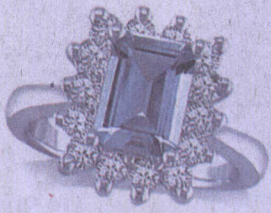


GREAT WAYS TO GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SATURDAY



1 JEWELRY AUCTION FOR MS | Schererville

Join in the excitement of a live jewelry auction beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday at Albert's Diamond Jewelers, 711 Main St., with proceeds benefiting the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Indiana State Chapter. Many of Albert's vendors donate fabulous jewelry and watches. Also offered will be silent auction items including sports memorabilia, golf packages, restaurants, art, spa packages and much, much more. It's just in time for the holidays, and you can get some great deals.

FYI: (219) 322-2700

2 FOURTH ANNUAL BLUES, BREWS & BBQS | Crown Point

The Crown Point Rotary Club is hosting its 4th annual Blues, Brews, & BBQs event from 3 to 11 p.m. today at the Lake County Fairgrounds, 889 S. Court St. The fundraiser will benefit the mission of the Crown Point Rotary Club "Service Above Self" including international and local community projects such as Shoes & Coats for Kids, Christmas in September, Polio Plus, various disaster relief efforts, student scholarships, and more. Performances will be by: Jo, Jo, & The Blues Train, Funky Mojo Daddy, Deb Seitz Band (f.k.a. Blues Fever), and Steepwater. In addition there will be a beer and cigar garden, barbeque, a bean bag tournament and more ... If you are interested in entering in the tournament please register online. Cost is \$5 adults.

FYI: crownpointrotary.org

3 PWP DANCE | Michigan City

PWP-A Single Parent Support Group (Parents Without Partners) Chapter 193, hosts a dance the first Saturday of each month at the St. Joseph Men's Club, 2001 Franklin St., at 7:30 p.m. Donation is \$7. Next dance will be a Country and Western Dance is Saturday with music by DJ & DA'Bear, open to everyone. Prize for best dress western outfit.

FYI: (219) 879-3351, ext. 210

4 BEACH WEAVERS | Gary

Beach Weavers, "Weaving Friends and Fibers" at Lake Street Gallery will be opening an exhibit of weavings by eight women collectively known as the Beach Weavers with a reception at 7 tonight. The Beach Weaver's show will have weavings of non-traditional materials such as jewelry woven in gold tone wire and a wall hanging partly made of plastic wire. Lake Street Gallery is located in the Miller section of Gary at 613 S. Lake St.

FYI: (219) 938 4566

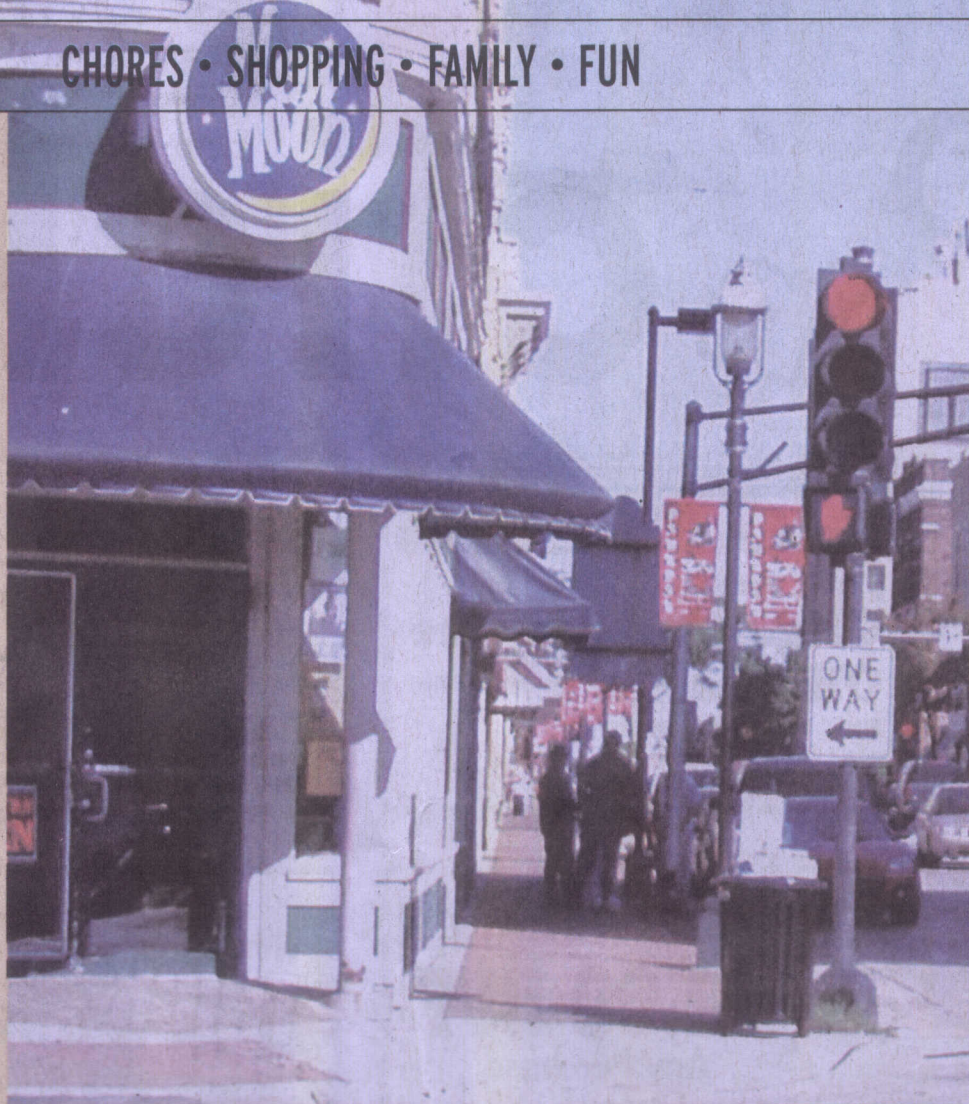
5 SCAVENGER HUNT | Crown Point

Indiana Ghost Trackers hosts an event open to the public. Haunted Scavenger Hunt is a fun event for those 21 or older. This will take the community to many areas throughout Lake and Porter counties to capture spirits, solve puzzles and have fun. The event begins at 7 tonight at Antiques and Unique Treasures, 208 S. Main St. Everyone will be given a list of things to do, places to go and things to collect. Bring a camera. Cost is \$10 per person.

YOUR SATURDAY

CHORES • SHOPPING • FAMILY • FUN

WISCONSIN

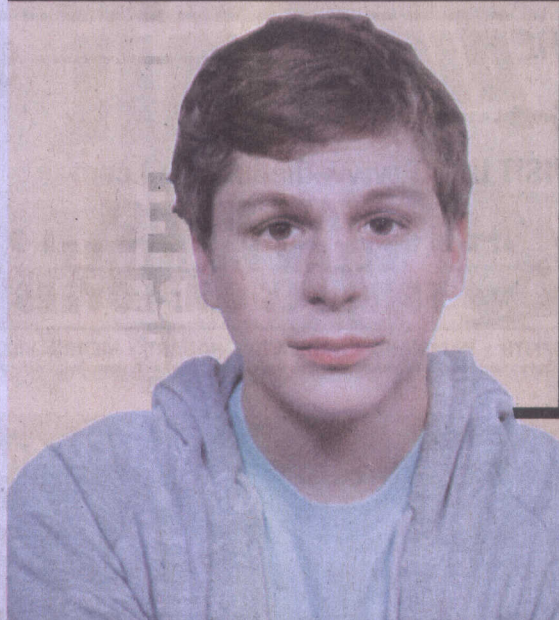


OSHKOSH AND APPLETON OFFER MANY KID-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

oneTanktrip C5

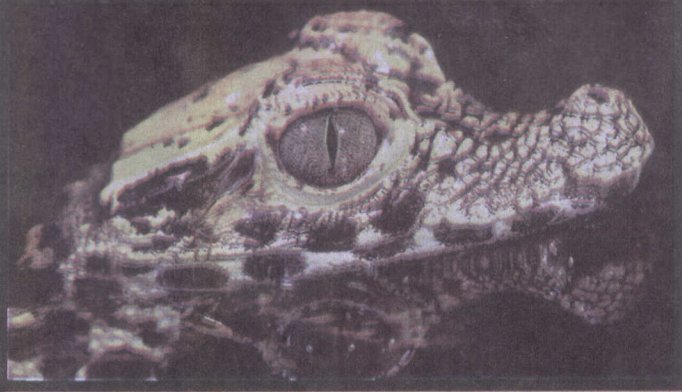
DRINK UP

Coffee baristas find fixing a cup is more than just a job. **C6**



SLITHER ON IN

Reptile-rama returns next week to Tinley Park Convention Center. **animalLovers C4**



NICK AT NIGHT

Michael Cera grabs hold of his character in "Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist." **C7**

saturdaySpotlight, C10

A LOOK AT SOMEONE MAKING A MARK IN OUR COMMUNITY

Dedicated mom creates school program

BY JANE AMMESON
Times Correspondent

When Laurie Metz learned that her daughter's preschool was going to close, she didn't get on the phone to look for another preschool. Instead, she and several other mothers mobilized to form a parent cooperative to find a building and start a new school program.

"One of the hardest things was that what we wanted was to focus on the environment and so we needed a place that would fit in with our concept," says Metz who lives in Chesterton with her husband and two children.

The answer came, Metz says, in partnering with Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

"They were looking for someone to rehab two old buildings," says Metz about a house that dates back to 1860 and a 1930s barn, part of an old Swedish settlement located in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Metz, who before she had children worked in management and marketing in Chicago, describes the barn as bat ridden and dilapidated. But the parent cooperative was able to muster volunteers who helped gut the interior and renovated it to make it perfect for the school. They are now working on the house.

"We had contractors who volunteered to work for free or at a reduced fee," says Metz, now the director of the Field Station. "And we were lucky that Rebuilding Together Duneland helped us too."

Rebuilding Together Duneland, based in Chesterton, is an affiliate of the nation's largest volunteer home rehabilitation. They provided more than 100 volunteers who also helped work on the barn.

The parent cooperative followed guidelines established by both an Indiana based parent cooperative as well as a national one. Parents must attend required meetings, have a big time commitment, and even school maintenance might be required. Parents also have input into the school curriculum which, at the Field Station, focuses on nature.

According to the school's Web site, fieldstationkids.org, they believe that "Nature-focused preschools may be the best structured approach for simulating the bond-forming, unstructured childhood explorations of nature that were once so common but now seem so unattainable."

The school's education units include nature and science exploration for preschoolers and after school programs for grades K through 5. They also offer summer camps.

Overall, the cooperative shows the determination of parents working together with their community to create a school



PONG TWISTER

These 6-year-olds have grown up together, so they'd like to be adopted together. Both are front-declawed and get along with most dogs and kids. Adopt them from Last Chance Rescue.

FYI: (219) 677-2961 or petfinder.com/shelters/IN325.html



RASCAL

This 5-1/2-year-old was surrendered to the shelter with his friend Robbie. Rascal is a sweet cat who craves attention. Adopt them from Humane Society Calumet Area.

FYI: (219) 922-3811 or hscalumet.org



MOZ

This 8-year-old long-haired Chihuahua who is best suited for a quiet home. Moz is very sweet and loving. Adopt Moz from Chihuahua Rescue USA.

FYI: (219) 776-8741 or chihuahuarescueusa.org



BITSY

This 9-week-old Shepherd/Lab/Chow mix is looking for a forever home. Adopt her from Humane Society Northwest Indiana.

FYI: (219) 938-3339



TWILIGHT/MIDNIGHT

These two siblings, along with sister Moonlight, are all black and a couple months old. They love to play chase. Adopt them from Treasured Friends Inc.

FYI: (219) 934-9123 or treasuredfriendsrescue.org



BUDDY

This young Rat Terrier/Jack Russell Terrier mix is a very good boy. He is looking for a loving family to call his own. Adopt him from Pet Neutering and Adoption Services.

FYI: (219) 987-5518 or petneutering.com



BARNEY

Someone tied Barney to a dumpster and left him. Despite this, he hasn't lost his spirit and is a big goof. Adopt him from Last Chance Rescue.

FYI: (219) 677-2961 or petfinder.com/shelters/IN325.html

Still seeking a home



Jack is a 9-month-old Chi-mix who is very energetic.

FYI: (219) 776-8741 or chihuahuarescueusa.org



Winkie is a 1-1/2-year-old cat missing one eye.

FYI: (219) 987-5518 or petneutering.com



Oreo is a great dog looking for a forever home.

FYI: (219) 987-5518 or petneutering.com



Mouse is a sweet terrier mix who is sweet and loving.

FYI: (219) 987-5518 or petneutering.com



Homer is a 6-month-old gray and white tabby who loves everyone.

FYI: (219) 934-9193 or treasuredfriendsrescue.org

animalLovers

nwi.com/features



BY MOLLY WOLFE
(219) 852-4329
mwolfe@nwi.com

BOAS AND LIZARDS AND TURTLES OH, MY!

Reptile-rama returns next week to Tinley Park Convention Center

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The North American Reptile Breeders Conference and Trade Show

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 11; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 12

Where: Tinley Park Convention Center/Holiday Inn Select, 18051 S. Harlem Ave., Tinley Park, Ill. (I-80 and Harlem Avenue)

Cost: Adults, \$15 for a weekend pass; children younger than 13, \$8 for a weekend pass; Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, \$5; children 5 and younger, free. Admission is free to the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council benefit auction at 6 p.m. Oct. 11 at the Holiday Inn Select Banquet Hall.

FYI: (708) 932-8044 or narbc.com or reptileconference.com. For a \$2 coupon, visit narbc.com.

For a first-timer, this trade show is creepy and it's kooky, mysterious and spooky.

Dealers pry pythons off cages and the occasional buyer. Videos extol the mating habits of tarantulas. Peek into a freezer and go nose-to-nose with icy-stiff rodents.

Then there are the stacks of live spiders, scorpions and snakes in plastic boxes, like take-out containers from the Addams Family diner.

For "herp lovers," the North American Reptiles Breeders Conference & Trade Show is a chance to size up the latest tanks, light and heating systems and treats for cold-blooded pets. Then there's the charm of getting up close and personal with snakes, frogs, lizards, turtles and tortoises. The 8th reptile-rama, the largest in the Midwest, is open to the public and runs Oct. 11 to 12 at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

Visitors are as diverse as the exotics on display, show co-owner Brian Potter said.

"You're going to have soccer moms with the kids, and biker people with tattoos, the pierced-up people, the jocks. It attracts everyone," said Potter, of the Chicago Reptile House in Orland Park.

Almost 5 million U.S. households own reptiles, more than ever before. The average herp home boasts more than five, the American Pet Products Association reports. Reptiles are growing on us, maybe because we're so busy and

pythons, non-venomous snakes that can grow more than 32 feet long and live 25 to 30 years. Some turtles and tortoises live a whopping 70 years.

"That's a long-term commitment," said Gaspar, a pippetter by day and reptile enthusiast by night. "With proper care, your grandchildren are going to be taking care of this turtle."

Herpetological happening

The show transforms the 40,000-square-foot center into a giant pet expo featuring more than 150 vendors. Common geckos start at about \$5 while rare, spectacularly colored snakes can fetch \$25,000.

A basic turtle tank can be set up for about \$50, a lizard tank (with gecko) for about \$125. Meanwhile, a giant terrarium with foggers, live ferns and running waterfalls can go for thousands.

According to an APPA survey, turtles, frogs and toads make up the fastest-growing new segments of the reptile pet market.

Among hard-core hobbyists, the rage is for ball pythons bred for unusual hues, markings and patterns.

"Everyone's looking for odd colors," Potter agreed. "They're like living art."

Rookies are advised to start out with a leopard gecko or bearded dragon. Both species are docile and tolerate handling. The former are nocturnal, so they don't need basking lights, "just a heating pad,"

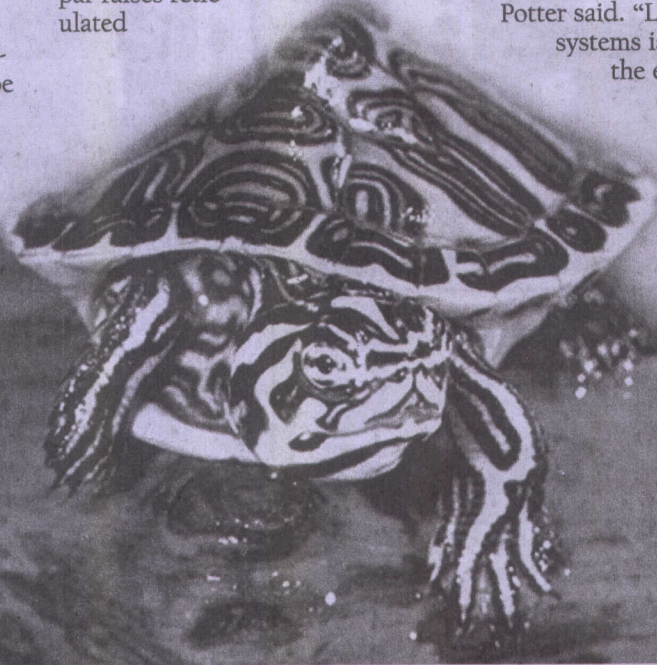
Potter said. "Lighting systems is where the expense comes in."

they're so low-maintenance. They don't want to go outside or for walks. The basics suffice: Cozy digs, with heat, food and water.

"Some snakes, you can go on vacation for two or three weeks, and it's fine. As long as you have a water bowl that stays filled, that's all that has to happen," Potter said.

Yet even snakes can be fussy. Do your homework before taking an animal home, said dealer Jim Gaspar of Lowell. Consider issues like heat, humidity, diet and caging. Climbing species like tall cages, ground-dwellers, ample floor space.

Don't forget the matter of lifespan. Gaspar raises reticulated



PROVIDED PHOTOS

petCorner

LOCAL ANIMAL NEWS FOR YOU AND YOUR PET

ADOPTION EVENT | Schererville
Treasured Friends Rescue will hold an adoption event from noon to 4 p.m. today and Sunday at PetSmart, 711 U.S. 41. The organization is in need of volunteers.
FYI: (219) 864-0411

ADOPTION EVENTS | Valparaiso, Schererville, Lowell
Chihuahua Rescue USA will hold an adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday at Pet Supplies Plus in Valparaiso, as well as adoption events from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 11 at Hungry Hound Bakery in Schererville and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Bark park Grand Opening in Lowell.
FYI: (219) 776-8741

ADOPTION EVENTS | Dyer
Heaven to Betsy's Rescue will hold an adoption event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday at Pet Supplies "Plus," 946 Joliet St. Volunteers and donations are welcome.
FYI: (219) 923-0425 or heaventobetsysrescue@yahoo.com

LAYLA FUNDRAISER | Michigan City
On Sunday, those whose lives have been enriched through the love and companionship of a pet will celebrate the second annual LAYLA fundraiser (Life After Your Loving Pet). This event will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Creekridge County Park in Michigan City. All proceeds will benefit the Humane Society of Northwest Indiana. Festivities will include a doggie hike/swim/games, pet adoption booth, raffle, craft table, cookout, volleyball, beanbag toss, horseshoes and many other fun activities.
FYI: (219) 938-3339

CAGE BIRD MEETING | Lynwood
The South Suburban Cage Bird Association will meet at 2 p.m. Oct. 12 at Calvin Reformed Church, 2895 Glenwood Lansing Road.
FYI: (219) 864-0420

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED | Region
Petite Paws Rescue is always in need of volunteers who have the time and dedication to help fund raise, transport, attend events and foster. Please visit the Web site to join.
FYI: petitepaws.org

ADOPTION EVENTS | Region
CPR Fund Dog Rescue will hold several adoption events throughout Northwest Indiana during the months of October and November. Events will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The organization will be at Pet Supplies Plus, 2410 Laporte Ave., Valparaiso today and Oct. 11, at Strack's on U.S. 41 in St. John on Sunday and Oct. 26, and at PetSmart on U.S. 41 in Schererville on Oct. 12 and Nov. 1.
FYI: dawn@cprfund.com or cprfund.com

FUNDRAISER | Region
The Northwest Indiana Bird and Ferret Association is hosting the Key to End Homelessness fundraiser to help raise the necessary funds for food, toys and medical care for the birds and ferrets in foster homes. Visit nwiba.net to view Bird Lover key chains and Hummingbird key chains. Photos for the Top 10 dog breeds will be highlighted by the end of the September. These highly detailed, handcrafted charms are sure to capture your heart, or the heart of any animal lover. LittleGifts, Inc. designs and manufactures superior quality giftware