families with limited means struggle to keep up with skyrocketing costs of basic staples, Sacred Heart Food Pantry helps provide the much-needed relief.

□

A circle of help now exists in one building. Sacred Heart Food Pantry, St. Mary’s Thrift Shop and LaPorte County Habitat for Humanity all exist to serve a need within the community. They are driven and thrive because of volunteers. Housed under one roof, they cover the basics of those in need: housing, food and clothing.

As a growing organization, LaPorte County Habitat for Humanity turned to St. Mary’s Studios because of the downtown location, the size of the space, the well-kept building and affordable rent.

“We are all about putting every cent possible into our home builds,” Sophia Coleman, LaPorte County Habitat for Humanity executive director, said. “We are so grateful and glad to be part of this historic building, too. Parking is plentiful, and we are next door to the beautiful church. It’s a busy, active neighborhood with Marquette school opposite. I am sure we will have a chance to work with the students this fall.”

Coleman eloquently expresses her thoughts on what it is like to be in a space that once served as an elementary school.

“I love our space,” she said. “The windows are large. It’s a bright room, with an old-fashioned cloakroom area. It does take you back to those school days! We can see where the blackboards were, with

the old speakers for the sound system still up high. The oak doors are beautiful, which open up into traditional long corridors. Modern buildings are often designed with big welcome spaces and workspaces subdivided into small areas. Here, it’s the opposite: The scale is comfortable. The bathrooms are curious, with cowboy-style louvered swing doors and child sized toilets. No chance of getting locked in!”

Another vivacious second-floor tenant



Tony Quartuccio (from left), Jan Sypnieski, Eileen and David Nelson are the core leadership team that organizes an additional 40 dedicated volunteers involved with Sacred Heart Food Pantry. Photo by Bob Wellinski.

is Diane Grams, an artist who shares the studio with her husband, photographer Tim Lace. The two moved to the area in 1993. Both had successful careers, she in academia, he finding his niche in photo labs as a finisher technician. Yet, both found time for their art.

Now retired, Diane is working on a fresco through an Indiana Arts Commission grant. Tim shoots mostly black-and-white film, and uses traditional, old photographic methods to process and print his pictures on gelatin silver paper.

Each has art space in their home; however, Diane, immersed in fresco after returning from an alumni event at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, felt she needed a studio.

She recalls the September night in 2020 when Tony Quartuccio, a dedicated volunteer integral to the overall ministries, showed them the room. They immediately committed. The two now have a small gallery space in what was a cloakroom, and a large room with incredible lighting and upgraded electricity.

“It’s been this incredible thing for our soul and our consciousness, this space that you kind of etch out that’s only used for your art,” Diane Grams said. “You can leave and come back to stuff. Or you can clean up the basic mess, leave and come back if you’re exhausted. You can leave stuff and process it and think about what you’ve done and go to the next step...because you can see things develop over time.”

They both acknowledge the sense of community within the building.

“It is this artist community that really is wonderful here,” Diane Grams said. “We all kind of share and understand what it’s about to be making art.

“There is this sense of goodness that the building has. You’ve got the thrift shop and the food pantry and Habitat...it’s just this sense of rightness.”

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# A New Lease on Life

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The two enjoy welcoming the public into their studio if they're present when the building is open on Wednesday and Friday, as well as during First Friday Art Walk, and when Michigan City Chamber Music Festival hosts a Sunday afternoon concert at St. Mary's.

Back on the first floor, MCCMF's Nic and Sunny Orbovich share their room. They agree it is an ideal space for their professional and personal needs.

Sunny uses the space for art making, soap sales and other projects. Nic conducts private violin lessons. Since the two co-founded MCCMF, of which Nic is the artistic director and violinist, the room also is used for MCCMF rehearsal and office space.

"We love our fellow tenants!," the Orboviches said "Such diverse specialties: artists, musicians, craftsmen, special human needs...it is wonderful."



Jamie Wallen of Quilter's Apothecary.

Another first-floor renter is Quilter's Apothecary, which debuted three years ago in the building. Artist-owner Jamie Wallen's enterprise occupies two rooms on the first floor and a dyeing room in the lower level, where

a menagerie of things related to quilting occurs. One room houses numerous long-arm quilting machines. When a client has pieced together the top, Wallen then takes it, adds the batting and back. Using a long arm, he quilts together the three layers. Over the years, he has built quite a clientele through his quilting designs and portraiture technique, creating patterns and art pieces for museums and shows.

In another room, the business sells thread and other items to long armers around the world. Along with rulers, he designs and sells to assist quilters. Wallen also does instructional classes over Zoom.

Wallen believes artist studios were intended for people to help each other. That is evident for the artists at St. Mary's Studios.

"Diane runs one of the arts councils. She comes to the artists and says, we have these shows, where can you fit into this and what new work do you have?" Wallen said. "This is the deadline, and that holds us accountable, and it gives us deadlines which is very important."

Artists in the building have a good rapport. They collaborate on shows and help each other move forward. Three former artists, in fact, are now working in places like New York.

"One gentleman now is showing his works in all the galleries in L.A.," Wallen said. "It's because he had this melting pot of not just creativity, but accountability to the art form."

For those who may be hesitant to rent in a former parochial school, Wallen calms those concerns by saying there are people here from all walks of life. Anchored by St. Mary's Thrift Shop and Sacred Heart Food Pantry, then add LaPorte County Habitat for Humanity, along with the diversity of the artists and small businesses — what they do and who they attract says it all.

"It's just the perfect place, there's no negativity... Artists can come in and do their work and take it seriously," Wallen said. "When we're working here in summer and fall, you have the windows open and you hear all the children running across the street. In the winter, when the snow is falling and you're in here being creative — this building is alive. It's like a painting that's come to life. It's fabulous."

(Contact Jan Sypnieski at 219-872-9196 for information on St. Mary's Thrift Shop, Sacred Heart Food Pantry or St. Mary's Studios. Email Diane Grams at [diagrams22@att.net](mailto:diagrams22@att.net) for more details on the artists.)

## The Area's Continued Renewal

The three-block stretch where St. Mary's Studios is located also encompasses Marquette Catholic High School, St. Mary the Immaculate Conception Parish and Angela House.

Walk or slowly drive by to see the area's renewal. Over the next several months, more exterior improvements are planned.

"You might think because it's an old parish, it's more run down," the Rev. David Kime said. "The people in the parish are taking very good care of the facilities."

St. Mary's not only is a beautiful place to worship, but also has become a popular Catholic wedding venue for those coming from Chicago and around the state.

The former convent Angela House, with its wood floors, molding, bannisters and cleanliness, is a beautiful, inviting space. It hosts retreats, missionary activities and youth formation, along with businesses and organization meetings.

If interested in Angela House, the ministries of St. Mary's Parish or how to help with donations to the food pantry or thrift shop, call the parish office at (219) 872-9196, Ext 1.

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## Bolt for the Heart to Raise Funds for AEDs in Law Enforcement Vehicles

Franciscan Health Michigan City again has united with Bolt for the Heart to present the annual race, funds from which place Automatic External Defibrillators in law-enforcement vehicles.

The family 3.34-mile and 6.7-mile walk/run is at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, at Cummings Lodge in Soldiers Memorial Park, 250 Pine Lake Ave., LaPorte.

Bolt for the Heart is an Indiana-based nonprofit that raises funds through sponsorships, donations and runs/walks to buy AEDs for first responders. Pierre Twer, the president and founder, is a Long Beach native. Franciscan Health has been the event's sponsor for all five years.

Funds from the 2022 run, sponsored by Franciscan Health Michigan City, helped buy 39 AEDs, including for LaPorte County Sheriff's Office (20 AEDs), Michigan City Police Department (13 AEDs)

and LaPorte Police Department (six AEDs). The donations completed Bolt for the Heart's goal of having an AED in every patrol vehicle in the fleets.



Also, the Play for Jake Foundation has been part of Bolt for the Heart since its inception with the help of founder Julie West. She is driven to save other families from the loss her family experienced when her son, Jake, died on the LaPorte High School practice field in 2013 from an undetected heart condition.

Registration for the 3.34-mile walk/run is \$35. Registration for the 6.7-mile walk/run is \$45. A \$99 Play for Jake package includes a quarter zip shirt, T-shirt, headband and donation.

Visit [www.boltfortheheart.com](http://www.boltfortheheart.com) for more information, to register for the event or donate to it.

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### Dunes Summer Theatre to Conclude Season with Autumn Gala



Dunes Summer Theatre brings its 2023 season to a close with “A Taste of Old Hollywood,” its autumn gala to support Dunes Arts Foundation, from 6-10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, at Pottawattomie Country Club, 1900 Springland Ave.

The benefit will celebrate its 2023 accomplishments, including three acclaimed shows, the Broadway cabaret, the first New Plays Festival and new affiliations with Safe Harbor and The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center.

“The Dunes’ theater building was built in 1941,” Artistic Director Steve Scott said in a press release. “Seventy-two years later, we have a lot to celebrate.”

Featuring cocktails and dinner, the master of ceremonies is DJ Isaac, with a live band and dance performances inspired by the classic Hollywood era, and showcasing dancer and choreographer Emmie Riegel. Raffles and a live auction will raise additional funds for Dunes Arts Foundation.

Guests are encouraged to dress as their favorite classic Hollywood actors, but are not required to do so. Tickets are \$150, with sponsorship packages available. Visit [www.dunesarts.org/2023-gala](http://www.dunesarts.org/2023-gala) or call (219) 879-7509 for reservations or additional information.

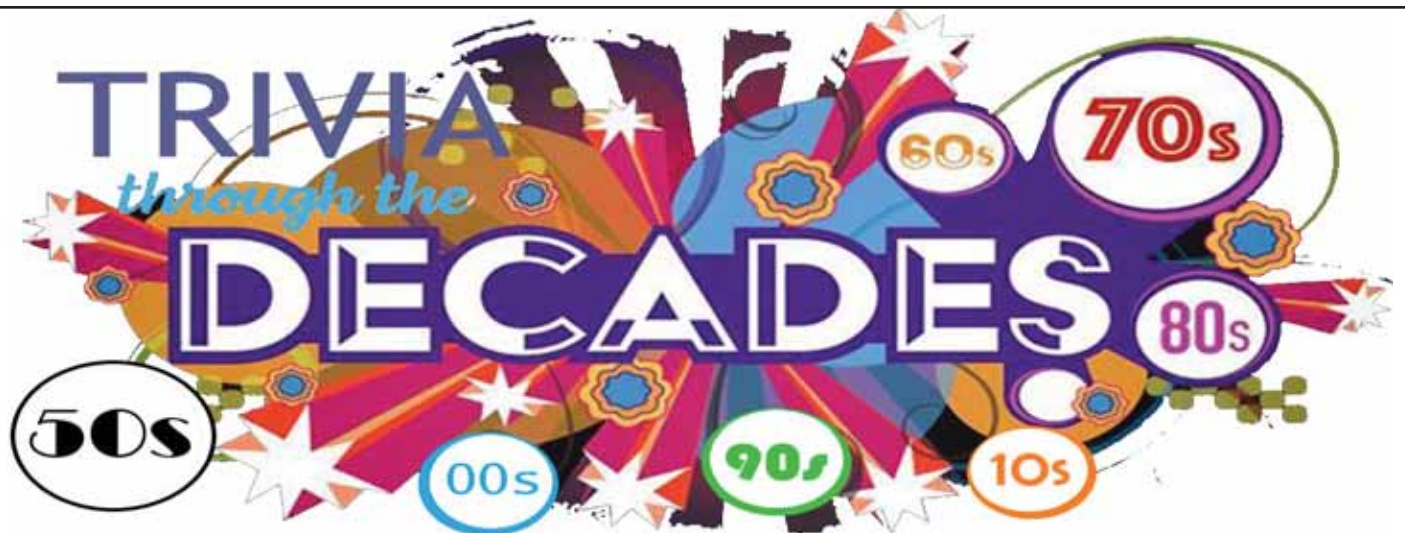
Dancer-choreographer Emmie Riegel will perform at the gala.

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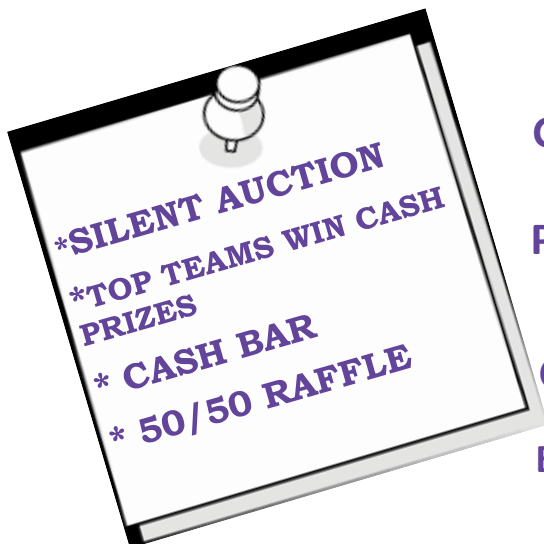
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### Franklinstein Horror Fest

The 2023 Franklinstein Horror Fest, considered the region’s haven for horror aficionados, is, appropriately enough, from 5-10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13, at Uptown Social, 907 Franklin St.

The lineup includes:

- The band Red Hot Voodoo.
- Lakeshore School of Performing Arts, which opens the fest with the dance routine “Night of 1,000 Wednesdays.”
- Horror-themed vendor booths, including Sinister Rex, Haunted Hills Hospital Haunted House, Pop Culture Collectibles, Sideshow Vintage, Guerilla Publishing and Costume World.
- Axe-Rate’s mobile axe-throwing experience.
- Creepy Costume Contest, with a chance to win



cash prizes.

- Horror-themed food and drinks, served by Sizzlebox Food Truck and Uptown Social.

- A haunted forest-themed display.
- “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” on Saturday, Oct. 14, at Uptown Social.

Advance online tickets for the 18-and-older event are \$10 per person, or \$15 at the door. Only 16 advance VIP tickets will be sold for \$100 per person. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Eddie Castellanos at (219) 577-3619 or email [info@FranklinsteinHorrorFest.com](mailto:info@FranklinsteinHorrorFest.com) for details. Visit [www.FranklinsteinHorrorFest.com](http://www.FranklinsteinHorrorFest.com) for additional information.

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# Cheryl

## FLEMINGTON

for LONG BEACH TOWN COUNCIL



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### My objective is transparency and openness

- I will assure all Town business will be correctly documented, posted in a timely manner, and be accessible in the town hall per State requirements.
- I will help clearly define the town's stance on conflict of interest. Town leaders must represent the public over self-interest. This cornerstone of Long Beach government will be strictly adhered to and enforced.
- I will advocate that all Town meetings, council boards and committees, be published well in advance on the Town of Long Beach web calendar at <https://www.longbeachin.org/town-council>.

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## Mystery at the Mansion

Tickets are on sale for The History Museum's "Mystery at the Mansion," with tours leaving every 15 minutes starting at 5:30 p.m. EDT Friday, Oct. 13, 27 and 28.

This year's mystery is set in the early morning hours on Jan. 10, 1935. South Bend's Palace Café was reduced to rubble when three bombs exploded. There were plenty of suspects, but no conclusive evidence. Local authorities turned to a so-called "scientific palmist" named Nellie Simmons Meier for help. Who was guilty, what was the motive and how did they know about detonating bombs?

To discover the villain, participants must listen carefully to clues while walking from room to room in the three-story Oliver Mansion. Stair climbing is required.

The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St. Tickets are \$25, or \$20 for members. Because tours are limited, reservations are strongly recommended at [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org). Call (574) 235-9664 for more details.

## Michigan City Messiah

Former chorus members, and anyone who loves to sing, are invited to participate in rehearsals and performances of "Michigan City Messiah."

This year marks the 59th presentation, the first organized and conducted by Dan McNabb. This is his final year singing with the chorus.

Performances are at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St. Concerts are free and require no reservations.

The performances feature a full Baroque orchestra conducted by Philip Bauman. Returning soloists are: Kimberly Jones, soprano; Kristen Gornstein, mezzo-soprano; Matthew Daniel, tenor; and Bill McMurray, bass-baritone.

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

## Fabric Painting Workshop

"Paint and Print on Fabric," a two-day beginners workshop led by Tisha Sandberg, is Thursday and Sunday, Oct. 19 and 22, at Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

Times are (all Eastern) 6-8:30 p.m. Oct. 19 and 1-3:30 p.m. Oct. 22.

Participants use stencils, brushes and everyday objects to design fabric pieces. The class fee includes textile paints, markers and mediums, tools, two yards of fabric and practice squares.

A non-refundable class fee is \$110 for Berrien Artist Guild members and \$125 for non-members, along with a \$25 materials fee. Registration is at <https://boxfactoryforthearts.org/workshops>, which also includes a video demonstrating techniques used in the workshop.



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## Michigan City Public Library

Michigan City Public Library's circulation/front lobby area is open to the public. Public seating is available, and the computer lab is open. Hours are: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday and closed Sundays.

*The following programs are scheduled:*

- **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12.** The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.
- **Paint a Pumpkin (ages 5-17) at 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13.** All supplies are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Dress to get messy.
- **Writing Out Loud, Sarah Layden, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14.** Layden is the author of Imagine Your Life Like This, stories; Trip Through Your Wires, a novel; and The Story I Tell Myself About Myself, winner of the Sonder Press Chapbook Competition. Her short fiction appears in *Boston Review*, *Blackbird*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency* and *Best Microfiction 2020*. With Bryan Furuness, she wrote The Invisible Art of Literary Editing. Her recent essays, interviews and articles have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Poets & Writers*, *Salon*, *The Millions* and *River Teeth*.
- **Genealogy Help with Pat Harris from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 10, 17, 24 and 31.** Harris can offer tips and advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical records.
- **Angels Among Us at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17.** Ange Benz, who leads the discussion, can be contacted at (219) 874-3754.
- **Bad Art Night for Adults from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17.** Designed as a way to unwind and



Layden

create, the library provides the paint, canvas and pompoms. An award goes to the piece voted Worst Art. No registration is required.

- **Dungeons & Dragons (ages 13-17) at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18.** Supplies and characters are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Email Miss Dana at [dwolf@mclib.org](mailto:dwolf@mclib.org) for details.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in October.** Membership 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. Also, the group has organized a local chapter of the Warm Up America Foundation. Volunteers are knitting and crocheting handmade squares (7x9 inch) that will be joined together to make full-size afghans.
- **Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in October.** Create with LEGO WeDo, Micro:bits, paper circuits, Ozobots and 3-D pens. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.
- **Weekly Crafts for Kids & Teens weekly.** Each week offers a different project. Take-home craft kits are available, or create some in the Maker-space. Supplies are limited.
- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays.** Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Check out previous story time videos through the library's YouTube channel, Facebook page and website.
- **Spooky Halloween Scavenger Hunt in October.** Visit Youth Services, find all the characters and win a prize. Children can return each week when the characters move around.

*Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit [www.mclib.org](http://www.mclib.org) for more details.*



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## LaPorte County Public Library

LaPorte County Public Library has updated its curbside pickup service using meeScan.

New users can download the meeScan app through options such as Apple and Google Play. Then, place holds on items using a customer account. Once at the library, check in using the app and clicking Pick-up from the bottom of the screen (or calling the library location). An appointment no longer is needed. Add the parking space on the app if picking up from the main location. Enter information in the instructions box if picking up holds placed on more than one account, or if needing additional assistance. A staff member brings held items to the vehicle. Customers using the app receive updates as their requests are processed. Returns can be placed in book drops and be checked in within 24 to 72 hours. At this time, there is no limit to the number of items customers can reserve and pick up during curbside.

- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).



Patrons are no longer charged daily overdue fines. Customers only will be charged for items they damage, lose or never return.



*The following program is planned:*

- **Medicare 101 from 10-11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, in the Main Library Meeting Room B.** The educational presentation is free.
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 13, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Homeschool Hub (ages 6-11) from 11 a.m.-noon Monday, Oct. 16, at the main library.** The program offers age-appropriate STEM projects.
- **Teen D&D from 5-7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16, at the main library Meeting Room A.** The program involves a cooperative tabletop role-playing game for teens 13-18. Registration is required.
- **Family Pajama Storytime from 6-6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16, in the main library multi-purpose room.** The program focuses on stories and songs. Guests can wear pajamas and take a favorite stuffed animal.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Ruth Ware from 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18.** The mystery novelist's latest, *Zero Days*, is inspired by "The Fugitive." Register through the library website.
- **An Evening with the Friends of the Library from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18, at the main library Wi-Fi garden.** The program will celebrate Friends of the Library member Bob Burns by dedicating an area of the Reading Wi-Fi Garden in his memory. County Historian Bruce Johnson will present "Hoosiers in the Movies" at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

*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](http://www.laportelibrary.org) for more details, including programming through the Exchange building.*



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## With “Flora and Son,” John Carney Again Charms His Way Into Your Heart

by Andrew Tallackson



Eve Hewson and Orén Kinlan star in John Carney’s “Flora and Son.”

John Carney is one of the great musical poets of the cinema. He’s Dublin’s answer to Nick Hornby (“High Fidelity,” “About a Boy”): an adolescent at heart who prays to the rock gods, who believes a great power ballad heals all. And, he’s an optimist.

“Flora and Son,” which just debuted on Apple TV+, is only his fourth film after the Oscar-winning “Once” (2007), “Begin Again” (2013) and “Sing Street” (2016). Not a bad apple in the bunch. Each a jewel of a film with great songs and endings that leave you on a high.

The Flora of the movie’s title is a single mother at odds with her teen son Max. She’s played by Eve Hewson, who is rock royalty as the daughter of U2’s Bono. Her Eve is something. A mother with zero maternal instincts. A wild child who got pregnant too young, resented being stripped of her own dreams and took out that frustration on Max (Orén Kinlan), who’s now miserable collateral damage. Prone to profane outbursts, his brushes with the law are catching up with him. His father, Ian (Jack Reynor), is still in the picture, but weary of Flora.

So, a typical John Carney trainwreck. We saw



### “Flora and Son”

*Running time: 97 minutes. Apple TV+. Rated R for language throughout, sexual references and brief drug use.*

that in the cold, distant parents of “Sing Street” and the fractured family of “Begin Again.” But here, Flora is selfish enough to not only admit she’s a bad mother, but also that she wishes Max were not in the picture.

Enter Jeff (Joseph Gordon-Levitt). A once promising rock career now somewhere in his past, he’s reduced to giving online guitar lessons. Flora, thinking music might be her calling, randomly finds him online, and she’s a pain-in-the-you-know-what. More interested in grilling him about his personal life than taking his musical advice.

The turning point is when Jeff sends Flora a link to a song he wants her to hear. To appreciate how songs aren’t just diversions, but direct links to the soul. It is a classic Carney moment: the email contains a YouTube link to Joni Mitchell performing

“Both Sides Now” with just her on guitar. Flora could have penned the lyrics herself. We see, in the way Hewson’s face softens, then dissolves into tears, that what she’s heard spoke to her. Moved her in ways she didn’t see coming.

From there, “Flora and Son” finds its notes of hope so prevalent in Carney’s pictures, starting Flora on a healing journey with her family. In the process, Carney, working with musician Gary Clark, comes up with another round of instant classics, the songs “Meet in the Middle” and “High Life” already generating Oscar buzz. Carney also finds a magical way to have the musical numbers pop. Rather than just position his camera near Flora’s laptop, he seamlessly brings Jeff into Flora’s world, as if the lessons are live and in person. It is some of Carney’s best work.

So carefully does “Flora and Son” establish the frailties of this family that as the divide closes, our heart leaps with joy. There is a warmth to the journey amid all the salty dialogue, and saltier song



The movie finds a magical way to weave Joseph Gordon-Levitt into scenes with Eve Hewson.

lyrics. By the end, something unusual happens. It’s ended too soon, and on such a glorious note, you want more. You’re not ready for the movie to be over.

How often can you say *that* about a film? So many movies drag on forever.

“Flora and Son” leaves you craving more.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [atallackson@gmail.com](mailto:atallackson@gmail.com)

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MARY LOU IS A LONG TIME RESPECTED RESIDENT IN LONG BEACH

# RENAISSANCE FAIRE

Renaissance Academy held its annual Renaissance Faire, attended by more than 200 people, on Sept. 30 at Creek Ridge County Park. The event included apple coring, rope climbing, painting, jousting, crafts, tug of war, and a bake sale and food sale.

All photos by Andrew Tallackson





## The Characters of “Reptile” Make the Old Feel New Again

by Andrew Tallackson



The greatest creation of “Reptile” — the partner-like bond between Det. Tom Nichols (Benicio del Toro) and his wife, Judy (Alicia Silverstone).

It’s been a long time since we’ve had a slow-burn thriller like “Reptile,” a back-to-basics police procedural that doesn’t reinvent the wheel, just spins it intelligently.

Maybe it’s that TV is inundated with these plots, so we take them for granted. Shrug with “why bother” disinterest.

“Reptile,” which just debuted on Netflix, is the feature film debut of commercial/music video director Grant Singer, who works from a screenplay he crafted with his star, Oscar-winner Benicio del Toro (“Traffic”). You could catch this type of investigative crime mystery on any network or streaming service...but would it be this tightly written and acted?

The story begins with a death. Realtor Will Grady (a credible Justin Timberlake) has a spat with his live-in girlfriend, fellow Realtor Summer Elswick (Matilda Lutz), goes about his business the next day, then receives a text that she needs to see him. He agrees, arriving to find her brutally murdered.

Del Toro plays the investigating detective, Tom Nichols. Will is cooperative at every turn. Aiding the investigation as best he can. But as any fan of mysteries and police procedurals knows, Tom’s about to have his world rocked by a slew of suspects.

Again, not exactly fresh material, and Singer cre-



### “Reptile”

*Running time: 134 minutes. Netflix. Rated R for language, violence and some nude images*

ates such a murky look for the film, the gloom of it is oppressive.

Del Toro’s no-nonsense detective, however, is a fascinating study in procedure. In how to strip himself of emotion and follow each lead, every necessary part of the process to the letter. His relationship with his wife, Judy, is the film’s most strikingly original creation. She is played by the last person you’d expect, “Clueless” star Alicia Silverstone, but Judy has been written unusually sharp. She takes a fascination in his work, existing almost like his partner. His equal. He bounces ideas off of her, she’s a savvy study of his line of work. So many crime shows depict wives as resentful spouses or weary saints. Judy, however, keeps you on your toes. When, for instance, someone breaks into Tom’s home, we brace for seeing a battered Judy, held at gunpoint. Nope. She’s the one keeping the intruder at bay. Late in the film, when Tom drops one major

bomb about the investigation, no protest, no weepy accusations from Judy.

Silverstone feels authentic. Ditto Tom’s colleagues. The actors, who include Eric Bogosian (AMC’s “Interview With a Vampire” update), Ato Essandoh (Netflix’s “The Diplomat”) and Domenick Lombardozzi (Paramount+’s “Tulsa King”), don’t look like actors pretending to be cops. They feel real, with unpolished grit and family-like bonds. So when the tables turn, and Tom fears corruption exists within his department, the looks these men exchange, the glances loaded with meaning, play out splendidly. You don’t need to be assaulted with violence and vulgarities to jack up tension. It’s there, in the unspoken exchanges between men.

Del Toro doesn’t have big scenes where he shouts or intimidates, where he unrealistically transforms into a one-man fighting machine. Instead, you admire the steady, undeterred way the actor creates a man who won’t stop until he gets the truth.

In fact, I’d like to see more of Tom and Judy. Dismiss “Reptile” as just a “cop movie,” but you’d be doing yourself a disservice. These two characters, this husband and wife, keep the story grounded and unpredictable, even if the story wraps up pretty much how you expect it will.



Contact Andrew Tallackson at [atallackson@gmail.com](mailto:atallackson@gmail.com)



Justin Timberlake is solid as a Realtor whose live-in girlfriend is brutally murdered at the start of “Reptile.”

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## Sisters Help Empower Girls to Become Engineers

Students at all eight Michigan City Area Schools elementary schools were inspired by a female engineer and female educator who co-wrote a children's book series that demonstrates how girls can be engineers.

Engineer Cheryl Cunningham and her sister, Ju-

ArcelorMittal grant.

Since the creation of the Michigan City High School Robotics Team in 2011, Safe Harbor staff and engineering mentors observed that participation of female students was not approaching desired levels. During the first seven seasons, it averaged about 15 percent of all Robotics program students.

In February 2018, Safe Harbor learned of work by the Cunningham sisters. Their book series includes: Yes I Can! I'm Clover Anne!; I Can Find a Way! I'm Lucy Kay!; and You Can Count on Me! I'm Ziva Marie!

"My goal is to impact the way young children think about engineering, and to be a positive role model to young girls," Cheryl Cunningham said in a press release. "I want both girls and boys to know that girls can be engineers, too!"

Judith Cunningham tied her involvement in the book series to her experience as a teacher.

"I was saddened to see and hear girls diminish their abilities, and how they limited their career options because of their gender," she said in a press release. "I was

specifically frustrated when boys naively affirmed these unfair beliefs."

After learning about the book series, Safe Harbor began an effort to host the sisters in Michigan City every year, having them read one of their books to MCAS second-graders. Over a two-day period each year, Safe Harbor staff accompanies the authors to each school for a book reading and an open discussion about what engineers do and who can be an engineer.

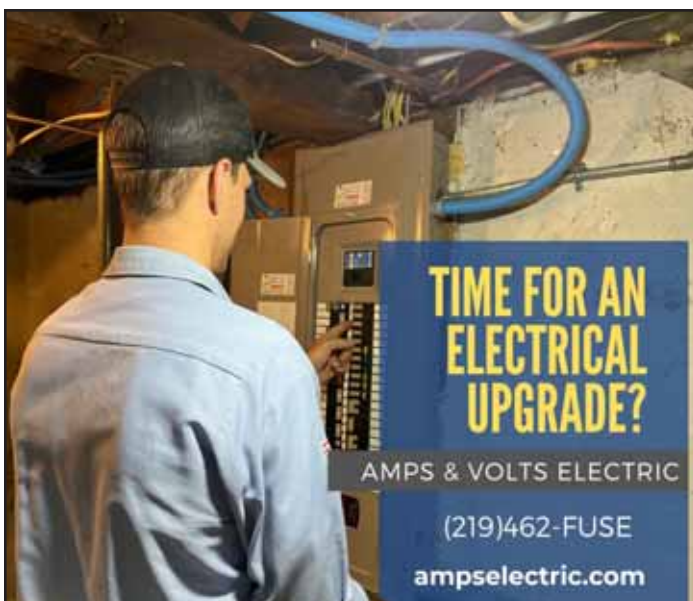
Based on an analysis of the first book reading sessions in 2018, survey results showed girls who attended the book reading and met Cheryl and Judith were 2 1/2 times more likely to answer that they "want to be an engineer" when compared to girls who were absent on the day of the readings.



Judith Cunningham (standing, back) and Cheryl Cunningham (front) present one of their books to students at Pine Elementary School.

dith Cunningham, an elementary school teacher, visited all second grades in the district Sept. 19-20, providing them with copies of a book to take home in their "I Can Be an Engineer" series.

The program is supported by the Safe Harbor robotics program, and was established thanks to an



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## Chamber Members Speak with Students about Purpose, Future Careers

Do you truly love what you do for a living?  
What are you passionate about?

High-ability Michigan City Area Schools elementary students asked such questions during a small-group interview session with Michigan City Chamber of Commerce members.

The experience, held Sept. 15 at Michigan City High School, was part of the project “Living on Purpose: Finding Your Passion and Making an Impact.” Fifteen Chamber members participated in the session with students in multi-age (fourth-sixth grades) high-ability classes at Springfield, Knapp and Joy schools.

Students first honed their interviewing and research skills, then spoke with the professionals about their careers and motivations.

“We had several goals in mind for our students as we designed this expeditionary unit,” Knapp teacher Megan Boyter, who designed the program with Sheila Sobbecki (Springfield) and Denise Yackus (Joy), said in a press release. “We wanted students to become more aware of people and their roles in society – to develop compassion and respect for these unique people and their careers. We also wanted them to be curious about pathways in life that they had not considered, and to be able to speak comfortably with adults, demonstrating their knowledge and confidence.”

Aaron Garrett, MCAS K-12 college and career coordinator, connected teachers and students with the Chamber. Chamber President Katie Eaton, in turn, linked them with volunteers from Sullair/Hitachi, Franciscan Health, CLH CPAs & Consultants, Marbach America, the National Guard, GAF, KTR Corp., McColly Real Estate, the Indiana/Kentucky/Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters and MCAS.

Knapp sixth-grader Savannah Pollock interviewed engineer Stump Engibous of GAF, who told her, “If you choose a career that you like, going to work every day doesn’t exist. You’re just going to have fun somewhere else.”

Sixth-grader Malachi Weber interviewed KTR Corp. President Marcos Marcelo.

“Knowing somebody else’s story, like Mr. Marcelo’s, can be very inspiring because he found his passion, and he knows and enjoys the fact that his career, company and employees are all serving the



Raven Jackson, an HR business partner at Hitachi, speaks with Michigan City students.

community in so many different ways,” Weber said in a press release.

The students are writing interview summaries. Once completed, the schools will post them in hallways on banners with pictures taken of the business professional. An end-of-unit expo will give students an opportunity to share “passion projects” with the business professionals who were interviewed, along with others in the community.

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Long Beach Resident

## College Board Recognizes MCHS Students for Academic Excellence

Twelve Michigan City High School students have earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs.

The programs celebrate students' hard work in high school and showcase strong academic performance on the PSAT and AP exams. To be eligible, students must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher, PSAT scores within the top 10 percent in their category or earn a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP exams in ninth and 10th grade. Students also must attend school in a rural area or small town, or identify as African American, Hispanic or Native American.

MCHS students receiving honors include: Adam Hida, Bailey Chavis, David Serrano, Gabriel Heichel, Hannah Parker, Jordan Campbell, Madelyn Shinn, Madison Gresham, Nathan Groszek, Samantha Krueger, Sophia Barczak and Stephanie Ramirez.

"There's so much that makes our students unique, and receiving this honor reinforces this. It is an asset as they plan for their future," said Aaron Garrett, Michigan City Area Schools K-12 college & career coordinator, said in a press release.

Eligible students can apply for the recognition program at [www.BigFuture.org](http://www.BigFuture.org) during their sophomore or junior year. Colleges and other organizations using the College Board's Student Search Ser-



Students who received recognition from the College Board National Recognition Programs include: (first row, from left) Hannah Parker, David Serrano and Nathan Groszek. The second row is (from left) Bailey Chavis and Sophia Barczak. The third row is (from left) Samantha Krueger, Madison Gresham and Madelyn Shinn. Not pictured are Adam Hida, Gabriel Heichel, Jordan Campbell and Stephanie Ramirez.

vice can connect directly with awardees during the recruitment process.

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### College Board National Recognition



La Lumiere School students who earned the academic honors include (from left) Miya Simmons, Keyan Bahelai, Max Albano and Emmy Jaracz. Not pictured is Riona Funderburg.

Five La Lumiere School students have earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs.

The students are: Max Albano (LaPorte), Keyan Baghelai (Stevensville, Mich.), Riona Funderburg (Chesterton), Emmy Jaracz (LaPorte) and Miya Simmons (Michigan City).

The criteria for eligible students includes:

- 3.5 grade point average or higher.
- PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 assessment scores within the top 10 percent of assessment takers in each state for each award program, or a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams in ninth and 10th grades.
- Attends school in a rural area or small town, or identify as African American/black, Hispanic American/Latino or Indigenous/Native.

Eligible students are invited to apply during their sophomore or junior year.

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| <p><b>Soup Du Jour</b><br/>                 Bread Board<br/>                 Choice of butter or herbed olive oil add Pimiento cheese</p> <p><b>Blistered Shishito</b><br/>                 Shishito peppers, toasted garlic, balsamic glaze, lemon wedge</p> <p><b>Goat Cheese Polenta &amp; Kale</b><br/>                 Sautéed kale, polenta, goat cheese, cherry tomato, balsamic</p> <p><b>Whipped Feta</b><br/>                 Whipped feta, warm pita, cucumber, Kalamata olive</p> <p><b>Crab Cake</b><br/>                 Lump crab, house remoulade, fresh spring mix, lemon vinaigrette</p> <p><b>Steamed Mussels</b><br/>                 Chilean mussels, fennel broth, fresh baguette</p> <p><b>Lodge House Salad</b><br/>                 Spring mix, cherry tomato, red onion, cucumber, creamy basil, croutons, cheese</p> <p><b>Beet Salad</b><br/>                 Roasted beet, Gorgonzola crumble, candied walnuts, balsamic</p> <p><b>Oysters on the Half Shell</b><br/>                 Choice of Raw or Steamed - House cocktail sauce, lemon wedge, Tabasco</p> | <p><b>Oysters Rockefeller</b><br/>                 Creamed spinach, prosciutto, garlic, shallots</p> <p><b>Pan-Roasted Chicken</b><br/>                 Chicken breast, garlic, mushrooms, shallots, capers, pan sauce, roasted potatoes</p> <p><b>The Elk Burger</b><br/>                 1/2 lb elk patty, smoked cheddar, house-made bacon jam, mayo, roasted potatoes</p> <p><b>Cavatappi Alfredo</b><br/>                 Cavatappi prosciutto, cream, imported Pecorino cheese, shallot - add chicken, 6 oz flat iron steak</p> <p><b>Tapenade Salmon</b><br/>                 Olive-crusting salmon, fresh spring mix, red pepper aioli, goat cheese, asparagus</p> <p><b>Bone-In Pork Chop</b><br/>                 Frenched double bone pork chop, carrots, maple bourbon glaze, roasted potatoes</p> <p><b>*Filet &amp; Caesar</b><br/>                 6 oz black Angus filet, artisan romaine, cherry tomato, cheese, house Caesar</p> <p><b>*Filet</b><br/>                 6 oz black Angus filet, Chef's seasonal vegetable</p> <p><b>*Ribeye</b><br/>                 16 oz black Angus ribeye, asparagus, roasted potatoes</p> <p><b>56 oz Tomahawk Steak</b><br/>                 Salad, sides, &amp; dessert *Order 24 Hours in Advance</p> |
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## Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Pinhook Bog Open House from 9-11 a.m. Saturdays in October.** Meet at the bog parking lot for a ranger-led hike to experience carnivorous insect-eating plants and rare orchids. Passes are required. The bog parking lot is at 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City.
- **Paul H. Douglas Center Open House and Nature Play Date from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays in October.** Participate in a free nature-themed craft in the art room, watch the staff feed the animals or build a fort in the Nature Play Zone.
- **Furs to Farm Flashback from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays in October at Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farmhouse, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter.** At Bailly Homestead, the chapel and fur traders' cabin will be open. The main house will be closed due to ongoing restoration. At Chellberg Farm, tour the farmhouse and visit the animals. Rangers and volunteers will be on hand at each location to share area history.
- **Art in the National Park from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, at Paul H. Douglas Center.** Art Barn School of Art artists will teach how to create a dunes-inspired painting. Class size is limited to 20. Supplies are included. Call (219) 395-1882 to register. The program is sponsored by the Friends of Indiana Dunes
- **Fall Colors Hike from noon-2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15, at the National Park Headquarters, 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road, Chesterton.** Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes.
- **Mount Baldy Summit Hike from 9-11 a.m. Sundays in October.** Meet at the parking lot off U.S. 12 for a ranger-led hike to the top of the dune. Passes are required. The parking lot and beach are open from 6 a.m.-11 p.m. The dune, however, is still closed.
- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays in October at Paul H. Douglas Center.** The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.
- **Feeding at the Farm from 4:30-5 p.m. Sundays in October at Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter.** Join a volunteer or ranger to help feed cows and chickens at Chellberg Farm. The program, sponsored by Friends of Indiana Dunes, is part of the Farm & Garden Crew, where volunteers take care of the farm, including its buildings, animals and resources.
- **Fire Side Chat from 5:30-7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15, at 100 Riverwalk Road, Portage.** Join a ranger to catch a Lake Michigan sunset, enjoy a fire at the pavilion and learn about the National Park. Take marshmallows to roast.

*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 or visit [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu) for details.*

## Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following program will be offered:*

- **Stories and Sing-Alongs from 7-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20.** Folk musician Luke Nover and Northwest Indiana Storytellers will perform at the campground shelter next to campsite 113. Friends of the Indiana Dunes will provide treats. Parking is available at the Nature Center or campground gate overflow parking lots.
- Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 to register for programs.*



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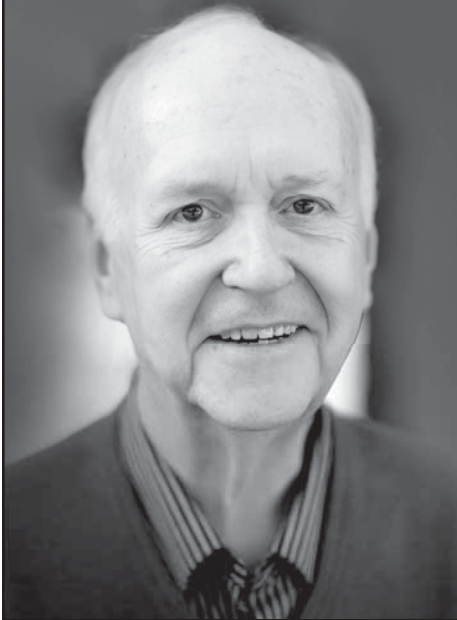
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
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| 3. Dolls with Balls  | 9   | 7    |
| 3. Pin Ball Wizards  | 9   | 7    |
| 3. Diagonal Divas    | 9   | 7    |

**HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES**

|                           | SCORE |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 1. Ann Bogart             | 175   |
| 2. Nancy Kubath           | 160   |
| 3. Sarah Blank            | 159   |
| 3. Carolyn Wiggins        | 159   |
| 4. Dottie Brinckman       | 154   |
| 5. Deb Frederick (series) | 405   |

**SPLITS**

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| Kathy Angelo  | 2-7 |
| Kathy Osborne | 5-7 |

**Peepers Expansion**

Peepers, the eyewear brand also known as Sammann Co. Inc., is embarking on an expansion initiative at its Michigan City facility, 9935 E. U.S. 12

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As a fourth-generation family-run company, Peepers dates back to its establishment as the Sammann Company in 1908.

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

**Patrick's Grille Grand Reopening**

More than 100 people attended the recent ribbon cutting and grand reopening at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St.

Hosted by the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, guests sampled appetizers while learning about the venue's expanded catering services and private event spaces. The facility now is kid-friendly for family celebrations and provides breakfast, lunch, appetizers and dinners.

The new business model also includes opening for holiday meals such as Easter and Mother's Day.

### Historical Society Museum

- **Veteran Free Day on Friday, Oct. 13.** To honor Navy Founding Day, admission is free to veterans and active duty military. A form of ID is required, including: Affairs Card, Indiana Veterans Card, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion or driver's license with Veterans ID.
- **Retired Judge William Boklund recounts the aftermath of Belle Gunness' actions during the Historical Society meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17.** The program involves updated research from original court documents.
- **Through Nov. 22: "Pets of LaPorte County" exhibit.** The focus ranges from Catherine Barker's Boston Terrier to Washington Park Zoo's Jake the Bear.



Boklund

*LaPorte County Historical Society Museum is located at 2405 Indiana Ave., Suite 1. Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.*

### Run to the Center of the World 5K

Registration is open for Run to the Center of the World 5K Run/Walk — the 12th annual race along paved rural roads surrounding New Troy, Mich. — on Saturday, Oct. 14.

That's two weeks earlier than previous years, so participants should register early.

The event is hosted by Friends of New Troy, the nonprofit that owns and operates the New Troy Community Center, 13372 California Road.

The race starts and ends at the center, which benefits from race proceeds. All finishers receive a carved wooden medal, with overall winners' names engraved on bricks mounted at the center. A free grab-and-go breakfast is provided.

The entry fee is \$25. Information, a link to register online and a form that can be downloaded and printed are at [tinyurl.com/5rdwptb](http://tinyurl.com/5rdwptb). Registration forms also may be picked up at the center. Email [runtothecenteroftheworld@gmail.com](mailto:runtothecenteroftheworld@gmail.com) or call (269) 426-3909 for more details.

### NB Library Community Forum

The New Buffalo Township Library Community Forum continues with a program on longtime FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Tim Moore of Lake Michigan College will discuss how Hoover professionalized the FBI and turned it into America's top law-enforcement agency. But along the way, he engaged in burglaries, illegally spied on Americans and sought to damage the civil rights movement.

The program is free.

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**Yellowface** by R.F. Kuang (hardcover \$30 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 319 pages.)

*“It’s not lying. I swear, it was never as psychopathic as it sounds. It’s all just stretching reality a bit...Besides, the train has left the station — coming clean at this point would tank the book, and I couldn’t do that to Athena’s legacy.”*

Oh, what a web we weave, when first we practice to deceive! June Hayward is the narrator of this story that provides an eye-opening look at friendship, racism, how we convince ourselves we’re doing the right thing for all the wrong reasons, and the vagaries of the book-publishing business. That’s quite an accomplishment, but R.F. Kuang has delivered. This story is so sharp, you could cut your fingers on the words.

June is a 20-something aspiring writer who doesn’t have a whole lot to show for her short career. Her mother and sister think she should get a real job with benefits and a retirement fund. Boring. At least that’s what June thinks. She wants to be in the moment, make her mark in the world, write books that will be read for decades to come.

While studying at Yale, she meets Athena Liu, a Chinese American who also wants to be a bestselling author. The two become sort-of friends as Athena has no other girlfriends, spending a lot of time with June hanging out at bars and drinking, mostly.

Is June happy for her sometime friend? In public, of course, but alone, not so much. Athena seems to be the wunderkind of the moment. Right out of college, she has a multi book deal — three published books before that — and, as the story opens, is celebrating a TV deal with Netflix. More than a little drunk, the two end up in Athena’s swank apartment. Athena begins to choke on some pancakes, which they were stuffing down with milk. June tries the Heimlich maneuver. Too late, Athena dies in her apartment.

Before she died, June searched for the bathroom and instead found Athena’s office. There were pages of an unfinished book titled *The Last Front*, historical fiction about Chinese soldiers recruited to help the French in World War I. Waiting for the EMS to arrive, June makes a rash decision and stuffs the manuscript into her messenger bag.

After Athena’s funeral, June works to finish the book — researching madly into the night, fixing Athena’s grammar and sentence structure where needed. The result is an amazing story she submits to her agent, Brett, who is off-the-charts astounded. He mentions this sort of reads like Athena wrote it, but, it’s your work, right? Of course! She wrote it in homage to her dear friend. He finds a small publish-



## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



ing house that falls in love with the story, too, and June’s big lie is off to a flying start...

Problem — June is not Asian. The book needs an Asian author, so they tell her, so the name on the cover becomes Juniper Song.

The next part of the story involves a lot of industry talk, how the book comes to fruition. Kuang pulls no punches as she slashes through the whole messy business of book publishing. It’s quite dazzling. But the real meat of the story is what happens to June in the ensuing years — will it all be worth it in the end?

Just how reliable is a first-person narrative? Remember, June is telling events from her own sense of what’s right, wrong and just OK. Has she left out any pertinent details?

After the book is released to stunning reviews and strong sales, and June is basking in her popularity, I kept waiting for the other shoe to drop. There’s just too many pages left for something shocking not to happen. And here it comes...

The Twitter feed lights up with comments both complimentary and downright mean. Someone eludes to the fact that maybe June stole the story from Athena. What?! That’s just not true! June has made the justification in her own mind that what she did was honor her dead friend, not steal from her. However, as time goes by and the Twitter comments get nastier, it’s evident the remarks, good and bad, burrow deeper into her psyche. She’s confused, questioning whether or not her reasoning abilities have been compromised.

She weathers the storm with help from the publicity department, releasing another book the following year. Now, a Twitter comment from the same person who questioned her writing *The Last Front* says she has proof this book also is a plagiarism of Athena’s work. Yikes. It’s not a pretty picture as June’s own words testify: *“But I need to survive this, somehow...the truth would destroy me.”* Just how far will June go to protect earning those large paychecks? Maybe it’s time to face her adversaries.

*The final word:* *Yellowface* is an unvarnished look at things we would like to sweep under the rug — white privilege, greed, the lies we tell ourselves, I could go on, but believe me, this book is brilliant. Also, Kuang keeps four-letter words to a minimum.

Till next time, happy reading!

### New Buffalo Township Library

- **“G-Man J. Edgar Hoover: His Achievements and His Assault on Civil Liberties.”** The program is at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17.
- **Youth Advisory Board Meeting.** The group meets at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19.

**Weekly programs:**

- Craft Time on Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Chess Club from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Lego Club all day Fridays.
- Saturday Morning Cartoons from 10 a.m.-noon.
- Story time at 10 a.m. Mondays.

All times are Eastern. New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson St. Call (269) 469-2933 for more details.

### Harvest of the Soul

A farm-to-fork fundraiser for Anam Cara Counseling and La Ventana Culinary School is from 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, at Anam Cara Counseling, 4298 E. County Road 1000 North, LaPorte.

The seasonal dinner is prepared by chefs Marcello Marino and Bruce Haumesser. The event also includes beer and wine, a live auction, live entertainment and dancing.

The cost is \$125 per person. RSVP at [tinyurl.com/ym6j3a8p](http://tinyurl.com/ym6j3a8p)

### Westchester Public Library

Westchester Public Library has curbside pickup at its Thomas and Hageman branches.

Use a library card or go online to place holds on up to 10 items, including DVDs and CDs. Once notified the items are available, park in specially-numbered spaces at each branch during pickup hours.

While parked, call the library phone number posted on the numbered space sign, tell staff your library card number and he/she will check out the items and take them to a table at the parking space and walk away. Patrons then can step out of their vehicle to retrieve them. Curbside hours are Monday-Friday (1 to 6 p.m. at Thomas and Hageman) and Saturday (11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Thomas and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Hageman).

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.

### Beacher Delivery

Any time you do not receive your *Beacher* or have issues with delivery, please contact us immediately so we can take care of the problem.

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### In the Area

**Oct. 12** — Duneland Stamp Club, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 12-15** — “Four Old Broads on the High Seas,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Fri., 2 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$12/children. Reservations: [www.footlightplayers.org](http://www.footlightplayers.org)

**Oct. 13** — Veteran Free Day, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., Suite 1. Info: (219) 324-6767.

**Oct. 13** — Paint a Pumpkin (ages 5-17), 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 13** — 2023 Franklinsfest Horror Fest, 5-10 p.m., Uptown Social, 907 Franklin St. Advance tickets: \$10/\$15 at door. Info: [www.Franklinsfest.com](http://www.Franklinsfest.com)

**Oct. 13** — Slippery When Wet Bon Jovi Tribute, 7:30-11 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. General admission: \$20-\$30. Reservation: [tinyurl.com/ym9su63a](http://tinyurl.com/ym9su63a)

**Oct. 13-15** — “Something Rotten,” LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$16/seniors, \$13/students. Info/reservations: [www.laportelittletheatreclub.com](http://www.laportelittletheatreclub.com)

**Oct. 14** — Writing Out Loud, Sarah Layden, 7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 16** — Teen D&D, 5-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Oct. 16** — Family Pajama Storytime, 6-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Oct. 17** — Angels Among Us, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 17** — Bad Art Night for Adults, 5-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 17** — LaPorte County Historical Society meeting, 7 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., Suite 1. Info: (219) 324-6767.

**Oct. 18** — Virtual Author Talk with Ruth Ware,

1-2 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Oct. 18** — Dungeons & Dragons (ages 13-17), 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: [dwolf@mclib.org](mailto:dwolf@mclib.org)

**Oct. 18** — An Evening with the Friends of the Library, 6-7:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Through Oct. 21** — “Vivian Maier: In Color,” “Under the Same Sun,” “to render the infinite,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: [www.LubeznikCenter.org](http://www.LubeznikCenter.org), (219) 874-4900.

**Through Oct. 29** — “A Different Look at the Century of Progress,” “Volunteers: With A Little Help from Our Friends,” The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: [www.bsdepot.org](http://www.bsdepot.org)

**Through Nov. 5** — “Glass: An Exhibition,” The Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores. Regular gallery hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays/Saturdays.

**Through Nov. 22** — “Pets of LaPorte County” exhibit, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., Suite 1. Info: (219) 324-6767.

**First and Third Mondays** — Singing Sands Toastmasters Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Senior Health/Wellness Center (old hospital ER, Barker/Buffalo).

**Mondays in Michigan City** — Bingo, Moose Family Lodge 980, 2107 Welnetz Road. Doors open/8:30 a.m., early birds/9:30 a.m., regular Bingo/10 a.m.

**Mondays in LaPorte** — Weekly line dance lessons, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1130, 181 W. McClung Road. Cost: \$5. Beginner lessons, 2-3 p.m. Improver lessons, 3-4 p.m. Info: (219) 363-8301.

**Tuesdays** — Bingo, St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, 109 Ann St. Doors open: 3:30 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. \$45 entrance fee (includes all cards). Info: (219) 336-3099.

**Tuesdays in October** — Genealogy Help with Pat Harris, 1-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Tuesdays in October** — Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17), 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Tuesdays though mid-November** — Dave Littell improv classes, 5-6:30 p.m., Long Beach Community Center gym, 2501 Oriole Trail. Recommendation donation to center. Info: (203) 219-5700.

**Thursdays in October** — Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night, 5:30-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Saturdays through Oct. 28** — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets. Info: [www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com)

### In the Region

**Oct. 13** — Dave Bruzza of Greensky Bluegrass

with guest, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25 + \$4.50 convenience fee, \$50 + \$4.50 convenience fee (reserved). Info: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**Oct. 14** — Art in the National Park, 2-4 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**Oct. 14** — The Boogie Woogie Kid (Matthew Ball), 7-9 p.m. EDT, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Advance tickets: \$12/ general admission, \$15/cabaret seating (tables in front). Reservations: [www.ticketstripe.com/boogiewoogiekid](http://www.ticketstripe.com/boogiewoogiekid). Tickets at door: \$15, 12 & younger/ free. Info: [www.boxfactoryforthearts.org](http://www.boxfactoryforthearts.org)

**Oct. 14** — Annual fundraiser, "A Food, Wine & Art Experience!," 5-9 p.m. EDT, ARS Gallery, 147 Fifth St., Benton Harbor, Mich. Cost: \$125. Reservations: [tinyurl.com/u75z9uk9](http://tinyurl.com/u75z9uk9)

**Oct. 14** — MegaBeatles, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$6 convenience fee, \$65 + \$6 convenience fee (reserved). Info: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**Oct. 15** — Fire Side Chat, 5:30-7 p.m., 100 Riverwalk Road, Portage. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Oct. 15** — PettyBreakers: A Tribute to Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$6 convenience fee, \$65 + \$6 convenience fee (reserved). Info: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**Oct. 17** — "G-Man J. Edgar Hoover: His Achievements and His Assault on Civil Liberties," 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**Oct. 17** — Art at The Acorn – Artist Reception for Nicolina Holt: Been a Boy, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Free. Info: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**Through Oct. 30** — Duneland Plein Air Painters exhibit, "A Brush with Nature: Duneland Plein Air Adventures 2023," Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Artist reception: 4-7 p.m. Oct. 20. Info: (219) 926-4711, [www.chestertonart.org](http://www.chestertonart.org)

**Through October** — "Ever Yours: Postcards From the Golden Age," Porter County Museum, 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Free admission. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Sun. Info: [www.pocomuse.org](http://www.pocomuse.org)

**Through Nov. 3** — Diversified Art Visionaries (Dave), Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Info: [www.artbarnschool.org/exhibitions](http://www.artbarnschool.org/exhibitions)

**Through Nov. 30** — Artist David Gray, The Village Gallery at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

**Through May 12, 2024** — "Indiana Lore," South Bend's The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/ seniors, \$7/youth 6-17, free/members. Info: [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org), (574) 235-9664.

historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

**Mondays** — Pickleball, 5:30 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free, donations welcome. Info: (269) 426-3909, [friendsofnewtroy@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofnewtroy@yahoo.com)

**Saturdays in October** — Pinhook Bog Open House, 9-11 a.m., 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Saturdays in October** — Paul H. Douglas Center Open House and Nature Play Date, 1-3 p.m., 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Saturdays-Sundays in October** — Furs to Farm Flashback, 1-3 p.m., Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farmhouse, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Sundays in October** — Mount Baldy Summit Hike, 9-11 a.m., parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Sundays in October** — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Sundays in October** — Feeding at the Farm, 4:30-5 p.m., Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Vickers Theatre** — *Now Showing*: "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour." Not Rated. Times: 6 p.m. Oct. 13, 2 & 6 p.m. Oct. 14-15. *Also*: "Young Frankenstein." Rated PG. Time: 7 p.m. Oct. 12. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [www.vickerstheatre.com](http://www.vickerstheatre.com), (269) 756-3522.

## Upcoming Events Deadline

Thursdays at 9 a.m.

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# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**On October 12, 1868**, Marshall Field and Levi Leiter opened a department store at Chicago's State and Washington streets.

**On October 12, 1920**, construction began on the Holland Tunnel (under the Hudson River) connecting New York City with Jersey City.

**On October 12, 1928**, the first respirator ("iron lung") was used at a Boston hospital.

**On October 12, 1933**, in Allen County, Ohio, bank robber John Dillinger escaped from jail, killing the sheriff in the process.

**On October 12, 1971**, the rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar" opened on Broadway.

**On October 13, 1775**, the American Navy came into being when the Continental Congress ordered the construction of a naval fleet.

**On October 13, 1843**, B'nai B'rith, a Jewish organization, was founded in New York.

**On October 13, 1860**, the first aerial photograph in the United States was taken from a balloon flying over Boston.

**On October 13, 1903**, the Boston Pilgrims (now the Red Sox) won the first modern World Series, defeating the Pittsburg Pirates five games to three.

**On October 13, 1962**, Edward Albee's play, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?," opened, on Broadway to rave reviews from New York critics.

**On October 14, 1906**, the Chicago White Sox beat the Chicago Cubs 8-3, winning the only World Series ever played between the cross-town rivals.

**On October 14, 1912**, former President Theodore Roosevelt, while campaigning in Milwaukee, for a third term, was shot and wounded. He spoke at a scheduled rally, went to a hospital and had his wound treated, then traveled to Chicago.

**On October 14, 1916**, James Barnes of Philadelphia won the first Professional Golfers Association tournament (played at Mount Vernon, N.Y.).

**On October 14, 1930**, singer Ethel Merman gained fame of sorts when she, while singing "I Got Rhythm," held a high C for 16 bars.

**On October 14, 1947**, Air Force Capt. Charles "Chuck" Yeager, testing a rocket powered plane over Muroc, Calif., became the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound.

**On October 14, 1964**, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. received the Nobel Peace Prize.

**On October 15, 1860**, 11-year-old Grace Bedell of Westfield, N.Y., wrote a letter to presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln, suggesting he could im-

prove his appearance by growing a beard.

**On October 15, 1928**, the German dirigible Graf Zeppelin made the first commercial flight across the Atlantic, landing in Lakehurst, N.J.

**On October 15, 1939**, New York Municipal Airport, later renamed LaGuardia Airport, was dedicated.

**On October 15, 1951**, "I Love Lucy," starring Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, premiered on CBS.

**On October 15, 1969**, peace demonstrators staged activities across the country, including a candlelight march around the White House, as part of a moratorium against the Vietnam War.

**On October 16, 1790**, Congress established the District of Columbia as the permanent seat of the U.S. government.

**On October 16, 1846**, at Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. John C. Warren performed the first public operation with the patient under the anesthetic effects of ether.

**On October 16, 1943**, Chicago's Mayor Edward J. Kelly officially opened the city's new subway system.

**On October 16, 1962**, the Cuban missile crisis was under way as President John Kennedy was informed that photographs revealed the presence of Soviet missile bases in Cuba.

**On October 17, 1824**, New York City's boardinghouse keepers, because of the high cost of living, banded together and voted to serve their boarders only four prunes for breakfast.

**On October 17, 1919**, the Radio Corporation of America, or RCA, was created.

**On October 17, 1931**, a federal court in Chicago convicted mobster Al Capone of income-tax invasion. He was sentenced to 11 years in prison and fined \$50,000.

**On October 17, 1939**, Frank Capra's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" premiered in the nation's capital.

**On October 17, 1968**, former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy announced she would marry Greek shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis.

**On October 18, 1867**, following its purchase from Russia, the U.S. took formal possession of Alaska.

**On October 18, 1873**, representatives from Columbia, Princeton, Rutgers and Yale met to draw up the first rules governing intercollegiate football games.

**On October 18, 1892**, the first long-distance telephone line opened between New York and Chicago.

**On October 18, 1959**, the Soviet Union announced an unmanned space vehicle had taken the first pictures of the dark side of the moon.

**On October 18, 1962**, Dr. James Watson of the U.S. and doctors Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins of Britain received the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology for their work in determining the double-helix molecular structure of DNA.

**On October 18, 1967**, instruments dropped on the surface of Venus by an unmanned Soviet spacecraft reported the planet's temperature as being hot enough to melt metal.

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**The Fall Girlfriend Sale, your ultimate woman's new and gently used resale clothing shopping event, opens this weekend!**

Friday, Oct. 13, 5-8 p.m. private night for participants and friends

Sunday, Oct 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. open to the public.

Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail

More than 120 women have cleaned their closets and contributed everything from dressy dresses to causal comfy wear. We have winter coats, jackets, shoes and boots size 6-11, sweaters, shirts, dress pants, blue jeans, suits, hats, gloves, scarves, jewelry, purses, workout wear, PJs and a few men's racks, too! We also have an entire room full of new, tags-on, designer specialty boutique items at 70% off retail!!! This sale is not to be missed. Call all your girlfriends and come shop with us for unbelievable values and a whole lot of fun! Check out our FB page at thegirlfriendsale for sneak-peek photos and to join our mailing list. Stop off at the ATM before you come to take advantage of our speedy cash only checkout. We do accept credit cards. Please obey all parking restrictions, and do not park on side streets or residents' properties. You may park on the grassy triangle in front of the building, pulling in, making sure all 4 tires are off the pavement, and please leave room for others. See you there!

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Please call Rob at (630) 248-4070.

**Community Enrichment Grant**

Nov. 30 is the deadline to submit grant applications for Michigan City Community Enrichment Corp.'s 2023-2024 grant cycle.

The applications are at [www.mccec.com](http://www.mccec.com)

All applications must include non-profit 501(c)(3) documentation, and that services are performed within the Michigan City Area Schools district. Budgets for the past two years (all of 2022 and through the fall of 2023) must be provided. Submitting timely and complete semi-annual reports is required. Failure to do so may result in disqualifying future grant requests. New requirements this year include that funding requests are limited to \$30,000 per program. Each organization that submits more than one application must assign a numerical priority to each program in order of importance.

Completed applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, at [www.mccec.com](http://www.mccec.com).

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