

THE

Beacher™

Weekly Newspaper

911 Franklin Street
Michigan City, IN 46360

Volume 30, Number 15
Thursday, April 17, 2014

Happy Easter

THE
Beacher

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Delivered weekly, free of charge to Birch Tree Farms, Duneland Beach, Grand Beach, Hidden Shores, Long Beach, Michiana Shores, Michiana MI and Shoreland Hills. The Beacher is also delivered to public places in Michigan City, New Buffalo, LaPorte and Sheridan Beach.

THE SANDS OF TIME

WASHINGTON PARK ONCE HOUSED EVERYTHING FROM HOOSIER SLIDE TO THE OASIS BALLROOM

by William Halliar



Shannon Eason, Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department administrative director, captured this image of a sunset above the Chicago skyline, with onlookers gathered at the lighthouse pier.

Editor's note — The following story is the next in a series by The Beacher exploring the history behind key locations along Michigan City's North End.

Early spring arrives in Washington Park with winds howling off a still frozen lake.

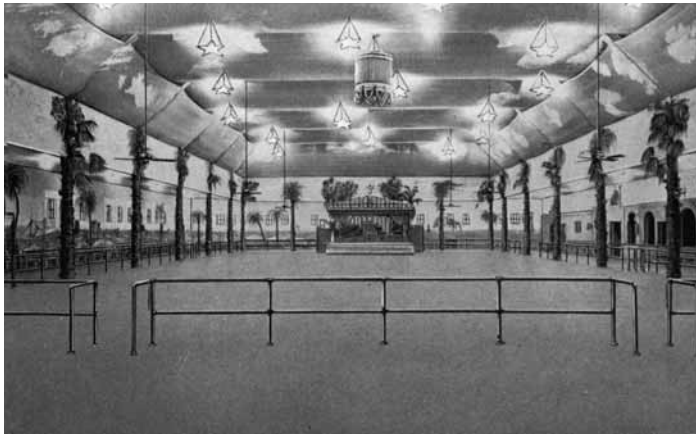
Sand is carried by the air while a chill nips at those jogging along meandering paths. The park looks a bit tattered and worn, but that's because

spring has followed one of the wildest winters on record.

Today, the winds off the lake — whistling through the boughs of the park's many trees — carry the sounds of gulls and the smells of water, snow and sand. Once upon a time, those same winds harbored the aromas of roasted peanuts and cotton candy, the clatter of steel wheels on a wooden roller coaster, the music of a calliope and the laughter of children

as they whirled on an ornately decorated merry-go-round.

Also heard were the sounds of lumber yards, buzz saws and barked orders as ships were loaded and unloaded in the harbor. At one time, one could hear the clatter of winches and cranes, shovels and buckets as the old Hoosier slide was removed one wheelbarrow at a time. Music of The Gay Nineties, and later The Roaring Twenties, accompanied the arrival of cruise ships filled with passengers from Chicago, come to Michigan City to marvel at the dunes, dance at The Oasis Ballroom, wander the boardwalk and enjoy the rides.



The Oasis Ballroom was considered the best venue for dancing in Indiana.



But it is always about the sand, the blowing, swirling flecks piled high along our lakeshore. The people of Michigan City are born with sand in their shoes, their hair and clothes. Whether we like it or not, it is our relationship with the sand that shapes our history. We have fought with it, built with it, played in it, sold it and, occasionally, as one author said, "Eaten it with our frozen Snickers Bars purchased from concession stands on the beach."

It all started with the dream of a harbor for Indiana. The trouble was, the mouth of the would-be harbor filled so quickly with sand, it was a constant struggle to keep the stream dredged. If at any time business waned and funds were not available for the job, the harbor would quickly be reclaimed by the ever-shifting sands that form the bed of Lake Michigan.

Continued on Page 4

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THE SANDS OF TIME

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Visitors head down Hoosier Slide in 1906.

Sometimes, our relationship with the sand takes on romantic aspects when we look back through the eyes of old-timers who write to us through dusty volumes of the famous Observatory Hill or Hoosier Slide, the tallest and grandest sand dune that once stood guard at the harbor's entrance. At one time, the top of the Hoosier Slide was covered in grass and trees, much like the dune that Washington Park Zoo resides on now. People came from miles to climb its slopes, slide down its sandy cascades or picnic at the peak.

From the top, one could see the burgeoning city of Chicago. From the lake, the giant hill was a mariner's landmark, guiding sailors to our harbor. Some folks tell of a lumber shed at the top of the dune with a zig-zag staircase that could be climbed by hearty souls.

Many a wedding was held on the wind-swept summit, and ac-

cording to a 1913 account, "hill climbing contests, fireworks exhibitions, wrestling matches, boxing bouts and numerous other features of amusements were pulled off on its summit." All of this during the times of the excursion boats helped make "the big sand hill famous for hundreds of miles around."

Eventually the nearby logging industry claimed the trees at the top of the hill, and on its sloping sides, the grass then gave way to the winds and the dune became a bare shadow of what it once was. Commercial sand mining began in about 1870 when the Monon Railroad built a siding along the south side of the dune.

The sand began to be carried away, again from the 1913 account: "The sands of old Hoosier Slide have been spread all over the state, not by winds, but by railroads, which have busily been hauling the sand away for nearly 20 years. Much of it has gone across the lake to Chicago and found its way into the wall constructions of the city's skyscrapers and other buildings. Much of it has been used in railroad elevations, in concrete building, in brick making and a hundred and one other commercial lines."

A poem found in Michigan City Public Library archives, written at about this time, says, "Oh Hoosier Slide can you abide your fate that's coming quick, when you'll be changed from drifting sand into some kind of brick?"

Hoosier Slide's fate was sealed when, in about 1890, natural gas was discovered in central Indiana and glass factories were built in the Muncie area. The Ball Brothers built their factory there and became wealthy manufacturing canning jars for a growing nation. Their philanthropic endeavors led to the eventual founding of Ball State University. So, the sand of Michigan City was instrumental in the founding of that great institution.

Pittsburgh Plate Glass was built in Kokomo using Michigan City sand. It made glass plates shipped all over the world. It was soon discovered the sand from Hoosier Slide was desirable for making cores for castings because it was so clean and free of clay or other contaminants that cause the cores to become unstable. Sand for cores was shipped as far



The Chief Justice paddle boat can be seen in front of Hoosier Slide.

away as Mexico. The Hemmingway glass company contributed to the growing influence of the telephone by creating pole insulators from Michigan City sand.

Soon, two sand-mining companies, Pinkston and the Hoosier Slide Sand Co., were in competition with each other and began using cranes and electric conveyor belts to remove and load sand into freight cars. At one time, more than 30 railroad cars of sand were shipped out daily, and approximately 13.5 million tons of good Michigan sand disappeared from the lake-shore to help build up America.

Thus, the sands of Hoosier Slide were scattered to the four winds and by 1920, it was no more. In 1925, Northern Indiana Public Service Co. bought the property where once stood Observatory Hill, and now a new kind of energy permeates the ancient sands.

The harbor continued to be a source of revenue for Washington Park as cruise ships from Chicago brought

visitors to enjoy the area's natural beauty. As the old Hoosier Slide bowed its head to progress, new structures rose from the sand dunes and thus was born an amusement park for the entertainment of out-of-town visitors and the relaxation and employment of local residents.

Harold Barr was the boss of Lake View Amusement Co. Vic Sturken was his partner. It was said

Continued on Page 6



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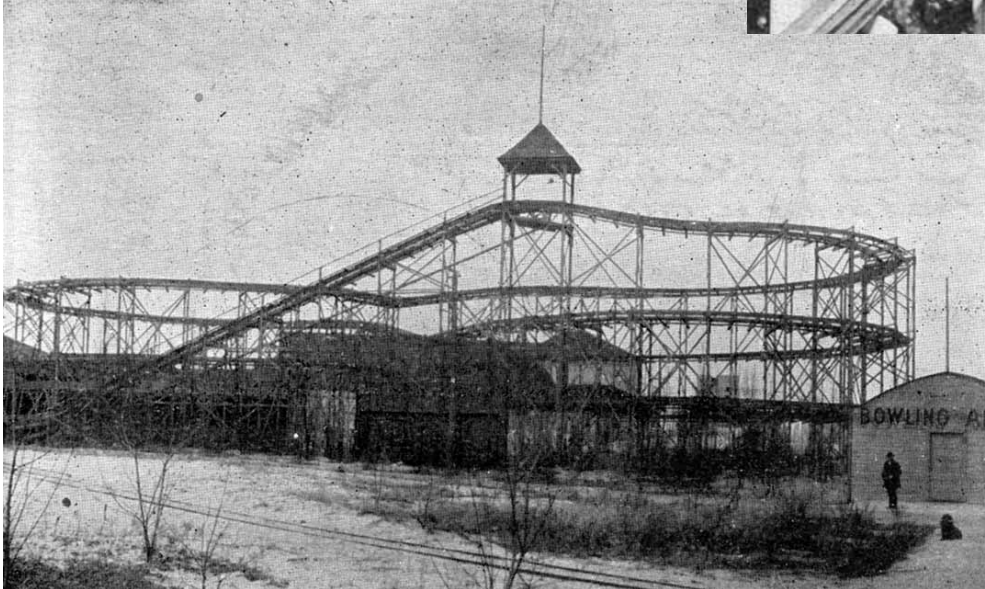
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THE SANDS OF TIME Continued from Page 5

they liked to do things in a big way. Something about that expanse of land on the lakeshore tends to foster big dreams and even bigger plans. In his time, Barr created a place that will long be remembered by children of all ages. Here, families could ride a merry-go-round, thrill to the big lit Ferris wheel or ride a miniature train through a magical kingdom called Kiddieland. There was a midway where a kid could spend a dime and buy a postcard of his favorite cowboy actor in a penny arcade or try his skill at retrieving prizes with a mechanical arm.



A couple enjoys the wooden roller coaster in Washington Park.



A roller coaster made entirely of wood stood tall amid the park, and from the top a daring person could watch the excursion boats heading in from Chicago. There was a "Whirling Swing" ride on which riders could, for a small fee, thrill to speed and the allusion of flying off to some exotic land.

In the early 1920s, the Lake View Casino was built along the boardwalk and adjacent to the amusement park. At the time, gambling was a craze making its way across the nation, and the operators of the park sought to cash in on the action. While the kiddies played, the adults were relieved of their

hard-earned cash in other ways.

The casino was decorated to look like an oasis in the sand, a fitting décor for a building in the dunes. The casino did not prosper in the middle of a family friendly atmosphere, and so the dream of casino gambling was abandoned and the structure was turned into a dance hall or ball room. The desert oasis decor was retained and the ballroom was named in honor of it. Many fond memories were created in that old ballroom.

Folks who still remember The Oasis Ballroom recall that it was the best venue for dancing in Indiana. It was probably the largest since it was capable of comfortably holding 2,400 people. Many considered the ballroom as Michigan City's "crown jewel" because of its unique and beautiful décor, and because it attracted some of the nation's most famous orchestra's during the Big Band days.

Standing in the park today, one can only imagine the sweet strains of Clyde McCoy's "Sugar Blues" or the night Stan Kenton played to a standing room only crowd, the rhythm of his swing orchestra mingling with the sighing of the blowing sand from

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Families enjoy themselves at Kiddieland in Washington Park in 1954.

the lake.

So much has changed over the years, those in their 40s can barely remember the last days of the Oasis, the amusement park or even the famous Peristyle that, for more than 50 years, was considered

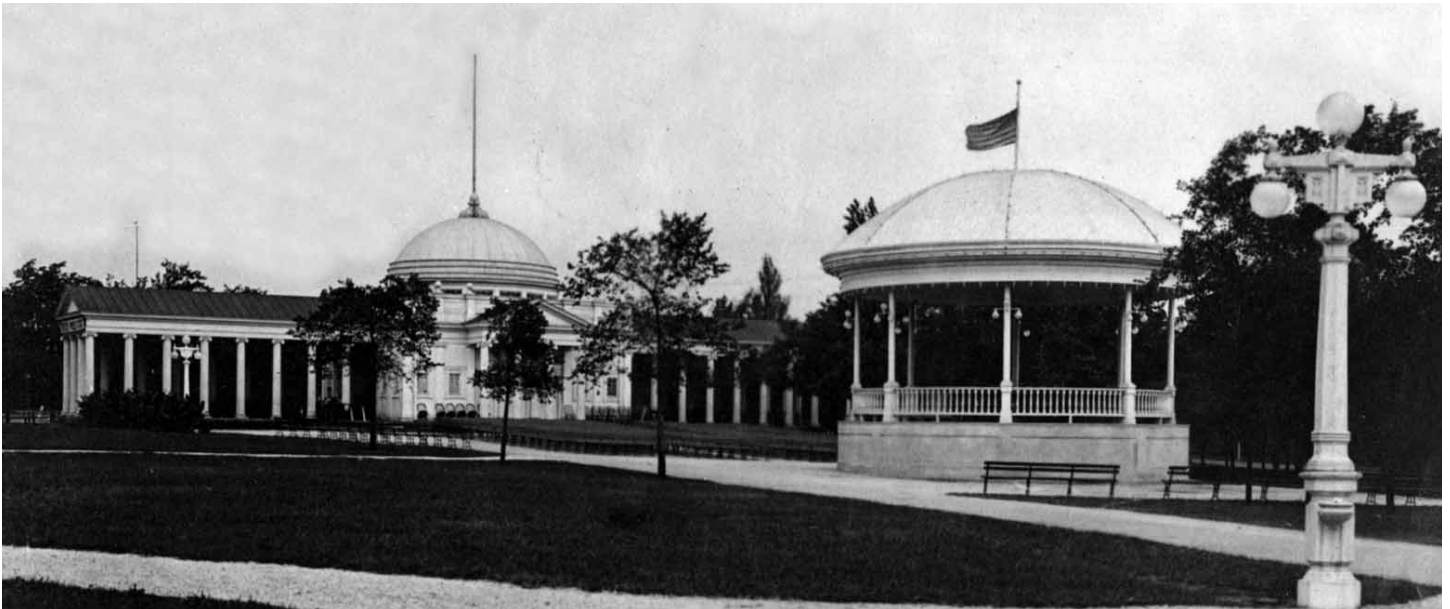
such a famous landmark on the lakeshore. All have succumbed to the relentless sands of time.

By the late 1970s, it was all over. A newspaper article of the time said, "Then one day the bulldozer came and it was all gone; no more amusement park, no more Kiddieland, no more Oasis (and no more Hoosier Slide); just sand....."

Only the old bandstand remains in the middle of the park today. Children laugh and play in the grass around it, stroll the old paths created so long ago by the Works Progress Administration, never suspecting all of the history that has come and gone

from that very piece of land.

And so, the sand continues to blow and the winds sing their mournful tunes as men and women dream of what has been, and what is yet to be, for Washington Park.



The Peristyle and Bandstand in Washington Park.

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25th Annual Potpourri of Literature

Purdue University-North Central Communication 240 students will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Potpourri of Literature Readers' Theatre with two free programs.

Lasting about one hour each, the programs are at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 22, and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 27, in the Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02.

The program, an annual feature at PNC since its 1989 debut, is a showcase for students in Communication 240, "Introduction to Oral Interpretation." While the theme changes and reflects various moods, trends and social issues, the program is built around literature and music of varying genres that illustrate the theme from different perspectives.

This year's edition is "Memories: Journey Through 25 Years (1989-2014)," with an original script written and edited by Daniel Padberg, associate professor of communication, who teaches the Communication 240 class.

This year's program will feature three sections: "Times and Struggles of Life"; "Love: Romantic, Family, Country"; and "Life's Decisions, Actions and Meaning."

Students are: Cassie M. Carlson, La Porte; Sharon C. Coleman, Michigan City; Cynthia DeSantiago, La Porte; Latasha S. Dixon, La Porte; Darren G. Fisher Jr., South Bend; Raven M. Jackson, Michigan City; Jonathan W. Levendoski, La Porte; Alex M. May, Westville; Michael S. Piet, Valparaiso; Tiffany M. Sydow, Michigan City; Kasey N. Tanksley, Michigan City; Brittany T. Tobey-Elston, La Crosse and Meagan N. Ziller, Portage Township.

Contact Padberg at (219) 785-5200, Ext. 5384, for more information.

Lubeznik Summer Camp Schedule

The Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., has announced its 2014 summer camp schedule.

The offerings are:

• Culture Club Camp for students 7-13.

Nani Murphy is the instructor for the 10 sessions that run from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday, July 14-25.

Students experience a variety of art, crafts, music and foods from different cultures. They receive a passport at the beginning of camp, then are introduced to the cultures of China, Japan, Java, Mali, New Zealand and Peru. Each country will be introduced by showing where it is located, along with general facts about the area. They then delve into the native arts and music.

The cost is \$120, or \$108 for members.

• Pop-Up Art for students 10-15.

Murphy is the instructor for the three sessions that run from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, July 14, 16 and 18.

Students learn the basic mechanisms for pop-up structures and how to make them from simple original drawings. Students complete a small sample book of pop-ups and one large whimsical generation one.

• Famous Artists Art Camp for students 7-13.

Murphy is the instructor for the five sessions that run from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday, Aug. 4-8.

Students investigate works by well-known artists and create their own pieces from the inspirational subjects and techniques. Among the artists studied are Joseph Cornell, Wayne Thiebaud and Friedensreich Hundertwasser.

The cost is \$60, or \$54 for members.

Contact Janet Bloch at (219) 874-4900 or visit jbloch@lubeznikcenter.org for more information.



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Historical Society Museum Releases March Figures

La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte, has released its March figures.

Visitors came from 13 Indiana counties and 10 states. There were four tour groups, a home-schooled group, an International Harvester Tractor group, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and second-graders from Lake Hills magnet school in Michigan City.

The museum received 21 photos of historic structures for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Photo Contest. They are now on display.

County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz presented a program March 22 on KOP. The crowd was standing room only, requiring a second presentation later that day.

The display "Diners & Drive-Ins: Hometown memories" runs through the end of May.

Donations included:

- An autographed program and photos from the Chicago Cubs vs. La Porte All-Stars at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1973, Ron Clindaniel.
- A wedding dress from 1996 made by Katie Timm for her daughter, Sarah, now both deceased, Mike Raymer.
- Early digital camcorder that uses floppy disks,

handmade Nehru jacket with turtleneck, Shirley Duerr.

- Cross-country skis made by Silva Co. of La Porte circa 1970, Paul Fithian.

- Framed photo of Bob Schoof, water bottle from Northside Pharmacy of La Porte, Cindy Lehner.

- La Porte High School Swing Choir concert tickets, 1957, Allis-Chalmers cigarette lighter, Gary Gearhart.

- Milk shake glasses, banana split and ice cream dishes from Meissner's Pharmacy, La Porte, Dr. Peter C. Kesling.

- Middle-school yearbooks belonging to F.W. Parker, Eric Pressel.

- Wastebasket for the front desk, Michele Barber.

- Archival information, Jane Ward, Jo Wallen.

- Books and items for the sale table, Cathie Petrie and Jean Chlupacek.

Because April is Innovation Month, a display on the contributions of La Porte County resident Bill Eddy

runs through end of the month. The Belle Gunness display has been moved. Watch for the new exhibit's grand opening.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Children 12 and younger are free. Call for other admission prices at (219) 324-6767 or visit www.laportecountyhistory.org



Milk shake glasses and ice cream dishes used at Meissner's Pharmacy soda fountain in La Porte were donated by Dr. Peter Kesling, who bought them when Meissner's closed in the 1950s.

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Art Festival Deadline Extended

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., has extended its deadline to Friday, April 18, for Lakefront Arts Festival applications.

Artists can submit their applications at www.lubeznikcenter.org/

Artists should have prepared: four jpegs of their pieces, one jpeg of their display/booth, an artist statement and a \$60 entry fee, as well as a summary of exhibitions/achievements. Artists who submitted their work before April 4 will be notified of the jury's decision by April 19. Artists who submit their application by April 18 will learn of the jury's decision at a date to be announced.

Artists may submit works in five categories: 2-D Art (painting, drawing, printmaking, assemblage/collage,) fine craft (glass, ceramic, basketry), photography, sculpture and wearable art (jewelry, fiber art, leather). More than \$3,000 in awards will be given.

The 33rd annual festival is Aug. 16-17 in Washington Park. It draws crowds from Chicago, South Bend, Fort Wayne and Harbor Country communities. Proceeds benefit LCA exhibits, outreach and education.

Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org or call (219) 874-4900 for more information.

Free AOPA Seminar

SAE Michiana will present a free Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association seminar on general aviation at 7:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 24, at Bethel College, Mishawaka.

Woody Cahall, AOPA vice president of flight operations, will discuss:

- General aviation.
- How general aviation can be an asset in growing a business.
- Types of aircraft, regulations, medical certification requirements, where people can learn to fly and what to expect during the flight-training experience.
- Cost-efficient methods of continuing flying after receiving Federal aviation credentials, as well as advanced certifications and aircraft ownership.

Time is planned for questions.

The meeting is open to SAE members, members of other professional societies and anyone interested in general aviation.

Bethel College is located at Logan Street and McKinley Avenue in Mishawaka. Directions to parking and the meeting room will be provided from the main campus entrance on Logan Street. Contact Al Rioli at (219) 926-2170 and Bill Catsiff at (269) 277-0330, or email deseng@frontier.com or wcatsiff@msn.com to register or for more information.



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Life's a "Banquet"



A table at the exhibit is filled with eclectic settings.

Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St., held an opening reception for its multi-media exhibit "Banquet" during Uptown Arts District's First Fridays on April 4.

The display runs through April 27.

Photos by
Joel DeGrand



Ron Engel (left) and Larry Jensen look over Rebecca Hungerford's martini glass.



Lynne Tan appears with a teapot set.



Sharon Carnes and Larry Silvestri contemplate Joel DeGrand's life-sized "Baker" photo.



Patrons admire Patrick McDaniel's large ash bowl.



Amanda Freeman, Shelby Moravec and Sara Leonard engage in lively discussion during the reception.

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Proceeds from the event will aid clients of the Samaritan Counseling Centers in Northwest Indiana. The Samaritan Counseling Center (SCC) is a community-based, interfaith counseling and educational service, directly benefiting the citizens of La Porte and Porter counties. In addition to fees for service, this private, not-for-profit organization is supported by charitable contributions.

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www.skedaddle.orgfor race details, start times, and
registration information.**See you at the Skedaddle!**
Same Day Registration is Available.

Visit



- submitted by
Jane Daley of the
LaPorte County
Convention and
Visitors Bureau

Fifteen years ago, I was given an opportunity to work for Visit Michigan City La Porte, and since I already knew most of the staff, I jumped at the chance.

I moved to La Porte County in 1978, and one of the first things I saw was Lake Michigan on a sunny day with icebergs in the water. I knew then that this was a special place, so I got involved with the community. First thing I did was become a docent at Washington Park Zoo, where I met many visitors. So, becoming community relations manager with Visit Michigan City La Porte was just my cup of tea.

As community relations manager, I have many duties. One of my first assignments was to develop the Recognition of Service Excellence program, which strives to highlight La Porte County's exceptional individuals who provide service above and beyond most others.

One of the first and lasting impressions a visitor takes when visiting an establishment is that of the frontline employee. An entire vacation or excursion can be based on one experience encountered with a frontline employee and the kind of service provided. Customer service can be the main factor as to determining if the visitor will want to return. Frontline employees, be they wait staff, front desk attendant, sales associate or any service-related representative, are extremely important to the tourism industry. They are the first, and many times, last faces a visitor sees before leaving to return home. Excellent customer service is crucial in adding to a pleasant experience in La Porte County.

For this reason, Visit Michigan City La Porte asked me to create the R.O.S.E. program to congratulate and encourage those who provide excellent customer service on a daily basis. The program, starting in May 1999, began highlighting La Porte County's most exceptional individuals who provide service above and beyond most others. The R.O.S.E. program honors these individuals' spirits and willingness to serve their community, and further encourages them to uphold their exemplary behavior as representatives of their community.

Visit Michigan City La Porte has made the online R.O.S.E. nomination form available electronically to business owners and managers of every community partner that wishes to participate in the program. It is easy to make a nomination just by following this link, and we encourage you to make this one of your favorites. It's <http://bit.ly/RoseNomination>

Employers can recognize their frontline staff or someone they work with who usually does not come into contact with the public, but is invaluable when it comes to their contribution to the whole. When the nomination is submitted, it is automatically entered into our database. Each employer is sent a congratulatory letter listing all of their nominees, to share the information with their staff. At the end of the month, a report is generated that shows just the "reason for nomination" section. This report is sent to a panel of judges, who choose the winner. The winner is rewarded with a plaque, rose corsage and \$100 in cash.

The bureau takes a picture and conducts an interview with the employee. We then write a press release that is placed in all of the local newspapers and on several websites.

Once a year during National Tourism Week, we host, along with Porter County, the R.O.S.E. luncheon where we honor all the past year's winners and their employers. At that time, we honor "the best of the best" and give more awards chosen either by the CVB staff or by nominations that come from the community. Also, all nominations are sent to the lieutenant governor's office to be considered for the Hoosier Hospitality Award.

I am always available to bring the R.O.S.E. training program to your staff meeting and help them understand the importance of exceptional customer service.

Shop Owners New R.O.S.E. Winners

Thanks to their friendly demeanor and above-and-beyond spirit, owners of Goose Feathers Gaggle of Gifts receive Visit Michigan City La Porte's Recognition of Service Excellence Award for February.



Donna Bosh and
Sherri Shelton
hold their framed
R.O.S.E. certificate.

Sherri Shelton and Donna Bosh were nominated by a customer impressed by the service she received in preparing for a major La Porte fundraiser.

"They have always gone above and beyond to see that I received exactly what I wanted in the area of gifts, as well as helping me with planning decorations for events, in particular for La Porte County Symphony Orchestra's fundraising event, Hoosier STAR, of which I am chairperson," the nominator said.

"They always have smiles on their faces and give great attention to detail — a true asset and representative to impress visitors to our retail community. They know what is going on in the community and are eager to talk about upcoming events and other destinations. They are positive forces in the community."



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Saturday, April 26, 2014

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Watercolor Workshop

Kathy Los-Rathburn will present the watercolor workshop "Just Washed" from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 26, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Los-Rathburn will walk students through the process of creating a still life of berries being washed in a bowl. The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Students should take regular watercolor supplies, including a 1/2 sheet of No. 300 watercolor paper or No. 140 watercolor paper stretched.

Call (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com for more information.

Stained Glass Class

Judy Gregurich and Mark Montgomery will teach a six-week Stained Glass Class starting from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Students will design and create a stained glass window using the copper foil method. All supplies are included. The cost is \$100 for members and \$125 for non-members.

Call (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com for more information.

City's Got Talent 2014

Michigan City High School will present its annual talent show, "City's Got Talent 2014," on Friday, April 25, in the school auditorium, 8466 Pahs Road.

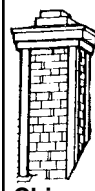
Doors open at 6 p.m., with the show starting at 7 p.m. Tickets, which are \$5, are sold at the door. Children 5 and younger are free.

The show is sponsored by the MCHS Student Council.



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Family Literacy Night

Springfield Elementary School, 3054 W. County Road 800 North, will host the Family Literacy Night program "Books Ahoy!" from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 23.

Capt. Ed and his crew will greet people as they arrive. Families will receive a treasure map that involves plenty of games. Every child — pre-K through fifth grade — will receive a book from the treasure chest after completing the treasure map, as well as a treat from Captain Ed. Door prizes will be drawn, with one winner for every grade level. Winners must be present to accept their prizes.

Hot dogs, goldfish crackers, carrot sticks, cookies and drinks will be available.

Michigan City Public Library

The following program is available through Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.:

• **Bookmarks: Dan Brown's "Inferno" at 2 p.m. Friday, April 18.**

Susan Swarner will review Brown's latest installment in the adventures of Harvard professor Robert Langdon.

The library will be closed Sunday, April 20, for Easter. Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for additional information.

The Ballet Lady

Judith Joseph's "The Ballet Lady" will present a new program, "Some Fabulous Fairies, a Kooky Queen and Maybe Magic!," at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 25, at St. Paul Lutheran School, 818 Franklin St.

The program features characters that live in children's imaginations.

"Maggie's Fairies" is performed by 9-year-old Maggie Evans. Joseph appears as Queen Queasy from "Snow White." In an excerpt from the ballet "Coppelia," Swanhilda (Kim Riley) persuades Dr. Coppelius (Don Peiffer) that he can do magic, and, of course, he can't.



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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are through Westchester Public Library:

• **News at Noon** from noon to 1 p.m. **Thursday, April 17, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Attendees are encouraged to take a news clipping or an idea of something they would like to discuss. Registration is not necessary, but recommended. Call Hageman Library at (219) 926-9080 for more information.

• **Bookmarks at the Museum: Dan Brown's "Inferno"** at 2 p.m. **Thursday, April 17, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Kellie Koerner will review the book. Refreshments will be served. It is not necessary to read "Inferno" before attending. Books are available at Thomas and Hageman libraries.

• **Both branches of the Westchester Public Library — the Westchester Township History Museum and Library Service Center — will be closed for Good Friday, April 18, and Easter Sunday, April 20.**

The Westchester Township Trustee's office, located in the Library Service Center, also will be closed Good Friday. The library and museum will be open for regular hours Saturday, April 19. All library buildings resume regular hours Monday, April 21.

• **Help sort books for the Spring Book Sale with the Friends of Westchester Public Library from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 19, on the second floor of Thomas Library, , 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Volunteers also are needed throughout the week of April 21 to sort last-minute donations, as well as during hours of the sale.

The sale begins with the Friends Only Preview from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 25. The public sale is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27.

Donations for the sale may be brought to the collection box in the Thomas Library lobby. Donations are collected year-round, and items are reviewed for possible addition to the library's collection before being placed in the sale.

Proceeds from the sale support supplemental and special programming events.

• **Bits and Bytes series, "Computer Basics I," from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday, April 30, at the Bertha Wood meeting room at Thomas Library.**

The entry level class introduces the user to the computer. Attendees learn how to handle the mouse, the difference between hardware and software, available programs and desktop shortcuts.

The class is free, but registration is required because computer stations are limited to 15. Stop by the serials department, call (219) 926-7696 or visit www.wpl.lib.in.us/ and click on the Bits and Bytes link.

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Olympic Dressage Medalist at Event

Reins of Life – Michigan City, in partnership with Michiana Dressage Club, will host a Nutrena/U.S. Dressage Federation Adult Clinic featuring Hilda Gurney from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 19-20, at Reins of Life, 9375 W. County Road 300 North.

Eight participants have been chosen to ride in the clinic through a competitive process. Registered auditors will be allowed. Those wishing to audit may register through the USDF website.

Gurney is an FEI "I" Judge and large "R" Dressage Sport Horse Breeding judge. Her competition record includes: an Olympic Team bronze medal in 1976; an individual gold and silver, and three team gold medals, at the Pan Am Games; six USET National Grand Prix Championships on the Hall of Fame member, Keen; 15 USDF Horse of the Year titles; and a team gold medal at the North American Dressage Championship. She also was named 1977 Martini and Rossi AHSA Horsemanship of the Year.

Gurney continues to train and compete several horses at the FEI Level. She still teaches and is a member of the USEF Dressage Committee.

Reins of Life is a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship-accredited therapeutic riding center serving children and adults with disabilities at its South Bend and Michigan City facilities.

Call (574) 232-0853 or visit www.reinsoflife.org for more information.

Yoga Workshop

Kathleen Flanagan will lead a workshop that focuses on revitalizing hips and restoring healthy joint function from 1:30 to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 26, at Dancing Feet Yoga, 19135 U.S. 12, New Buffalo, Mich.

Flanagan has 42 years experience and is a registered professional teacher with the Yoga Alliance.

Pre-registration is recommended. Visit www.dancingfeetyoga.com for more information.



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APRIL 25, 26 & 27

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Third Annual Coho Capital Derby

The Third Annual Coho Capital Derby runs April 26 through June 1.

The free fishing tournament is open to fishermen throughout the Midwest. It allows them to fish anywhere on Lake Michigan for salmon and trout in hopes of winning up to \$2,000 in prize money.

Weekly winners in both categories will be awarded \$100, with the overall big fish winners earning an additional \$500 per category at the end of the derby.

To qualify for prizes, each fish must be weighed at Michigan City's Lake Michigan Bait and Tackle, the official weigh-in location. Fish weighed elsewhere won't be eligible for prize money.

Contact Rick Wright at Visit Michigan City La Porte at (800) 634-2650 for more information.

Chicks With Sticks

Chicks With Sticks is seeking new members.

The nine-hole ladies golf league meets at 4:30 p.m. Mondays at Michigan City Municipal's North Course. A signup meeting is at 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 28, at the south course pro shop. League play starts May 5.

Anyone interested or needing more information should contact Cyndie Spriggs at (269) 469-4288.

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March Students of the Month



Michigan City High School's March Students of the Month and the nominating department are: first row (from left) Jasica Twardus (science) and Joselyn Schooley (English). The second row is Debra Whitlow (music), Jaden Lane (art) and Ryan Bausback (social studies). The third row is Barry Kelly (business), Assistant Principal Bonnie Manuel and Arcadia Woods (math). The fourth row is Tyler Ellenwood (world languages), Jacob Kubath (tech/vocational education), Alexis Whitman (multi-discipline) and Cody Fagley (JROTC). Not pictured are Morgan Goldman (FACS) and Tylor Williams (physical education/health).

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TICKETS: Adult \$7.00 • Children 4-10 \$4.00 • Children Under 4 FREE
Bake Sale also to benefit Lions Charities of Michigan City, IN
Tickets Available at the Door or from a Michigan City Lions Club Member



MICHIGAN CITY LIONS CLUB

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Comcast Cares Day

Michigan City North End Advocacy Team will join Comcast for the 2014 Comcast Cares Day on Saturday, April 26.

The project includes planting decorative grasses and flowers, and picking up litter, along the main travel routes that connect the Uptown Arts District to Lake Michigan.

Volunteers also are needed to help with breakfast, lunch and registration. Anyone who can't attend April 26 can sign up and volunteer for "pre-work" on April 25.

Volunteers must sign a waiver, which is available at Visit Michigan City La Porte in Marquette Mall. The waiver must be returned to Michigan City City Hall, if possible, before April 22. Others can bring it April 26 or sign up at the site. Meet at 8 a.m. at City Hall. Parking is available at City Hall, Shoreline Brewery vacant lots around the former Rag Tops Auto Museum or the former Georg Marina parking lot next to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources building. Comcast will supply plants, tools, continental breakfast, lunch and drinks.

Free Garden Hotline

La Porte County Master Gardeners are available to answer home gardening questions through a free Garden Hotline.

The service is available from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through Sept. 29.

Master Gardeners will answer questions on house plants, landscaping, flowers, fruit trees, vegetables, trees, shrubs, lawns, insects and garden pests. They use research-based materials produced by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service or other land-grant universities in the region.

The phone number is (219) 324-9407. Michigan City area residents can call 874-5611, Ext. 2612. Ask to speak with a Master Gardener. Questions also can be emailed to LPMasterGardener@purdue.edu

Homeowners also can view information at www.ag.purdue.edu/counties/laporte



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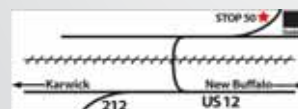
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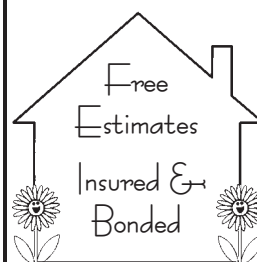
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“Downtown Abbey”

Barker Hall celebrated its 85th anniversary on April 5 with an evening that recreated the lifestyle depicted in the PBS series “Downton Abbey.”



Photos by Oleg Semkoff





ART ATTACK

IN HARBOR COUNTRY

APRIL 25, 26 & 27

ART & MUSIC

For More Information or to download a schedule of events go to www.harborcountry.org

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following events are planned through Indiana Dunes State Park:

Saturday, April 19

• 10 a.m. — “Wood Ducks and Marigold Meander.”

Meet at the campground gate for the hour-long discovery hike that involves searching for marsh marigolds and nesting wood ducks in the oaks. Take binoculars.

• 2 p.m. — “100 Years of Indiana State Parks.”

Meet at the Nature Center auditorium for the 50-minute documentary, produced in 2009 by PBS, that captures 100 years of Indiana’s state parks.

Sunday, April 20

• 10 a.m. — “Feed the Birds.”

Join a naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding. Get close views of chickadees, cardinals and woodpeckers.

• 2 p.m. — “Animal Stories in the Sand.”

Meet outside the Nature Center for the program that includes special sand-track pads.

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

“Great Garden Cleanup”

International Friendship Gardens, 2055 U.S. 12, will hold its “Great Garden Cleanup” at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 19.

The public and interested groups are invited to participate in the spring cleanup. Gloves, rakes, drinks and snacks will be provided. Those interested can sign up to sponsor and care for a garden.

Volunteers also are needed to help spruce up the gardens for the Earth Day-Arbor Day event, which is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 27, and the official IFG Opening Day on Mother’s Day, May 11.

Email internationalfriendshipgardens@yahoo.com for more information.



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NWI Earth Day Celebration

The Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County will hold its ninth annual Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at the Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road, Valparaiso.

Admission and parking are free. The event features two live animal shows by Silly Safaris at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., and the return of the Recycle Cycle, a contraption made from reused items.

Other programs include: "Renewable Energy Basics: How Does it Work?," presented by Midwest Wind and Solar, 9:30 a.m.; the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Fire Management Program with Smokey Bear, 10:30 a.m.; the return of the Recycle Cycle, 12:30 p.m., and the Lake County Solid Waste Management District's Green Team, 1:30 p.m.

Other highlights include Build Your Own Birdhouse by the Porter County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited (supplies are limited); appearances by the district's Glen the Garbologist; Porter County Wildlife's Rocky Raccoon; Metro Recycling's Scrappy the Turtle; rides in NIPSCO's electric car; free reusable bags to the first 300 families; shredding of confidential papers by Opportunity Enterprises Secure Shred from 9 a.m. to noon; free tree saplings for completed event surveys; Great Cloth Diaper Change at 11 a.m.; family yoga class for parents and children of all ages, 12:30 p.m.; and alternative fuel vehicle displays.

Also, the second school/class rain barrel design contest will be judged. Twenty-five barrels from schools throughout Porter and La Porte counties will be on display, vying to win grand prizes of classroom scholarships. All Earth Day attendees can vote on their favorite rain barrels.

A complete listing of programs and exhibitors is available by visiting www.ItMeanstheWorld.org or calling (219) 465-3819.

In Memoriam

The Rev. Tony Carl Stick, 56, formerly of Michigan City, died Friday, April 4, 2014, in Broken Arrow, Okla.



He was born Nov. 10, 1957, in Michigan City to Paul and Joyce (Jones) Stick. He was a 1975 graduate of Rogers High School, then Victory Bible Institute. He was pastor of Solid Rock Ministries. At the time of his death, he was in the process of moving to Alsea, Ore., to continue his ministry.

The family requests memorials to Oral Roberts University, 7777 S. Lewis Ave., Tulsa, Okla., 74171.

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are through Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:

• **"Stewardship Day — Kicking Out the Invasives" from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 17, at Pinhook Bog.**

Resource managers will supervise work in the bog's upland area. Wear comfortable clothes. Work gloves and equipment will be provided.

• **"Stewardship Day — Heron Rookery" from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 19.**

Join a ranger to help control the invasive species population. Meet at the Heron Rookery East Lot, which is at 1320 N. County Road 600 East just south of Pines.

• **Wildflower Hike from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at Heron Rookery East Lot.**

The hike lasts 90 minutes.

• **"Park in Focus" from 1 to 3 p.m. every Saturday through Dec. 27 at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Park staff will host special programs focusing on park resources, hot topics in research, new environmental films or guest speakers.

The center is on Lake Street north of U.S. 12 in the Miller Beach neighborhood of Gary. Call (219) 395-1821 for more information.

• **"Kid's Rule" from 1 to 3 p.m. every Sunday through Dec. 28 at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Join a ranger in the Visitor Center's activity room for stories and activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

PNC Enrollment Day

Current and prospective students who want to register for summer and fall 2014/spring 2015 semesters are invited to Enrollment Day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, at Purdue University-North Central.

Prospective students can fill out an application, get admitted, take an assessment test (if needed) and receive financial-aid information. Official transcripts must be submitted to be evaluated for admission. Once admitted, students will meet with an academic advisor to discuss their plan of study and register for courses.

There will be a sign-in table at the north entrance of the Technology Building near the lounge adjacent to Room 157. No registration is required, and students will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis. Family members are welcome.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Janice Whisler at jwhisler@pnc.edu or (219) 785-5415.

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Student Named Academic All Star

Thomas Andrew Yemc of La Lumiere School has been named a Regional Academic All Star by the Indiana Association of School Principals.



Thomas is the son of Tom and Susie Yemc, Long Beach. Each Indiana high school may nominate one senior for the award. As many as 90 students are recognized as regional winners by a selection committee. Students are celebrated for their academic achievement, extracurricular activities and community service. They are asked to nominate an influential educator during the application process.

Thomas nominated his physics and calculus teacher, Ken Andert, chairman of La Lumiere's Science Department who spends his summers working at the University of Notre Dame's QuarkNet Program. Funded by the National Science Foundation and Department of Education, QuarkNet unites high school students and faculty to contribute to the University of Notre Dame's physics research.

Thomas interned at QuarkNet and spent the past summer engaged in a crash course in particle physics given by scientific researchers. He will attend The University of Notre Dame next fall.

Oil Painting Class

Dana Dabagia will lead a six-week oil painting class for beginning and intermediate students from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, April 19 to May 24, at Long Beach Old School Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail.

An award-winning artist, Dabagia has studied oil painting through instructional books, the Internet, videos and workshops. She will fast-track students to work in oil on canvas, foregoing the stumbles she experienced while learning.

The cost is \$145. A supply list will be sent upon registration to d2211@comcast.net

Duneland Historical Society

Duneland Historical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17, in Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

The program features Michigan City's Mary Catterlin, who along with Amy Lukas successfully circumnavigated Lake Michigan in their small, hand-made tree-boat in 93 days.

All Historical Society monthly programs are free and open to the public. Memberships are available. Call (219) 983-9715 for more information.

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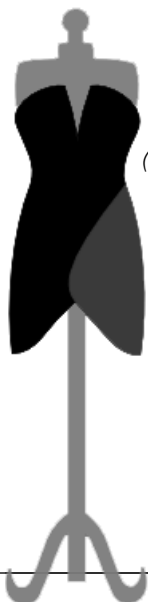
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Lululemon, Boss, and more.**All sizes.**Skip the mall and come to***POSH!***for one-of-a-kind shopping!***La Porte County Library***The following programs are available through La Porte County Library:*

- **Baby Storytime at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 17, at the main library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte.**

Stories, songs and play are designed to promote early language development and future reading skills. The program is intended for babies 0-24 months and their caregivers.

- **Daytime Storytime at 10 a.m. Friday, April 18, at the main library.**

Stories, music, activities and crafts help develop and reinforce early literacy skills and concepts. The program is intended for children 3 to 5 with an adult caregiver.

- **Tech Help from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 21, and 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at the main library.**

Assistance includes how to open an email attachment, using iTunes, uploading images to social media and questions ranging from the new Zinio electronic magazine service to Ereader.

- **Job Search Workshop at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, at the Coolspring branch, 7089 W. County Road 400 North.**

Librarian Deborah Meserve will discuss library resources to aid job searches, as well as where to find jobs online and how to apply for them.

World Creativity Week Event

Exhibits, speakers and activities celebrating the theme "Energizing Your World" mark the annual World Creativity and Innovation Week program from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at LifeWorks, IU Health-La Porte Hospital, 3777 N. Frontage Road.

The free event, sponsored by the non-profit Center for Creative Solutions, opens with a brief program on Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla, along with students and regional innovators being honored for their accomplishments.

Afterwards, visitors can experience:

- Demonstrations by the New Prairie Robotics Team and students from the A.K. Smith Career Center Energy Academy.
- A special display sponsored by La Porte Savings Bank.
- Free massages.
- Free refreshments by Crawford's Pub and Eatery.
- Special exhibits by Lake Hills (STEM) students.
- A labyrinth created by Sue Levenhagan.
- A special display by the La Porte County Solid Waste District recognizing Earth Day on April 22.
- A tour of the LifeWorks facility.

Call (219) 861-0955 for more information.

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"Collector's Corner Breakfast"

Friends of the Michigan City Public Library will present the fundraiser "Collector's Corner Breakfast" at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 26, at the St. John's United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 101 St. John's Road, Michigan City.

Each ticketholder can take one item for appraisal by Martin Papke of Kathy's Antiques, Chesterton. Great Lakes Catering will provide the breakfast. Tickets, which are \$25, can be purchased at the library circulation desk, The Beacher, The Antique Market and Joy of Flowers. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Appraisals are for entertainment only. No weapons will be considered. Proceeds help support library programs and services.

Scandinavian Celebration

Scandiana Lodge, Sons of Norway, will have a Swedish, Danish and Finnish celebration Saturday, April 19, at Westchester Public Library, 100 W. Indiana St., Chesterton.

A carry-in dinner is at 6 p.m. Members are asked to take table service and a dish to share (a favorite ethnic dish is suggested). Coffee and punch will be provided.

After a short business meeting, a Scandinavian program is planned. Anyone interested in the history and heritage of Scandinavian countries is invited. Call (219) 221-6641 or (219) 324-2327 for more information.

Sarett Nature Center

The following programs are available through Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.:

• **A van leaves for Spirit Springs Sanctuary at 9:15 a.m. EDT Wednesday, April 23.**

The fee is \$25. Take a sack lunch. Registration is required.

• **Become a Third Thursday Restoration Ranger at 1 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 24.**

A crew will work to remove invasive species threatening Sarett's habitats. Wear work clothes and take gloves. Registration is required.

Call (269) 927-4832 to register for either program.

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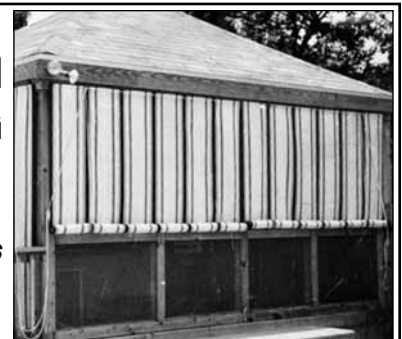


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Leadership 30th Anniversary Dinner

As part of its 30th anniversary, Leadership La Porte County Inc. will have a celebration dinner from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 25, at Portofino Grill, 3233 N. Indiana 39, La Porte.

Dinner, a cash bar and silent auction are planned. The cost is \$30, with business-casual attire requested. Advance reservations are required.

Visit www.leadershiplaportecounty.com, email info@leadershiplaportecounty.com or call (219) 325-8223 to register or for more information.

The organization became a non-profit entity in February 1984. Founding board members included George Averitt, George Dearborn, Kathryn Dearborn, Denise Holmes, Jim Jessup, Ned Kalb, Harriet Lehner, Charlie Sparks and Ed Volk.

The Adult Community Leadership program remains the flagship effort with hundreds of residents as graduates. The High School Leadership program, which recently completed its 20th year of programming, includes five students from each La Porte County high school for a four-day workshop on leadership skill building. A middle school program brings sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students together for a week-long annual summer leadership camp, followed by a monthly after-school civic program throughout the school year.

Also as part of the 30th anniversary:

- A fundraising campaign seeking \$30 for 30 years began in February. Many graduates of the adult program have pledged their support. To make a donation, mail a check to Leadership La Porte County, 809 Washington St., Suite B, La Porte, IN 46350. Visit www.leadershiplaportecounty.com to donate online with a credit card.
- Testimonials: Leadership program graduates are encouraged to submit testimonials about the benefits of participating. Contact the Leadership office to send a quote. Testimonials will be used on the website and in promotional materials. A plan for recording testimonials also is in the works.

LP Chamber Annual Meeting

Hodge Patel, U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly's Indiana State Director, will be the guest speaker at the La Porte Chamber Annual Meeting-Luncheon on Friday, April 25, at Best Western Plus, 444 Pine Lake Ave., La Porte.

Patel manages and directs 92 counties, as well as six senate offices in Indiana, for Donnelly.

Registration is at 11 a.m. Lunch, the annual report, presentation and 2013 Ambassador of the Year are from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Visit <http://business.lpchamber.com/events/> to register.

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Hoosier Star Vocalists Announced

La Porte County Symphony Orchestra has announced the vocalists who will compete for Hoosier Star 2014:

Adult Division

- Taylor Carter — Merrillville.
- Brandon Dickson — Hamlet.
- Mandalyn Early — Valparaiso.
- Sarah Gorecki — La Porte.
- Jenny Hartson — Walkerton.
- Delshawn Taylor — South Bend.

Youth Division

- Sandy Akers — Hobart.
- Marcos Buslon — Valparaiso.
- Madeline Conley — St. John.
- Madison Michael — Rolling Prairie.
- Megan Scutchfield — North Judson.
- Abbie Tomblin — La Porte.

The annual LCSO fundraiser is at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., La Porte.

Visit www.lcso.net for more information.

PNC MBA Information Session

Purdue University-North Central will host a reception and MBA information session from 6 to 8 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 22, at The Bistro on the Boulevard Road Library Room, 521 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

Students can learn about PNC's newly accredited degree program and plan of study, meet faculty, receive informational materials and learn about financial aid.

Prospective students may begin the admissions process. The MBA class schedule is designed to meet the needs of working adults, with classes offered on Saturdays. Students, regardless of their baccalaureate field, will be able to complete their degrees in fewer than two years.

Classes meet at PNC — Porter County, 600 Vale Park Road, Valparaiso. All faculty are certified by the graduate school in West Lafayette and are supported by full teaching resources through Purdue.

Call (219) 785-5557 or email mba@pnc.edu for reservations or more information.

League of Women Voters Open House

The League of Women Voters of La Porte County will present its spring open house from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, at Shady Creek Winery, 2030 Tryon Road, Michigan City.

The event features wine and appetizers. The cost is \$40. Reservations, which are required by April 23, can be made by email at fundraiserlwv@gmail.com



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"The Art of George Vagis"

A public reception for "The Art of George Vagis" is from 2 to 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, April 27, at Buchanan (Mich.) Art Center, 117 W. Front St.

The reception for the display, which runs April 23 through May 24 in the Roti Roti Gallery, also will feature the High School Creative Exhibit, which runs April 23 through May 15.



A native-born Hoosier, Vagis has received many awards for his graphic illustrations, which render image such as ballerinas, Native American character studies and Southwest landscapes, along with sports heroes, wildlife portraits, architectural illustrations and other subjects. Although proficient in watercolor and gouache, he specialized primarily in pen, ink and pencil, and developed a technique that achieves almost photographic realism.

The high school exhibit, which is in the Showplace and Hess galleries, will feature work from local area high schools, including Buchanan, Niles, Brandywine and Eau Claire.

Also, the Buchanan Elementary Schools Art Exhibit runs May 19-24 in the Showplace Gallery.

More information is available by calling (269) 697-4005 or www.buchananartcenter.org



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Annual Geranium Sale

Delta Mu of Michigan City will hold its annual geranium sale.

Plants cost \$20. Delivery is expected the first weekend/week of May.

Hanging geranium baskets come in Caliente Pink, Caliope Dark Red, Ivy Contessa Black Magic (deep purple), Ivy Blizzard White and Ivy Temprano Lavender.

The available colors for Patio Geranium Pots — three large plants — are: Americana Rose Splash, Americana White Splash, Classic Mosaic Red, Classic Pink Blush, Rocky Mountain Red, lavender, magenta, white and salmon.

Call Mary Lou McFadden at (219) 879-5581 or Barb Macudzinski at (312) 952-2889 to place an order or for more information.

The Delta Mu Michigan City chapter is part of Kappa, Kappa, Kappa Inc., an Indiana philanthropic organization that promotes charity, culture and education in the community. It will celebrate its 84th anniversary in December.

One Man Scramble Tournament

Briar Leaf Golf Club, 3233 Indiana 39, La Porte, will host the One Man Scramble Tournament on Saturday, April 26.

Players will use a "double mulligan" format that allows them to replay two shots per hole. Net winners are determined by using 70 percent of the players' handicap.

The event tees off at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start. The \$55 per-player entry fee includes greens fees, riding cart, range balls, prize payout and a sandwich during the round. Due to the extra shots being taken, play will be in threesomes. Players may sign up as an individual or in groups of two or three.

Call Briar Leaf at (219) 326-1992 for more information or to register.

Heron Rookery Hike

Celebrate National Parks Week by joining Save the Dunes and the National Park Service for a ranger-led hike of Heron Rookery at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24.

Heron Rookery is on North County Road 600 East in Michigan City. Meet at the parking lot. Hikers can view wildflowers along the trails. The trek ends at 7:15 p.m., when participants 21 and older can join Save the Dunes at Hunter's Brewing, 1535 S. Calumet Road.

Registration is required by visiting <http://save-dunes.org/>

Additional information is available by calling (219) 879-3564, Ext. 126.

Michiana Annual Art Competition

The Michiana Annual Art Competition, sponsored by The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich., is accepting online entries.

The final deadline is midnight EDT April 27. Artists are encouraged to enter online. The form is available by clicking on the "MAAC" tab on The Box Factory's website, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org.

Artists may enter online or print out the form and deliver it along with CDs of their artwork to The Box Factory during normal gallery hours, which are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT Monday through Saturday. Complete rules and instructions are available on the website.

Artists can compete in the following categories: painting, watercolor, drawing and pastel, sculpture, ceramics, photography, glass, miscellanea (artwork that does not fit into other categories). Accepted artwork will be posted on the website on May 17.

The fee for one or two entries is \$35 for members or \$40 for non-members. A \$200 "Best of Category" will be presented to an artist in each category, while a \$1,000 "Best of Show," sponsored by the Berrien Community Foundation, will be awarded. All prizes, including several merit honors, will be presented at the opening reception from 5:30 to 8 p.m. EDT Friday, June 20. The show continues through Aug. 7.

Judges for the competition are Cat Crotchett, Norwood Viviano, Kathie Gartzka and Rob Gartzka.

Email info@boxfactoryforthearts.org or call (269) 983-3688 for more information.

CAC Watercolor Class

Dick Church will offering a six-week beginning/intermediate watercolor class starting from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, April 18, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Church will lead students of all ability levels through watercolor techniques. The cost is \$60 for members and \$65 for non-members. Supplies are not included. Church will discuss supplies with all beginners.

Call (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com for more information.

Girl Scouts Workshop

A Girl Scouts Junior Gardener Badge Workshop is from 10:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at Taltree Arboretum & Gardens.

The workshop fulfills the first requirement of the Junior Gardener badge. The \$10 cost covers one Girl Scout and one chaperone.

Taltree is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso. Visit Taltree.org or call (219) 462-0025 for more information.



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Service League of Michigan City

The Service League of Michigan City met April 8 at 301 E. Garfield St.

The spring luncheon and installation of new officers is at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 13, at Long Beach Country Club. Call the league office at (219) 872-1144 for reservations.

The league is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a student currently enrolled in an accredited program for physical or occupational therapy. Candidates must live within the Michigan City Area Schools district, have completed at least one year of a program, have a 3.0 or better grade-point average and provide an official transcript. Call the league office for a scholarship application.

In March, the league served 68 patients and loaned 91 items. For collections, it sent out 17 first cards, nine second cards and four letters. It had six new patients and 16 repeat patients for dressings.

The league is a volunteer non-profit group that loans medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs and toilet aids, to Michigan City area residents for free for a three-month period. Anyone interested can call the office or stop by between 9 a.m. and noon and 1 and 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Biennial Sculpture Invitational

Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich., has partnered with Benton Harbor and St. Joseph, The Box Factory for the Arts and the New Territory Arts Association to present its 2014 Biennial Sculpture Invitational.

Also, new sculptures by Michigan artist Ken Thompson will be in the Dar Davis Gallery, while Shannon Eakins' installation and performance, "The Crossing," will be in the artlab.

All three exhibits, which are free, continue through June 22. An opening reception is from 6 to 11 p.m. EDT Friday, April 25, at the center, the Box Factory and Arts District.

The center's sculpture invitational began in 1996. Today, it showcases 25 sculptures. Sites include the center's grounds, the Arts District, Box Factory, Lookout Park and Margaret B. Upton Arboretum.

Thompson received the 2012 Biennial Sculpture Invitational Purchase Award. His Cor-Ten and stainless steel sculpture, "Steel Arch IV," is part of the center's permanent collection at the arboretum. New sculptures include indoor artworks and one outdoor sculpture on the center grounds.

Eakins, Eau Claire, Mich., uses puppetry and animatronics to bring to life rural roadside characters for her installation and performance of "The Crossing." The performance is at 7 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 24, in the center's artlab. Guests can interact with the puppets while they perform and afterward through the use of video and a stage-like setting.

Contact the Krasl Art Center at (269) 983-0271 or visit www.krasl.org for more information.

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Long Beach Women's Bowling

April 8, 2014

TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Striking Beauties	35	17
1. Bowling Goddesses	35	17
2. Incredi-Bowls	33.5	18.5

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Dottie Brinkman	188
2. Kathy Osborne	184
3. Bina Gupta	176
4. Susan O'Connor	166
5. Tina Sonderby	162
6. Liz Lutterbach	158
7. MaryLou McFadden	156
8. Tammy Nelmar	152
9. Margie Midkiff	153
10. Tammy Vouri	150

SPLITS

1. Tina Sonderby	1-2-10
2. Nancy Kubath	4-5

STRIKES IN A ROW

1. Kathy Osborne	4
2. Kathie Mole, Sonderby, Nelmar	3

The Ladies Long Beach Bowlers will resume in September. For anyone who would like to join (three-person team), the group starts bowling at 12:30 p.m. each Tuesday. Contact Mary Lou McFadden at (219) 879-5581.

Polish-American Cultural Society


The Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana, Michigan City Chapter, meets at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, at the former St. Mary's School, 321 W. 11th St.

The meeting features Polish-language sessions and discussion on Polish-related topics. Call Theresa Child at (219) 464-1369 or email to polamnwi@yahoo.com for more information.

Golf League Seeks New Members


The Senior Golf League is seeking new members. Participants must be at least 60 years old. Tee time is 8 a.m. Mondays at Michigan City Municipal's south course. Call (219) 262-9540 or 879-6087 for more information.

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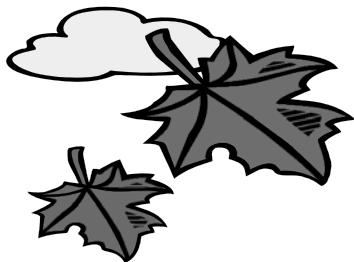
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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



On April 17, 1521, Martin Luther went before the Diet of Worms to face charges stemming from his religious writings.

On April 17, 1961, operating on orders from President John Kennedy, about 1,500 CIA trained Cuban exiles launched the poorly-planned "Bay of Pigs" invasion of Cuba. The invasion failed, and most of the survivors were captured.

On April 17, 1964, Ford Motor Co. introduced the Mustang.

On April 17, 1964, Jerrie Mock of Columbus, OH, became the first female pilot to make a solo flight around the world.

On April 17, 1970, the astronauts of *Apollo 13* landed in the Pacific, four days after a ruptured oxygen tank crippled their craft.

On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride between the Massachusetts towns of Charlestown and Lexington, warning the American Colonist of the approach of British troops.

On April 18, 1858, rain began falling on the Chicago area, and continued to fall for 60 consecutive days.

On April 18, 1921, Junior Achievement, created to encourage business skills in young people, was incorporated.

On April 18, 1923, the first game was played in Yankee Stadium.

On April 18, 1924, the first crossword puzzle book was published by Simon and Schuster.

On April 18, 1934, the era of the "Laundromat" began when the first Washateria, with four electric washing machines for rent, opened in Fort Worth.

On April 18, 1956, American actress Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier of the principality of Monaco.

On April 18, 1977, author Alex Haley won the Pulitzer Prize for his novel "Roots."

On April 19, 1892, in Springfield, MA, Charles E. Duryea took his horseless carriage — the first American-made automobile — out of his shop for a successful drive.

On April 19, 1897, the first Boston Marathon was run from Ashland, Mass., to Boston. Winner John McDermott ran the course in 2 hrs., 55 min., 10 sec.

On April 19, 1910, after weeks of being viewed through telescopes, Halley's Comet was reported visible to the naked eye in Curacao.

On April 19, 1951, General Douglas MacArthur closed his military career by telling a joint session of Congress, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away."

On April 19, 1982, astronauts Sally Ride and Guion Bluford Jr. became the first woman and first African-American to be tapped for U.S. space missions.

On April 19, 1991, Evander Holyfield won a unanimous decision over George Foreman to retain boxing's heavyweight title in Atlantic City.

On April 19, 2001, the musical "The Producers" opened on Broadway.

On April 20, 1857, Chicago's Mayor John "Long John" Wentworth personally led a raid on the "Sands," a notorious North Michigan Avenue vice district.

On April 20, 1949, Mayo Clinic scientists revealed they had synthesized a hormone to treat rheumatoid arthritis — named "cortisone."

On April 20, 1955, Richard Daley began his first term as mayor of Chicago. He was reelected five times.

On April 21, 753 B.C., Rome, according to legend, was founded by Romulus and Remus.

On April 21, 1836, at San Jacinto, with the battle cry "Remember the Alamo!" an army of Texans, led by General Sam Houston, defeated a Mexican Army led by General Santa Anna. Few battles in history have had such a devastating effect on a nation as did this one on Mexico. In the treaty that followed, they ceded to the new Republic of Texas all of present-day Texas, about half of New Mexico, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Ten years later, in the Mexican War with the United States — (fueled by a dispute over the southern boundary of Texas) — Mexico lost Arizona, California, and the rest of New Mexico.

On April 21, 1843, Chicago passed an ordinance prohibiting pigs from running free on the streets of the city.

On April 21, 1925, the Chicago neighborhood of Streeterville got its name when Elmo Streeter was arrested for "squatting" on the land.

On April 21, 1977, the musical play "Annie" opened on Broadway.

On April 22, 1952, the actual explosion of an atomic bomb, for the first time, was shown on national TV.

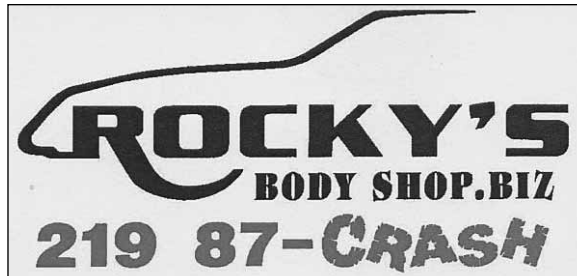
On April 22, 1970, millions of Americans, concerned about the destruction of the environment, observed the first "Earth Day."

On April 23, 1838, the first transatlantic steamship service began as two ships arrived in New York from England.

On April 23, 1896, in New York, the first public showing of a motion picture took place.

On April 23, 1954, Hank Aaron, in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals, hit the first of his record 755 major league home runs.

On April 23, 1992, McDonald's opened its first fast-food restaurant in Beijing.



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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

April 17 — Purdue University-North Central English Club PoetryPalooza 2014 Competition and Open Mic, 7-9 p.m., Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02. Info: amoskwa@pnc.edu

April 17 — Northwest Indiana Green Drinks, 6:30 p.m., Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St. Suggested donation: \$5/\$2 for students. Info: (219) 874-6809.

April 17 — The Artisan Market monthly market, 5-8 p.m., downtown Chesterton. Info: chellesartmarket@gmail.com

April 17 — Duneland Historical Society, 7:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Info: (219) 983-9715.

April 17 — News at Noon, noon-1 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

April 17 — Bookmarks at the Museum: Dan Brown's "Inferno," 2 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

April 17 — "Stewardship Day — Kicking Out the Invasives," 9 a.m.-noon, Pinhook Bog. Info: (219) 395-1882.

APRIL 18 — GOOD FRIDAY.

April 18 — Bookmarks: Dan Brown's "Inferno," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 18 — "Godspell," 7 p.m., Liberty Bible Church, 608 Colfax Ave., La Porte. Tickets: \$10/\$5 for theatergoers 18 and younger. Reservations: www.bit.ly/godspelltix.

April 18-21 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Child's Pose," a family thriller set in upper-class Bucharest. Not rated. In Romanian with English subtitles. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* The acclaimed documentary "Elaine Stritch: Shoot Me." Not rated. Times: 9 p.m. Fri. and 3:30 and 9 p.m. Sat./Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

April 19 — "Great Garden Cleanup," 11 a.m., International Friendship Gardens, 2055 U.S. 12. Info: internationalfriendshipgardens@yahoo.com

April 19 — "100 Years of Indiana State Parks," 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center auditorium, 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 19 — Scandiana Lodge, Sons of Norway, Swedish, Danish and Finnish celebration, Westchester Public Library, 100 W. Indiana St., Chesterton. Carry-in dinner, 6 p.m., then program. Info: (219) 221-6641/(219) 324-2327

April 19 — Ninth annual Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road, Valparaiso. Free. Info: www.ItMeanstheWorld.org, (219) 465-3819.

April 19 — “Stewardship Day — Heron Rookery,” 9 a.m.-noon. Meet at Heron Rookery East Lot, 1320 N. County Road 600 East just south of Pines. Info: (219) 395-1882.

April 19-20 — Nutrena/U.S. Dressage Federation Adult Clinic, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Reins of Life — Michigan City, 9375 W. County Road 300 North. Info: (574) 232-0853, www.reinsoflife.org

APRIL 20 — EASTER SUNDAY.

April 21 — La Porte Community Concert Association, John Davidson, 7 p.m., La Porte High School Auditorium. Tickets at door: \$15/adults, \$5/students through high school. Info: (219) 362-5292/(219) 362-8262.

APRIL 22 — EARTH DAY.

April 22 — Free World Creativity and Innovation Week program, 5-7 p.m., LifeWorks, IU Health-La Porte Hospital, 3777 N. Frontage Road. Info: (219) 861-0955.

April 22, 27 — The 25th anniversary of the Potpourri of Literature Readers’ Theatre, PNC Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02. Free. Times: 11 a.m. April 22/2 p.m. April 27. Info: (219) 785-5200, Ext. 5384.

April 23 — Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana, Michigan City Chapter, 5 p.m., former St. Mary’s School, 321 W. 11th St. Info: (219) 464-1369, polamnwi@yahoo.com

April 24 — Ranger-led hike of Heron Rookery, North County Road 600 East, 5:30 p.m. Info: (219) 879-3564, Ext. 126. Registration: <http://savedunes.org/>

April 24 — Free Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association seminar, 7:30 p.m. EDT, Bethel College, Mishawaka. Info/registration: (219) 926-2170, (269) 277-0330, deseng@frontier.com, wcatsiff@msn.com

April 25 — “City’s Got Talent 2014,” Michigan City High School auditorium, 8466 Pahs Road. Times: Doors open 6 p.m., show at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$5 at door/free for children 5 and younger.

April 26 — “Collector’s Corner Breakfast,” 9:30 a.m., St. John’s United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 101 St. John’s Road, Michigan City. Tickets: \$25. Available at Michigan City Public Library desk, The Beacher, The Antique Market and Joy of Flowers. No tickets sold at door.

Wednesdays — Al-Anon meetings, 7-8 p.m., Long Beach Old School Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. Info: (219) 716-2690.

Farther Afield:

April 25 — Opening reception, 2014 Biennial Sculpture Invitational, 6-11 p.m. EDT, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich., The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, and the Arts District. Info: (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org

April 27 — Public reception, “The Art of George Vagis,” 2-4 p.m. EDT, Buchanan (Mich.) Art Center, 117 W. Front St. Info: (269) 697-4005, www.buchananartcenter.org



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The Spring Girlfriend Sale, your ultimate woman's resale clothing event, is scheduling appointments now through April 18 to submit up to 30 items for resale. To participate, email whatsnexta@comcast.net or call Susan Vissing at (219) 861-6188 and leave a message with a few alternate dates and times you can come in with your items. Appointments are scheduled every 1/2 hour M-F 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Shopping dates are Fri. April 25 6-9 p.m. for participants and friends
Sat., April 26, and May 3, 10-2 p.m. open to the public
Sun, May 4, 12-4 p.m. famous 1/2 price day
Sat., May 10, 10-2 p.m. second chance 1/2 price day.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Art Forger by B.A. Shapiro (oversize paperback, \$14.95 retail in bookstores and online)

Think the title says it all?

Think again.

It's all about what we see and what we don't see, and how what we perceive to be the truth becomes the truth.

There is so much more to this book, I hardly know where to begin, but starting at the beginning, the story's real beginning, probably is the best.

In 1990, 13 works of art were stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. That is fact, not fiction. It remains the largest theft of artwork to date in this country. One of the works stolen was Edgar Degas' "After the Bath."

Now for the fiction.

Fast forward to 2011 and we meet budding artist Claire Roth, three years out from receiving her master of fine arts, struggling to win recognition and put distance from her recent past, which involved a painting and, of course, a boyfriend.

Claire is our narrator, who shuffles back and forth in time to explain her past history with Issac Cullion, a boyfriend suffering from painter's block. Three years ago, Claire painted "4D" for him. *"I had painted 4D as a gift, to help him when he needed help, to get him through a bad patch. As far as I was concerned, 4D was a bridge I helped build to carry him to his next piece."*

How in the world was either of them to know that "4D" would turn out to be a hit! Issac suddenly became the darling of the Boston art scene, and he took full credit for the painting. Suddenly, Claire was *persona non grata*. What a kick in the teeth.

She even tried to expose Issac, and experts were sent in to see if "4D" was Issac's style or Claire's. The "experts" declared that "4D" had to have been painted by Issac.

Now, working on a series of new paintings, Claire is surprised by a visit from Aiden Markel, one of the most powerful art gallery owners in Boston. He knows Claire has been working for a company known as Reproductions.com, which sells reproductions of masterworks to the general public. Claire's speciality is Degas. She has studied him and his techniques since a young age and is considered an expert in recreating his works.

Aiden delivers a canvas of "After the Bath." What? Claire is shocked beyond belief. Is this actually the real thing? Aiden has a proposition for Claire: Reproduce the Degas and he will offer her a one-woman show of her newest work in his gallery. Strike a bargain with the devil? Of course, Aiden comes up with a plausible story about the painting and what he plans to do with it. After a very short talk with herself, Claire agrees to do it.

Keeping in mind Claire's expertise in this area and her knowledge of Degas, it becomes apparent to her as time goes by that what Aiden has brought her is not an original, but a forgery. Should she tell him?

This is where the story heats up and Claire finds herself in a desperate race against time to uncover the truth about the Degas, as well as the relationship that might have existed between him and Isabella Stewart Gardner around 1900. By the time the FBI becomes involved and her reputation is once again called into question, not to mention a possible prison sentence, Claire might not be able to save herself.

This is a most entertaining and educating story if you have any interest in art. I loved the information about forgeries in the art world and how forgers can fool even the experts. Grab a cup of your favorite hot beverage and prepare to be delighted by Claire's description of colors, light and shadow, and painting techniques that will help you understand her passion for the art, especially Degas.

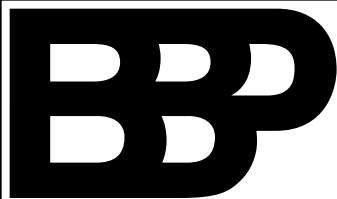
The Boston Globe listed The Art Forger as one of the Best Crime Books of 2012.

Author Arthur Golden said, "The Art Forger will not only keep you as entertained as any thriller but leave you with a new appreciation of how paintings are made, evaluated and understood — not to mention how they're copied."

Redbook said: "Warning: Don't dig into this book if you have something to do...An addictive thriller."

I agree.

Till next time, happy reading!



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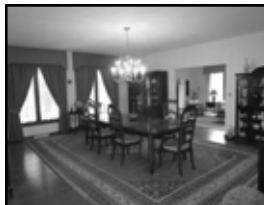
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